Accounting policies

General information
Inchcape plc is a public company limited by shares, domiciled and incorporated in the UK, and registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 22a St James's Square, London, SW1Y 5LP. The nature of the Group's operations and principal activities are set out in note 1 and on pages 1 to 51.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union and IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRS IC) interpretations and with those parts of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies reporting under IFRS.

Accounting convention
The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, and those financial assets and financial liabilities (including derivative instruments) held at fair value through profit or loss, which are measured at fair value.

Going concern
Based on the Group's cash flow forecasts and projections, the Board is satisfied that the Group will be able to operate within the level of its committed facilities for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Board continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. In assessing whether the Group is a going concern, the implications of COVID-19 have been considered together with measures taken to mitigate its impact on the Group. In making this assessment the Group has considered available liquidity in relation to net debt and committed facilities, the Group's latest forecasts for 2021 and 2022 cash flows together with COVID-19 adjusted scenarios. The forecasts used reflected the likely economic downturn triggered by COVID-19, with a key emphasis on the Board approved operating plan for 2021 and a forecast for 2022 based on a set of reasonably defined forecast principles.

Given the global political and economic uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, we expect to see volatility, business disruption and the impact of economic downturns in the markets in which the Group operates during 2021 and into 2022. During 2020 and the early part of 2021, the business has been impacted by government action to control the COVID-19 pandemic with a number of the Group's businesses suffering restricted trading from time-to-time and to a greater or lesser extent.

During 2020, action was taken to strengthen the Group's resilience to the trading volatility and liquidity position in light of the environment and circumstance. These actions included:

- initiation of a major cost-restructuring programme to rationalise the Group's footprint, a reduction in the global workforce and re-negotiation of third-party expenditure;
- temporary reduction in advertising and promotional expenditure, reducing executive pay for four months, freezing other pay and recruitment and reductions in operating expenditure;
- in the first half of 2020, the utilisation of government support measures such as the UK job retention scheme combined with UK business rates suspension and international government support measures, where available;
- collaborating closely with OEMs and banks to manage inventory and inventory financing levels;
- suspending the share buyback programme; and
- cancelling the final dividend for 2019 and not declaring an interim dividend for 2020.

Committed bank facilities and Private Placement borrowings totalling £910m, of which £210m was drawn at 31 December 2020, are subject to the same interest cover covenant based on an adjusted EBITA measure to interest on consolidated borrowings measured on a trailing 12 month basis at June and December. While the UK Government's Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) scheme remains available to the Group, the CCFF is not considered to be a committed facility for the purposes of the going concern assessment.

The Board approved operating plan for 2021 and the Group's forecast for 2022 indicate that the Group is expected to be compliant with this covenant throughout the forecast period and to have sufficient liquidity to continue in operation throughout that period.

A range of sensitivities has been applied to the forecasts to assess the Group's compliance with its covenant requirements over the forecast period. These sensitivities included:

- further periods of COVID-19 restrictions similar in nature and impact to those seen in the second half of 2020, impacting half of the Group's markets simultaneously throughout 2021;
- an overall reduction in gross margins;
- an appreciation in Sterling against the Group's main trading companies; combined with
- working capital sensitivities.

In a scenario where all of the above sensitivities occur at the same time, the Group has modelled the possibility of the interest cover covenant being breached in 2021. With the interest cover covenant measured on a trailing 12 month basis, the sensitised forecasts indicate that the Group is not expected to breach any covenants and would be compliant with the interest cover requirements at December 2021 and throughout the forecast period. Additionally, under these circumstances, the Group expects to have sufficient funds to meet cash flow requirements. In a scenario where such restrictions impacted half of the Group's markets simultaneously for a period of 24 months, the Group is forecasted to be compliant with the interest cover covenant.

Reverse stress test scenario analysis has been applied to the forecasts to assess particular scenarios in which the Group would breach its covenant or have insufficient funds to meet cash flow requirements. One such scenario was to model more severe trading restrictions in all markets simultaneously with the impact comparable to those experienced in a few markets in H1 2020, which amounts to a material cessation in operations and revenue. Under this scenario, the Group could sustain such restrictions for a period of approximately five months before breaching the interest cover covenant, but even in this circumstance, would still have sufficient liquidity. We deem this circumstance to be highly unlikely due to the geographic diversity of the Group's operations and our increased ability to trade digitally through the trading restrictions.

The Board therefore concluded that the Group will be able to operate within the level of its committed facilities for the foreseeable future and the Directors consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2020.

Newly adopted accounting policies

From 1 January 2020, the following standards became effective in the Group's consolidated financial statements:

- Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards;
- Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8 – Definition of Material;
- Amendments to IFRS 3 – Definition of a Business;
- Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7 – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform; and
- Amendment to IFRS 16 in relation to COVID-19 Related Rent Concessions

The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the reporting period, other than in respect of the amendment to IFRS 16, which has been newly adopted. The other standards that became applicable for the current period did not have any impact on the Group's accounting policies and did not require adjustments.

The Group has not early adopted other standards, amendments to standards or interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective.

Amendment to IFRS 16 – COVID-19 Related Rent Concessions

The amendment provides lessees with relief in the form of an optional exemption from assessing whether a rent concession related to COVID-19, and that meets certain conditions, is a lease modification. Lessees can elect to account for qualifying rent concessions in the same way as they would if they were not lease modifications. In applying the practical expedient a lessee would generally account for a forgiveness or waiver of lease payments as a variable lease payment, and recognise the concession in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occurs. The lessee also makes a corresponding adjustment to the lease liability, in effect derecognising the part of the lease liability that has been forgiven or waived. On adoption of the amendment, the Group has recognised a credit of £1.1m in the consolidated income statement.

Standards not effective at the balance sheet date

The following standards were in issue but were not yet effective at the balance sheet date. These standards have not yet been early adopted by the Group, and will be applied for the Group's financial years commencing on or after 1 January 2021:

- Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16 – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2;
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020;
- Amendments to IAS 16 – Property, Plant and Equipment – Proceeds before Intended Use;
- Amendments to IAS 37 – Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract;
- Amendments to IFRS 3 (May 2020) – Reference to the Conceptual Framework;
- IFRS 17 – Insurance Contracts; and
- Amendments to IAS 1 – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current;

Management are currently reviewing the new standards to assess the impact that they may have on the Group's reported position and performance. Management do not expect that the adoption of the standards listed above will have a material impact on the financial statements of the Group.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements comprise the financial statements of the parent company (Inchcape plc) and all of its subsidiary undertakings (defined as those where the Group has control), together with the Group's share of the results of its joint ventures (defined as those where the Group has joint control) and associates (defined as those where the Group has significant influence but not control). The results of subsidiaries are consolidated and the Group's share of results of its joint ventures and associates is equity accounted for as of the same reporting date as the parent company, using consistent accounting policies.

The results of newly acquired subsidiaries are consolidated using the acquisition method of accounting from the date on which control of the net assets and operations of the acquired company are effectively transferred to the Group. Similarly, the results of subsidiaries disposed of cease to be consolidated from the date on which control of the net assets and operations is transferred out of the Group.

The Group treats transactions with non-controlling interests as transactions with equity owners of the Group. For purchases from non-controlling interests, the difference between any consideration paid and the relevant share acquired of the carrying value of net assets of the subsidiary is recorded in equity. Gains or losses on disposals to non-controlling interests are also recorded in equity.

Investments in joint ventures and associates are accounted for using the equity method, whereby the Group's share of post-acquisition profits or losses is recognised in the consolidated income statement, and its share of post-acquisition movements in shareholders' equity is recognised in shareholders' equity. If the Group's share of losses in a joint venture or associate equals or exceeds its investment in the joint venture or associate, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has contractual obligations or made payments on behalf of the joint venture or associate.

Intercompany balances and transactions and any unrealised profits arising from intercompany transactions are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions included in the results of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the functional currency). The consolidated financial statements are presented in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the parent company, Inchcape plc, and the presentation currency of the Group.

In the individual entities, transactions in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the individual transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are subsequently retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. All differences are taken to the consolidated income statement, except those arising on long-term foreign currency borrowings used to finance foreign currency investments which on consolidation are taken directly to other comprehensive income.

The assets and liabilities of foreign operations are translated into Sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. The income statements of foreign operations are translated into Sterling at the average rates of exchange for the period. Exchange differences arising from 1 January 2004 are recognised as a separate component of shareholders' equity. On disposal of a foreign operation, any cumulative exchange differences held in shareholders' equity are transferred to the consolidated income statement.

Revenue, other income and cost of sales

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration receivable, net of any discounts, rebates, trade allowances, incentives, or amounts collected on behalf of third parties. It is recognised to the extent that the transfer of promised goods or services to a customer has been satisfied and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue excludes sales-related taxes and intra-group transactions. In practice this means that:

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the obligation to transfer the goods to the customer has been satisfied and the revenue can reliably be measured. The obligation to transfer goods to the customer is considered to have been satisfied when the vehicles or parts are invoiced and physically dispatched or collected.

Revenue from the rendering of services to the customer is considered to have been satisfied when the service has been undertaken.

Where the Group acts as an agent on behalf of a principal in relation to finance, insurance and similar products, the associated commission income is recognised within revenue in the period in which the related finance or insurance product is sold and receipt of payment can be assured.

Where a vehicle is sold to a leasing company and the Group undertakes to repurchase the vehicle for a specified value at a predetermined date, the sale is not recognised on the basis that the possibility of the buyback being exercised is highly likely. Consequently, such vehicles are retained within 'property, plant and equipment' in the consolidated statement of financial position at cost and are depreciated to their residual value over the life of the lease. The difference between the initial amounts received from the leasing company and the repurchase commitment is recognised as deferred income in the consolidated statement of financial position and is released to the consolidated income statement on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. The repurchase commitment, which reflects the price at which the vehicle will be bought back, is held within 'trade and other payables', according to the date of the commitment.

Where a vehicle is sold subject to a buyback commitment and the possibility of the buyback being exercised by the customer is not highly likely as the buyback price set is below the expected market value, revenue is recognised in full when the vehicle is sold. However, an estimate of the value of the buyback payments is deducted from revenue and deferred to the balance sheet. Similarly, an estimate of the value of the vehicles to be returned is deducted from cost of sales and also deferred to the balance sheet. These balances are considered to be contract liabilities.

Where additional services are included in the sale of a vehicle to a customer as part of the total vehicle package (e.g. extended warranty, free servicing, roadside assistance, fuel coupons etc) and the Group is acting as a principal in the fulfilment of the service, the value of the additional services is separately identified, deducted from consideration receivable, recognised as deferred revenue on the balance sheet and subsequently recognised as revenue when the service is provided, or recognised on an input basis with reference to the amount of time elapsed under the contract to which the service relates. These balances are considered to be contract liabilities. The consideration allocated to additional services is based on the relative standalone selling price of the additional services within the contract. The value assigned to the additional service is set equal to the value of the additional service being provided, being the expected cost to the entity plus an appropriate profit margin.

Amounts relating to accrued income are balances primarily due from manufacturers in relation to volume / target related bonuses or commissions or warranty related where the work has been completed prior to being invoiced. Any amount previously recognised as accrued income is reclassified to trade receivables at the point at which it is invoiced to the customer.

Finance income is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Group and the amount of income can be measured reliably. It is accrued on a time basis by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable.

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Cost of sales includes the expense relating to the estimated cost of self-insured product warranties offered to customers. These warranties form part of the package of goods and services provided to the customer when purchasing a vehicle and are not a separable product.

Government grants and assistance

Grants received from governments are recognised when there is reasonable assurance that the conditions associated with the grants have been complied with and the grants will be received. Grants for the reimbursement of operating expenditure are deducted from the related category of costs in the income statement. Once a government grant is recognised, any related deferred income is treated in accordance with IAS 20 'Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance'.

Share-based payments

The Group operates various share-based award schemes. The fair value at the date at which the share-based awards are granted is recognised in the consolidated income statement (together with a corresponding credit in shareholders' equity) on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, based on an estimate of the number of shares that will eventually vest. At the end of each reporting period, the Group revises its estimates of the number of awards that are expected to vest. The impact of any revision is recognised in the consolidated income statement with a corresponding adjustment to equity.

For equity-settled share-based awards, the services received from employees are measured by reference to the fair value of the awards granted. With the exception of the Group Save As You Earn scheme, the vesting of all share-based awards under all schemes is solely reliant upon non-market conditions, therefore no expense is recognised for awards that do not ultimately vest. Where an employee or the Company cancels an award, the charge for that award is recognised as an expense immediately, even though the award does not vest.

Finance costs

Borrowing costs which are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are capitalised as part of the cost of that asset from the first date on which the expenditure is incurred for the asset and until such time as the asset is ready for its intended use. A Group capitalisation rate is used to determine the magnitude of borrowing costs capitalised on each qualifying asset. This rate is the weighted average of Group borrowing costs, excluding those borrowings made specifically for the purpose of obtaining a qualifying asset.

All other borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Income tax

The charge for current income tax is based on the results for the period as adjusted for items which are not taxed or are disallowed. It is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

The accounting standard covering uncertain tax positions, IFRIC 23 'Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments', was adopted by the Group from 1 January 2019. The Group recognises provisions for uncertain tax positions when it is not probable that a tax authority will accept an uncertain tax treatment used, or proposed to be used, in its income tax filings. Uncertain tax positions are assessed and measured using management's estimate of the most likely outcome including an assessment of whether uncertain tax positions should be considered separately or as a group. The Group recognises interest on late paid taxes as part of financing costs, and any penalties, if applicable, as part of the income tax expense.

Deferred income tax is accounted for using the liability method in respect of temporary differences arising from differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Such assets and liabilities are not recognised if the temporary difference is due to goodwill arising on a business combination, or to an asset or liability, the initial recognition of which does not affect either taxable or accounting income.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for taxable temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates, except where the Group is able to control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled using rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period. Deferred tax is charged or credited in the consolidated income statement, except when it relates to items credited or charged directly to shareholders' equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in shareholders' equity.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are only offset where there is a legally enforceable right of offset and there is an intention to settle balances net.

The measurement of deferred tax liabilities and assets reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the Group expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Exceptional items

The Group makes certain adjustments to the statutory profit measures in order to derive certain alternative performance measures. Certain items which are material are presented as exceptional items within their relevant consolidated income statement category. Exceptional items are those items that, in the judgement of the Group, need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their nature, size or incidence. The separate reporting of exceptional items helps provide additional useful information regarding the Group's business performance and is used by management to facilitate internal performance analysis. Items that may be considered exceptional in nature include gains or losses on the disposal of businesses, restructuring of businesses, acquisition costs, asset impairments and the tax effects of these items. Any reversal of an amount previously recognised as an exceptional item would also be recognised as an exceptional item in a subsequent period.

Business combinations and goodwill

The acquisition of subsidiaries is accounted for using the acquisition method (at the point the Group gains control over a business as defined by IFRS 3). The cost of the acquisition is measured as the cash paid and the aggregate of the fair values, at the date of exchange, of other assets transferred, liabilities incurred or assumed, and equity instruments issued by the Group in exchange for control of the acquiree. The consideration transferred includes the fair value of any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement at the acquisition date.

Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred. The acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities that meet the conditions for recognition under IFRS 3 are recognised at their fair value at the acquisition date. The Group recognises any non-controlling interests in the acquiree on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis, either at fair value or at the non-controlling interests' proportionate share of the recognised amounts of acquiree's identifiable net assets.

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of acquisition of a business combination over the Group's share of the fair value of identifiable net assets of the business acquired at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is initially recognised at cost and is held in the functional currency of the acquired entity and revalued at the closing exchange rate at the end of each reporting period.

After initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. At the date of acquisition, the goodwill is allocated to cash generating units for the purpose of impairment testing and is tested at least annually for impairment.

Gains and losses on disposal of a business include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the business sold except for goodwill arising on business combinations on or before 31 December 1997 which has been deducted from shareholders' equity and remains indefinitely in shareholders' equity.

Other intangible assets

Intangible assets, when acquired separately from a business (including computer software), are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Cost comprises the purchase price from third parties as well as internally generated development costs where relevant. Amortisation is provided on a straight-line basis to allocate the cost of the asset over its estimated useful life, which in the case of computer software is three to eight years. Amortisation is recognised in the consolidated income statement within 'net operating expenses'.

Intangible assets acquired as part of a business combination are capitalised separately from goodwill if the benefit of the intangible asset is obtained through contractual or other legal rights and the fair value can be measured reliably on initial recognition. The principal intangible assets are agreements with manufacturers for the distribution of new vehicles and parts, which represent the estimated value of distribution rights acquired in business combinations. Such agreements have varying terms and periods of renewal and have historically been renewed indefinitely without substantial cost. The Group therefore expects these agreements to be renewed indefinitely and accordingly no amortisation is charged on these assets. The Group assesses these distribution rights for impairment on an annual basis.

Other intangible assets acquired in a business combination may include order books and customer contracts. These intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life, which is generally less than a year.

Property, plant and equipment
Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost comprises the purchase price and directly attributable costs of the asset and includes, where relevant, capitalised borrowing costs. Depreciation is based on cost less estimated residual value and is included within 'net operating expenses' in the consolidated income statement, with the exception of depreciation on 'interest in leased vehicles' which is charged to 'cost of sales'. It is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset, except for freehold land which is not depreciated. For the following categories, the annual rates used are:

Freehold buildings and long leasehold buildings	2.0%
Short leasehold buildings	shorter of lease term or useful life
Plant, machinery and equipment	5.0% – 33.3%
Interest in leased vehicles	over the lease term

The residual values and useful lives of all assets are reviewed at least at the end of each reporting period and adjusted if necessary.

Impairment of non-financial assets
Assets that are subject to amortisation or depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Any impairment losses are included within 'net operating expenses' in the consolidated income statement.

In addition, goodwill is not subject to amortisation but is tested at least annually for impairment. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the latter being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Value in use calculations are performed using cash flow projections, discounted at a pre-tax rate which reflects the asset specific risks and the time value of money.

Non-financial assets, other than goodwill, which have previously been impaired, are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Inventories
Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises expenditure incurred in bringing inventories to their present location and condition. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution. Used vehicles are carried at the lower of cost or fair value less costs to sell, generally based on external market data available for used vehicles.

Vehicles held on consignment are included within inventories as the Group is considered to have the risks and rewards of ownership. The corresponding liability is included within 'trade and other payables'.

Inventory can be held on deferred payment terms. All costs associated with this deferral are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

An inventory provision is recognised in situations where net realisable value is likely to be less than cost (such as obsolescence, deterioration, fall in selling price). When calculating the provision, management considers the nature and condition of the inventory, as well as applying assumptions around anticipated saleability, determined on conditions that exist at the end of the reporting period. With the exception of parts, generally net realisable value adjustments are applied on an item-by-item basis.

Trade receivables
Trade receivables are amounts due from customers for goods sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. These are recognised as current assets if collection is due in one year or less. If collection is due in over a year, they are presented as non-current assets.

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment is established based on an expected credit loss model under IFRS 9. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the expected value of the amounts to be received.

The provision for impairment of receivables is based on lifetime expected credit losses. Lifetime expected credit losses are calculated by assessing historic credit loss experience, adjusted for factors specific to the receivable and company. The amount of the loss is recognised in the consolidated income statement within 'net operating expenses'. When a trade receivable is not collectible, it is written off against the allowance account for trade receivables. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against 'net operating expenses' in the consolidated income statement.

Trade payables
Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business. These are classified as current liabilities if payment is due in one year or less. If payment is due at a later date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade payables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Trade payables include the liability for vehicles held on consignment, with the corresponding asset included within inventories.

Borrowings
Borrowings are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred, and are subsequently stated at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption value is recognised in the consolidated income statement over the period of the borrowings, using the effective interest method.

Pensions and other post-retirement benefits
The Group operates a number of retirement benefit schemes.

The major schemes are defined benefit pension funds with assets held separately from the Group. The cost of providing benefits under the plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit actuarial valuation method.

The current service cost and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments are included in 'cost of sales' or 'net operating expenses' in the consolidated income statement. Past service costs are similarly recognised in the consolidated income statement. Administrative scheme expenses associated with the plans are recorded within 'net operating expenses' when incurred, in line with IAS 19 (revised). Net interest income or interest cost relating to the funded defined benefit pension plans is included within 'finance income' or 'finance costs', as relevant, in the consolidated income statement.

Changes in the retirement benefit obligation or asset due to experience and changes in actuarial assumptions are included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, as actuarial gains and losses, in full in the period in which they arise.

Where scheme assets exceed the defined benefit obligation, a net asset is only recognised to the extent that an economic benefit is available to the Group, in accordance with the terms of the scheme and, where relevant, statutory requirements.

The Group's contributions to defined contribution plans are charged to the consolidated income statement in the period to which the contributions relate.

The Group also has a liability in respect of past employees under post-retirement healthcare schemes which have been closed to new entrants. These schemes are accounted for on a similar basis to that for defined benefit pension plans in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries.

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present obligation in respect of a past event, when it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and where the amount can be reliably estimated. Provisions are discounted when the time value of money is considered to be material, using an appropriate risk-free rate on government bonds.

Product warranty provision
A product warranty provision corresponds to warranties provided as part of the sale of a vehicle and provide assurance to the customer that the product will work as sold. Provision is made for the expected cost of labour and parts based on historical claims experience and expected future trends.

Leasehold property provision
A leasehold property provision is recognised when the Group is committed to certain leasehold premises for which it no longer has a commercial use. It is made to the extent of the estimated future net cost, excluding the lease liability already recognised under IFRS 16. A leasehold property provision is also recognised when there is future obligation relating to the maintenance of leasehold properties. The provision is based on management's best estimate of the obligation which forms part of the Group's unavoidable cost of meeting its obligations under the lease contracts.

Litigation provision
A litigation provision is recognised when a litigation case is outstanding at the end of the reporting period and there is a likelihood that the legal claim will be settled.

Restructuring provision
A restructuring provision is recognised when a detailed formal plan for the restructuring has been developed and a valid expectation has been raised in those affected that it will carry out the restructuring by starting to implement the plan or announcing its main features to those affected by it. The measurement of a restructuring provision includes only the direct expenditures arising from the restructuring which are those amounts that are both necessarily entailed by the restructuring and not associated with ongoing activities of the Group.

Disposal group and assets held for sale
Where the Group is committed to a plan to sell and is actively marketing a business and disposal is expected within one year of the date of classification as held for sale, the assets and liabilities of the associated businesses are separately disclosed in the consolidated statement of financial position as a disposal group. Assets and liabilities are classified as assets held for sale if their carrying amount is to be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. Both disposal groups and assets and liabilities held for sale are stated at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Segmental reporting
Segment information is reported in accordance with IFRS 8 'Operating segments', which requires segmental reporting to be presented on the same basis as the internal management reporting. The Group's operating segments are countries or groups of countries and the market channels, Distribution and Retail. These operating segments are then aggregated into reporting segments to combine those with similar characteristics. The accounting policies of the reportable segments are the same as the Group's accounting policies described in this note.

Financial instruments
The Group classifies its financial instruments in the following categories: measured at amortised cost; measured at fair value through profit and loss; and measured at fair value through other comprehensive income. Classification and subsequent remeasurement depends on the Group's business model for managing the financial asset and its cash flow characteristics. Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows, where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are measured at amortised cost.

Measured at amortised cost includes non-derivative financial assets and liabilities with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Financial assets are included in current assets, except where the maturity date is more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period. They are initially recorded at fair value and subsequently recorded at amortised cost. Financial liabilities are included in current liabilities, except where the maturity date is more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period. They are initially measured at original cost, less amortisation or provisions raised.

Measured at fair value through profit and loss includes derivative financial assets and liabilities, which are further explained below. They are classified according to maturity date, within current and non-current assets and liabilities respectively.

Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income includes derivative financial assets and liabilities, which are further explained below, and certain financial assets at fair value such as bonds and equity investments. Derivative financial assets and liabilities are included in current assets and liabilities, except where the maturity date is more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income are classified as non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of them within 12 months of the end of the reporting period and are held at fair value.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents in the consolidated statement of financial position comprise cash at bank and in hand, short-term bank deposits and money market funds.

In the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and cash equivalents, as defined above, net of bank overdrafts.

Offsetting
Netting in the consolidated statement of financial position only occurs to the extent that there is the legal ability and intention to settle net. As such, bank overdrafts are presented in current liabilities to the extent that there is no intention to offset with the cash balance.

Derivative financial instruments
An outline of the objectives, policies and strategies pursued by the Group in relation to its financial instruments is set out in note 24 to the consolidated financial statements.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged. The Group designates certain derivatives as:

– hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or a firm commitment (fair value hedge); or
– hedges of a particular risk associated with a recognised asset or liability or a highly probable forecast transaction (cash flow hedge).

Fair value hedge
Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges are recorded in the consolidated income statement, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk. The Group only applies fair value hedge accounting for hedging fixed interest risk on borrowings and future fixed amount currency liabilities (on its cross-currency interest rate swaps). The gain or loss relating to the effective portion of interest rate swaps hedging fixed rate borrowings and changes in the fair value of those borrowings is recognised in the consolidated income statement within 'finance costs'. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is also recognised in the consolidated income statement within 'finance costs'.

Cash flow hedge
For cash flow hedges that meet the conditions for hedge accounting, the portion of the gains or losses on the hedging instrument that is determined to be an effective hedge is recognised directly in other comprehensive income and the ineffective portion is recognised within 'net operating expenses' in the consolidated income statement. When the hedged forecast transaction results in the recognition of a non-financial asset or liability then, at the time the asset or liability is recognised, the associated gains or losses that had previously been recognised in other comprehensive income are included in the initial measurement of the acquisition cost or other carrying amount of the asset or liability. For all other cash flow hedges, the gains or losses that are recognised in other comprehensive income are transferred to the consolidated income statement in the same period in which the hedged forecast transaction affects the consolidated income statement.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income are primarily equity instruments that the Group has elected to recognise the changes in fair value of in other comprehensive income. They are recognised initially at fair value and are re-measured subsequently at fair value with gains and losses arising from changes in fair value recognised directly in equity and presented in the Group statement of comprehensive income. Cumulative gains and losses on equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income are not recycled to the Group income statement.

Share capital
Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Where the Group purchases the Group's equity share capital (treasury shares), the consideration paid is deducted from shareholders' equity until the shares are cancelled, reissued or disposed of. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued, any consideration received is included in shareholders' equity.

Dividends
Final dividends proposed by the Board of Directors and unpaid at the year-end are not recognised in the consolidated financial statements until they have been approved by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. Interim dividends are recognised when they are paid.

Critical accounting judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty
The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The Directors have made a number of estimates and assumptions regarding the future, and made some significant judgements in applying the Group's accounting policies. These are discussed below:

Sources of estimation uncertainty
The key assumptions about the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainties at the reporting period end that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within in the next period are discussed below:

Impairment of goodwill, indefinite life intangible assets, intangible assets, property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets
In the year, a total impairment charge of £222.5m has been recognised in the income statement. The most significant judgement that could materially impact the charge is in relation to the sensitivity of the assumptions applied to the value in use calculations performed over the Americas – Suzuki and Americas – Daimler CGU groups.

Goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets are tested at least annually for impairment. Intangible assets, property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets are reviewed for impairment if events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. When an impairment review is carried out, the recoverable value is determined based on value in use calculations which require the use of estimates, including projected future cash flows (see notes 11, 12 and 13).

The value in use calculations mainly use cash flow projections based on five-year financial forecasts prepared by management. The key assumptions for these forecasts are those relating to volumes, revenue, gross margins, overheads, the level of working capital required to support trading and capital expenditure. For CGU groups in the Americas and Africa reporting segment, cash flows after the five-year period are extrapolated for a further five years using declining growth rates which reduces the year five growth rate down to the long-term growth rate appropriate for each CGU or CGU group, to better reflect the medium-term growth expectations for those markets. A terminal value calculation is used to estimate the cash flows after year 10 using these long-term growth rates. For all other markets, a terminal value calculation is used to estimate the cash flows after year five.

The assumptions used in the value in use calculations are based on past experience, recent trading and forecasts of operational performance in the relevant markets including the impact of COVID-19 and the UK trading arrangements with the European Union. They also reflect expectations about continuing relationships with key brand partners and the impact climate change may have on its operations. Whilst at this stage there is significant uncertainty regarding what the long-term impact of climate change initiatives may be on the markets in which we operate, the forecasts reflect our best estimate. See notes 11, 12 and 13.

Tax
The recognition of deferred tax assets is dependent upon an estimation of future taxable profits that will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised (see notes 8 and 17). In the event that actual taxable profits are different, such differences may impact the carrying value of such deferred tax assets in future periods or extend the period over which the deferred tax assets are utilised.

Pensions and other post-retirement benefits – assumptions
Pension and other post-retirement benefit liabilities are determined based on the actuarial assumptions detailed in note 5. A number of these assumptions require estimates to be made, including the rate of inflation and expected mortality rates. These assumptions are subject to a review on an annual basis and are determined in conjunction with an external actuary. The use of different assumptions could have a material effect on the value of the relevant liabilities and could result in a material change to amounts recognised in the income statement over time. Key assumptions and sensitivities for post-employment benefit obligations are disclosed in note 5.

Pensions – discount rate
The Group's defined benefit obligations are discounted at a rate set by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds. Significant judgement is required when setting the criteria for bonds to be included in the population from which the yield curve is derived. The most significant criteria considered for the selection of bonds include the issue size of the corporate bonds, quality of the bonds and the identification of outliers which are excluded. Key assumptions and sensitivities for post-employment benefit obligations are disclosed in note 5.

Critical accounting judgements

Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities – extension and termination options
In determining the lease term, management considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. Extension options (or periods after termination options) are only included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

The Group has several lease contracts that include extension and termination options. The Group applies judgement in evaluating whether it is reasonably certain whether or not to exercise the option to renew or terminate the lease. All relevant factors are considered that create an economic incentive for it to exercise either the renewal or termination, including: whether there are significant penalties to terminate (or not extend); whether any leasehold improvements are expected to have a significant remaining value; historical lease durations; the importance of the underlying asset to the Group's operations; and the costs and business disruption required to replace the leased asset.

The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment and that is within the control of the lessee. Refer to note 13 for additional disclosures relating to leases.

Exceptional items
The Directors believe that adjusted profit and earnings per share measures provide additional useful information to shareholders on the performance of the business. These measures are consistent with how business performance is measured internally by the Board and Executive Committee. The operating profit before exceptional items and profit before tax and exceptional items measures are not recognised profit measures under IFRS and may not be directly comparable with such profit measures used by other companies. The classification of exceptional items requires significant management judgement after considering the nature and intentions of a transaction. The Group's definitions of exceptional items are outlined within the Group accounting policies and note 2 provides further details on current year exceptional items and their adherence to Group policy.

Classification of vehicle funding arrangements
The Group finances the purchase of vehicles using vehicle funding facilities provided by various lenders including the captive finance companies associated with brand partners. In assessing whether the liabilities arising under these arrangements should be classified within trade and other payables rather than as an additional component of the Group's net debt within borrowings, the Group considers a number of factors including whether the arrangement is a requirement of the relationship with the OEM, in relation to specific, separately identifiable vehicles held as inventory and whether payment terms are the shorter of the agreed terms of the arrangement or until the specific vehicle being funded is sold to the end customer. Each agreement entered into has its own terms and conditions and determining whether a new or renewed arrangement should be classified within trade and other payables requires significant management judgement. See also note 21.