

Accounting policies

General information

These financial statements are prepared for Inchcape plc (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Company is the ultimate parent entity of the Inchcape Group (the Group) and acts as the holding company of the Group.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework (FRS 101).

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. As permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006, no separate profit and loss account or statement of comprehensive income is presented for the Company.

The Company does not have any critical accounting judgements. The valuation of the Company's investments is a key source of estimation uncertainty. The Company's net assets were lower than its market capitalisation on 31 December 2020 and the estimates of the recoverable amounts of the individual investments were in excess of their carrying values. As a result, no impairment has been reflected. Other sources of estimation uncertainty most applicable to the Company do not give rise to a significant risk of material adjustment to the carrying value of the Company's assets and liabilities.

The Directors of Inchcape plc manage the Group's risks at a group level rather than an individual business unit or company level. Further information on these risks and uncertainties, in the context of the Group as a whole, are included within the Group disclosures on pages 41 to 50.

The following exemptions from the requirements of IFRS have been applied in the preparation of these financial statements, in accordance with FRS 101:

- Paragraphs 45(b) and 46 to 52 of IFRS 2, 'Share-based payment' (details of the number and weighted average exercise price of share options, and how the fair value of goods and services received was determined)
- IFRS 7, 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures'
- Paragraphs 91 to 99 of IFRS 13, 'Fair value measurement' (disclosure of valuation techniques and inputs used for fair value measurement of assets and liabilities)
- Paragraph 38 of IAS 1, 'Presentation of financial statements' comparative information requirements in respect of:
 - paragraph 73(e) of IAS 16, 'Property, plant and equipment';
 - paragraph 118(e) of IAS 38, 'Intangible assets' (reconciliations between the carrying amount at the beginning and end of the period)
- The following paragraphs of IAS 1, 'Presentation of financial statements':
 - 10(d) (statement of cash flows),
 - 10(f) (a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements),
 - 16 (statement of compliance with all IFRS),
 - 38A (requirement for minimum of two primary statements, including cash flow statements),
 - 38B-D (additional comparative information),
 - 40A-D (requirements for a third statement of financial position),
 - 111 (cash flow statement information), and
 - 134-136 (capital management disclosures)
- IAS 7, 'Statement of cash flows'
- Paragraph 30 and 31 of IAS 8, 'Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors' (requirement for the disclosure of information when an entity has not applied a new IFRS that has been issued but is not yet effective)
- Paragraph 17 of IAS 24, 'Related party disclosures' (key management compensation)
- The requirements in IAS 24, 'Related party disclosures' to disclose related party transactions entered into between two or more members of a group.

Accounting policies continued

Going concern

Having assessed the principal risks and the other matters discussed in connection with the viability statement, the Directors have considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements, as described in the Directors' Report of the consolidated Group Financial Statements.

Foreign currencies

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 in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at closing rates of exchange and differences are taken to the income statement.

Finance costs

Finance costs consist of interest payable on the Private Placement borrowing. Costs are recognised as an expense, calculated using the effective interest rate method, in the period in which they are incurred.

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost, less provisions for impairment.

Impairment

The Company's accounting policies in respect of impairment of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and financial assets are consistent with those of the Group. The carrying values of investments in subsidiary undertakings are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

The Company's impairment policies in relation to financial assets are consistent with those of the Group, with additional consideration given to amounts owed by Group undertakings. Any 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.

Other intangible assets

Intangible assets, when acquired separately from a business (including computer software), are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Costs comprise 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 between five and eight years.

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 provided on a straight-line basis to allocate the cost of the asset over its estimated useful life, which in the case of computer hardware is five years.

Deferred tax

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 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, except where the Company 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 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.

Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

Where the Company purchases its own equity share capital (treasury shares), the consideration paid is deducted from shareholders' funds until the shares are cancelled, reissued or disposed of. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued, any consideration received is included in shareholders' funds.

Dividends

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

Share-based payments

The Company operates various share-based award schemes. The fair value at the date at which the share-based awards are granted is recognised in the 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 Company revises its estimates of the number of awards that are expected to vest. The impact of any revision is recognised in the 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 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 cancels a Save As You Earn award, the charge for that award is recognised as an expense immediately, even though the award does not vest.

The issue of shares by the Company to employees of its subsidiaries represents additional capital contributions. When these costs are recharged to the subsidiary undertaking, the investment balance is reduced accordingly.

Financial instruments

The Company's policies on the recognition, measurement and presentation of financial instruments under IFRS 7 are the same as those set out in the Group's accounting policies on pages 117 to 126.