

**Company Registration No. 00053913**

**DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

**Annual report and financial statements  
for the year ended 30 April 2024**

**DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**  
**Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024**

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## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024**

#### **Company information**

##### **Directors**

W B Hicks  
T P Slater  
S Rossi  
A P Stern

##### **Company Secretary**

Z W Stone

##### **Registered Number**

00053913

##### **Registered Office**

Level 3  
1 Paddington Square  
London  
W2 1DL

##### **Independent Auditor**

Ernst & Young LLP  
The Paragon  
Counterslip  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS1 6BX

##### **Bankers**

National Westminster Bank Plc  
1 Princes Street  
London  
EC2R 8AQ

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Strategic report**

The Directors present their Strategic report for the year ended 30 April 2024.

#### **Business review and principal activities**

DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited (the 'Company') is principally engaged in the production of fibre-based packaging converted Corrugated Case Material ('CCM') into corrugated board and boxes.

The key sectors serviced by the Company are the fast-moving consumer goods sector ('FMCG'), e-commerce, consumer durables, and industrial sectors. The Directors are not aware of any likely major changes in the Company's activities in the next year. The business operations are located throughout the UK.

The results for the year show a profit before tax of £12,920,000 (2022/23: £7,383,000). Net assets increased in the year by £8,125,000 to £140,052,000 (2022/23: £131,927,000).

The Company realised an increase in profit due to a fall in paper input costs. Consumer demand has remained weak as a result of continued macroeconomic pressures in the Company's primary market in the United Kingdom. Despite this, the Company has provided high quality service to retain its customers. Inflationary cost pressures experienced in the market have been mitigated through customer price increases and significant risk management, alongside a forward-looking procurement approach and long-standing, strong supplier relationships. The Company has an active programme of productivity improvements and cost optimisation initiatives to counter the financial impact of these pressures. Capital investments have also been made to improve productivity and print quality and increase the Company's capability to more efficiently provide shelf ready packaging. Inflationary cost pressures have been experienced across cost of sales and administrative expenses where there are plans to mitigate through risk management, alongside a forward-looking procurement approach. The Company has an active programme of productivity improvements and cost optimisation initiatives to counter the financial impact of these pressures. Given the recent economic uncertainty, the Directors are satisfied with the underlying performance of the business during the year.

The Company is a subsidiary of DS Smith Plc and operates as part of the DS Smith Group ('the Group'). The Group manages its operations on a divisional basis. On this basis the Company's Directors believe that the disclosure of performance indicators for the Company, with the exception of those disclosed in the key performance indicators paragraph below, are not necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business. Further key performance indicators can be found in the Group's annual report.

#### **Directors' statement of compliance with regard to Section 172(1) of the Companies Act 2006**

The Board (comprising the Divisional CEO of Packaging, Finance Director (Packaging), Finance Director (North Europe Packaging) and the Group Chief Accountant) aims to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its shareholder, taking into account the long-term consequences of its decisions and looking at those decisions through a variety of lenses. This involves the Board and management considering in detail and discussing the interests of the Company's and Group's stakeholders; the importance of maintaining our reputation for high standards of business conduct; and the impact of the Company's operations on the community and environment. Examples of how this is put into practice are given below and in the statement of corporate governance arrangements.

Our key stakeholders include our customers, our people, our investors, our suppliers, the communities in which we operate and non-governmental organisations. Examples of how this has been achieved are provided below:

#### **Employee engagement**

The average number of employees employed by the company during the year was 230. We are working to realise the potential of our people, which focuses on creating a safe, diverse and inclusive workforce, as a fundamental foundation for a successful company. Our people want to work for a Purpose-led organisation that resonates, and that they are proud to be a part of. They contribute to a supportive culture, in which they feel safe, recognised, and rewarded. We are committed to ensuring that our

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Strategic report (continued)**

#### ***Employee engagement (continued)***

workplace is safe, diverse and inclusive. By giving everyone a voice, we promote a meritocracy with development opportunities for all, and recognition of achievement regardless of gender, ethnicity, age or religion. We encourage feedback through our Employee Works Councils and employee pulse surveys and celebrate successes with our Smithies awards.

Our Company's health and safety goal is to achieve zero harm for all individuals impacted by our operations, including our employees, contractors and visitors. To realise this objective we have established Vision Zero, a strategy emphasising leadership, engagement, safe work environments, processes and a shift towards developing a safety-oriented culture, behaviours and mindset. Throughout 2023/24, our primary focus has been the continuous implementation of Vision Zero. Collaborating closely with our leadership team, we have strived to ensure broad employee involvement in safety discussions and to systematically mitigate operational risks. We continue to make significant progress; the overall number of employee accidents and accident frequency rate have remained low, being 2.61(2023: 2.52). In 2024/25 we will continue striving towards our Vision Zero ambition and ensure our health and safety culture is adopted across our site network.

Promoting the welfare of our workforce, we introduced a global health and wellbeing week this year, a bi-annual initiative designed to raise awareness and inspire individuals to achieve a harmonious work-life equilibrium. This event encompassed a comprehensive range of over 500 activities spanning all sites and divisions worldwide. Topics covered included nutrition, mental health, and physical exercise. The success of the week was evident in the post-event survey, where it received an outstanding rating.

During 2023/24, we continued the use of pulse surveys, providing more frequent opportunities for colleague feedback, better manager guidance and support and clearer reporting and action planning. Online ideas boards were introduced for the first time this year, enabling suggestions for improvement to be crowd sourced. Despite a challenging external environment, we have seen some marked improvements in perceptions in recognition, based on our feedback in our engagement survey, due in part to our continued focus on our Smithies programme which celebrates the fantastic achievements of our colleagues. In 2024/25, we will continue to run targeted pulse surveys more frequently to give opportunities for our employees to provide regular feedback and drive action.

Being known as an inclusive organisation will help us to grow our talent pool. We will continue to welcome people from different backgrounds and consistently attract some of the best people from our local communities and beyond. To accelerate progress, our immediate focus is on investing in leaders, supporting them with an inclusive leadership education programme. This will provide the cultural awareness and understanding needed to role-model inclusive behaviours and recruit and manage diverse teams.

Active networks include LGBTQ & Allies, Culture & Ethnic Diversity, Gender Diversity and Disability & Allies. These networks foster a sense of belonging by creating a safe and supportive space for employees who share a common sense of identity. The networks offer a platform for members to openly discuss their experiences and perspectives, which in turn can lead to positively building wellness through greater empathy and understanding. Active networks also promote greater awareness through various means including building an annual calendar to support key dates and celebrations within their respective communities.

#### ***Fostering of business relations with suppliers, customers and others***

##### ***Customers***

Our customers are predominantly large, global fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) brands that typically sell goods in supermarkets and via e-commerce channels. We produce corrugated recyclable packaging for these brands and sell paper and recycling materials to third parties. Customers are concerned about sustainability, particularly the circularity, including recyclability, and the carbon footprint of their packaging. They are interested in supply chain transparency, legal and regulatory compliance, and competitive pricing, in addition to product quality and meeting their sustainability goals. We aim to delight our customers, from understanding their needs to providing innovative solutions through long-term strategic partnerships.

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Strategic report (continued)**

#### ***Customers (continued)***

We continue to bring new solutions to market, increasing recyclability, and reducing the carbon footprint using our Circular Design Metrics.

Packaging customers include the world's biggest brands and multinational companies. We serve customers predominantly producing FMCG and other consumer goods, together with industrial sectors including automotive and construction.

Our priority is to provide quality, sustainable packaging solutions that address the challenges of a fast changing world. We continue to invest in our innovation strategy to ensure each new product we create starts with in-depth research and insight before our expert designers create solutions, using our Circular Design Principles, that meet local requirements but also have the ability to scale across the countries where we operate.

Reflecting our focus on innovation and increasingly close partnership with our customers, this year saw the launch of our industry-leading R&D and innovation centre, 'R8'. The leading-edge facility will spearhead research in manufacturing, maximising the growing demand for sustainable packaging and the innovation needed to deliver it. Crucially, the facility allows DS Smith, its customers and partners to come together to accelerate the research and development of radically new, sustainable packaging fulfilment solutions, cementing our already strong relationships.

#### ***Suppliers***

Our suppliers range from large, strategic suppliers, with whom we have deep long-term collaborative relationships, to small suppliers of specialist goods and services for specific requirements. Our diverse supplier population increases our resilience, helping to ensure security of supply. Suppliers are concerned about legal compliance, competitive pricing and sustainability. They are interested in how they can support our sustainability agenda, as well as progressing their own.

We collaborate closely with our suppliers, partnering on a range of initiatives from circularity to carbon. This includes helping suppliers to calculate their carbon footprint, set a science-based target and reduce emissions. We develop mutually cooperative, beneficial relationships that create value for all.

The business relationships with our suppliers, customers and other stakeholders, such as regulators and non-governmental organisations, are matters which the Group Chief Executive covers in his regular reports to the Group's Board. The Board appreciates the continuing work being done by the procurement function that strengthens existing relationships with suppliers so that supplies flow, even in times of shortage or supply chain stress.

#### ***Impact of the Company's operations on the community and environment***

Our community engagement aims to produce prosperity, particularly to promote sustainable development and ensure our activities create positive local impacts. Our communities want to reside amongst a good neighbour, leveraging our activities in a way that produces environmental, economic and social value that benefits the communities in which we operate. We engage with our communities on a range of local issues, including in our Community Programme on three main strategic themes: biodiversity, design and education. The DS Smith Charitable Foundation supports environment, education and humanitarian causes, amongst others.

Our government and NGO engagement is both direct and indirect, through trade associations. We aim to influence change to create a favourable landscape for our Company and stakeholders. Governments and NGOs want to engage in collaborative partnerships with the private sector, leveraging resources and building capacity to address systemic issues, particularly those impacting our industry. We engage in consultations relating to our policy priorities – decarbonisation of heat, reuse and recycling, and extended producer responsibility. We take a leadership role with non-governmental organisations, such as our strategic partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, the Science Based Targets initiative and the 4evergreen alliance.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Strategic report (continued)

#### Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

The Company is included in the Group reporting of the ultimate parent company which has provided its consolidated CO2 emissions and energy consumption on page 76 of the Strategic report in the Group's 2024 Annual Report

#### Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

The Company is included in the Group reporting of the ultimate parent company, which has provided its Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) report on pages 60-77 of the Strategic report in the Group's 2024 Annual Report.

#### Future developments

The Company's principal activity during the year was the manufacture of fibre-based packaging.

There continues to be global uncertainty within the macroeconomic environment as a result of the war in Ukraine and the Middle East and the cost of living crisis. Raw material and other input costs also remain high although energy prices have started to decline. However, these are mitigated by effective supplier arrangements, long term hedging arrangements and rising packaging prices. The Group continues to carefully manage our cost base and is confident for the year ahead that sufficient methods are in place to mitigate these increased costs.

#### Combination with International Paper

In April 2024, the Boards of International Paper Company and DS Smith reached an agreement and recommended the combination of International Paper with DS Smith. The all-share acquisition of DS Smith by International Paper received the approval of the DS Smith shareholders on 7 October 2024 and the International Paper shareholders on 11 October 2024. The combination is still subject to regulatory approvals.

#### Key performance indicators ('KPIs')

The Directors monitor the performance of the Company by reference to the following KPIs.

	2024	2023(as restated)	Definition, method of calculation
Return on sales (RoS) (%)	14.5%	8.2%	RoS is the ratio of earnings before interest, taxation, adjusting items, and discontinued operations to sales expressed as a percentage.
Return on capital employed (ROCE) (%)	8.5%	5.3%	ROCE is the ratio of earnings before interest, taxation, adjusting items, and discontinued operations to net assets expressed as a percentage.
Orders on time and in full (OTIF) %	97%	93%	Total number of orders on time and in full to total orders in the period expressed as a percentage.
Gross profit (%)	30%	24%	Gross profit % is the ratio of revenue less cost of sales before adjusting items to sales expressed as a percentage.

The Company has been performing well in a competitive market environment.

Return on Sales and Gross Profit have improved year-on-year and are now above levels seen prior to the steep increase in paper costs and high inflation rates experienced during 2023. The Company continues to focus on Return on Sales and profitability and the Directors are satisfied with these returns. Driven by cost efficiencies, gross profit has increased. OTIF has continued to increase in the year as the business returns to pre-pandemic operation levels.

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## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Strategic report (continued)

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

Macroeconomic impacts are one of the key principal risks facing the Company. The ongoing war following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the conflict in the Middle East, continue to cause uncertainty at a geopolitical level and the thoughts of the Directors and employees of the Company remain with all those that are suffering as a result. Political and economic factors, such as rising interest rates and weakening major economies, impact the level of end-consumer spend and customer demand for the Company's packaging products. This risk is managed through the Company's secure supply chain and a customer offering focussed on innovative sustainable packaging solutions which remains compelling to our resilient customer base of FMCG multi-national companies.

Volatile commodity pricing for the Company's main input cost, CCM, can cause a short-term challenge to capture appropriate returns by aligning raw material costs to packaging sales revenues. All

#### Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

significant contracts have indexation mechanisms to mitigate this risk, albeit there can be a delay between the purchase of paper and the recovery through indexation.

Inflation rates have continued to rise during the course of the financial year. An agreement has been reached with the unions that represent our workforce to address labour inflation, and our Procurement team continue to work with suppliers to manage inflationary pressures in our other input costs.

#### *Energy price risk*

Due to its energy-intensive operations, the Company is exposed to risks relating to changes in the price of energy, particularly gas and electricity. A proportion of energy prices is hedged at Group level, but when the energy price is not hedged, price changes in the energy market have a direct impact on the Company's operating result.

#### *Paper price risk*

An element of the Company's operations convert paper into corrugated packaging. The Company is exposed to risks relating to changes in the price of paper, as additional cost needs to be passed onto the customer in order to maintain margins. The Company has an active programme in place to manage its supplies and costs of CCM (corrugated container material) paper. Additionally, the Company is very active in implementing productivity improvements and other cost reduction programmes to counter the financial impact of this risk and to protect the margin from inflationary increases, particularly ongoing labour cost and other significant input cost increases, for example energy.

#### Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Company's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks that include the effects of changes in energy price, paper price, credit risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk and foreign exchange risk.

Where applicable, the Company follows the Group policy. The Company's financial risk management is centralised to capitalise on economies of scale and synergy effects and to minimise operational risks.

#### *Credit risk*

The risk that customers cannot meet their obligations constitutes a customer credit risk. The Company runs credit checks on customers where information about customers' financial position is obtained from various credit rating companies. Counterparty credit risk of financial institutions holding cash on deposit is considered by Group treasury prior to making deposits.

#### *Liquidity risk*

The Company actively manages its liquidity risk by short-term debt finance with Group treasury, supported by external borrowings where appropriate, that is designed to ensure the Company has sufficient available funds for operations.



## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Strategic report (continued)**

#### **Financial risk management objectives and policies (continued)**

##### *Interest rate risk*

The Company has interest-bearing liabilities held with fellow subsidiaries. The Group treasury function is responsible for identifying and managing interest rate exposure.

##### *Foreign exchange risk*

The Company is exposed to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations between sterling and the euro and the US dollar.

#### **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. In making their assessment on the appropriateness of using the going concern basis, the Directors have considered any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the continuing use of the going concern basis of accounting in future periods. The Directors have considered a period of 12 months from the date the financial statements are expected to be authorised for issue.

The Company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out above. The financial position of the Company is as shown in the statement of financial position on page 16. At 30 April 2024 the Company reported net current liabilities of £69,207,000 (2023: £69,508,000) and net assets of £140,052,000 (2023: £131,927,000).

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The Company has been issued a support letter from its ultimate parent company, DS Smith Plc, confirming ongoing financial support in meeting liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of accounts. DS Smith Plc has undertaken its own assessment of going concern which it has confirmed, and this is disclosed on page 19 of the DS Smith Plc half year report for the period ended 31 October 2024. The Directors are satisfied that no events took place after the release of the DS Smith Plc half year results that give rise to any uncertainties relating to going concern, and accordingly the Directors considered it is appropriate to rely upon this support in making their going concern assessment for these financial statements. The Directors are satisfied that the Company has adequate resources to meet its operational needs for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of accounts and accordingly they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on behalf of the Board:

W B Hicks  
Director

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Directors' Report**

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2024.

Under s414C(11) of the Companies Act, the Directors may include in the strategic report such of the matters otherwise required by regulations made under s416(4) to be disclosed in the Directors' report as the Directors consider they are of strategic importance to the Company. The following disclosures required by s416(4) have been presented in the strategic report:

- Financial risk management objectives and policies;
- Future developments
- Engagement with employees
- Engagement with suppliers, customers and others
- Energy and carbon reporting

### **Results and dividends**

The profit for the year, after taxation, amounted to £8,298,000 (2022/23: £8,096,000).

The Directors have not proposed or paid a dividend for the year ended 30 April 2024 (2023: £nil). There have been no dividends proposed after year end.

### **Directors**

The Directors who held office during the year and to the date of signing the financial statements, were as follows:

S Rossi

W B Hicks

T P Slater

A P Stern

### **Company Secretary**

Z W Stone

### **Directors' and officers' liability insurance**

During the year, DS Smith Plc maintained liability insurance for the Directors and Officers of DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited and its parent company. Neither the insurance nor the indemnity provides cover where a Director acts fraudulently or dishonestly. The Company has not made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of the Group's Directors during the year.

### **Political contributions**

No political contributions were made during the year (2022/23: £nil).

### **Post balance sheet events**

There have been no significant events affecting the Company since the year end.

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Directors' Report (continued)**

#### **Disclosure of information to auditor**

Each person who is a Director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Auditor**

The auditor, Ernst & Young LLP (EY), will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with Section 285 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors and signed on behalf of the Board:

W B Hicks

Director

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Directors' responsibility statement**

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 101 *Reduced Disclosure Framework*.

Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

### **Independent auditor's report to the members of DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

We have audited the financial statements of DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited (the "Company") for the year ended 30 April 2024 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes 1 to 23, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the company's affairs as at 30 April 2024 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of 12 months from the date the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Independent auditor's report to the members of DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

## **Independent auditor's report to the members of DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework

(FRS 101 and Companies Act 2006) and compliance with the relevant direct and indirect tax regulations in the United Kingdom. In addition, the company has to comply with laws and regulations relating to its operations, including health and safety, employees, data protection and anti-bribery and corruption.

- We understood how the company is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance to understand how the company maintains and communicates its policies and procedures in these areas. We also understood the controls put in place by management to reduce the opportunities for fraudulent transactions.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur through internal team conversations and inquiry of management and those charged with governance to understand where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud. We also considered performance targets and the potential incentives or opportunities to manage earnings. We considered the programmes and controls that the Company has established to address the risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programs and controls. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk. These procedures included testing manual journals and were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from material fraud.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify noncompliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of board minutes and correspondence with relevant authorities, where applicable, and inquiries of company and DS Smith PLC group management and those charged with governance, legal counsel, and internal audit. Based on procedures performed, we have not identified any actual or possible instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Luke Little (Senior statutory auditor)  
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor  
Bristol, UK  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**  
**Income statement**  
**For the year ended 30 April 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£'000</b>	2023 (as restated) £'000
Revenue	4	<b>82,216</b>	84,105
Cost of sales		<b>(57,824)</b>	(63,567)
<b>Gross profit</b>		<b>24,392</b>	20,538
Distribution costs		<b>(4,449)</b>	(5,243)
Administrative expenses		<b>(7,966)</b>	(8,398)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		<b>(29)</b>	(6)
<b>Operating profit</b>	5	<b>11,948</b>	6,891
Finance income	8	<b>1,360</b>	816
Finance costs	8	<b>(388)</b>	(324)
<b>Net financing income/(costs)</b>		<b>972</b>	492
<b>Profit before tax</b>		<b>12,920</b>	7,383
Income tax (charge)/credit	9	<b>(4,622)</b>	713
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>8,298</b>	8,096

All the results are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.



**DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**  
**Statement of comprehensive income**  
**For the year ended 30 April 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£'000</b>	2023 £'000
Profit for the financial year		<b>8,298</b>	8,096
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Loss on designated cash flow hedges		<b>(630)</b>	(1,089)
Deferred tax on designated cash flows	16	<b>58</b>	470
Reclassification from cash flow hedge reserve to income statement		<b>399</b>	(791)
<b>Other comprehensive loss for the year</b>		<b>(173)</b>	(1,410)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>8,125</b>	6,686

The notes on pages 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

**DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**  
**Statement of financial position**  
**As at 30 April 2024**

	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Intangible assets	10	84	70
Property, plant and equipment	11	23,485	21,392
Right-of-use assets	12	1,416	1,187
Trade and other receivables	14	184,949	178,819
Deferred tax	16	155	835
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>210,089</b>	<b>202,303</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Inventories	13	2,561	2,486
Trade and other receivables	14	11,154	7,825
Cash in bank		-	-
Derivative financial instruments		-	6
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>13,715</b>	<b>10,317</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>223,804</b>	<b>212,620</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Other payables	15	(147)	(147)
Lease liabilities		(645)	(685)
Derivative financial instruments	17	(38)	(36)
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>(830)</b>	<b>(868)</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	15	(82,079)	(79,247)
Derivative financial instruments	17	(223)	-
Lease liabilities		(620)	(578)
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>(82,922)</b>	<b>(79,825)</b>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(69,207)</b>	<b>(69,508)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>140,882</b>	<b>132,795</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>(83,752)</b>	<b>(80,693)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>140,052</b>	<b>131,927</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Called-up share capital	18	19,737	19,737
Share premium account		79,343	79,343
Revaluation reserve		44	44
Cash flow hedge reserve	17	(195)	(22)
Retained earnings		41,123	32,825
<b>Shareholder's equity</b>		<b>140,052</b>	<b>131,927</b>

The financial statements for DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited (registered number 00053913) were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 20 January 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors:

W B Hicks  
Director

The notes on pages 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

**DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**  
**Statement of changes in equity**  
**For the year ended 30 April 2024**

	Called-up share capital £'000	Share premium £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Hedging reserves £'000	Retained earnings £'000	Total equity £'000
<b>At 1 May 2023</b>	<b>19,737</b>	<b>79,343</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>24,729</b>	<b>125,241</b>
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	8,096	<b>8,096</b>
Loss on designated cash flow hedges	-	-	-	(1,089)	-	<b>(1,089)</b>
Deferred tax on designated cash flow hedges	-	-	-	470	-	<b>470</b>
Reclassification from cash flow hedge reserve to income statement	-	-	-	(791)	-	<b>(791)</b>
<b>At 30 April 2023</b>	<b>19,737</b>	<b>79,343</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>32,825</b>	<b>131,927</b>
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	8,298	<b>8,298</b>
Loss on designated cash flow hedges	-	-	-	(630)	-	<b>(637)</b>
Deferred tax on designated cash flow hedges	-	-	-	58	-	<b>65</b>
Reclassification from cash flow hedge reserve to income statement	-	-	-	399	-	<b>399</b>
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>19,737</b>	<b>79,343</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>(195)</b>	<b>41,123</b>	<b>140,052</b>

The notes on pages 18 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Commented [LL3]: Need sentence referencing notes at foot of primary financial statement (as with others)

Commented [MM4R3]: Added

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024

#### 1. Principal accounting policies

##### Basis of preparation

DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and is registered in England and Wales. The address of the Company's registered office is Level 3, 1 Paddington Square, London, W2 1DL. The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Strategic report.

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 *Reduced Disclosure Framework* (FRS 101) and the UK Companies Act 2006.

FRS 101 sets out an optional reduced disclosure framework which addresses the financial reporting requirements and disclosure exemptions for the individual financial statements of subsidiaries and ultimate parents that otherwise apply the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of IFRS.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

In these financial statements, the Company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- statement of cash flows and related notes;
- disclosures in respect of transactions with other Group entities, including the ultimate parent company;
- comparative period reconciliations for tangible fixed assets and intangible assets;
- disclosures in respect of capital management;
- disclosures in respect of key management personnel;
- disclosures in respect of IFRS 16 *Leases*;
- disclosures in respect of new but not yet effective IFRSs;
- certain disclosures in respect of IAS 36 *Impairment of Assets*; and
- certain disclosures in respect of IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

As the Group financial statements include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken advantage of the exemption under FRS 101 available in respect of the following disclosures:

- IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement* and the disclosures required by IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments*.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

The following new standards, amendments or interpretations have been adopted by the Company as of 1 May 2023:

- IFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts*;
- IAS 12 *Income Taxes – International Tax Reform – Pillar Two Model Rules*;
- Amendments to IAS 12 *Income Taxes – Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction*;
- Amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements – Disclosure of Accounting Policies*; and
- Amendments to IAS 8 *Accounting Policy Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors – Definition of Accounting Estimates*.

The adoption of the amendments has not had a material effect on the results for the year or the financial position at the year end. Where relevant, equivalent disclosures have been made in the Group accounts.

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies (continued)**

##### **Revenue**

Revenue comprises the fair value of the sale of goods and services, net of value added tax and other sales taxes, rebates and discounts.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at a point in time when:

- the Company has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the buyer;
- all significant performance obligations have been met;
- the Company retains neither continuing managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods sold;
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Company; and
- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

This is typically when either the goods are loaded onto the collection vehicle if the buyer is collecting them, or when the goods are unloaded at the delivery address if the Company is responsible for delivery.

##### **Foreign currencies**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded using the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at that date.

##### **Intangible assets**

Computer software that is integral to a related item of hardware is included within property, plant and equipment. All other computer software is treated as an intangible asset.

Other intangible assets that are acquired by the Company are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment.

Amortisation of intangible assets is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets unless such lives are indefinite. Intangible assets are amortised from the date they are available for use.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Software	3-5 years
----------	-----------

##### **Property, plant and equipment**

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Depreciation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives (or in the case of leased assets, the lease period, if shorter), of each item of property, plant and equipment, to leave the estimated residual values. Major components are accounted for separately Land and assets under construction are not depreciated.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Freehold buildings	10-50 years
Plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings (including IT hardware)	2-25 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Any impairment in the value of property, plant and equipment is charged to the income statement as appropriate.

##### **Employee benefits**

###### *Defined contribution schemes*

Contributions to defined contribution pension schemes are recognised as an employee benefit expense within personnel expenses in the income statement, as incurred.

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies (continued)**

##### **Provisions**

A provision is recognised in the statement of financial position when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are discounted to present value where the effect is material.

##### **Inventories**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated costs of completion and selling expenses. The cost of inventories is based on a weighted average cost or first-in first-out basis and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition. In the case of manufactured inventories and work in progress, cost includes an appropriate share of overheads based on normal operating capacity. Provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

##### **Guarantees**

Where the Company enters into financial guarantee contracts to guarantee the indebtedness of other companies within its Group, the Company considers these to be insurance arrangements and accounts for them as such. In this respect, the Company treats the guarantee contract as a contingent liability until such time as it becomes probable that the Company will be required to make a payment under the guarantee.

##### **Taxation**

Income tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in equity. Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

For the year ended 30 April 2022 and onwards, DS Smith Group entities no longer receive payment for current year tax losses surrendered or make payment for group relief claimed at the rate of tax prevailing in the year. However, where an entity has negative reserves and losses which will be surrendered to other members of the DS Smith Group, the claimant company will need to make payment for those tax losses at the rate of tax prevailing in the year.

Deferred tax is provided for using the statement of financial position liability method, providing for temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

The Pillar Two Income tax rules will apply to the DS Smith Group and subsidiaries for the financial year commencing on 1 May 2024. The Company has applied the exemption from recognising and disclosing information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes as required in the amendments to FRS 101 International Tax reform - Pillar two model rules effective 1 January 2023

##### **Financial instruments**

The company uses commodity derivative financial instruments transacted with its ultimate parent company to manage commodity risks associated with the Company's underlying business activities. The Company does not undertake any speculative activity with derivative financial instruments.

Derivative financial instruments are initially recognised at fair value and are subsequently remeasured at fair value. Derivatives are carried as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when the fair value is negative.

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)**

#### **1. Principal accounting policies (continued)**

##### **Financial instruments (continued)**

If the hedging instrument expires, is sold or terminated, the hedged transaction ceases to be highly probable or if its designation as a hedge is revoked, amounts previously recognised in equity remain in equity until the forecast transaction occurs and are transferred to the income statement.

The Company has elected to apply cash flow hedge accounting. The effective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instruments is recognised directly in equity, while the ineffective portion is recognised in the income statement. Amounts taken to equity are transferred to the income statement in the same period during which the hedged transaction affects profit or loss, such as when a forecast purchase of energy occurs.

##### **Financial assets and liabilities**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price and, where applicable, are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when, there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Company intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. Financial assets are derecognised when, and only when, a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Company transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Company, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party. Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

##### **Reserves**

The share premium account represents the difference between the issue price and the nominal value of shares issued. The revaluation reserve has arisen on the revaluation of assets in prior years. Retained earnings comprises the cumulative net earnings of the Company, that have not been paid out as dividends.

##### **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. In making their assessment on the appropriateness of using the going concern basis, the Directors have considered any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the continuing use of the going concern basis of accounting in future periods. The Directors have considered a period of 12 months from the date the financial statements are expected to be authorised for issue.

The Company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out above. The financial position of the Company is as shown in the statement of financial position on page 16. At 30 April 2024 the Company reported net current liabilities of £69,231,000 (2023: £69,508,000) and net assets of £140,052,000 (2023: £131,927,000).

The financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The Company has been issued a support letter from its ultimate parent company, DS Smith Plc, confirming ongoing financial support in meeting liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of accounts. DS Smith Plc has undertaken its own assessment of going concern which it has confirmed, and this is disclosed on page 19 of the DS Smith Plc half year report for the period ended 31 October 2024. The Directors are satisfied that no events took place after the release of the DS Smith Plc half year results that give rise to any uncertainties relating to going concern, and accordingly the Directors considered it is appropriate to rely upon this support in making their going concern assessment for these financial statements. The Directors are satisfied that the Company has adequate resources to meet its operational needs for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of accounts and accordingly they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### Finance income and costs

Finance income is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably. Finance income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to that asset's net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Finance costs are charged to the profit and loss over the term of the debt using the effective interest method so that the amount charged is at a constant rate on the carrying amount.

#### 2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### Critical accounting judgements

##### Impairment

Assumptions are made when reviewing assets for any impairment indicators. It is possible that if key assumptions were changes adversely, impairment would need to be recognised.

#### Key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the opinion of the Directors, there are no key sources of estimation uncertainty.

#### 3. Prior year restatement

Other variable costs of £3,409,000 were previously reported in administrative expenses. Based on the nature of these expenses it has been determined that these should be reported in cost of sales. Software amortisation of £42,000 was previously reported as cost of sales. Based on the nature of this expense it has been determined that these should be reported in administrative expenses. This has had no impact on profit for the year, but the below lines in the income statement have been restated.

	Previously Reported £000	Restatement £000	Currently Reported £000
<b>Year ended 30 April 2023</b>			
Cost of Sales	(60,200)	(3,367)	(63,567)
Gross Profit	23,905	(3,367)	20,538
Administrative expenses	(11,765)	3,367	(8,398)

#### 4. Revenue

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Revenue by geographical destination</b>		
United Kingdom	79,642	79,626
Rest of Europe	2,574	4,431
Rest of World	-	48
	<b>82,216</b>	84,105

All revenue recognised at a point in time is derived from the principal activities of the Company and relates solely to the production of goods.



## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### 5. Operating profit

Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Auditor's remuneration – fees payable for the audit of the Company's financial statements		56	51
Depreciation of owned property, plant and equipment	11	1,222	1,059
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	12	709	552
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	10	-	98
Amortisation of intangible assets		35	42
Inventory recognised as an expense		39,815	59,243
Foreign exchange losses/(gains)		4	(36)

No fees in relation to non-audit services were paid to the Company's auditor in the current or preceding year.

#### 6. Directors' emoluments

All the Directors are remunerated by other group undertakings. It is considered that the level of their qualifying services to the company is negligible compared to their main roles. There are no management charges from these group undertakings for their services. Consequently, they determine that given the level of the services required, that the proportion of their salary relating to their services provided to this company is insignificant. Therefore a £nil apportionment is made (2023: £nil). The Group operates a share-based payment scheme covering certain employees of the Company, however the amount recharged to the Company is negligible.

The average monthly number of staff (including Directors) employed by the Company during the financial year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
<b>Average number of staff by activity during the year:</b>		
Production	151	152
Selling and distribution	50	55
Management and administration	29	25
	<b>230</b>	<b>232</b>

#### 7. Employee information

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:</b>		
Wages and salaries	8,853	8,878
Social security costs	969	914
Contributions to defined contribution pension plans (note 20)	863	799
Redundancy costs	156	139
	<b>10,841</b>	<b>10,730</b>

Redundancy costs relate to redundancies made in the ordinary course of business.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### 8. Finance income and costs

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Bank interest	-	14
Interest on loans from Group undertakings	1,360	802
<b>Finance income</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>816</b>
Interest on right-of-use assets	(153)	(85)
Factoring interest payable	(235)	(239)
<b>Finance costs</b>	<b>(388)</b>	<b>(324)</b>

#### 9. Income tax expense

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Current tax charge</b>		
UK corporation tax in respect of current year	(3,537)	-
Adjustment in respect of prior years	(347)	-
<b>Total current tax charge</b>	<b>(3,884)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Deferred tax credit/(charge)</b>		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	175	255
Adjustment in respect of prior years	(913)	458
<b>Total deferred tax (charge)/credit</b>	<b>(738)</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>Total income tax credit in the income statement from continuing operations</b>	<b>(738)</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>Total income tax (charge)/credit</b>	<b>(4,622)</b>	<b>713</b>

The deferred tax adjustment in respect of prior years of £913,000 (2023: £458,000) relates to a decrease (2023: increase) in temporary differences arising in respect of accelerated capital allowances at the time of issuing the financial statements in the prior year the amount of capital allowance was unknown and this only became determinable on submission of the tax return for that respective period.

The difference between the actual tax charge and the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25% (2023: 19.50%) is as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Profit before income tax	12,920	7,383
Income tax at the UK standard rate of corporation tax of 25% (2023: 19.50%)	(3,230)	(1,440)
Effects of:		
- Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	-	348
- Group relief claimed not paid for	-	1,325
- Permanent differences	(132)	(34)
- Effect of change in corporation tax rate	-	56
- Adjustments in respect of prior years	(1,260)	458
<b>Income tax (charge)/credit</b>	<b>(4,622)</b>	<b>713</b>

In future years, the tax charge will be affected by subsequently enacted changes in tax rate. The Finance Act 2021 included a 6% increase in the main UK corporation tax rate to 25% from 1 April 2023, which was substantially enacted on 10 June 2021.

The UK Government has enacted legislation in respect of Pillar Two introducing a global minimum effective tax rate of 15% and a domestic minimum top up tax. The rules will apply to the Company for the financial year commencing on 1 May 2024. Additional disclosures on Pillar Two are included in the annual Group financial statements of DS Smith Plc, the ultimate parent of the Company.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### 10. Intangible assets

	Software £'000	Under construction £'000	Total £'000
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 May 2023	300	16	316
Additions	-	-	-
Transfers	59	(10)	49
Reclassification	6	(6)	-
Disposals	(60)	-	(60)
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Amortisation and impairment</b>			
At 1 May 2023	(246)	-	(246)
Amortisation	(35)	-	(35)
Disposals	60	-	60
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>(221)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(221)</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84</b>
At 30 April 2023	54	16	70

Commented [LL5]: Transfers do not net to nil even between PPE and intangibles - this needs to be separated to allow distinguishment between 1) transfers within intangibles; 2) transfers between asset categories (for example to PPE) and 3) additions or transfers from another group company.

Commented [MM6R5]: Now updated - Intergroup transfers have been recognised under disposals

#### 11. Property, plant and equipment

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Under construction £'000	Total £'000
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 May 2023	37,522	122,371	7,168	4,316	171,377
Additions	-	153	-	3,555	3,708
Transfers	-	-	(247)	(49)	(296)
Reclassification	8	889	878	(1,775)	-
Disposals	-	(5)	(158)	-	(163)
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>37,530</b>	<b>123,408</b>	<b>7,641</b>	<b>6,047</b>	<b>174,626</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>					
At 1 May 2023	(31,383)	(113,468)	(5,134)	-	(149,985)
Charge for the year	(178)	(735)	(309)	-	(1,222)
Disposals	-	3	63	-	66
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>(31,561)</b>	<b>(114,200)</b>	<b>(5,380)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(151,141)</b>
<b>Net book value</b>					
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>5,969</b>	<b>9,208</b>	<b>2,261</b>	<b>6,047</b>	<b>23,485</b>
At 30 April 2023	6,139	8,903	2,034	4,316	21,392

The net book value of freehold land and buildings includes £1,980,000 (2023: £2,062,000) of depreciable assets.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### 12. Right-of-use assets

	Freehold land and buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Fixtures and fittings £'000	Total £'000
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 May 2023	2,302	525	-	2,827
Additions	732	227	-	959
Disposals	(563)	(152)	-	(715)
Transfers	-	-	247	247
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>2,471</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>3,318</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>				
At 1 May 2023	(1,274)	(366)	-	(1,640)
Charge for the year	(512)	(193)	(4)	(709)
Disposals	295	152	-	447
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>(1,491)</b>	<b>(407)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(1,902)</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>1,416</b>
At 30 April 2023	1,028	159	-	1,187

The Company leases several assets including buildings and plant. The average lease term is 4 years.

	2024 £'000
<b>Amounts recognised in profit and loss</b>	
Depreciation expense on right-of-use assets	704
Interest expense on lease liabilities	153

#### 13. Inventories

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Raw materials and consumables	1,041	926
Work in progress	95	97
Finished goods	1,425	1,463
	<b>2,561</b>	<b>2,486</b>

There is no material difference between the statement of financial position value of inventories and their replacement cost. Inventory provisions at 30 April 2024 were £329,000 (2023: £343,000). £78,000 was credited to the income statement during the year (2023: £92,000 charge).

#### 14. Trade and other receivables

	2024		2023	
	Non-current £'000	Current £'000	Non-current £'000	Current £'000
Trade receivables	-	9,548	-	5,700
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	184,949	833	178,819	292
Other receivables	-	-	-	620
Prepayments and accrued income	-	773	-	1,213
	<b>184,949</b>	<b>11,154</b>	<b>178,819</b>	<b>7,825</b>

No interest was charged on Amounts owed by Group undertakings, which have no fixed repayment date.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### 15. Trade and other payables

	2024		2023	
	Non-current £'000	Current £'000	Non-current £'000	Current £'000
Trade payables	-	7,759	-	7,946
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	-	70,490	-	67,445
Other taxes and social security	-	567	-	409
Preference shares	147	-	147	-
Other creditors	-	730	-	987
Accruals and deferred income	-	2,533	-	2,460
	<b>147</b>	<b>82,079</b>	147	79,247

Included within amounts owed to Group undertakings is £14,609,929 (2023: £13,876,487) which is repayable on demand.

Following the discontinuation of LIBOR as an interest rate benchmark, from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 risk free rates were applied to intercompany loans within the DS Smith Group that were impacted by the reform. To ensure the economics of the transactions are consistent before and after the transition a credit adjustment spread was applied to the risk free rates.

7.5% Cumulative preference shares of £1 have attached to them full voting, dividend and capital distribution (including on winding up) rights; they do not confer any rights of redemptions.

#### 16. Deferred tax

The following are the major deferred tax liabilities and assets recognised by the Company and movements during the current reporting period.

	£'000
At 1 May 2023	835
Charged to income statement	(738)
Credited to other comprehensive income	58
<b>At 30 April 2024</b>	<b>155</b>

The provision for deferred taxation is made up as follows:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Accelerated capital Allowances	90	828
Deferred Tax on designated cash flow hedges	65	7
	<b>155</b>	<b>835</b>

Deferred tax assets are recognised for all deductible temporary differences on the basis it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

## DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)

#### 17. Derivative financial instruments

The Company transacts commodity hedge derivative financial instruments with its ultimate parent company to manage the risks associated with the Company's underlying business activities. Derivatives are carried at their fair value in the statement of financial position.

The assets and liabilities of the Company at 30 April in respect of derivative financial instruments are as follows:

	Assets		Liabilities	
	2024 £'000	2023 £'000	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Derivatives held to hedge future transactions:				
Energy – current	-	157	223	152
Energy – non-current	-	3	38	38
	-	160	261	190

For the derivative financial instruments carried at fair value, market prices are used to determine fair value. The Company uses forward energy index prices quoted on an exchange for valuing commodity contracts.

#### 18. Called-up share capital

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<b>Authorised, allotted, called-up and fully paid:</b>		
19,737,772 (2023: 19,737,772) ordinary shares of £1 each	19,737	19,737

#### 19. Contingent liabilities

In the prior year, the Company was a participant in the DS Smith Group's uncommitted overdraft facility with a net limit of £5m. The participants in the facility cross-guarantee the overdrawn balances under the facility. Further information can be found in the Group's annual report which does not form part of this report.

#### 20. Employee benefits

##### Defined contribution scheme

The Company participates in a UK defined contribution scheme, which is a trust-based arrangement offering members a range of investments. All assets are held independently from the Group.

The amount recognised as an expense for the defined contribution scheme in the year, relating to current period contributions, was £863,000 (2023: £799,000).

#### 21. Related parties

The Company has taken the exemption available under FRS 101 from disclosing related party transactions entered into between two or more members of the DS Smith Group, provided that the fellow group entities are wholly-owned by the Group. See note 6 for details of Directors' remuneration. There were no other related party transactions.

#### 22. Capital commitments and other commitments

The Company had no capital commitments for the year (2023: nil).

## **DS Smith Corrugated Packaging Limited**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 (continued)**

#### **23. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party**

The Company's immediate parent company is DS Smith Display Holding Limited, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The ultimate parent company and the ultimate controlling party is DS Smith Plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom.

DS Smith Plc represents both the largest and smallest group of undertakings for which Group financial statements are prepared and of which the Company is a member. Copies of the Group financial statements are available from the Company Secretary of DS Smith Plc at Level 3, 1 Paddington Square, London, W2 1DL which is the registered office address.

The Company does not have any subsidiary undertakings.