

The ERM International Group Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2024

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Corporate information

Directors

Thomas Reichert	Chief Executive Officer
Timothy Strawn	Regional Chief Executive Officer
David McArthur	Strategic Advisor
Sabine Hoefnagel	Global Leader of Sustainability and Risk
Susan Angyal	Regional Chief Executive Officer
Tomás Hevia Armengol	Non-executive Director
Mattia Caprioli	Non-executive Director
Lars Kolks	Non-executive Director
Rami Bibi	Non-executive Director

Secretary

Angela Mullany	General Counsel (appointed 5 June 2023)
Roy Burrows	General Counsel (resigned 5 June 2023)

Auditor

Deloitte LLP
2 New Street Square
London
EC4A 3BZ

Banker

HSBC UK Bank Plc
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Strategic report

A strategic, financial and operational review for the ERM group of companies, being The ERM International Group Limited (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries (collectively the “Group”) for the year ended 31 March 2024 (“FY24”) is set out below.

Principal activities

ERM is the market leading global pure play sustainability consultancy delivering a full suite of services across the sustainability spectrum. This includes the provision of sustainability & climate change, safety and digital services to clients. ERM works with both private and public sector clients to deliver sustainable outcomes to complex environmental and related issues.

Business review

In the income statement the Group reports gross revenue of \$1,380 million (year ended 31 March 2023 (“FY23”): \$1,321 million); operating profit before amortisation and impairment of intangibles and net transaction costs of \$145 million (FY23: \$150 million); and an operating loss (after amortisation and impairment of intangibles and net transaction costs) of \$22 million (FY23: loss of \$51 million). The Group has generated strong operating cash flow of \$173 million (pre income taxes) during the financial year (FY23: \$134 million) and held \$193 million of cash at 31 March 2024 (FY23: \$207 million). The Business Review that follows references trading results which are key performance indicators used by management to monitor the performance of the business. Please refer to the summary results section for a reconciliation of trading results to statutory measures.

FY24 was a solid year as ERM navigated a bumpy global market. At management budgeted exchange rates, our trading net revenue increased by 9% during FY24 and our trading EBITDA (as defined on page 3 under Summary results) increased by 6%.

We continued to see growing demand for ERM’s services during FY24 and ongoing opportunities to elevate our influence on the global sustainability agenda. Our business is highly diversified and balanced across industries, geographies, and service lines. Our highest growth industry sectors in FY24 were Power, Diversified Energy, and Mining, buoyed by the ongoing Low-carbon Economy Transition (“LCET”) and high activity in the Mining sector. Geographically, we saw strong double digit top- and bottom-line growth in three of our five regions. Growth across our service lines was relatively balanced, with Capital Project Delivery seeing the largest growth compared with the prior year, strengthening its position as our largest service line. We continue to make investments across our business, including potential long-term growth areas like Climate Markets, Nature & Water, and Human & Social Rights. Our Digital Services business also had a strong year as we continue to evolve and shape our digital strategy.

FY24 was also a year where multiple market headwinds came to the fore. These headwinds were triggered by factors including rising cost of capital, rising energy costs (particularly in Europe), and increasing regulatory uncertainty given upcoming election cycles. As a result, our Financial sector and M&A service line softened, some large capital programs were delayed or phased (e.g., renewables, offshore wind) and energy-intensive sectors in Europe saw decreasing activity levels. Despite these headwinds, we are still bullish on long term prospects for our industry: M&A markets are already starting to come back; interest rates will slowly move towards historical levels; regulatory uncertainty will wane as we move past the election cycle; and many of the large capital projects that have been delayed will likely proceed forward. This bullishness is supported by the record sales we saw in the last quarter of FY24 as we ended the year with our largest backlog of sold work ever.

The average number of full-time equivalent (“FTE”) employees increased from 7,002 in FY23 to 7,463 in FY24. In response to the changing market conditions we realigned our capacity to those service lines where we are seeing growth, ending the year at 7,281 full-time equivalent (“FTE”) employees.

Partners: Partners in ERM are our senior management level leaders. We hired 77 Partners during FY24 which provides us with a strong platform to grow the business over the medium-term. We also promoted 71 Partners from our Path to Partnership programme and brought in two Partners through an acquisition.

Strategic report

Sustainability: We continue to play a leading role in the global sustainability agenda, as described on page 5. Our Non-Financial and Sustainability Information Statement can be found on pages 10-20 of this report.

Acquisitions: On 1 March 2024, ERM completed the acquisition of The Big Middle and The Big Zero ("The Big Group"), Australian enterprise system specialists who are experts in Salesforce, Oracle, and WalkMe technologies. Combined with ERM's consultancy services and its partnership with Salesforce, The Big Zero's expertise in Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") accounting systems will support clients in establishing a unified source of environmental data. The Big Middle will continue as one of Australia's leading technology service providers focused on systems integration of enterprise solutions, including onboarding and training of customers in Australia and New Zealand. See note 14 for further details.

Summary results

The financial statements are presented in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the IASB ("Adopted IFRSs"). The Group reported FY24 net revenue of \$1,116 million (2023: \$1,029 million) and an operating loss of \$22 million (FY23: \$51 million). Operating loss is a statutory measure and is stated after amortisation and impairment of intangible assets and net transaction costs.

The table below presents the net revenue and operating loss reported in the consolidated income statement:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000	Growth %
Net revenue	1,115,561	1,029,145	8%
Operating profit before amortisation and impairment of intangibles and net transaction costs	144,986	149,918	(3%)
Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets	(187,080)	(188,903)	
Net transaction costs	19,776	(11,978)	
Operating loss	(22,318)	(50,963)	

Trading net revenue and trading EBITDA at management budgeted exchange rates are key performance indicators used by management to monitor the performance of the business. They are not presented in the statutory financial statements but are used by management to remove exchange rate fluctuations and enable true comparison of trading results to budget and prior year. Trading net revenue and trading EBITDA exclude items that are considered to be one-off or non-trading in nature. The table below presents the summary results for the Group for FY24 compared to FY23. The budgeted exchange rates used by management during FY24 were applied to the table below for both FY24 and FY23 trading net revenue and trading EBITDA.

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000	Growth %
Trading net revenue ^{1,2}	1,109,554	1,019,882	9%
Trading EBITDA ^{1,3}	175,628	165,077	6%
Reconciliation to statutory accounts operating profit ²	(30,642)	(15,159)	
Operating profit before amortisation and impairment of intangibles and net transaction costs	144,986	149,918	

1 At FY24 budgeted exchange rates.

2 See below for detailed reconciliation to the consolidated income statement.

3 Before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation, impairment and net transaction costs.

Strategic report

Summary results (continued)

Reconciliation of trading net revenue to the consolidated income statement

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Trading net revenue	1,109,554	1,019,882
Retranslation from budget to actual exchange rates	6,734	10,145
Other income ¹	(727)	(882)
Total reconciling items	6,007	9,263
Net revenue per the income statement	1,115,561	1,029,145

¹ Certain other income is included in trading net revenue but all other income is reported separately in the statutory income statement.

During the year, the Group recognised \$102 million impairment of goodwill (see note 13) (FY23: \$96 million).

Reconciliation of trading EBITDA to the consolidated income statement

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Trading EBITDA	175,628	165,077
Retranslation from budget to actual exchange rates	(1,885)	4,269
IFRS 16 adjustment: add back operating lease expense ¹	20,079	20,919
IFRS 16 adjustment: deduct IFRS 16 depreciation (note 7) ¹	(18,515)	(19,949)
Deduct depreciation of property, plant and equipment (note 7)	(9,568)	(7,298)
Share based payment expense (note 22) ²	(8,759)	(4,804)
Termination costs ³	(4,207)	-
Global Partner Meeting ⁴	(4,140)	-
KKR advisory fees (note 25)	(2,866)	(5,136)
Other items ⁵	(781)	(3,160)
Total reconciling items	(30,642)	(15,159)
Operating profit before amortisation and impairment of intangibles and net transaction costs	144,986	149,918

¹ IFRS 16 adjustments: management reporting of trading EBITDA reflects lease costs as an operating expense. For statutory reporting this operating expense is replaced with depreciation of the right-of-use-asset (note 7) and lease interest.

² Share-based payment expense relating to shares issued to Partners.

³ Severance costs related to realignment of resourcing in light of shifting market headwinds.

⁴ Costs related to a one-off global Partner meeting, held during the year.

⁵ Other costs not related to trading.

Cash on hand and debt facilities

Once again, the Group had strong operating cash flow of \$173 million (pre-income taxes) in the financial year (2023: \$134 million). The Group has adequate cash resources and banking facilities to meet its day-to-day working capital requirements.

The Group has cash on hand of \$193 million (2023: \$207 million), including cash deposited with ReachCentrum SA of \$138 million (2023: \$142 million) and cash held on behalf of government bodies of \$21 million (2023: \$18 million). Refer to note 19 for further details.

The Group's credit facilities as at 31 March 2024 consist of \$512 million USD denominated and €495 million EUR denominated first lien debt, both fully drawn. In addition, the Group holds a revolving credit facility of \$238 million. At 31 March 2024 the revolving credit facility was undrawn, although \$4.1 million of the facility was utilised as security for bank guarantees (31 March 2023: undrawn, \$4.7 million utilised as security for bank guarantees).

Strategic report

Sustainability and Health and Safety

A key element of all aspects of our strategy is sustainability. Sustainability at ERM is a commitment to support socio-economic development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As a business, we aim to create long-term shareholder value by balancing the necessary financial performance of the Group with the impact on, and the contributions we make, to the environment and society. We believe that these can, and should, be mutually beneficial and our aim is to ensure that this is the case at ERM. During FY24, we secured over 22,000 new sustainability projects globally. We are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals working with some of the world's leading sustainability organisations such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development ("WBCSD"), the Principles for Responsible Investment ("PRI") and the UN Global Compact.

We are always looking at how we can reduce our own carbon footprint and take measures to help protect the world's ecosystem. We continually look for ways to reduce our energy usage across the Group and to date we are on track to meet our public commitment to reduce our carbon emissions through our targets that have been validated by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) as aligned to the Net Zero Standard, which will see us deliver net zero by 2040. Our Non-Financial and Sustainability Information Statement can be found on pages 10 to 20 of this report. We separately report in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("TCFD"), and this year will publish a full TCFD disclosure within the ERM Sustainability Report, published online annually. The 2024 report will be released in July 2024.

We have reported on all of the emission sources required under The Large and Medium-Sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 as amended in August 2013. We have used the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition); data gathered to fulfil our requirements under the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme; and emission factors from the UK Government's GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2014 to calculate the below disclosures. The table below summarises FY24 carbon emissions for our UK business.

	Year ended 31 March 2024 Co2 tonnes	Year ended 31 March 2023 Co2 tonnes	Year ended 31 March 2024 kWh	Year ended 31 March 2023 kWh
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Fuel type

Electricity ¹ and gas	26.39	40.02	848,383	715,061
Total	26.39	40.02	848,383	715,061

Co2 tonnes emissions per \$1,000,000 of gross revenue	0.019	0.030
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¹ For FY24, ERM has sourced 98% renewable energy through green energy contracts or renewable energy instruments.

	Year ended 31 March 2024 Co2 tonnes	Year ended 31 March 2023 Co2 tonnes	Year ended 31 March 2024 kWh	Year ended 31 March 2023 kWh
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Fuel type

Electricity ¹ and gas	26.39	40.02	848,383	715,061
Total	26.39	40.02	848,383	715,061

Co2 tonnes emissions per \$1,000,000 of gross revenue	0.019	0.030
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² For FY24, ERM has sourced 98% renewable energy through green energy contracts or renewable energy instruments.

Health and Safety plays a key role in enabling ERM's 'license to operate', both internally with our staff and externally with our clients. During the financial year, we implemented a variety of ongoing improvements to our Health and Safety programmes to reduce our overall risk profile and improve performance. Key areas of improvement included:

- complete revision of our travel safety programme to provide enhanced services to our travellers and improved efficiency to operations;
- completion of our second year of roll-out associated with our See.Own.Share – Beyond Hazard Recognition programme which resulted in us training over 4,700 staff members; and
- continued focus on simplifying and enabling everything that we do which resulted in changes to our Active Leadership Audit Program; Corrective and Preventive Action program; and the Health and Safety elements of our Global Mandatory Training program.

During FY24 our UK business received the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents President's Award. This recognition is provided to an organization that receives 10 consecutive Gold Medal Awards and illustrates an organization's long-term commitment to excellence in occupational health and safety.

Corporate governance

Strategic report

The Board of Directors of the Group parent company, The ERM International Group Limited, is responsible for the direction and oversight of the Group on behalf of its shareholders and is accountable to them, as owners, for all aspects of ERM's business. The Board recognises that, in conducting its business, ERM should also be responsive to clients, regulatory bodies and other relevant stakeholder groups.

The Board believes that good governance involves the clarity of roles and responsibilities and the proper utilisation of distinct skills and processes. The Board, therefore, focuses on activities that enable it to promote the interests of all shareholders, such as the active consideration and execution of long-term strategy, the monitoring of executive actions, and ongoing Board and executive management succession.

The Board governance policies and practises reflect the relevant provisions of the Wates Corporate Governance Principles for Large Private Companies (2018).

At ERM, we are shaping a sustainable future with the world's leading organisations. The purpose of the ERM Group is to create and maximise long-term value for our stakeholders (shareholders and investors, management and employees, clients, suppliers and contractors, Governments, non-governmental organizations and the communities in which we operate) and help create a more sustainable future for our world through pursuing a strategy which offers and delivers exceptional value to our clients.

The Board reviews and, where appropriate, determines the long-term strategy and the annual budget and business plan for the Group based on proposals made by the CEO for achieving the ERM purpose. The Board develops and promotes the ERM purpose and ensures, through its decisions and actions, that the values, strategy and culture of the Group align with that purpose, to generate long-term sustainable value.

On a day-to-day basis we continue to be managed by the Executive Committee, comprised of four of the five executive directors of the business and a number of other senior Partners in executive management roles who lead geographic, service, sector and client divisions of our operations, business development, people development and other professional support functions. The Executive Committee generally meets monthly. The majority of Executive Committee meetings are held by video conference to reduce our carbon footprint and our travel time and costs.

We continue to develop our risk management procedures and we take every reasonable measure to ensure that all of our staff adhere to ERM's global values and our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

Strategic report

Section 172 statement

Section 172 requires that “a director of a company must act in the way he considers, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to:

- a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- b) the interests of the Group’s employees;
- c) the need to foster the Group’s business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- d) the impact of the Group’s operations on the community and the environment;
- e) the desirability of the Group maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company”.

The Directors consider the factors set out above in discharging their duties under section 172. The stakeholders we consider in this regard are our shareholders and investors, management and employees, clients, suppliers and contractors, Governments, non-governmental organizations and the communities in which we operate. The Board recognises that building strong relationships with our stakeholders will help us to deliver our strategy in line with our long-term values and operate the business in a sustainable way.

The Group comprises a number of business units (“BUs”), all of which have extensive engagement with their own unique stakeholders as well as other businesses in the Group. Please refer to page 25 for further information on corporate governance.

In performing their duty under s172, the Directors have had regard to the matters set out in s172(1) as follows:

The likely consequences of any decision in the long term

Reports are regularly made to the Group Board by the Executive Directors and members of the Executive Committee about the strategy, performance and key decisions taken, which provides the Board with assurance that proper consideration is given to stakeholder interest in decision-making.

At Group level, the Board is well informed about the views of stakeholders through the regular reporting on stakeholder views; for example, the CEO and other Executive Directors regularly share feedback from clients (as key stakeholders) gained from meetings between them and senior client contacts. The Board uses this information to assess the impact of decisions on each stakeholder group as part of its own decision-making process.

The Board has established a Risk and Reputation steering group, ERM ESG and Sustainability Steering Group Committee, with representatives of ERM management and our institutional shareholder KKR. The steering group has discussed and proposed to the Board positions to take on significant sustainability, geopolitical and reputation issues.

The Board takes a long-term approach to developing its strategy, which is to grow and build our consulting capability and presence in major markets to help clients address their sustainability challenges. We aim to achieve this through organic growth and targeting specific acquisitions where appropriate to broaden our geographic and service offerings. Our global expansion focuses on building deep and lasting relationships with our clients and servicing all their sustainability needs. The Board reviews the relevance of the Group’s strategy annually.

The Group has established a successful track record of acquiring and integrating complimentary consulting businesses into the Group over recent years. Since April 2017, the Group has completed 26 such acquisitions in total (one during FY24) bringing in the expertise of over 1,150 people. These acquisitions complement our core client offerings and expand our capability in areas that build our skills or service offerings across our geographies, to help respond to the changing needs of our clients.

Ongoing investment in improving the IT infrastructure and testing and upgrading of the Group’s cyber security, including implementing a managed security detection and response service, has improved our business continuity, long-term resilience and protection of data.

Strategic report

The interests of the Group's employees

At ERM, people are at the heart of our operation. We have a strong community united by our purpose and the impact of our work. ERMer bring their whole selves and unique capabilities to develop technical and leadership skills whilst leaving a lasting imprint on our planet.

Our Growth and Performance Culture is a culture in which each individual is celebrated for their unique capability and finds belonging within a warm, vibrant and inclusive community. As part of their experience each person makes an impact and:

- has the opportunity to continually develop expertise and progress in their careers;
- has motivational, simple goals that translate into true impact;
- is given meaningful feedback and empowering learning tools to help them meet their goals;
- is recognized and rewarded equitably for their contribution to the success of the ERM community; and
- is empowered to do their best work, everyday, with flexible and progressive ways of working

Our ambition is to be the best place to work in the ESG and supporting sectors. In FY24 we achieved a 2.5% reduction in attrition, with voluntary turnover reducing through the year in all of our regions, and we maintained a positive employee engagement rate, measured by our quarterly pulse surveys. ENPS (employee net promoter score) increased through the year and we received an offer acceptance of 82.4%, higher than industry benchmark. Our collaborative engagement planning methodology helps us continuously evolve a working culture that is responsive, plays to our unique strengths and helps us deliver on opportunities to make a difference to our people.

Through a progressive approach, we strive to build a demographically diverse company that reflects the communities in which we live and work, as well as a vibrant, inclusive culture in which our people can thrive and that enables the delivery of exceptional client value. Examples of FY24 accomplishments include:

- continuing to increase the ethnic diversity of our workforce;
- increased representation of women at Partner level and gender balance in our Associate Partner pipeline;
- 120 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging ("DEIB") events held globally;
- 60 mental health champions trained globally;
- 30 mental health speakers and events;
- wellbeing intranet with quick help resources launched;
- extending our new approach to better connect consultants with project work;
- reimagining our new hire journey;
- investing in our Learning model, curricula and mentorship; and
- redesigning our performance, reward and recognition program.

Our vision of Talent Management is to attract, identify, engage and develop, retain and effectively assign employees to exciting work. We want our employees to have the opportunity to develop and fulfill their career aspirations. Our online career progression tool makes it easy for all employees to review available career paths, view job specifications and work with their supervisor and mentors to take a transparent and active role in assessing development to further their career aspirations.

Partner-led teams collaborate to deploy the right people for the right job. These teams have access to our entire workforce, spanning different geographies and sectors, in order to meet our evolving client needs. This structure enables employees to deepen their professional experience by supporting projects worldwide.

Regular reports about what is important to our employees are made to the Board, ensuring consideration is given to employee needs, and regular discussion of people-related topics occurs at Board meetings. For example, our annual Employee Survey results and analysis is shared with the Board as well as the progress we are making against our stated actions. We provide reporting on headcount growth, attrition with reasons for leaving and our retention priorities.

The Remuneration Committee advises the Board on executive remuneration and sets the remuneration packages of each of the Executive Directors. The aim of the Committee is to establish an overall remuneration structure which promotes the long-term success of the Group and delivers the strategy, reflects a balance of fixed and variable pay, with the intent of creating a competitive total compensation package that supports attraction and retention and ensures alignment between short and long term incentivized performance. The Remuneration Committee meeting cadence and agenda is reflective of the reward cycle and fiscal year. The Remuneration Committee provide oversight and final approval on our bonus budget, decisioning principles and the specific salary and bonus award for Executive Directors.

We are committed to ensuring fairness and equity in our reward practices. We conduct an annual internal gender pay equity review to assess base pay for employees at the same career level and job profile within a country location. Where we find discrepancies that are not justifiable, remediation is managed through our salary process as required.

Strategic report

The interests of the Group's employees (continued)

We have a mature and comprehensive Safety Management System ("SMS"), which incorporates safety-related policies, roles and responsibilities, training programs and initiatives and mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of our management approach.

The need to foster the Group's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others

Our global expansion focuses on building deep and lasting relationships with our clients and servicing their needs in more regions and across more service areas. We recognise the trust that our clients place in us by allowing us to work on many of their most challenging projects daily all around the world and are committed to the highest ethical behaviour and personal integrity in all our transactions and interactions.

We exercise judgment with respect to clients and third parties with whom we engage and the types of work we undertake. We will not work with clients or subcontractors who do not share our commitment to high ethical and sustainability standards and to safe operations.

The impact of the Group's operations on the community and the environment

Sustainability comprehensively informs our strategic management and operational planning as a professional services business which delivers market leading sustainability consultancy advice to clients.

During FY24, ERM senior leaders engaged our Board and Executive Committee on all aspects of sustainability and ESG including the strategic implications of climate change and the low-carbon economy transition. We continue to make a significant commitment and investment in this area. We are implementing global and regional plans with our Global Industry and Service teams, Regional Leadership Teams and Account Directors across the Group to evolve our response to market demand. Our annual Sustainability Report details our wider Sustainability impacts and performance.

The ERM Foundation supports environmental, community and sustainable development causes through appropriate charitable, educational and scientific means.

The desirability of the Group maintaining a reputation of high standards of business conduct

Our written Global Code of Business Conduct and Ethics sets clear requirements to ensure we conduct business with uncompromising honesty, integrity and that we comply with laws and regulations. Our commitment to combat bribery and corruption is fundamental to how we operate and is embedded into our key systems and programs. We apply our business conduct and ethics commitments across every office and activity, every day, with the involvement and awareness of all our employees. All employees and Partners are held responsible for compliance with our Code and policies.

We express this commitment through our business values, our professional standards, staff training and our internal systems and practices. It is key to earning and maintaining the trust of our stakeholders: shareholders and investors, management and employees, clients, suppliers and contractors, Governments, non-governmental organizations and the communities in which we operate.

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee are ERM's most significant governing bodies. They are responsible for the strategic direction of the organization and the effective monitoring of operations and performance. The Board sets a high standard for ethical behaviour and ensures the Group complies with applicable laws and regulations.

ERM maintains a global anonymous "whistleblowing" reporting system (Helpline) so that concerns about our business operations, including unethical business conduct, can be reported without fear of retaliation. The system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by a web portal or call-in line with over 18 languages. This is managed by a third party to protect confidentiality. Reported concerns are investigated and addressed in ERM under the supervision of ERM's Chief Compliance Officer.

The need to act fairly between members of the company

The Board recognises the critical importance of open dialogue and fair consideration of the company's members. We communicate regularly with our institutional shareholder KKR as well as with current and former employee shareholders, some 703 individuals who collectively own approximately 31.55% of the Group's ordinary shares. Shareholders have representation at the Board level and employee shareholders are actively updated via regular reports, calls and written communications.

Strategic report

Non-Financial and Sustainability Information Statement

The Non-Financial and Sustainability Information Statement, produced in compliance with The Companies (Strategic Report) (Climate-Related Financial Disclosure) Regulations 2022, is set out below.

For information relating to ERM's approach to climate and latest emissions data, please refer to our ERM Sustainability Report.

Governance of climate risks and opportunities

Structure

Responsibility for the consideration of climate-related risks and opportunities is embedded throughout our corporate governance structure. As a professional services business which delivers market leading climate-related and wider sustainability consultancy to clients, consideration of climate-related risks and opportunities comprehensively informs our strategic management and operational planning.

Board's oversight of climate-related risks and opportunities

The Board of Directors of the Group parent company The ERM International Group Limited is responsible for the direction and oversight of the Group on behalf of its shareholders and is accountable to them, as owners, for all aspects of ERM's business. Further information on the role of the Board is set out on page 25. The Board meets six to seven times per year to review performance and consider key strategic growth plans, which includes the impact of climate related risks and opportunities on ERM's business strategy, such as our approach to accessing and capitalizing upon the market for energy related transition services.

Supporting the consideration of climate related risks and opportunities is the ESG Risk and Sustainability Steering Group, which serves as an advisory committee to the Board. It works with the Board to identify and manage risks relating to ERM's strategy, reputation, reporting and disclosures. This includes horizon scanning across evolving regulatory, client and wider stakeholder requirements and expectations to inform our positioning on ESG issues, including identifying and managing climate related risks to protect ERM's brand and commercial position.

Management's role in assessing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities

On a day-to-day basis, the Group is managed by the Executive Committee ("Excom"), comprised of four of the five executive directors of the business and a number of other senior Partners in executive management roles who lead geographic, service, industry and client divisions of our operations, legal, people development, sustainability & risk and other professional support functions.

The Excom has accountability for managing business operations and generally meets monthly to discuss performance and plans in support of this. This includes ensuring that the strategic management of our climate related risks and opportunities is being undertaken effectively to optimize current and future business performance through regional and country level planning, recruitment and renumeration, and aligned to our ability to capitalize upon climate related opportunities for commercial growth.

The Excom is supported by the Excom Sustainability Working Group, which advises on all aspects of operationalizing sustainability across our value chain, including our management of climate related risks, operational strategy, programmatic priorities, target setting and resourcing. The Working Group comprises representatives from the Board, Excom and our Global Sustainability Director and Head of Sustainability. This Working Group has oversight and reports into the Excom on ERM's decarbonization strategy and performance against targets, which includes our net-zero and science-based targets ("SBT") commitments, as well as our approach to managing residual emissions and beyond value chain mitigation measures. This is undertaken as part of our wider approach to operationalizing sustainability and involves the identification of relevant KPIs/metrics which support our ability to mitigate against financial material impacts arising from emissions abatement and mitigation, as well as strengthen our positioning as a credible leader in climate advisory services through our own operational decarbonization.

To support our senior leadership, a Climate-related Financial Disclosures/Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("CFD/TCFD") Working Group was created to input and review the identification of climate related risks and opportunities for the business. This Working Group comprises representatives of Risk, Sustainability, Operations, Finance, Client and Services, who provide specialist subject matter expertise on what and how the business should respond to such risks.

Strategic report

Description of how we identify, assess and manage our principal climate related risks and opportunities

Our approach

ERM strategically considers all aspects of potential climate related impacts to our operations, including people, industry and service line, operational, financial, geopolitical and legal parameters, to comprehensively assess potential risks and opportunities to our business.

Strategic risks and opportunities are identified through a multi-faceted approach involving ongoing market, regulatory and horizon scanning, engagement with clients and wider stakeholders, the input of our subject-matter experts and senior operational leaders across the globe and is supported by our annual Double Materiality Assessment process. Supplementing this approach and consistent with the recommendations of the TCFD, a further detailed analysis and review of current or emergent climate related risks and opportunities is undertaken annually. This is supported by the CFD/TCFD Working Group who have responsibility for driving implementation of our management of climate risk, working in conjunction with senior management to deliver our strategic and operational work programs. Our senior management include regional and business unit managing partners, service and client leads. The output of this analysis support visibility of the potential impacts across the short, medium and longer-term horizons and informs the content of this statement.

Scope of assessment

The assessment of climate related risks and opportunities draws upon the scenario analysis and impact identification set out in our FY23 TCFD reporting (published separately in our annual Sustainability Report), augmented by supplementary inputs and analysis from our subject matter experts and CFD/TCFD Working Group during FY24. This process enables the business to review potential climate-related risks and opportunities, expand our understanding of where material exposures may exist and refresh the drivers and timeframes of potential impacts.

The list of climate related risks and opportunities considered in this year's assessment, is provided below.

Category	Climate-related risks and opportunities
Markets	Changing customer behavior influencing market demand for our services
	Access to new markets
Policy and regulatory environment	Increased pricing of GHG emissions abatement
	Enhanced emissions-reporting obligations
	Increased costs and/or reduced demand for products and services resulting from fines and judgements
	Mandates on and regulation of existing products and services
	Geo-political instability and/or impact to decarbonization policy and regulation
	Exposure to litigation, directly or through clients
Technology	Technology investment required to meet evolving client need
Reputation	Shifts in consumer preferences
	Declining investment in climate-exposed assets and products
	Increased stakeholder concern or negative stakeholder feedback
Physical risks (acute)	Increased severity of extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods
Physical risks (chronic)	Changes in precipitation patterns and extreme variability in weather patterns
	Rising mean temperatures
	Rising sea levels
Resource efficiency	Use of more efficient modes of transport
	Use of recycling
	Move to more efficient buildings
	Reduced water usage and consumption
Energy sources	Use of lower-emission sources of energy
	Use of supportive policy incentives
	Use of new technologies
Resilience	Resource substitutes/diversification

Strategic report

Description of how we identify, assess and manage our principal climate related risks and opportunities (continued)

Scenario analysis

Consistent with our previous TCFD disclosures published separately in our annual Sustainability Reports, the impact assessment is based on three timeframe scenarios, which this year also considers our latest operational decarbonization targets, validated as in alignment with the SBTi Net Zero Standard.

Our scenario analysis considers time horizons for physical climate and the transition to a low-carbon economy, as well as the changes in the global economy and markets we operate in. We recognize that climate-related issues can manifest over medium and longer-term timeframes. We have reflected this in our selection of time horizons outlined in the table below, which are linked to our strategic commitments and planning horizons. We have also considered the impacts on our own operations and services over shorter timeframes to reflect the interests of our investors.

Each scenario takes into consideration the potential impacts arising from physical climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy respectively. The scenarios selected align with guidance and reflect the latest dataset available from the leading international bodies and combine qualitative storylines of social features and quantified measures of development alongside climate data to create plausible scenarios for how quickly society can curb emissions.

Physical scenarios and associated time horizons selected for ERM's Scenario Analysis

	Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) 1 – 2.6	Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) 5 - 8.5
Source	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report 6 (AR6) and Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP).	
Description	Referred to as a lower-emissions scenario, this projects warming to remain below 2 degrees Celsius by 2100, and is aligned to current commitments under the Paris Agreement.	A high-emissions scenario, which follows a business-as-usual trajectory and assumes limited additional climate policy or regulation, resulting in carbon dioxide emissions tripling by 2100.
Time Horizons	Across three time scenarios of up to 2026, up to 2030 and up to 2040 but principally informing the 2030 and 2040 assessment of impact.	

To assess trends related to the transition to a low-carbon economy, we used the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

Transition scenarios and associated time horizons selected for ERM's Scenario Analysis

	Net-zero Emissions Scenario (NZE)	Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS)
Source	International Energy Agency (IEA) & Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).	
Description	A scenario where ambitious climate policies and low-carbon market drivers limit warming to 1.5°C and net-zero emissions are met by 2050. This has been supplemented by the NGFS Net Zero 2020 scenario where needed and is referred to as the low-carbon scenario.	In the framework of the yearly issued World Energy Outlook (WEO), this considers a pathway that takes account of announced climate-related policies but does not forcefully pursue decarbonization. It is supplemented by the NGFS Current Policies scenario and can be referred to as the high-carbon scenario.
Time Horizons	Across all three timeframes of up to 2026, up to 2030 and up to 2040.	

As per previous analyses, the greatest level of surety exists around the short-term scenario planning and identification of potential climate related risks and opportunities. As the scenarios progress towards our longer-term timeframe of up to 2040 the analysis represents horizon scanning based on analysis of the impacts of ongoing climatic change on the physical environment, anticipated variability in terms of adaptation across our geographical operations and potential evolution of the market and client demand.

Scenario	Timeframe	Context	Associated Plans
Short-term	Up to 2026	Representing our immediate and short-term planning scenario which takes the business to 2026	Current Business Plan
Medium-term	Up to 2030	Representing our medium-term planning scenario and aligning to key operational decarbonization SBTi targets of 2028 and 2030	Decarbonization Strategy: SBTi 2028 & 2030 emissions reductions targets
Long-term	Towards 2040	Representing our longer-term planning scenario and aligning to our SBTi 2040 net zero target and further horizon scanning to 2050	Decarbonization Strategy: SBTi 2028 & 2030 emissions reductions targets

Strategic report

Description of how we identify, assess and manage our principal climate related risks and opportunities (continued)

Impact assessment parameters and financial materiality

To support our analysis, we have assessed differing parameters by which climate related risks or opportunities may impact our business, these include:

- point of impact on our operations;
- whether the impact is realized now (actual) or potential;
- the likely duration of impact;
- the geographical scope of our operations impacted and potential variation within this;
- the estimated magnitude of potential impact to our operations;
- the probability of potential impacts being realized; and
- whether mitigation is possible and what this may look like.

The consideration of these impact parameters informs the analysis of the financial implications of the identified residual risks and opportunities. This is assessed through the following considerations:

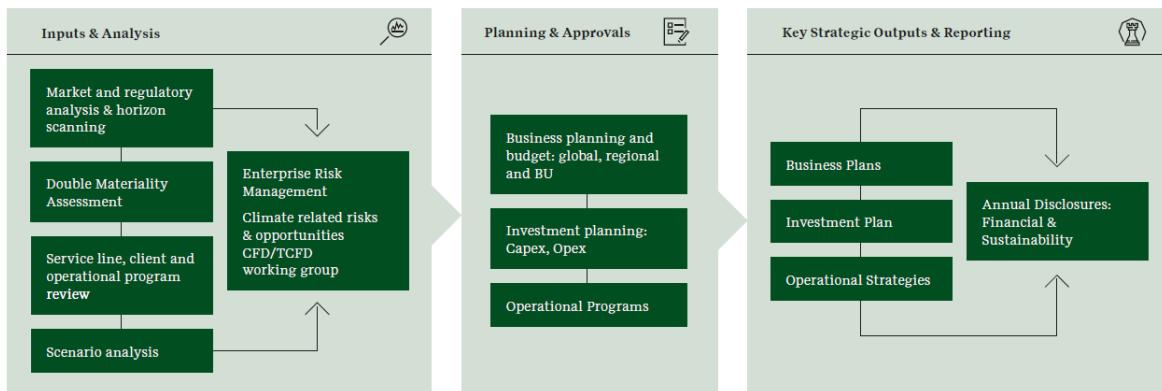
- The cost of required mitigation and/or enhancement of the identified risk or opportunity respectively – this is assessed as a capex/opex cost and considered in the context of our overall investment strategy and operational budgets. This is rated as low, medium, or high in terms of financial cost and impact on our business.
- The potential impact to our revenue generation and profitability of the residual risk or opportunity post mitigation/enhancement. This is considered in the context of overall current and projected growth of the business and rated as low, medium, or high in terms of financial impact and either positive or negative subject to whether this is generation/value creation or extraction.

Based on this analysis, an assessment is made of the projected financial impact of the risk or opportunity against each of the three scenarios timeframes – short, medium and long term. A final determination is then made of whether the identified risks and opportunities are currently regarded as material to our business or not, with accompanying narrative. Where we anticipate materiality to change over the timeframes, this is also noted.

Management of risk

The key risks and opportunities identified are incorporated into the enterprise risk register, overseen by our Global Head of Risk, who uses this to report to ExCom and to our Board. The register remains live and subject to ongoing review from our ExCom and Board, and informs the identification of key strategic risks and opportunities for the business and supports commercial planning, investment strategy and our operational programs.

Our approach to identification, assessment and management of risk:



Our enterprise risk management process aligns broadly with the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”) framework, which addresses control environment, risk assessment, information and communication, monitoring, and existing control activities. This includes the integration of material climate-related issues into our risk management and our strategy. Under the oversight of our Global Head of Risk, our Risk function serves as a second-line support to help our organization deliver on our goals, anticipate and manage risks, flow risk information to decision makers and implement and continually improve risk management.

Principal climate-related risks and opportunities

The summary of this year's assessment findings on our principal material climate related risks and opportunities is set out in the next section. To note, the assessment is reviewed on an annual basis and updates will be reported each year in this statement to accompany our annual financial reporting.

Strategic report

Principal climate-related risks and opportunities (continued)

Topic	Potential financial impact	Risk or opportunity	Short-term: up to 2026	Medium-term: up to 2030	Long-term: towards 2040	Rationale
Market Drivers						
Changing customer behavior influencing market demand for our services	Change in demand for climate-related services and transition of high carbon sectors	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	Our business is predicated on providing professional services to enhance sustainability performance in our client base. We see the demand for such services as continuing to escalate and therefore presents as a material opportunity. Our geographical scope, breadth of our technical expertise and ability to diversify our service offering in anticipation of/response to client need, positions us well to capitalize upon this market opportunity which we anticipate will be sustained and demand then accelerate as we progress towards 2040 as the urgency of addressing climate change intensifies.
	Decline of spend for activities within sectors that cannot transition	Risk	Decreasingly Material	Not Material	Not Material	Our business supports our client base in transitioning to a low carbon future, including working with those currently in more carbon intensive industries who are seeking to make this transition. Our business model is predicated on shifting away from those projects/activities which do not support transition to a low carbon future. As such, the potential future state decline of activities within sectors that can't transition represents an increasingly diminishing financial impact to our business.
	Retirement of high carbon production assets	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	We are already supporting clients with the divestment of high-carbon assets worldwide and predict the demand for services will continue to increase, particularly within certain regions/geographies. We have a strong and growing service line which supports the transition of assets to facilitate renewable energy generation and, whilst this has emerged more strongly in certain geographies, it is anticipated that this will become global in scope in the short to medium term. Anticipating this demand, we have catered service line development and team capacity to meet this and view this as a financially material opportunity for the business.
	Increase in demand for low carbon infrastructure, products and services	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	The business is already seeing the demand for low carbon infrastructure, products and services materializing and we anticipate a sustained increase in the demand for our professional services in support of this, across the time horizons. This represents a financially material opportunity for the business and one which we have strategically positioned ourselves to capitalize upon through capacity building across our operational geographies. This includes acquisition of specialist capacity which has significantly enhanced our ability to meet ever increasing client demand and further capitalize upon our market presence.

Strategic report

Principal climate-related risks and opportunities (continued)

Topic	Potential financial impact	Risk or opportunity	Short-term: up to 2026	Medium-term: up to 2030	Long-term: towards 2040	Rationale
Access to new markets	Increased revenues through access to new and emerging markets (e.g., partnerships with governments, banks)	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	Our business strategy includes investment in strategic partnerships which bolster our capacity to access or enhance our position in emerging markets globally and materially increase revenue generation. A recent example of this is our formation of a partnership with Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited ("SMTB"), aimed at advancing climate change solutions in Japan. Emergent markets for climate-related services represent a financially material opportunity to the business both now and in future state. As with aforementioned opportunities, we anticipate this opportunity will be sustained and demand accelerate as we progress towards 2040 as the urgency of addressing climate change intensifies.
Policy and regulatory environment						
Increased pricing of GHG emissions	Increased client demand for carbon trading and beyond value chain mitigation	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	Key to our business strategy is a dual approach of acquisitions and service line development to meet the current and anticipated evolving market demand for carbon trading and beyond value chain mitigation. ERM acquired specialist expertise in the form of Coho and has also developed ERM Climate Markets, a new capability and business line that supports clients to mitigate their unabated emissions through investment in high-quality carbon credits that support their broader net zero and sustainability goals. The demand for these services is already evident and anticipated to increase across near, medium, and long-term scenario planning and presents a financially material impact to the business.
Increased costs and/or reduced demand for products and services resulting from fines and judgments	Increased costs and/or demand for products and services resulting from fines and judgments within client base	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	We provide specialist support to our clients to enable them to meet current and future state regulatory requirements and enhance the sustainability of their operations. This serves to bolster their ability to meet stakeholder requirements and reduce their exposure to potential fines and judgments. The provision of services to operationalise sustainability in our clients is a commercial opportunity for us, which is material in terms of financial impact. Our strategy is to continue to invest in technical expertise and technology enablement to support our service delivery and escalating market need in this context.

Strategic report

Principal climate-related risks and opportunities (continued)

Topic	Potential financial impact	Risk or opportunity	Short-term: up to 2026	Medium-term: up to 2030	Long-term: towards 2040	Rationale
Exposure to litigation	Impact to client strategy and demand for advisory services	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	Across the globe but particularly in developed economies, there has been an increase in stakeholder led litigation, as stakeholder scrutiny of corporate performance has evolved into direct legal challenge, with both the efficacy of transition planning and compatibility of corporate investment with climate regulatory frameworks being two of the central foci for litigation. We expect this trend to continue with escalation anticipated across our scenario timeframes as the drive for net zero gains ever increasing urgency and societal scrutiny intensifies. We already see our client base responding to this trend and anticipate ongoing increase in demand for our services to support pre-emptive measures to mitigate litigation. We view this as a financially material opportunity for the business, with ongoing review of specialist capacity being critical to meet demand.
Technology						
Technological investment	Capital investments in technology development to address client need & market opportunity for technology services to client	Opportunity	Material	Material	Material	The business has been strategically investing in technological advancements which support our diversification of services to meet evolving client demand, key amongst which is investment in technology which supports ever increasing disclosure requirements. Our technology portfolio now contains an array of products directly created to meet identified need and positions strongly to capitalize upon growing market demand. This is augmented by commercial partnerships with many third-party digital software providers. Across all scenario planning, this represents a financially material opportunity for the business.

Strategic report

Principal climate-related risks and opportunities (continued)

Topic	Potential financial impact	Risk or opportunity	Short-term: up to 2026	Medium-term: up to 2030	Long-term: towards 2040	Rationale
Resilience						
Physical risks - acute	Increased severity of extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods	Risk	Not Material	Potential to be Material	Potential to be Material	In the event of an acute physical risk, such as a cyclone or floods, our operational priority is focused on prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of our employees. Once secured, delivery of our services to clients can be maintained through switching to home-based working and through the leasing of temporary office facilities, should our offices be physically impacted. Disruption to business continuity in the respective location is, therefore, anticipated to be temporary and can be mitigated through the aforementioned measures, as our recent experience in managing the impacts of flooding to our Brazilian business unit has reinforced. Our business continuity and travel planning should help minimize impacts to employees working remotely or in-field. Repairs to the physical infrastructure of the office are anticipated to be recoverable through our insurance and the financial impact to the business whilst material in the immediate impact is not considered material in respect of the global financial performance of the business. We will actively monitor changing climatic conditions and the potential for acute physical risks to become chronic and impact a wider geographical area. We have, therefore, noted the potential for chronic physical risks to become material in the medium to long term, though offset by mitigation measures.
Resource substitutes/diversification	Increased cost of retaining supply chain ability to operate under various conditions	Risk	Not Material	Not Material	Potential to be Material	Future state, suppliers and specifically subcontractors, may face increased challenges and cost in operating within physical environments impacted by climatic change, particularly those who conduct in-field services for us. There is also recognition that as regulatory requirements for decarbonization and enhanced disclosure continue to grow, this may increase costs for SME and niche suppliers. The business is focused on engaging our subcontractors to understand and build capacity in terms of decarbonization, adaptation and resilience to ensure continuity of service provision. This does not currently present a material risk to the business but we remain alert to the need to pre-emptively mitigate against this and diversify the supplier base if required.

Strategic report

Physical climate related risks and opportunities

As noted previously, the assessment considered a broad range of potential climate related risks and opportunities which includes physical risks, both acute and chronic, and the impact this could potentially have on our business operations.

The impact of climate change in terms of temperature rise, changes in precipitation patterns and volume, variability and extreme weather is already being seen across the globe. We are alert to the risks that this may pose in the future to our operations, as with any multinational business.

The nature of our business is primarily office based, either in our own offices or those of our clients. With respect to our own operations, our Global Operations teams oversees the running of our offices, working with regional and local facilities teams which annually plan for the requirements associated with each office, consistent with our stringent Health & Safety requirements. Air conditioning and/or heating is integral to our office running and we are strategically committed to the use of renewable energy across all our offices, pursuant to our decarbonization strategy and also purchase renewable energy certificates ("REC's) to offset residual emissions. We proactively budget for the cost of this, whilst also seeking to incrementally introduce energy efficiency measures through our office optimization program. The cost - both current and future state - is not financially material.

Acute physical risks pose potential disruption to any business and have been considered in relation to the physical location of our offices, specifically those in locations identified as being current or potentially prone to extreme weather conditions. This also takes into consideration existing and predicted capacity to adapt to such conditions. In the event of an acute physical risk, such as a cyclone or flood, our operational priority is the safety and wellbeing of our employees. Once secured, delivery of our services to clients can be maintained through switching to alternative working environments, including home working and alternative premises. Subject to the scale of impact of the specific physical risk, for example, if the impact is felt on a national or regional geographical basis, the impact to our business has the potential to be material in the immediate term. This impact will be mitigated by the operational measures we would deploy.

In the event that physical risks are anticipated to become chronic, for example, increased and sustained high temperatures, adaptation measures will be considered in respect of the relevant office and business unit operational planning. Actions would then be undertaken through our office optimization and business unit planning, to adjust our office working environment or relocate to alternative premises. Employee commuting to work and work undertaken in-field would also be adjusted to reflect changed climatic conditions and incorporated into our working practices, Health & Safety protocols and service delivery plans. This would be proactively assessed, factored into the respective business unit budget and implemented in a manner which we do not anticipate to be financially material to the business unit or wider business but have conservatively noted as a potential material risk in the medium to long term, which will be actively monitored and mitigated against.

Impacts to our operational strategy and business resilience

Our operational strategy actively considers the potential varying impacts to business continuity and resilience in the short, medium and long-term which would emerge from the different assessment scenarios. Whilst it is hoped that we will see the realization of the SSP1/NZE low emissions, net-zero emissions scenario, the business is also prepared for the possibility of the SSP2/STEPS high carbon emissions scenario, in the event that there is a more passive approach adopted to decarbonization by states, businesses and wider stakeholders.

SSP1/NZE Low or net-zero emissions scenario

In the scenario of SSP1/NZE net-zero emissions scenario, we anticipate demand for our commercial services will continue to increase across the three time horizons. Immediate and short-term demand arises from clients who are actively transitioning now, the early movers and/or those preparing for future state transition. Demand for services is anticipated to continue and likely escalate as we move towards 2030 and a further wave towards the 2040 time horizon for those industries/sectors which may require a more staged or elongated timeframe for transition. Through a strategy of targeted acquisitions and strategic hires, service line development and consolidation of our technical communities, employee retention and recruitment programs, we are positioned to meet the anticipated increasing and diversified client need. This also enables us to capitalize upon anticipated climate related commercial opportunities across short-, medium- and long-term horizons.

Strategic report

Impacts to our operational strategy and business resilience (continued)

As a global sustainability consultancy, we operate in accordance with our longstanding commitment to demonstrate credible net zero leadership and implement operational programs consistent with this. From an operational perspective, our established decarbonization program which has been validated to align with the SBTi Net Zero Standard, sees us on a sustained pathway of emissions reduction in pursuit of net-zero by 2040. This positions us to be beyond compliant with both current and projected escalating regulatory commitments to reduce emissions across medium and longer-term scenario timeframes. Our incremental emissions reductions also buffer the business against potential rising costs associated with market-based mechanisms delivering credits and beyond value chain mitigation.

Even under a low or net-zero emission scenario, acute physical risks are likely to continue to become manifest, with varying ability to adapt to such risks in geographies across the world. As outlined in the assessment, however, we believe the impact of such risks to be temporal in nature and limited in terms of their potential financial materiality to the business. We have established adaptation measures integrated into our business planning to enable continuity of services to clients and business resilience.

SSP2/STEPS High carbon emissions scenario

ERM is committed to working with stakeholders to avoid the realization of the SSP2/STEPS high carbon emissions scenario but we nonetheless take into consideration the potential for this scenario to be realized. Even in the scenario of other state or business actors seeking to adopt a more passive approach to decarbonization, we believe wider societal, consumer and investor demand will at least partially mitigate against this. As previously noted, ERM seeks to work with those businesses who are invested in delivering a low-carbon future, providing ongoing demand for our services.

Our cross-sectoral and global coverage enables us to flex and remain agile and resilient in the face of geo-political uncertainty impacting the speed or scale of policy and regulatory driven change and potential variability in the rate of transition across sectors or geographies. In the event of industry or country specific policy and regulatory uncertainty impacting market demand, our operational model enables rapid retraining and/or redeployment of personnel, to mitigate against potential material financial impact. This can be undertaken on a temporary or sustained basis, subject to projections of how we anticipate the respective sector or country will respond in the short to medium term.

We will also seek to continue the decarbonization of our own operations. Through our strategic approach, we reduce the financial impact of carbon credits and beyond value chain mitigation, supporting our ability to deliver net-zero in a cost efficient and resilient manner.

Under the high carbon emissions scenario, there is an increased likelihood of physical risks becoming chronic and a reduced potential for certain economies to adapt or increased level of investment required to support this. Our ongoing constraints mapping will actively consider this and inform our planning around office location and deployment of personnel in-field, working with clients, to ensure we continue to deliver services and remain resilient. Any potential realization of the high carbon emissions scenario will be gradual and actively monitored. Our operational strategy supports the business to capitalize upon market demand, reflecting our assessment of current and projected climate related commercial opportunities and taking into consideration foreseeable geo-political, regulatory and sectoral disparities to support business resilience.

Targets and monitoring of performance

The nature of our business means that the suite of our metrics/targets are collectively focused on supporting our own operational decarbonization and that of our clients, and the commercial opportunity which this creates. Our business plan integrates targets aimed at sustaining and growing our business across short-, medium- and long-term planning, and takes into consideration our geographical scope, sectoral presence, and projected demand for our service lines across the scenarios set out in this assessment. Commercial targets are set accordingly for service teams, sector, and client workstreams, and for our business units and regions, which are integrated into business planning. Progress against these commercial targets is monitored on a quarterly, half-yearly and annual basis.

A wider set of sustainability metrics are also established each year to support our operational programs, including in key areas such as people management and the recruitment and retention of staff which supports our ability to be agile in the face of increasing market demand or climate related professional services. Performance against these targets is published in our annual Sustainability Report and our wider financial performance is set out in these financial statements.

A summary of relevant targets, KPIs and historical baseline data, where available, is set out on the next page.

Strategic report

Targets and monitoring of performance (continued)

Category	Target	KPI
Adaptation to changing physical environment	Protection of health, safety and wellbeing of office working environment for employees in face of changing climate and extreme weather conditions	New: Track % of offices with updated business continuity plans that take into account climate related physical risks.
	Protection of health, safety and wellbeing of employees in-field/conducting survey work in face of changing climate and extreme weather conditions	New: Develop methodology and KPI to track productivity loss arising from physical risks (e.g., days lost due to inability to conduct in-field survey activity due to extreme weather/changing climatic conditions).
Transition of operations	Decarbonization of operations, including supply chain, to reduce financial cost of emissions abatement, credits and beyond value chain mitigation	Reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in line with SBTi targets against FY20 baseline. For historical performance data; see table 1 below.
Changing market for climate-related service delivery	Capitalizing upon increased market demand for professional services to support client transition	Year on year growth in net revenue; see summary results on page 3.

Our decarbonization targets

ERM's targets have been validated by SBTi as aligned to the Net Zero Standard. This means we are committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain by FY40.

Our near-term targets:

By 2028: 45% of suppliers by emissions covering purchased goods and services will have science-based targets.

By 2030, we will:

- reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 50%;
- achieve 100% annual sourcing of renewable electricity (currently at 99%); and
- reduce absolute scope 3 GHG emissions from business travel and employee commuting by 42%.

Our long-term targets:

By 2040, we will:

- reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 90%; and
- reduce absolute scope 3 GHG emissions from purchased goods and services, business travel and employee commuting by 90%.

Both near-term and long-term targets are set against a FY20 base year.

Historic performance data

Table 1: GHG emissions reduction

	FY20 baseline (tCO₂e)	FY24 (tCO₂e)	% reduction against baseline
Scope 1	1,350	1,037	23%
Scope 2	2,582	1,750	32%
Scope 3	51,571	41,524	19%

Strategic report

Principal risks and uncertainties

The key risks that the Group is exposed to are reviewed regularly by senior management, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

Risks relating to the Group's financial condition: credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk

The Group's credit risk is primarily attributable to its debtors and amounts recoverable on contracts. The Group has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of high quality counterparties and customers.

In keeping with the financing model selected by the shareholders, the Group has significant indebtedness and a substantial portion of cash flow from operations is used for the payment of interest. The Group has both interest rate and exchange rate exposure. There are also certain restrictions and covenants imposed by the terms of these debt facilities. Debt maturity dates are 2027 to 2028.

These risks are managed by strong reporting, control and forecasting of cash flows and by regularly deciding on whether to hedge a portion of debt at fixed interest rates, considering *inter alia* forecasts on interest rates, interest cover, cash flow and cash on hand. See note 26 for details of interest rate hedges in place. The Group's indebtedness is drawn in US dollars and Euros to provide a natural hedge against the major currencies in which the Group operates. At the year end the Group also had a revolving credit facility of \$238 million, which was undrawn (\$4.1 million of the undrawn amount was utilised as security for bank guarantees).

Risks relating to the Group's business performance, to end markets and to political and regulatory factors

The Group faces a competitive market, parts of which have relatively low barriers to entry. The Group may be exposed to liabilities in connection with its business and its liability for potential claims or pending claims may exceed its insurance coverage or no insurance coverage may exist for such claims. Further, the Group may fail to meet cost, schedule or performance requirements under client contracts. Changes in environmental laws, regulations and Government policy may adversely affect the Group's business, as may foreign, political or economic instability, due to the large number of countries in which the Group operates.

Some of ERM's end markets are somewhat cyclical in nature. Whilst the Group's revenues are drawn from a range of private and, to a lesser extent, public markets, material downturns in some markets could impact the business. We are, however, very well diversified across the Energy, Power, Chemical, Technology, Finance, Manufacturing, Mining and Pharmaceuticals sectors.

These risks are managed by anticipating consultancy trends and identifying new markets and sectors in which the Group might operate and ensuring that we continue to be well diversified across sectors, geography and services. The Group has processes to manage contractual conditions with appropriate insurance arrangements in place and to identify and manage contingent liabilities when they arise. The Directors believe that the Group has adequately provided for known liabilities and that it has adequate insurance to cover known potential legal claims. The Group maintains strong links between individual business units and has a strong regional management structure, which is responsible for managing and co-ordinating activities within each geographic region.

Strategic report

Risks relating to the Group's personnel

The Group's operating result requires the Group to maintain a high degree of utilisation of its consultants. The Group's future success will depend on its ability to attract and retain key personnel. These risks are managed by monitoring and optimising staff utilisation and by having remuneration policies which reward performance and incentivise continued employment with the Group.

We need to position ourselves to attract the talent we need in an increasingly competitive marketplace. ERM's challenge is to scale our talent with our business, embrace new capabilities and evolve our working culture. The HR function needs to be set up for success to help ERM navigate these challenges. We are investing in the programs and capabilities required to accelerate hiring, development, engagement and retention strategies in order to realise our growth ambition and attract and retain talent within an increasingly competitive market.

Climate-change related risks

Climate-related financial risks and opportunities have a direct impact on the Group's business, strategy, and trajectory. We ourselves are in a transition as the economy moves to a low-carbon future. Our portfolio of clients and projects has changed significantly in recent years as the inter-relationship between climate, nature and social issues present new risks and opportunities for the private and public sectors. Refer to the Non-Financial and Sustainability Information Statement section above for detailed discussion of climate related risks and opportunities.

The Group plays an active role in various multistakeholder initiatives on climate including the Business Ambition to 1.5 degrees, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development climate and energy programs and the Climate Pledge.

Future developments

We believe that, despite current economic uncertainty, ERM has an extraordinary growth opportunity, and commensurate challenge, ahead of us in the next financial year and beyond. While some FY24 headwinds continue to linger into FY25, the Directors are confident of achieving our budgeted growth for the year ended 31 March 2025, which is supported by our recent sales trends, record backlog, and diversified service and sector client base.

Client demand is buoyed by LCET and ESG market drivers that we believe will provide lasting tailwinds for continued market growth. We will leverage our exposure to a large growth industry with a strong focus on the ESG theme and proliferation of 'sustainability' and 'social responsibility' trends driving visible non-discretionary revenue streams.

We will continue with our strategy, which is to grow and build our presence in major markets, through organic growth and targeting specific acquisitions where appropriate to broaden our geographic and service offerings. Our global expansion focuses on building deep and lasting relationships with our clients and servicing their needs in more regions and across more service areas.

In order to achieve our growth aspiration, our future investment activities will include:

- expanding investment in our commercial excellence agenda to include a focus on growing our client relationship programme;
- expanding our key service offerings so that we are positioned to gain from the proliferation of Sustainability, Climate Change, LCET and ESG super-trends;
- continued focus on inorganic growth from acquisitions;
- expanding the role of technology and data in our service offerings and in our operational delivery; and
- development of key areas such as cyber, risk, DE&I and brand to align with the Group's growth ambitions.

Strategic report

Summary

FY24 saw us successfully grow net revenue and use this momentum to make investments in our business to set us up for further growth in future years. We are optimistic about the future given the increased awareness of sustainability and growth in the market. Diversification has created a more balanced portfolio with reduced concentration risk in sectors, service lines, geography and customers. Demand for ERM's services is evolving in a dynamic market environment and this demand is to some extent decoupled from levels of underlying economic growth where these services are now seen as mission critical and strategic for our customers. We remain excited by the opportunities ahead for us and we are maintaining investment and growing client relationships. We are well structured and financed and have strong current liquidity to ensure our business continues to thrive.



Thomas Reichert
Chief Executive Officer
1 July 2024

Directors' report

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Directors

The executive Directors who served during the year were:

Thomas Reichert	Chief Executive Officer	
Timothy Strawn	Regional Chief Executive Officer	
David McArthur	Strategic Advisor	
Sabine Hoefnagel	Global Leader of Sustainability and Risk	
Susan Angyal	Regional Chief Executive Officer	(appointed 5 June 2023)

The non-executive Directors who served during the year were:

Rami Bibi	
Tomás Hevia Armengol	
Mattia Caprioli	
Tim Franks	(resigned 7 July 2023)
Lars Kolks	

Going concern

The Directors have, at the time of approving the financial statements, a reasonable expectation that the Company and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Please refer to page 38 for further details.

Charitable and political donations

In the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group made donations of \$469,000 to charities (2023: \$387,000), including \$406,000 to The ERM Foundation (2023: \$315,000). The Group also covered some of the administrative costs of running The ERM Foundation and its associated programmes.

The ERM Foundation supports environmental, community and sustainable development causes through appropriate charitable, educational and scientific means.

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has a policy of making financial donations to political parties or organisations. No such financial donations have been made during the year.

Employees

The Group is committed to involving all of its employees in the performance and development of the Group. Employees are kept up-to-date on corporate activities through a combination of periodic staff briefings at regional and office levels, team meetings and internal communication channels. Our intranet and regular electronic newsletters keep employees informed of the Group's success in the marketplace and provide information on internal job vacancies.

It is the Group's policy to give full consideration to suitable applications for employment of disabled persons and to comply with applicable equal employment opportunity laws as to race, colour, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, marital status, ancestry, sexual orientation, veteran status, medical condition or any other legally protected status. Disabled employees are eligible to participate in all career development opportunities available to staff. See pages 8-9 for further detail of how the Directors have engaged with the Group's employees, suppliers, customers and other stakeholders.

Directors' report

Corporate governance

Management is focused on continuing to build a platform for strong and sustainable growth in both revenues and earnings. In order to achieve this objective, the Group is committed to the highest standards of corporate governance and stewardship. The main platforms are:

- Strong regional management based close to regional operations;
- Global management team with close oversight of regional and business unit management;
- Consistent and strong financial controls;
- Centralised global financial and treasury management structure, but deployed regionally and co-located with the operations;
- A global financial and project management system;
- Strong and clear policies, procedures, training, leadership and periodic performance review in the areas of business conduct & ethics and health & safety; and
- Corporate stewardship reinforced through employee ownership.

During the year, the Group continued to increase its activities in managing the risks associated with entering into professional service contracts, evolving and expanding our global contracts management system, as well as continuing to develop and enhance its risk management tools and processes in relation to project management and subcontractors.

The workings of the Board

The Board of Directors usually meets six to seven times during the year, with extra meetings as required.

An Executive Committee oversees the day-to-day management of the Group's business activities and strategic programmes.

The Board is responsible for implementing, monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the system of management control. These processes include:

- Comprehensive budgeting, with plans and budgets annually approved by the Board;
- Monthly financial reporting comparing actual performance against budget and prior year results on a monthly and year-to-date basis;
- The review of business performance by our senior executives;
- Regular consideration by the Board of actual performance against budgets and business plans;
- Regular discussion by the Board of the Group's forecasts and business prospects;
- The review of significant risks faced by the Group;
- Ensuring key officers review financial and other controls across the Group;
- Discussions and review of the issues arising from the external audit; and
- Regular reporting of legal and accounting developments.

The Regional Finance Directors, who report to Regional CEOs and the Chief Financial Officer, ensure that adequate controls are in place within the business units. In addition, a system of self-certification is in place in the business units. This requires business units to certify their compliance in areas of corporate governance and management control. The responses are reviewed by regional and Group management.

Communications with shareholders

There is regular communication with KKR and its main co-investors as well as with employee shareholders (refer to page 8 of the Strategic Report for further details).

Auditor

Pursuant to Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006, Deloitte LLP will be re-appointed as the auditor.

Events since the balance sheet date

Please refer to subsequent events in note 30.

Directors' report

Directors' statement as to disclosure of information to the auditor

So far as each person who was a Director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the Group's auditor, each Director has taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take, as a Director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the 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.

Directors' and officers' liability insurance

ERM maintains liability insurance for the Directors and officers of the company and of all its subsidiaries. In addition, the Directors of the Company are granted indemnities in respect of certain liabilities or loss that may arise out of or in connection with their duties to ERM, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Articles of Association of the Company.

Directors' conflict of interest

The Articles of Association of the Company contain provisions which are consistent with ERM's Code of Conduct and the Companies Act 2006 regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest involving Directors.

Dividend

The Directors do not recommend payment of a dividend (FY23: did not recommend payment of a dividend).

Principal risks and uncertainties

Please refer to the strategic report on page 21.

Future developments

Please refer to the strategic report on page 22.

This report was approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 1 July 2024. They were signed on its behalf by:



Thomas Reichert
Chief Executive Officer

Registered No. 13391605

Statement of Directors' responsibilities in respect of the Annual Report and the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Group and parent Company 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 Group financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom adopted international accounting standards. The financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as issued by the IASB. The Directors have elected to prepare the parent Company financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

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 Group and of the parent Company and of their profit or loss for that period.

In preparing the parent Company 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.

In preparing the Group financial statements, International Accounting Standard 1 requires that the Directors:

- properly select and apply accounting policies;
- present information, including accounting policies in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs are insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity's financial position and financial performance; and
- make an assessment of the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group's and company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and 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 Group and company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report

to the members of The ERM International Group Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of The ERM International Group Limited (the 'parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's loss for the year then ended;
- the group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom adopted international accounting standards and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB);
- the parent company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework"; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- the consolidated income statement;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income;
- the consolidated and parent company financial position;
- the consolidated and parent company statements of changes in equity;
- the consolidated cash flow statement;
- the material accounting policy information; and
- the related notes 1 to 30.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the group financial statements is applicable law, United Kingdom adopted international accounting standards and IFRSs as issued by the IASB. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the parent company financial statements is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 group and the parent company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (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.

Our evaluation of the directors' assessment of the group's and parent company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included an assessment of the entity's:

- financing facilities including nature of facilities, repayment terms and covenants;
- linkage to business model and medium-term risks;
- assumptions used in the forecasts;
- amount of headroom in the forecasts (cash and covenants);
- sensitivity analysis; and
- the model used to prepare the forecasts, testing of clerical accuracy of those forecasts and our assessment of the historical accuracy of forecasts prepared by management.

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 group's and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Independent auditor's report

to the members of The ERM International Group Limited

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 our 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 this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, 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 group's and the parent 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 group or the parent 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.

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

Extent to which 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 material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We considered the nature of the group's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the group's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management, in-house legal counsel and the directors about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including those that are specific to the group's business sector.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the group operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included UK Companies Act and tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the group's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included UK Employment Law, Environmental Legislation and General Data Protection Regulations ("GDPR").

We discussed among the audit engagement team including significant component audit teams and relevant internal specialists such as tax, valuations, and IT specialists regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

Independent auditor's report

to the members of The ERM International Group Limited

As a result of performing the above, we identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following area, and our procedures performed to address it are described below:

- valuation of long outstanding work in progress ("WIP") on projects that significantly exceed regional average WIP days and the accuracy of the associated revenue. We have:
 - using data analytics, identified projects with WIP balances that significantly exceed regional averages and performed detailed testing procedures on a sample of projects to challenge the basis for the project completion and recoverability; and
 - performed additional inquiry with project managers or project partners to validate projects back to agreements and supporting documentation in order to challenge the valuation.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management and in-house legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

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 the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent company 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.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

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.



Matthew Ward FCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP

Statutory Auditor

London, United Kingdom

1 July 2024

Consolidated income statement

For the year ended 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
Gross revenue	5	1,379,588	1,321,055
External project costs		(264,027)	(291,910)
Net revenue	5	1,115,561	1,029,145
Other income		2,119	882
Staff costs	6	(850,055)	(769,637)
Other operating expenses	7	(85,797)	(78,421)
Share based payments expense	22	(8,759)	(4,804)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	7,10	(9,568)	(7,298)
Depreciation of right of-use assets	7,11	(18,515)	(19,949)
Operating profit before amortisation and impairment of intangible assets and net transaction costs		144,986	149,918
Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets	7,13	(187,080)	(188,903)
Net transaction costs	7	19,776	(11,978)
Operating loss		(22,318)	(50,963)
Financial income	8	31,303	14,542
Financial expenses	8	(299,923)	(252,142)
Net financial expenses		(268,620)	(237,600)
Loss before income tax		(290,938)	(288,563)
Income tax expense	9	(11,151)	(3,775)
Loss for the financial year		(302,089)	(292,338)
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the parent		(302,096)	(292,341)
Non-controlling interests	28	7	3
Loss for the financial year		(302,089)	(292,338)

The current year and prior year results all relate to continuing operations.

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
Loss for the financial year	(302,089)	(292,338)
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>		
Foreign currency translation differences	(10,928)	(93,332)
Deferred tax on retranslation of intangible assets and leases	1,276	9,715
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(311,741)	(375,955)
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent	(311,748)	(375,958)
Non-controlling interests	7	3
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(311,741)	(375,955)

Consolidated statement of financial position

As at 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Notes	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	22,386	19,997
Right of-use assets	11	46,711	39,716
Net investment in sublease		-	67
Intangible assets	13	2,636,983	2,809,268
Deferred tax assets	15	74,311	57,142
Total non-current assets		2,780,391	2,926,190
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	16	379,263	401,640
Current tax assets		18,422	6,734
Cash and cash equivalents	19	192,873	206,722
Total current assets		590,558	615,096
Total assets		3,370,949	3,541,286
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	17	(437,588)	(477,742)
Borrowings	18	(9,175)	(7,407)
Lease liabilities	20	(14,272)	(15,297)
Current tax liabilities		(10,993)	(11,116)
Total current liabilities		(472,028)	(511,562)
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	18	(3,402,503)	(3,235,095)
Lease liabilities	20	(34,518)	(26,482)
Deferred tax liabilities	15	(335,580)	(342,119)
Total non-current liabilities		(3,772,601)	(3,603,696)
Total liabilities		(4,244,629)	(4,115,258)
Net liabilities		(873,680)	(573,972)
Shareholders' deficit			
Share capital	21	714	533
Share premium		36,213	31,810
Share based payment reserve		13,233	4,804
Own shares held reserve		(1,380)	(400)
Translation reserve		(119,967)	(110,315)
Retained losses		(802,493)	(500,397)
Total deficit attributable to equity holders of the Parent		(873,680)	(573,965)
Non-controlling interests	28	-	(7)
Total deficit		(873,680)	(573,972)

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 1 July 2024. They were signed on its behalf by:



Thomas Reichert
Chief Executive Officer

Registered No. 13391605

Consolidated statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Share capital	Share premium	Share based payment reserve	Attributable to equity holders of the Parent			Total	Non-controlling interests	Total deficit
				Own shares held reserve	Translation reserve	Retained losses			
Balance at 1 April 2022	322	29,500	-	-	(26,698)	(208,056)	(204,932)	(10)	(204,942)
Shares issued	23	2,310	-	-	-	-	2,333	-	2,333
Purchase of own shares	188	-	-	(400)	-	-	(212)	-	(212)
Share based payments	-	-	4,804	-	-	-	4,804	-	4,804
<i>Comprehensive loss</i>									
Loss for the financial year	-	-	-	-	-	(292,341)	(292,341)	3	(292,338)
Foreign currency translation differences	-	-	-	-	(93,332)	-	(93,332)	-	(93,332)
Deferred tax on retranslation of intangible assets and leases	-	-	-	-	9,715	-	9,715	-	9,715
Total comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(83,617)	(292,341)	(375,958)	3	(375,955)
Balance at 31 March 2023	533	31,810	4,804	(400)	(110,315)	(500,397)	(573,965)	(7)	(573,972)
Shares issued	45	4,403	-	-	-	-	4,448	-	4,448
Purchase of own shares	136	-	-	(980)	-	-	(844)	-	(844)
Share based payments	-	-	8,429	-	-	-	8,429	-	8,429
<i>Comprehensive loss</i>									
Loss for the financial year	-	-	-	-	-	(302,096)	(302,096)	7	(302,089)
Foreign currency translation differences	-	-	-	-	(10,928)	-	(10,928)	-	(10,928)
Deferred tax on retranslation of intangible assets and leases	-	-	-	-	1,276	-	1,276	-	1,276
Total comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(9,652)	(302,096)	(311,748)	7	(311,741)
Balance at 31 March 2024	714	36,213	13,233	(1,380)	(119,967)	(802,493)	(873,680)	-	(873,680)

The ERM International Group Limited

Consolidated statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
Cash flows from operating activities			
Loss before income tax		(290,938)	(288,563)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
- Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and right of-use assets	7	28,083	27,247
- Amortisation and impairment of intangible assets	7	187,080	188,903
- Net transaction costs	7	(19,776)	11,978
- Net financial expenses	8	268,620	237,600
- Share based payment expense		8,759	4,804
- Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment and software		132	264
<i>Changes in working capital:</i>			
- Decrease / (increase) in trade and other receivables		8,568	(53,830)
- (Decrease) /increase in trade and other payables		(17,548)	5,969
Cash generated from operating activities (pre-income taxes)		172,980	134,372
Income taxes paid		(45,448)	(33,971)
Net cash inflow from operating activities (post-income taxes)		127,532	100,401
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of subsidiary undertakings, net of cash acquired	14	(12,738)	(117,095)
Payment of transaction costs	14(i)	(2,918)	(17,388)
Other investing activities		(165)	(542)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(12,289)	(10,180)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		102	117
Purchase and development of intangible assets		(11,977)	(11,939)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(39,985)	(157,027)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from issuance of ordinary shares	21	4,127	2,334
Proceeds from issuance of preference shares	18(d)(e)	10,286	4,271
Receipts for preference shares not yet issued		661	597
Purchase of shares from departing shareholders	18(d)	(13,009)	(68)
Settlement of promissory notes		(2,057)	-
Proceeds from bank loans		-	361,042
Repayment of bank loans		(5,350)	(226,350)
Debt issue costs		(1,717)	(12,798)
Interest payments on bank loans held at amortised cost ⁽¹⁾		(88,841)	(54,424)
Proceeds from interest rate hedges ⁽¹⁾		14,051	3,025
Other net bank interest and charges ⁽¹⁾		3,316	(4,161)
Interest rate cap premium		-	(4,474)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(18,568)	(20,385)
Lease interest paid		(2,798)	(2,436)
Net sublease income		398	332
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from financing activities		(99,501)	46,505
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(11,954)	(10,121)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year		206,722	226,366
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held		(1,895)	(9,523)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	19	192,873	206,722

(1) Cash flows from financing activities for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been updated to separately disclose interest payments on bank loans held at amortised cost, proceeds from interest rate hedges and other net bank interest and charges, in line with the current year presentation.

Company statement of financial position

As at 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Notes	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Investment in subsidiary undertakings	12	2,023,363	2,014,934
Total non-current assets		2,023,363	2,014,934
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	16	303	879
Current tax assets		1,233	1,674
Cash and cash equivalents		454	1,067
Total current assets		1,990	3,620
Total assets		2,025,353	2,018,554
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	17	(26,778)	(18,398)
Borrowings	18	(3,825)	(2,057)
Total current liabilities		(30,603)	(20,455)
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	18	(2,405,051)	(2,222,819)
Total non-current liabilities		(2,405,051)	(2,222,819)
Total liabilities		(2,435,654)	(2,243,274)
Net liabilities		(410,301)	(224,720)
Shareholders' deficit			
Share capital	21	714	533
Share premium		36,213	31,810
Share based payment reserve		13,233	4,804
Own shares held reserve		(1,380)	(400)
Retained losses		(459,081)	(261,467)
Total deficit		(410,301)	(224,720)

The loss for the financial year in the financial statements of the parent company was \$197,614,000 (2023: \$176,652,000).

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 1 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Thomas Reichert
Chief Executive Officer

Registered No. 13391605

Company statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 March 2024

In \$000

	Attributable to equity holders of the Company					
	Share capital	Share premium	Share based payment reserve	Own shares held reserve	Retained losses	Total deficit
Balance at 31 March 2022	322	29,500	-	-	(84,815)	(54,993)
Shares issued	23	2,310	-	-	-	2,333
Purchase of own shares	188	-	-	(400)	-	(212)
Share based payments	-	-	4,804	-	-	4,804
<i>Comprehensive loss</i>						
Loss for the financial year	-	-	-	-	(176,652)	(176,652)
Total comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(176,652)	(176,652)
Balance at 31 March 2023	533	31,810	4,804	(400)	(261,467)	(224,720)
Shares issued	45	4,403	-	-	-	4,448
Purchase of own shares	136	-	-	(980)	-	(844)
Share based payments	-	-	8,429	-	-	8,429
<i>Comprehensive loss</i>						
Loss for the financial year	-	-	-	-	(197,614)	(197,614)
Total comprehensive loss	-	-	-	-	(197,614)	(197,614)
Balance at 31 March 2024	714	36,213	13,233	(1,380)	(459,081)	(410,301)

Notes to the financial statements

1. General information

The ERM International Group Limited ("the Company") is a private company limited by share capital incorporated in England and Wales and domiciled in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006. The address of the Company's registered office is 2nd Floor, Exchequer Court, 33 St Mary Axe, London, EC3A 8AA and the registered number is 13391605. The principal activities of the Group are the provision of sustainability & climate change, safety and digital services to clients. The principal activity of the Company is to act as an intermediate group holding company.

The consolidated financial statements as at, and for the year ended 31 March 2024 and as at, and for the year ended 31 March 2023, consolidate those of the Company and its subsidiaries. The parent company financial statements present information about the Company as a separate entity.

2. Material accounting policy information

2.1 Statement of compliance

The Group financial statements were prepared in accordance with United Kingdom adopted international accounting standards. The financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board IASB.

The financial statements of the Company were prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" ("FRS 101") and under historical cost accounting rules.

The financial statements of the Group and the Company are prepared in US dollars as the majority of the Group's and the Company's transactions are denominated in this currency. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand (\$'000) except where otherwise stated.

2.2 Basis of accounting

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the valuation of financial assets and liabilities (including derivative instruments) at fair value through profit or loss.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Adopted IFRSs requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. Judgements that have a significant effect on the financial statements are discussed in note 4.

Going concern

The financial statements of the Group have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Group's principal risks and uncertainties are described in the Strategic report on pages 21 to 22. The Group has net liabilities of \$874 million (2023: \$574 million) and The ERM International Group Limited (the "Company") has net liabilities of \$410 million (2023: \$225 million). Details of the Group's liquidity position and borrowing facilities are described in note 18. Financial risk management objectives, details of financial instruments and hedging activities, and exposures to credit risk and liquidity risk are described in note 26.

The Group reported an operating profit before amortisation and impairment of intangible assets and net transaction costs of \$145 million for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: \$150 million), net cash inflows from operating activities (pre-income taxes) of \$173 million (2023: \$134 million) and a net decrease of cash and cash equivalents of \$12 million (2023: net decrease of \$10 million).

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Going concern (continued)

At 31 March 2024, the Group held cash and cash equivalents of \$193 million (including \$138 million deposited with ReachCentrum SA and \$21 million held on behalf of government bodies: see note 19) (2023: cash and cash equivalents of \$207 million, including \$142 million deposited with ReachCentrum SA and \$18 million held on behalf of government bodies).

A significant element of the indebtedness is preference shares (including accrued dividends) due to shareholders of \$2,398 million (2023: \$2,220 million), which is free from financial covenants. With the exception of payments to departing shareholders, dividends on the preference shares are typically not paid in cash but instead are accrued and compounded each calendar quarter. The preference shares are redeemable by the Company on the 20th anniversary of their issuance or a liquidation, whichever is earlier.

Despite the net liabilities position in the Company and Group's statement of financial position, the Group has adequate cash resources to meet its day-to-day working capital requirements. In undertaking their assessment of going concern for the Company and the Group, the Directors have prepared the Group's cash flow forecasts and projections and carried out a review of the Group's business and its future prospects. In particular, the Directors have assessed the forecasted future performance and anticipated cash flows, taking into account reasonably possible changes in trading performance, available debt facilities and associated covenants. The cash flow forecasts reflect the strong cash generating ability of the business.

The Directors have also modelled a stress test scenario to consider the wider operational consequences and ramifications of an unexpected risk event. The Group is highly diversified in terms of geographies, sectors and services. The stress testing analysis demonstrates the Group's financial and business resilience, and operational flexibility during prolonged periods of economic weakness. Following the assessment of the Group's financial position, operational resilience, and ability to meet its obligations as and when they fall due, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Group will be able to continue to operate for at least the next 12 months. Therefore, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Fair value measurement

The Group measures financial instruments such as derivatives and non-financial assets at fair value. The Group uses valuation techniques that maximise the use of observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Group takes into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Fair value for measurement and/or disclosure purposes in these consolidated financial statements is determined on such a basis, except for leasing transactions that are within the scope of IFRS 16 Leases.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value are measured or disclosed are categorised within the fair value hierarchy based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement, as follows:

- Level 1: Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2: Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3: Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Group determines each year whether transfers have occurred between levels of the hierarchy.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Basis of consolidation

The Group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of The ERM International Group Limited and its subsidiary undertakings, drawn up for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. In assessing control, the Group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable. The acquisition date is the date on which control is transferred to the acquirer. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Profit or loss and each component of other comprehensive income are attributed to the owners of the Company and to the non-controlling interests. Total comprehensive income of the subsidiaries is attributed to the owners of the Company and to the non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance. Intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between the Company and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, are eliminated in full. Intra-group losses are also eliminated but may indicate an impairment that requires recognition in the consolidated financial statements.

Disclosure exemptions

The Company has taken advantage of the following exemptions under FRS 101:

- certain disclosures required by IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement;
- the requirements of IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures;
- the requirements of IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirements of paragraphs 10(d) and 10(f) of IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements; and
- the requirements in IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures from disclosing related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the Group.

No income statement is presented for the Company as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

Business combinations

Acquisitions of subsidiaries and businesses are accounted for using the acquisition method. The consideration transferred in a business combination is measured at fair value, which is calculated as the sum of the acquisition-date fair values of assets transferred by the Group, liabilities incurred by the Group to the former owners of the acquiree and the equity interest issued by the Group in exchange for control of the acquiree.

Acquisition related costs, which do not reflect the operational performance of the business and are only incurred when acquisitions arise, are reported within net transaction costs in the income statement.

The identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed are recognised at their fair value at the acquisition date.

Goodwill is measured as the excess of the sum of the consideration transferred, the amount of any non-controlling interests in the acquiree, and the fair value of the acquirer's previously held equity interest in the acquiree (if any) over the net of the acquisition-date amounts of the identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed.

When a business combination is achieved in stages, the Group's previously-held interests in the acquired entity are remeasured to its acquisition date fair value and the resulting gain or loss, if any, is recognised in the income statement. Amounts arising from interests in the acquiree prior to the acquisition date that have previously been recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to the income statement, where such treatment would be appropriate if that interest were disposed of.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Business combinations (continued)

If the initial accounting for a business combination is incomplete by the end of the reporting period in which the combination occurs, the Group reports provisional amounts for the items for which the accounting is incomplete. Those provisional amounts are adjusted during the measurement period (see below), or additional assets or liabilities are recognised, to reflect new information obtained about facts and circumstances that existed as of the acquisition date that, if known, would have affected the amounts recognised as of that date.

Contingent consideration

When the consideration transferred by the Group in a business combination includes assets or liabilities resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement, the contingent consideration is measured at its acquisition-date fair value and included as part of the consideration transferred in a business combination.

Measurement period adjustments are adjustments that arise from additional information obtained during the 'measurement period' (which cannot exceed one year from the acquisition date). These relate to facts and circumstances that existed at the acquisition date. Changes in fair value of the contingent consideration that qualify as measurement period adjustments are adjusted retrospectively, with corresponding adjustments against goodwill.

The subsequent accounting for changes in the fair value of the contingent consideration that do not qualify as measurement period adjustments depends on how the contingent consideration is classified. Contingent consideration classified as an asset or a liability is remeasured at subsequent reporting dates in accordance with IFRS 9 or IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, as appropriate, with the corresponding gain or loss being recognised in the income statement within net transaction costs.

Acquisitions and disposals of non-controlling interests

Acquisitions and disposals of non-controlling interests that do not result in a change of control are accounted for as transactions with owners in their capacity as owners and therefore no goodwill is recognised. The adjustments to non-controlling interests are based on a proportionate amount of the net assets of the subsidiary. Any difference between the price paid or received and the amount by which non-controlling interests are adjusted is recognised directly in equity and attributed to the owners of the parent.

Net transaction costs

Net transaction costs consist of costs related to acquisitions (including gains or losses arising from remeasurement of contingent consideration), refinancing and other transaction related activities. These costs do not reflect the operational performance of the business. Net transaction costs are recognised in the income statement.

Government assistance

Government grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the Group will comply with the conditions attached to them and that the grants will be received.

Government grants relating to salary support schemes are recognised as accrued expenses in the consolidated statement of financial position and transferred to the income statement on a systematic basis over the periods in which the Group recognises as expenses the related staff costs for which the grants are intended to compensate.

Grants relating to government funded research projects are recognised in other income.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Foreign currencies

Functional and presentational currencies

Items included in the financial statements 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').

Transactions in foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the respective functional currencies of Group entities at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the income statement. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction.

Translation of the results of overseas businesses

The revenues and expenses of foreign operations are translated at an average rate for the year where this rate approximates to the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. The assets and liabilities of foreign operations are translated to the Group's presentational currency at foreign exchange rates ruling at the reporting date. Exchange differences arising from this translation of foreign operations are reported as an item of other comprehensive income and accumulated in the translation reserve.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate. Exchange differences arising are recognised in other comprehensive income.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Revenue recognition

The Group follows the principles of IFRS 15 in determining appropriate revenue recognition policies. Revenue represents amounts chargeable for services provided to third parties in the ordinary course of business.

Revenue from services is recognised following the principles outlined in IFRS 15's five step model as detailed below:

- Identifying the contract. Upon acceptance of a proposal, a contract is entered into, which includes details of the scope of work and each party's rights and obligations regarding transfer of the service;
- Identifying the performance obligations in the contract. In assessing performance obligations, consideration is given to whether each identified key deliverable is a separate performance obligation, or a series of services that are substantially the same, have the same pattern of transfer to the customer and form one overall performance obligation;
- Determining the transaction price. The transaction price is developed during the proposal process by establishing the scope of work and the staffing levels required. Upon acceptance, the total fee value is stated in the contract together with an invoicing schedule;
- Allocating the transaction price to separate performance obligations. Contracts typically include only one performance obligation, so no allocation is required. Where more than one performance obligation exists, the contracts include separately agreed fees for each performance obligation;
- Recognising revenue as performance obligations are satisfied. Where only one performance obligation exists, revenue is recognised over time as the work is performed. Where there is more than one performance obligation, revenue is recognised as each performance obligation is met.

Gross revenue

Gross revenue represents amounts recoverable from clients in respect of the Group's continuing activities. Gross revenue includes costs incurred on behalf of clients and excludes sales taxes.

The Group enters into 'time and expense' and 'fixed fee' contracts. For time and expense contracts, gross revenue and profit recognised is based on hours and expenses incurred to date. For fixed fee contracts where the outcome can be reasonably foreseen, gross revenue and profit is recognised on a percentage completion basis by comparing costs incurred to date to the total costs to completion. Contract expenses include direct staff costs, sub-contractor costs and disbursements. The Directors consider that this input method is an appropriate measure of the progress towards complete satisfaction of these performance obligations under IFRS 15.

Attributable profit is recognised for that part of the work performed on each contract at the accounting date when the outcome can be assessed with reasonable certainty.

Digital subscriptions revenue is recognised evenly over the time period for which the subscription services are provided as the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the economic benefit of the service being provided.

Net revenue

Net revenue is gross revenue after deduction of external project costs, which are made up principally of sub-contractors' fees.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Contract losses

Contracts are reviewed regularly and full provision is made for any anticipated total loss on contracts in the period in which they are first identified.

Amounts recoverable on contracts and bills in advance

The amount by which revenue exceeds invoiced amounts is disclosed as 'amounts recoverable on contracts' within debtors on the statement of financial position. Advance payments are included as 'bills in advance' within creditors to the extent that they exceed the related work done.

Claims recognition

Due to the nature of the Group's operations, the Group is periodically exposed to contingent liabilities arising from its contracting arrangements or actual or potential disputes, claims or litigation. The Group has processes to identify contingent liabilities when they arise and where possible to quantify the potential exposure. When it is judged probable that a liability will arise and that liability can be estimated, a charge is made for the cost of settlement and included in accruals.

Leases

The Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability with respect to all lease arrangements in which it is the lessee.

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, which is the initial measurement of the lease liabilities, adjusted for any payments made or lease incentives received at or before the commencement date, plus any direct costs incurred, and an estimate of any restoration costs.

Variable rents that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability or the right-of-use asset. The related payments are recognised as an expense in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occurs and are included in the line "Other operating expenses" in the income statement.

The Group depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the asset, or the lease term. The Group also assesses the right-of-use assets for impairment where such indicators exist.

The right-of-use-assets are presented as a separate line in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Lease liabilities are initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that have not been paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease (if that rate is readily available), or the Group's incremental borrowing rate. The lease term is a non-cancellable period of the lease; periods covered by options to extend the lease are only included in the lease term if it is reasonably certain that the lease will be extended.

Subsequent to initial measurement by the effective interest method, the liabilities are reduced for payments made, and increased for interest charged. If required, lease liabilities are remeasured to account for modifications, with corresponding adjustments reflected in the right-of-use assets.

The lease liabilities are presented as a separate line in the consolidated statement of financial position.

The Group sub-leases some of its leased properties and accounts for its interests in the head lease and sub-lease separately. Lease payments received are recognised as income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is stated in the statement of financial position at cost, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributed to the acquisition and installation of the asset.

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of property, plant and equipment.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. The gain and loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an asset is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the income statement.

Depreciation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	Over the lease term
Furniture and fittings, plant and machinery	3 to 5 years
Motor vehicles	4 years
Computer equipment	3 to 5 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date or if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Intangible assets

Goodwill

Goodwill arising on the acquisition of an entity represents the excess of the cost of acquisition over the Group's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities of the entity recognised at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is initially recognised as an asset at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses, if any.

Goodwill is not subject to amortisation but is reviewed for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate a potential impairment. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is allocated to each of the Group's cash-generating units ("CGUs"), or groups of CGUs, that is expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination. Each unit or group of units to which the goodwill is allocated represents the lowest level within the entity at which the goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes. Goodwill is monitored at the operating segment level.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or its CGU exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Impairment losses recognised in respect of CGUs are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the units, and then to reduce the carrying amounts of the other assets in the units on a pro rata basis. An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed in the subsequent period.

Other intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired in a business combination are measured at fair value at the date of acquisition. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses, if any.

Brand

Brand names and related trademarks acquired through a business combination are measured initially at fair value and are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The ERM brand and related logos, trademarks and domain names acquired have been valued taking into account the royalty relief approach. The royalty relief is an 'economic use' approach to valuation which determines the value of the brand in relation to the royalty rate that would be payable for its use were it owned by a third party.

Customer relationships and customer order books

Contractual customer relationships and customer order books acquired in a business combination are recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. They are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses, if any. Amortisation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate the cost over the period in which their respective benefits are expected to accrue. The useful economic life of these assets is determined on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the terms of the underlying agreement and the nature of the asset.

Software and other development costs

Software assets acquired as part of a business combination are capitalised at fair value at the date of acquisition and are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.

Externally purchased software is capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. Software development costs relating to software assets the Group controls and which are revenue generating are capitalised and amortised over three to five years.

Research expenditure is written off as incurred. Development expenditure is also written off, except where the directors are satisfied as to the technical, commercial and financial viability of individual projects. In such cases, the identifiable expenditure is capitalised as an intangible asset and will be amortised from the date the asset is available for use over the period during which the Group is expected to benefit.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Software and other development costs (continued)

Directly attributable costs that are capitalised include directly attributable employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads. Provision is made for any impairment.

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

SaaS arrangements are service contracts providing the Group with the right to access the cloud provider's application software over the contract period. Third party costs incurred to configure or customise, and the ongoing fees to obtain access to the cloud provider's application software, are recognised as operating expenses when the services are received.

Some of the costs incurred relate to the development of software code that enhances or modifies, or creates additional capability to, existing on-premise systems and meets the definition of, and the recognition criteria for, an intangible asset. These costs are recognised as intangible software assets and amortised over the useful life of the software on a straight-line basis. The useful lives of these assets are reviewed at least at the end of each financial year, and any change accounted for prospectively as a change in accounting estimate.

Amortisation

Amortisation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets unless such lives are indefinite. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Brand	up to 20 years
Customer order books	within 2 years
Customer relationships	5 to 20 years
Software assets	3 to 5 years

Impairment of tangible and other intangible assets (excluding goodwill)

At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

For the purpose of impairment testing, assets that cannot be tested individually are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or groups of assets (the "cash-generating unit" or "CGU").

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the Group's statement of financial position when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- At fair value through profit or loss
- At fair value through other comprehensive income
- At amortised cost

The classification depends on the business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows and management will determine the classification on initial recognition.

i. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. As per IAS 7.7 cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

ii. Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are not interest-bearing and are due on commercial terms. They are recognised initially at their transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment.

Impairment of financial assets

In accordance with IFRS 9 "Financial Instruments", the Group recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses ("ECL") on trade receivables and contract assets, and has adopted the 'simplified approach' permitted by the standard. The amount of ECL is updated at each reporting date to reflect changes in credit risk since initial recognition.

The Group recognises lifetime ECL for trade receivables and amounts recoverable on contracts. The expected credit losses on these financial assets are estimated using a provision matrix based on the Group's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors as well as general economic conditions. This also includes an assessment of the current and forecast direction of conditions at the reporting date, including where appropriate, the time value of money.

The Group recognises an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss for financial instruments with a corresponding adjustment to their carrying amount through a loss allowance account.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements. An equity instrument is any contract that gives a residual interest in the assets of the Group, after deducting all its liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for derivatives that are measured at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss. Equity instruments issued by the Group are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

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

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as issue costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is capitalised as a pre-payment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables, accruals and other payables are included in current liabilities, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

The Group derecognises financial liabilities when, and only when, the Group's obligations are discharged, cancelled or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable is recognised in profit and loss.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Employee benefits

The Group operates various post-employment schemes, including a defined contribution pension plan and other staff benefits.

Defined contribution pension plan

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Group pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in current or prior periods. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expenses in the consolidated income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Short-term benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, cash bonus or profit-sharing if the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably in the period the related service is rendered.

Short-term employee benefit obligations are measured on an undiscounted basis and are expensed as the related service is provided.

Share-based payments

For equity-settled share-based payment transactions, the Group measures the goods or services received, and the corresponding increase in equity, directly, at the fair value of the goods or services received, unless that fair value cannot be estimated reliably. If the Group cannot estimate reliably the fair value of the goods or services the Group measures their value, and the corresponding increase in equity, indirectly, by reference to the fair value of the equity instruments granted.

Financial income and expenses

Financial expenses comprise interest payable on bank loans and overdrafts, interest payable on shareholder debt, amortisation of debt issue costs and fair value movement losses on financial assets and liabilities that are recognised in the income statement. Financial income comprises interest receivable on funds invested and fair value movement gains on financial assets and liabilities recognised in the income statement. Interest income and interest payable is recognised in the income statement as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Foreign currency gains and losses on revaluation of intercompany loans and bank loans are reported on a net basis.

Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of comprehensive income 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 or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the period, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous periods.

Notes to the financial statements

2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

Taxation (continued)

Deferred tax is provided on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The following temporary differences are not provided for: the initial recognition of goodwill; the initial recognition of assets or liabilities that affect neither accounting nor taxable profit other than in a business combination; and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that they will probably not reverse in the foreseeable future. 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 for unused tax losses, tax credits and deductible temporary differences only to the extent that it is probable that future profits will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

Unrecognised deferred tax assets are reassessed at each reporting date and recognised to the extent that it has become probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be used.

Current and deferred tax assets and liabilities are only offset when there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets against current tax liabilities and when deferred income tax assets and liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entities or different taxable entities where there is an intention to settle the balances on a net basis.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD")/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting published the Pillar Two model rules, designed to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the global economy. In response to this, on 23 May 2023, the IASB IAS 12 'Income taxes' introduced a mandatory temporary exception to the requirements of IAS 12 under which a company does not recognise or disclose information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to the proposed OECD/G20 BEPS Pillar Two model rules. The Group has applied the temporary exception at 31 March 2024.

Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Mandatorily redeemable preference shares are classified as liabilities. Equity instruments are measured at the fair value of the cash or other resources received or receivable, net of the direct costs of issuing the equity instruments.

Own shares held by Employee Benefit Trust (EBT)

Transactions of the Company-sponsored EBT are treated as being those of the Company and are therefore reflected in the Group and Company financial statements. The EBT's purchases of ordinary shares in the Company are recognised as a deduction from equity. The EBT's purchases of preference shares in the Company are debited directly to the Group's preference shares.

Notes to the financial statements

3. Adoption of new and revised Standards

For the first time in the current year, the Group has applied a number of amendments to IFRS Accounting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) that are mandatorily effective for an accounting period that begins on or after 1 January 2023. Their adoption has not had any material impact on the disclosures or on the amounts reported in these financial statements.

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts (including the June 2020 and December 2021 Amendments to IFRS 17)

IFRS 17 establishes the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts and supersedes IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts.

The Group does not have any contracts that meet the definition of an insurance contract under IFRS 17.

Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and IFRS Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements—Disclosure of Accounting Policies

The amendments to IAS 1 replace all instances of the term 'significant accounting policies' with 'material accounting policy information'. Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements.

The IASB has also developed guidance and examples to explain and demonstrate the application of the 'four-step materiality process' described in IFRS Practice Statement 2.

Amendments to IAS 12 Income Taxes—Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction

The amendments to IAS 12 introduce a further exception from the initial recognition exemption. Under the amendments, an entity does not apply the initial recognition exemption for transactions that give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences.

Following the amendments to IAS 12, an entity is required to recognise the related deferred tax asset and liability, with the recognition of any deferred tax asset being subject to the recoverability criteria in IAS 12.

Amendments to IAS 12 Income Taxes— International Tax Reform — Pillar Two Model Rules

The IASB has amended the scope of IAS 12 to clarify that the Standard applies to income taxes arising from tax law enacted or substantively enacted to implement the Pillar Two model rules published by the OECD, including tax law that implements qualified domestic minimum top-up taxes described in those rules.

Following the amendments, the group is required to disclose that it has applied the exception and to disclose separately its current tax expense (income) related to Pillar Two income taxes.

Amendments to IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors—Definition of Accounting Estimates

The amendments to IAS 8 replace the definition of a change in accounting estimates with a definition of accounting estimates. Under the new definition, accounting estimates are "monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty". The definition of a change in accounting estimates was deleted.

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, the Group has not applied the following new and revised IFRS Accounting Standards that have been issued but are not yet effective:

Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28	<i>Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture</i>
Amendments to IAS 1	<i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i>
Amendments to IAS 1	<i>Non-current Liabilities with Covenants</i>
Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7	<i>Supplier Finance Arrangements</i>
Amendments to IFRS 16	<i>Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback</i>

The directors do not expect that the adoption of the Standards listed above will have a material impact on the financial statements of the Group in future periods.

Notes to the financial statements

4. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In applying the Group's material accounting policy information, which is described in note 2, the Directors are required to make judgements (other than those involving estimations) that have a significant impact on the amounts recognised and to make 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.

There were no critical accounting judgements applied during the reporting period.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting period that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are discussed below.

Goodwill impairment

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group recognised goodwill impairments of \$101,983,000 (\$45,533,000 Europe, Middle East & Africa CGU; \$22,780,000 Asia Pacific CGU; and \$33,670,000 Latin American & Caribbean CGU), as those segment of CGUs carrying values exceeded the recoverable amount. For the North America CGU, the fair value less cost to sell is greater than the carrying amount of the assets.

The Group has conducted an analysis of the sensitivity of the impairment test to changes in the key assumptions used to determine the recoverable amount for each of the group of CGUs to which goodwill is allocated.

A range of reasonably possible discount rates was considered; a 0.25% increase in the discount rate applied to each CGU would result in an additional impairment charge of \$32 million, whereas a 0.25% decrease in the discount rate applied to each CGU would reduce the impairment charge recognised by \$38 million.

Revenue growth rates in the initial three year period are based on management's best estimate of the growth expected in each CGU. Were the lower of management's growth assumptions or actual 5 year average revenue growth rates achieved by each CGU used instead, an additional impairment charge of \$37m would be recognised.

See note 13 for further details.

Notes to the financial statements

5. Revenue

The Group is exempt from detailed IFRS 8 reporting requirements as neither its debt nor equity instruments are traded in a public market, nor does it have the requirement to file its financial statements with a securities commission or other regulatory organisation for the purpose of issuing any class of instruments in a public market.

An analysis of gross and net revenue by geographic origin is provided as follows:

	Gross revenue by origin Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Net revenue by origin Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Gross revenue by origin Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000	Net revenue by origin Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Europe, Middle East and Africa	336,776	288,242	327,885	273,291
Asia Pacific	194,369	156,748	172,148	132,753
Latin America and Caribbean	86,412	61,098	69,543	46,258
North America	706,472	559,337	673,773	508,185
Other Businesses	55,559	50,136	77,706	68,658
Total	1,379,588	1,115,561	1,321,055	1,029,145

The Group's revenue is principally derived from the provision of services, and all revenues recognised arose from contracts with customers. The analysis by geographic origin shown above is consistent with the management and reporting structure of the Group.

Notes to the financial statements

6. Staff costs, staff numbers and Directors' remuneration

Staff costs

Staff costs of the Group (including Directors' remuneration) were as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Wages and salaries ⁽¹⁾	681,188	626,136
Social security costs	66,690	58,736
Contributions to defined contribution plans	24,469	21,525
Other staff costs	77,818	63,840
Staff costs before Government grants	850,165	770,237
Government grants ⁽²⁾	(110)	(600)
Total staff costs	850,055	769,637

(1) Wages and salaries include performance-related bonus amounts earned in respect of the year under which they are shown (but not paid until the following year).
(2) The Government grants received were to contribute towards the cost of employee wages and salaries.

Staff numbers

The average number of full time employees (including executive Directors) in the Group during the year was made up as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
Partners	702	610
Consultants	5,521	5,266
Administration	1,240	1,126
Total	7,463	7,002

The Company had no employees during the year ended 31 March 2024 (year ended 31 March 2023: none).

Notes to the financial statements

6. Staff costs, staff numbers and Directors' remuneration (continued)

Directors' remuneration

The emoluments of the executive Directors of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024 were paid by other Group companies and are as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Emoluments	6,530	7,785
Compensation for loss of office	-	558
Contributions paid to defined contribution pension schemes (no. of members 2, FY23: 2)	10	10

Emoluments include performance-related bonus amounts earned in respect of the year under which they are shown (but not paid until the following year). Emoluments are paid in local currency in the country of residence.

The amounts in respect of the highest paid executive Director are as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Emoluments	3,800	3,438

No emoluments were paid to non-executive Directors during the year ended 31 March 2024 (year ended 31 March 2023: none).

7. Other operating expenses by nature, including net transaction costs

Operating expenses include:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	9,568	7,298
Depreciation of right of-use assets	18,515	19,949
Amortisation of intangible assets	85,097	92,442
Impairment of goodwill	101,983	96,461
Net transaction costs – other acquisitions (note 14(b))	(19,776)	4,246
Net transaction costs – KKR Transaction (note 14(i))	-	7,732
Foreign exchange gains on non-financing activities	(1,464)	(1,212)
Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit of the Group financial statements	810	881
- audit of financial statements of subsidiaries pursuant to legislation	2,655	2,591
- tax compliance and tax advisory services	75	415
- other advisory services	60	124

Notes to the financial statements

8. Financial income and expenses

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Income from interest rate hedges ⁽¹⁾	14,051	3,025
Fair value movement of interest rate hedges ⁽²⁾	-	11,309
Fair value gain on modification of bank loans (see note 18(b))	8,895	-
Foreign exchange gain on revaluation of bank loans	2,482	-
Bank interest income	5,287	208
Other financial income	588	-
Total financial income	31,303	14,542
Dividends accrued on preference shares (see note 18(d) & 18(e))	(183,422)	(169,109)
Interest expense on bank loans held at amortised cost ⁽¹⁾	(93,221)	(64,199)
Other bank interest and charges ⁽¹⁾	(1,824)	(3,791)
Lease interest	(2,798)	(2,436)
Other financial expenses ⁽³⁾	(11)	(629)
Interest accrued on promissory notes	(168)	(95)
Fair value movement of interest rate hedges	(12,243)	-
Interest expense on other liabilities held at amortised cost ⁽³⁾	(3,295)	(412)
Foreign exchange loss on revaluation of intercompany loans	(2,941)	(1,867)
Foreign exchange loss on revaluation of bank loans	-	(9,604)
Total financial expenses	(299,923)	(252,142)
Net financial expenses	(268,620)	(237,600)

In order to aid comparability, the presentation of financial income and expenses for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been updated in line with the current year presentation as follows:

- (1) Separate disclosure of interest expense on bank loans held at amortised cost; income from interest rate hedges; and other bank interest and charges – previously disclosed as interest and charges on bank loans
- (2) Fair value movement of interest rate hedges updated to include amount previously disclosed as amortisation of interest rate hedge premium
- (3) Separate disclosure of other liabilities held at amortised cost – previously disclosed within other financial expenses

Notes to the financial statements

9. Income tax expense

(a) Analysis of tax charge

The Group operates across many different tax jurisdictions. Income and profits are earned and taxed in the individual countries in which they occur.

Differences between the UK statutory tax rate and the effective tax rate for the Group include, but are not limited to, the mix of profits, the effect of tax rates in overseas jurisdictions, non-deductible expenses, the effect of utilised tax losses, and under/over provisions in previous periods.

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Current tax:		
Current year	34,717	33,165
Prior year	(711)	936
Total current tax charge	34,006	34,101
Deferred tax:		
Current year	(21,567)	(28,066)
Prior year	(1,288)	(2,260)
Total deferred tax credit (note 15)	(22,855)	(30,326)
Total tax charge for the year (note 9(b))	11,151	3,775

(b) Reconciliation of tax charge

The tax charge is reconciled to the loss in the consolidated income statement as follows:

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Loss before income tax	(290,938)	(288,563)
Loss before income tax at UK statutory rate of 25% (2023: 19%)	(72,735)	(54,827)
<i>Effects of:</i>		
Impairment of goodwill	25,496	18,328
Higher statutory tax rates on overseas earnings	599	9,588
Disallowable dividends accrued on preference shares	45,855	32,131
Corporate interest restriction in the UK	4,127	3,150
Non-deductible expenses	1,207	1,740
Impact of different tax rates on intangibles	(608)	(5,920)
Share based payment expense	2,628	-
Impact of leases	-	(70)
Movement in unrecognised deferred tax	5,646	(5,467)
Tax losses utilised	935	6,446
Prior year items	(1,999)	(1,324)
Total tax charge for the year (note 9(a))	11,151	3,775

Notes to the financial statements

9. Income tax expense (continued)

(c) International Tax Reform – Pillar Two Model Rules

Pillar Two legislation has been enacted or substantively enacted in certain jurisdictions the Group operates in, including in the UK where the Group's ultimate parent company, Nature Topco UK Limited, is located. The legislation will be effective for the Group's financial year beginning 1 April 2024. Under the legislation, the Group's ultimate parent company will be required to pay in the UK, top-up tax on profits of its subsidiaries that are taxed at an effective tax rate of less than 15 per cent. The Group is in scope of the enacted or substantively enacted legislation and has performed an assessment of the Group's potential exposure to Pillar Two income taxes. The assessment of the potential exposure to Pillar Two income taxes is based on the most recent tax filings, country-by-country reporting and financial statements for the constituent entities in the Group. Based on the assessment, it is expected that in all jurisdictions in which the Group operates, the Pillar Two effective tax rate will be above 15% or other transitional safe harbour relief will apply for the relevant periods. As such, the Group does not expect a material exposure to Pillar Two income taxes. The Group is continuing to monitor the impact of Pillar Two income taxes on its future financial performance.

10. Property, plant and equipment

Group	Leasehold Property \$000	Furniture, fittings, plant and machinery \$000	Motor vehicles \$000	Computer equipment \$000	Total \$000
Cost:					
At 1 April 2022	4,595	4,501	358	8,502	17,956
Acquired	202	119	-	224	545
Additions	1,198	1,379	243	7,360	10,180
Disposals	(31)	(181)	(30)	(139)	(381)
Reclassifications ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	2,574	2,574
Exchange differences	(695)	(740)	(46)	(1,355)	(2,836)
At 31 March 2023	5,269	5,078	525	17,166	28,038
Acquired (note 14)	74	7	-	4	85
Additions	5,856	1,458	320	4,655	12,289
Disposals	(59)	(107)	-	(79)	(245)
Reclassifications ⁽¹⁾	-	630	-	(367)	263
Exchange differences	(17)	90	(72)	(106)	(105)
At 31 March 2024	11,123	7,156	773	21,273	40,325
Depreciation:					
At 1 April 2022	750	601	49	1,638	3,038
Charge for the year	1,519	1,140	169	4,470	7,298
Exchange differences	(583)	(677)	(38)	(997)	(2,295)
At 31 March 2023	1,686	1,064	180	5,111	8,041
Charge for the year	1,963	2,265	179	5,161	9,568
Reclassifications ⁽¹⁾	-	311	-	(71)	240
Exchange differences	80	46	(17)	(19)	90
At 31 March 2024	3,729	3,686	342	10,182	17,939
Carrying amounts:					
Net book value at 31 March 2023	3,583	4,014	345	12,055	19,997
Net book value at 31 March 2024	7,394	3,470	431	11,091	22,386

(1) Reclassifications between asset classes, including reclassification of software to computer equipment (see note 13).

Notes to the financial statements

11. Right-of-use assets

The Group leases a number of leasehold properties, motor vehicles and office equipment.

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group recognised income of \$398,000 from subleasing its right-of-use assets (year ended 31 March 2023: \$332,000).

Group	Leasehold Property \$000	Furniture, fittings, plant and machinery \$000	Motor vehicles \$000	Total \$000
Cost:				
At 1 April 2022	54,787	814	1,548	57,149
Acquired	1,332	13	-	1,345
Additions	12,616	1,094	475	14,185
Disposals	(8,639)	(696)	(319)	(9,654)
Exchange differences	(1,950)	(12)	(33)	(1,995)
At 31 March 2023	58,146	1,213	1,671	61,030
Acquired (note 14)	356	-	-	356
Additions	24,299	219	3,568	28,086
Disposals	(15,009)	(123)	(1,180)	(16,312)
Exchange differences	(103)	(6)	(21)	(130)
At 31 March 2024	67,689	1,303	4,038	73,030
Depreciation:				
At 1 April 2022	8,745	312	340	9,397
Charge for the year	18,521	658	770	19,949
Disposals	(7,041)	(538)	(250)	(7,829)
Exchange differences	(207)	(2)	6	(203)
At 31 March 2023	20,018	430	866	21,314
Charge for the year	17,129	480	906	18,515
Disposals	(12,202)	(107)	(1,122)	(13,431)
Exchange differences	(68)	(3)	(8)	(79)
At 31 March 2024	24,877	800	642	26,319
Carrying amounts:				
Net book value at 31 March 2023	38,128	783	805	39,716
Net book value at 31 March 2024	42,812	503	3,396	46,711

Notes to the financial statements

12. Investment in subsidiary undertakings

Company	Investment in subsidiaries \$000
Cost:	
At 1 April 2022	2,010,130
Additions	
Nature Midco Limited ⁽¹⁾	4,804
At 31 March 2023	2,014,934
Additions	
Nature Midco Limited ⁽¹⁾	8,429
At 31 March 2024	2,023,363

See note 27 for details of related undertakings.

(1) Equity-settled share-based payments to employees of subsidiaries (see note 22).

Notes to the financial statements

13. Intangible assets

Group	Goodwill \$000	Brand \$000	Customer relationships \$000	Customer order books \$000	Software \$000	Development costs \$000	Total \$000
Cost:							
At 1 April 2022	1,624,548	229,192	1,098,938	72,668	11,848	-	3,037,194
Acquired	98,222	1,104	34,548	674	3,833	-	138,381
Acquisition of Stratos	21	-	-	-	-	-	21
Additions	-	-	-	-	11,552	3,715	15,267
Reclassifications ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	(2,574)	-	(2,574)
Exchange differences	(52,625)	(7,057)	(32,483)	(2,000)	(449)	52	(94,562)
At 31 March 2023	1,670,166	223,239	1,101,003	71,342	24,210	3,767	3,093,727
Acquired (note 14)	6,584	-	230	86	-	-	6,900
Additions	-	-	-	-	17,261	1,647	18,908
Reclassifications ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	(263)	-	(263)
Exchange differences	(6,501)	(746)	(4,078)	(441)	232	84	(11,450)
At 31 March 2024	1,670,249	222,493	1,097,155	70,987	41,440	5,498	3,107,822
Amortisation and impairment:							
At 1 April 2022	-	5,272	30,124	60,831	1,942	-	98,169
Charge for the year	-	11,281	64,302	11,834	5,025	-	92,442
Impairment recognised	96,461	-	-	-	-	-	96,461
Exchange differences	-	(110)	(661)	(1,534)	(308)	-	(2,613)
At 31 March 2023	96,461	16,443	93,765	71,131	6,659	-	284,459
Charge for the year	-	11,956	66,348	236	6,557	-	85,097
Impairment recognised	101,983	-	-	-	-	-	101,983
Reclassifications ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-	(240)	-	(240)
Exchange differences	672	(89)	(616)	(444)	17	-	(460)
At 31 March 2024	199,116	28,310	159,497	70,923	12,993	-	470,839
Carrying amounts:							
Net book value at 31 March 2023	1,573,705	206,796	1,007,238	211	17,551	3,767	2,809,268
Net book value at 31 March 2024	1,471,133	194,183	937,658	64	28,447	5,498	2,636,983

(1) Reclassification of assets previously recognised in software to computer equipment, as this is deemed a more appropriate classification.

Goodwill impairment and fair value assessment

Goodwill is stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to CGUs or group of CGUs ("regional CGU") and is not amortised but tested annually for impairment or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. A CGU is identified as the lowest aggregation of assets that generates largely independent cash inflows at which goodwill and intangible assets are monitored within the Group. The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell ("FVLCS").

Management has reviewed the carrying value of the goodwill for each regional CGU using the Group's fair value less cost to sell model. The Group has adopted the discounted cash flow method to determine the FVLCS of the regional CGUs. This approach is determined to be Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Notes to the financial statements

13. Intangible assets (continued)

Goodwill impairment and fair value assessment (continued)

The cash flow projections use an initial three year period derived from the Group's most recent business plan, risk adjusted and approved by the Directors, with an extrapolation for a further seven years using a systematically declining growth rate and applying a long-term growth rate from year 11 onwards. The cash flows reflect management's expectations of future outcomes, based on past and current experience and expectations of the medium to long term growth prospects for the sector, after considering economic and business risks facing the Group.

Management consider the key assumptions used to be the discount rates and the long-term growth rate applied to extrapolate the cash flows into perpetuity. The discount rates reflect the risks inherent in the subject cash flows, as well as the time value of money. The long term growth rates for each of the CGUs (for the terminal year) have been determined based on the expected long term inflation rates of the countries that make up each regional CGU.

The level at which impairment is tested reflects the lowest level at which goodwill and intangible assets are monitored for internal reporting purposes. The carrying amount of goodwill recorded in the regional CGUs is set out below:

Regional CGU	Year ended	Year ended
	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Europe, Middle East and Africa ⁽¹⁾	312,004	363,526
Asia Pacific ⁽¹⁾	247,464	278,888
Latin America and Caribbean ⁽¹⁾	30,514	61,110
North America	881,151	847,577
Total value⁽²⁾	1,471,133	1,551,101

(1) Net of impairment recognised during the year of \$101,983,000 (2023: \$96,461,000).

(2) Including exchange differences after retranslation into USD at the year end.

Regional CGU	Discount	Terminal growth	Discount	Terminal growth
	rates	rates	rates	rates
	31 March 2024	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2023
	%	%	%	%
Europe, Middle East & Africa	10.6	2.1	10.4	2.1
Asia Pacific	11.5	2.2	11.5	2.5
Latin America & Caribbean	16.5	2.6	16.4	3.1
North America	10.4	2.0	10.4	2.0

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group recognised goodwill impairments of \$101,983,000 (\$45,533,000 Europe, Middle East & Africa CGU; \$22,780,000 Asia Pacific CGU; and \$33,670,000 Latin American & Caribbean CGU). This was largely attributable to more modest cash flow projections reflecting current economic uncertainty. No impairment was recognised in the North America CGU.

During the year ended 31 March 2023 the Group recognised an impairment of \$96,461,000 in respect of the Europe, Middle East & Africa CGU. This was largely attributable to a rise in interest rates in the region resulting in an increase to the discount rate applied to the CGU. No impairment was recognised in the remaining CGUs.

Notes to the financial statements

13. Intangible assets (continued)

Sensitivity to changes in assumptions

The Group has conducted an analysis of the sensitivity of the impairment test to changes in the key assumptions used to determine the recoverable amount for each of the group of CGUs to which goodwill is allocated.

A range of reasonably possible discount rates was considered; a 0.25% increase in the discount rate applied to each CGU would result in an additional impairment charge of \$32 million, whereas a 0.25% decrease in the discount rate applied to each CGU would reduce the impairment charge recognised by \$38 million.

Revenue growth rates in the initial three year period are based on management's best estimate of the growth expected in each CGU. Were the lower of management's growth assumptions or actual 5 year average revenue growth rates achieved by each CGU used instead, an additional impairment charge of \$37m would be recognised.

14. Business combinations

Acquisitions during the year ended 31 March 2024

The fair values of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed of companies acquired in the year as at the date of acquisition were as follows:

	Total \$000
Identifiable intangible assets: ⁽¹⁾	
Customer relationships	230
Customer order books	86
Property, plant and equipment	85
Right of use assets	356
Trade and other receivables	180
Cash	23
Trade and other payables	(1,147)
Lease liabilities	(356)
Deferred tax (net)	(53)
Total identifiable assets	(596)
Add: Goodwill ⁽²⁾	6,584
Net assets acquired	5,988
Satisfied by:	
Cash ⁽³⁾	5,988
Total	5,988

(1) In accordance with IFRS 3 "Business Combinations" the identifiable intangible assets that were acquired relate to the fair value of customer relationships and customer order books.

(2) The goodwill is principally attributable to the skills and technical talent of the acquired workforce, earnings attributable to future new customers; opportunities from expansion into new geographies and the synergies expected to be achieved from integrating the companies into ERM.

(3) Acquisition of subsidiaries net of cash acquired per the cash flow statement is \$12,738,000. This consists of cash consideration disclosed above (\$5,988,000) net of cash acquired (\$23,000); \$455,000 The Big Group other payments (see note 14(a)); and \$6,318,000 paid in respect of subsidiaries acquired in prior years (see note 14(b)).

Notes to the financial statements

14. Business combinations (continued)

(a) The Big Group

On 1 March 2024, ERM completed the acquisition of The Big Middle and The Big Zero ("The Big Group"), Australian enterprise system specialists who are experts in Salesforce, Oracle, and WalkMe technologies. Combined with ERM's consultancy services and its partnership with Salesforce, The Big Zero's expertise in ESG accounting systems will support clients in establishing a unified source of environmental data. The Big Middle will continue as one of Australia's leading technology service providers focused on systems integration of enterprise solutions, including onboarding and training of customers in Australia and New Zealand. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued shares in The Big Zero Australia Pty Ltd.

Cash consideration of \$5,988,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2024, being the initial payment of \$6,152,000 (AUD 9,372,000) less an estimated net debt and working capital adjustment of \$164,000 (AUD 250,000). In addition the Group paid \$455,000 (AUD 693,000) to settle transaction expenses and other liabilities of The Big Group.

Deferred payments of up to AUD 2,550,000, are dependent upon continued employment of certain individuals and hence will be accrued as a post-acquisition expense once the conditions for payment have been met.

From the date of acquisition, The Big Group contributed \$158,000 of net revenue and \$109,000 of operating loss (excluding costs of acquisition). If the acquisition had occurred at the beginning of FY24, the Big Group would have contributed an additional \$1,746,000 of net revenue (unaudited) and \$725,000 of operating loss (unaudited).

(b) Other acquisition of subsidiary undertakings costs paid and accrued during the year ended 31 March 2024

The Group made the following payments:

- i. Deferred payments of \$5,314,000 in respect of acquisitions made in prior years (\$1,780,000 for NINT (see note 14(h)); \$1,656,000 for Libryo (see note 14(f)); \$85,000 for Shelton (see note 14(e)); and \$1,793,000 for Operational Excellence (Opex) Group Limited, acquired in 2021).
- ii. Final net debt and working capital adjustments of \$888,000 in respect of acquisitions made in prior years (\$123,000 for NINT; \$704,000 for Libryo; and \$61,000 for Marinespace (see note 14(d)).
- iii. Settlement of loan notes issued to the sellers of RCG (acquired in 2021), of \$71,000.

The net transaction costs of \$19,776,000 reported in the income statement consists of: \$25,000,000 release of Coho earn-out accruals (see note 14(g)); \$3,464,000 in connection with (i) above for amounts not accrued in prior years; and other acquisition related expenses of \$1,760,000.

Notes to the financial statements

14. Business combinations (continued)

Acquisitions during the year ended 31 March 2023

(c) Point Advisory

On 1 April 2022, ERM completed the acquisition of Point Advisory, a leading Australian climate change and sustainability consultancy offering strategic and technical advice to businesses in the region. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued shares in Point Advisory Pty Ltd.

Founded in 2013, Point Advisory works with the public, private and social sectors across energy, climate change, environment, human rights, sustainable finance, impact measurement and economics, providing clients with innovative, and effective solutions that embed sustainability principles into their strategies and operations.

Point Advisory's team joins ERM's Climate Change and Corporate Sustainability practice, serving clients across the APAC region.

Cash consideration of \$12,080,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2023, this being: the initial consideration of \$9,740,000 (AUD 13,000,000); a net debt and working capital adjustment of \$269,000 (AUD 444,000); and \$2,071,000 (AUD 3,043,000) deferred consideration dependent on pre-acquisition earnings for the year ended 30 June 2022.

(d) MarineSpace

On 30 June 2022, ERM completed the acquisition of MarineSpace, a marine planning and environmental consultancy. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued shares in MarineSpace Limited.

Founded in 2006, MarineSpace provides environmental consultancy and project management services to support clients with the development of their projects in the marine environment. The MarineSpace team apply their extensive knowledge of the marine environment to provide strategic and technical advice to a variety of coastal and marine industries, utilising expertise in feasibility, site selection, consenting, and permitting for marine development projects, marine archaeology and maritime engineering.

Cash consideration of \$9,674,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2023, this being the initial payment of \$9,076,000 (GBP 7,500,000) and an estimated net debt and working capital adjustment of \$598,000 (GBP 494,000). A final net debt and working capital adjustment of \$61,000 (GBP 50,000) was accrued during the year ended 31 March 2023 and subsequently settled in the year ended 31 March 2024.

(e) Shelton

On 30 September 2022, ERM completed the acquisition of Shelton, a sustainability-focused marketing and communications agency. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued shares in Shelton Communications Group, Inc.

Founded in 1991, Shelton is a leading marketing & communications agency based in the US, focused on sustainability and corporate social responsibility, helping companies gain a market advantage as they work to create a more sustainable future.

Shelton's sustainability marketing and communication capabilities combined with ERM's expertise in helping businesses to operationalize sustainability allow ERM to provide a greater depth of service that supports clients with the challenge of communicating their sustainability stories in a clear and compelling way.

Cash consideration of \$4,152,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2023, this being the initial payment of \$3,750,000 and a net debt and working capital adjustment of \$402,000. In addition the Group paid \$225,000 to certain individuals in the form of promissory notes that amortize over a 24-month period, with payback provisions dependent on the continued employment of those individuals during that period.

Notes to the financial statements

14. Business combinations (continued)

(e) *Shelton* (continued)

Deferred payments, of up to \$175,000, are dependent upon continued employment of certain individuals and hence will be accrued as a post-acquisition expense once the conditions for payment have been met. Of this, \$85,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2024.

(f) *Libryo*

On 2 December 2022, ERM completed the acquisition of Libryo, a global cloud-based Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) regulatory intelligence platform. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued shares in Libryo Ltd.

Founded in 2016, Libryo makes it quick, accurate and cost-effective for clients to know their legal obligations for every operation that promotes sustainability across multiple jurisdictions. The Libryo Platform tracks unique site-specific legal registers, enabling people to quickly navigate regulatory complexity with clarity and certainty.

Libryo, with their innovative, technology-driven platform will help ERM clients check the regulatory environment more effectively allowing them to proactively manage compliance. This supports ERM's strategy to offer clients the most advanced digital technology solutions available to support their efforts in driving their sustainability journeys forward at pace.

Cash consideration of \$14,960,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2023, this being the initial payment of \$15,592,000 (GBP 12,935,000) and an estimated adjustment for net debt, working capital and contribution to transaction expenses of \$632,000 (GBP 525,000). Deferred consideration of \$2,205,000 has been recognised within total consideration. This consists of: \$1,501,000 (GBP 1,256,000) deferred consideration payable twelve months from completion (2 December 2023); and the estimated finalisation of net debt and working capital adjustment of \$704,000 (GBP 584,000). These amounts were subsequently settled during the year ended 31 March 2024 for \$2,360,000.

(g) *Coho*

On 3 February 2023, ERM completed the acquisition of Coho Climate Advisors, a global advisory firm with expertise in helping organizations reach their climate change, renewable energy, and water resiliency goals. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued membership interests in Coho Climate Advisors LLC.

Founded in 2010, Coho is a global climate adviser that helps clients switch to renewable energy, and make other large-scale climate and water resiliency investments with a proactive, stakeholder inclusive approach.

Coho provides market insights, strategy development and change management to reduce direct emissions, procure renewable energy, achieve electric vehicle transition, enable fuel switching, facilitate supply chain improvements, and capture fundamental enhancements in water resiliency. Coho's specialist climate, renewable energy and water consulting expertise will help ERM's clients achieve their sustainability goals with customisable and cost-effective solutions.

The accounting for this business combination presented in the group statutory accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 was provisional, pending completion of the final assessment and valuation of amounts recoverable on contracts. During the year ended 31 March 2024 this exercise was completed and the prior year comparatives presented in these financial statements reflect the final accounting.

Notes to the financial statements

14. Business combinations (continued)

(g) Coho (continued)

The fair values of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed of companies acquired in the year as at the date of acquisition were finalised as follows:

	Initially reported \$000	Adjustment \$000	Final \$000
Identifiable intangible assets: ⁽¹⁾			
Brand	653	(210)	443
Customer relationships	36,516	(10,580)	25,936
Customer order books	948	(948)	-
Property, plant and equipment	113	-	113
Right of use assets	738	-	738
Trade and other receivables	14,907	(12,460)	2,447
Cash	3,295	-	3,295
Trade and other payables	(10,330)	230	(10,100)
Lease liabilities	(738)	-	(738)
Deferred tax (net)	(2)	-	(2)
Total identifiable assets	46,100	(23,968)	22,132
Add: Goodwill ⁽²⁾	34,540	22,604	57,144
Net assets acquired	80,640	(1,364)	79,276
Satisfied by:			
Cash	57,987	-	57,987
Deferred consideration	22,653	(1,364)	21,289
Total	80,640	(1,364)	79,276

(1) In accordance with IFRS 3 "Business Combinations" the identifiable intangible assets that were acquired relate to the fair value of the brand and customer relationships.

(2) The goodwill is principally attributable to the skills and technical talent of the acquired workforce, earnings attributable to future new customers; opportunities from expansion into new geographies and the synergies expected to be achieved from integration into ERM.

Cash consideration of \$57,987,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2023. In addition the Group paid \$9,025,000 to settle transaction expenses and other liabilities of Coho. Deferred consideration of \$21,289,000 has been recognised within total consideration. This consists of the fair value at acquisition date of two earn-outs of up to \$12,500,000 each based on EBITDA for the year ended 31 December 2023 and backlog as at 31 December 2023 (total \$22,039,000); and the finalisation of net debt and working capital refund of \$750,000.

The earn-outs were not achieved and the undiscounted accrual of \$25,000,000 was subsequently released during the year ended 31 March 2024, reported within net transaction costs.

A further deferred payment, of up to \$1,000,000, is dependent upon continued employment of certain individuals and hence will be accrued as a post-acquisition expense once the conditions for payment have been met.

Notes to the financial statements

14. Business combinations (continued)

(h) NINT

On 27 February 2023, ERM completed the acquisition of NINT, a Latin America based consultancy which provides sustainable finance and ESG advisory services. The transaction was completed via the purchase of 100% of the issued shares in NINT – Natural Intelligence Ltda.

Founded in 2013, NINT provides expertise in developing frameworks for sustainable financings, structuring debt instruments with sustainability benefits, and independent assessments of debt issuances which will enhance ERM's end-to-end solutions for investors, issuers and stakeholders in Latin America.

Cash consideration of \$9,813,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2023, this being the initial consideration of \$11,103,000 (BRL 57,850,000) less the Holdback Indemnity Amount of \$1,110,000 (BRL 5,785,000) paid to an escrow agent after year end, offset by an estimated net debt and working capital adjustment of \$180,000 (BRL 939,000). Deferred consideration of \$1,203,000 has been recognised within total consideration. This consists of the Holdback Indemnity Amount and the estimated finalisation of net debt and working capital adjustment of \$93,000 (BRL 484,000). The final net debt and working capital adjustment of \$123,000 was paid during the year ended 31 March 2024.

Deferred payments, of up to BRL 26,849,900, are dependent upon continued employment of certain individuals and hence will be accrued as a post-acquisition expense once the conditions for payment have been met. The first tranche was paid during the year ended 31 March 2024 (\$1,780,000).

(i) Other acquisition of subsidiary undertakings costs paid and accrued during the year ended 31 March 2023

- i. The Group paid \$1,786,000 deferred consideration in respect of the acquisition of Sustainalize Holdings B.V. (acquired in 2021).
- ii. The Group settled \$805,000 of loan notes issued to the sellers of The Renewables Consulting Group Limited (acquired in 2021).
- iii. The Group paid \$203,000 deferred consideration in respect of Stratos Inc (acquired in 2021).
- iv. The Group paid \$1,899,000 deferred consideration in respect of the acquisition of Operational Excellence (OPEX) Group Limited (acquired in 2021), of which \$1,541,000 was accrued in the year end 31 March 2023, reported within net transaction costs.
- v. The Group paid \$675,000 retention bonus for M.J. Bradley & Associates LLC (acquired in 2020).
- vi. The Group incurred transaction related expenses of \$7,732,000 in connection with the acquisition of ERM Worldwide Group Limited during the year ended 31 March 2023, which were expensed under IFRS 3 through the income statement. Included within the cash flow statement is an amount of \$17,388,000 which predominately relates to cash payments made to shareholders of the acquired Group as an incentive to roll over their investment into the new capital structure. As this is a transaction with shareholders of an acquired subsidiary, management deem it appropriate for this to be classified as investing activities for the purpose of the statement of cash flow.

The net transaction costs of \$11,978,000 reported in the income statement consists of: \$19,000 credit in connection with (ii) and (iii) above for adjustments to amounts accrued in prior years; \$7,732,000 outlined in vi above; and other acquisition related expenses of \$4,265,000.

Notes to the financial statements

15. Deferred tax assets and liabilities

The deferred tax movement is as follows:

Group	\$000
At 1 April 2022	(320,859)
Acquisition of Point Advisory	(700)
Acquisition of MarineSpace	(669)
Acquisition of Shelton	(301)
Acquisition of Libryo	(246)
Acquisition of Coho	(2)
Acquisition of NINT	(1,114)
Credit for the year recognised in income statement (note 9(a))	30,326
Deferred tax on retranslation of intangible assets and leases recognised in other comprehensive income	9,715
Exchange and other differences recognised in other comprehensive income	(1,127)
At 31 March 2023	(284,977)
Acquisition of The Big Zero (note 14)	(53)
Credit for the year recognised in income statement (note 9(a))	22,855
Deferred tax on retranslation of intangible assets and leases recognised in other comprehensive income	1,276
Exchange and other differences recognised in other comprehensive income	(370)
At 31 March 2024	(261,269)

The deferred tax balances have been reflected in the consolidated statement of financial position as follows:

Group	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Included within non-current assets	74,311	57,142
Included within non-current liabilities	(335,580)	(342,119)
	(261,269)	(284,977)

The deferred tax recognised is comprised of the following:

Group	31 March 2024	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2023
	Assets \$000	Liabilities \$000	Assets \$000	Liabilities \$000
Depreciation in advance of capital allowances	-	-	1,483	-
Intercompany costs deductible once paid	12,085	-	-	-
Pensions	1,572	-	1,431	-
Bonuses	2,910	-	4,238	-
Bad / doubtful debts	2,101	-	2,284	-
Intangible assets	-	(312,425)	-	(331,893)
Tax losses	23,555	-	12,187	-
Vacation accruals	5,355	-	3,272	-
Foreign exchange timing differences	-	(4,435)	-	-
WIP provisions	-	-	1,239	-
Interest restrictions	9,536	-	8,761	-
Leases	13,010	(12,525)	10,704	(10,226)
Other timing differences	4,187	(6,195)	11,543	-
Deferred tax assets / (liabilities)	74,311	(335,580)	57,142	(342,119)

Notes to the financial statements

15. Deferred tax assets and liabilities (continued)

The deferred tax balances are measured at 25% as at 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2023.

At the balance sheet date, the Group has unrecognised deferred tax assets of \$40,684,000 (2023: \$49,900,000). This includes a deferred tax asset of \$35,685,000 (2023: \$43,900,000) relating to UK tax losses and unutilised interest expenses which are carried forward to future periods and do not have an expiry date. This deferred tax asset is not considered to satisfy the recognition criteria due to uncertainty regarding the level and suitability of future taxable profits.

16. Trade and other receivables

	Group 31 March 2024 \$000	Company 31 March 2024 \$000	Group 31 March 2023 \$000	Company 31 March 2023 \$000
Trade receivables (net of allowance) ⁽¹⁾	193,000	-	202,622	-
Amounts recoverable on contracts	137,704	-	142,076	-
Amounts due from Group undertakings	-	-	-	395
Other receivables	12,186	303	9,778	484
Prepayments	19,044	-	17,927	-
Interest rate hedges at fair value	17,262	-	28,853	-
Net investment in sublease	67	-	384	-
Total	379,263	303	401,640	879

(1) Trade receivables is disclosed net of a loss allowance of \$8,508,000 (2023: \$8,257,000).

The average credit period taken on trade receivables, calculated by reference to the net amount owed at the year end as a proportion of total revenue in the year was 51.1 days.

The Group receives payments from customers based on a billing schedule, as established in the contract. Trade receivables and amounts recoverable on contracts are recognised when the right to consideration becomes unconditional.

Amounts due from Group undertakings are repayable on demand.

The following table details the risk profile of trade receivables based on the Group's provision matrix. As the Group's historical credit loss experience does not show significantly different loss patterns for different customer segments, the provision for loss allowance based on past due status is not further distinguished between the Group's different customer base.

31 March 2024	Not past due \$000	1-30 days \$000	31-60 days \$000	61-90 days \$000	>90 days \$000	Total \$000
Expected credit loss rate	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	3.2%	40.4%	4.2%
Total gross carrying amount at default	140,950	27,929	8,801	4,786	19,042	201,508
Lifetime ECL	407	150	109	155	7,687	8,508
31 March 2023	Not past due \$000	1-30 days \$000	31-60 days \$000	61-90 days \$000	>90 days \$000	Total \$000
Expected credit loss rate	0.5%	0.9%	2.4%	5.2%	47.1%	3.9%
Total gross carrying amount at default	151,149	30,786	9,176	5,359	14,409	210,879
Lifetime ECL	682	289	225	279	6,782	8,257

Notes to the financial statements

16. Trade and other receivables (continued)

The following table details the risk profile for amounts recoverable on contracts based on the Group's provision matrix.

	31 March 2024 \$000	31 March 2023 \$000
Expected credit loss rate	3.6%	3.2%
Total gross carrying amount	142,894	147,201
Lifetime ECL	5,190	5,125

The following table shows the movement in lifetime ECL that has been recognised for trade and other receivables and amounts recoverable on contracts in accordance with the simplified approach set out in IFRS 9.

	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
At 1 April	13,382	13,535
Unused amounts reversed	(6,755)	(7,373)
Change in loss allowance	7,071	7,220
At 31 March	13,698	13,382

17. Trade and other payables

	Group 31 March 2024 \$000	Company 31 March 2024 \$000	Group 31 March 2023 \$000	Company 31 March 2023 \$000
Trade payables	33,269	-	39,678	-
Other taxes and social security costs	19,389	-	21,050	-
Bills in advance ⁽¹⁾	102,307	-	107,232	-
Accrued expenses and other payables ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	281,683	2,699	304,819	2,075
Interest rate hedges at fair value	652	-	-	-
Amounts due to departing shareholders	288	288	4,963	4,963
Amounts due to Group undertakings	-	23,791	-	11,360
Total	437,588	26,778	477,742	18,398

(1) Accrued expenses and other payables include \$105 million relating to deposits paid by customers to ReachCentrum SA, a subsidiary of the Group. Bills in advance include \$40 million relating to work to be completed on ReachCentrum SA products. Refer to note 19.

(2) Accrued expenses and other payables include \$21 million relating to deposits paid by Government bodies. Refer to note 19.

The Directors consider that the carrying amount of trade payables is approximate to their fair value.

Bills in advance relates to payments received in advance of performance under the contract which are recognised as revenue as (or when) the Group performs under the contract.

The current amounts due to Group undertakings from the Company for operational loans carry interest rates of three month local currency Term SOFR (1 month) + 3.02% and for structural loans carry interest rates of three month local currency Term SOFR + 3.78%. Amounts due to Group undertakings are repayable on demand.

Notes to the financial statements

18. Borrowings

	Group 31 March 2024 \$000	Company 31 March 2024 \$000	Group 31 March 2023 \$000	Company 31 March 2023 \$000
Current liabilities:				
Secured bank loans	5,350	-	5,350	-
Promissory notes	3,825	3,825	2,057	2,057
	9,175	3,825	7,407	2,057
Non-current liabilities:				
Secured bank loans	997,452	-	1,012,276	-
"A" preference shares	185,380	185,380	176,326	176,326
"B" preference shares	2,212,520	2,212,520	2,043,587	2,043,587
Promissory notes	7,151	7,151	2,906	2,906
	3,402,503	2,405,051	3,235,095	2,222,819
Total borrowings	3,411,678	2,408,876	3,242,502	2,224,876

Information about the Group's exposure to interest rate, foreign currency and liquidity risks is included in note 26.

The total borrowings fall due as follows:

	Group 31 March 2024 \$000	Company 31 March 2024 \$000	Group 31 March 2023 \$000	Company 31 March 2023 \$000
<i>Amounts falling due:</i>				
within one year	9,175	3,825	7,407	2,057
in one to two years	12,063	7,151	8,256	2,906
in two to five years	1,021,568	-	16,050	-
over five years	2,397,900	2,397,900	3,244,972	2,219,913
	3,440,706	2,408,876	3,276,685	2,224,876
Less: unamortised debt issue costs	(29,028)	-	(34,183)	-
Total borrowings	3,411,678	2,408,876	3,242,502	2,224,876

Notes to the financial statements

18. Borrowings (continued)

(a) Terms and repayment schedule

The terms and conditions of outstanding loans are set out below.

In \$000	Currency	Nominal interest rate ⁽²⁾	Year of maturity	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
				Face value	Carrying amount	Face value	Carrying amount
Senior credit facility ⁽¹⁾	USD	3M USD SOFR + 3.75%	2028	511,712	510,183	517,062	517,062
Senior credit facility ⁽¹⁾	EURO	3M EURIBOR + 3.75%	2028	531,492	521,647	232,264	232,264
Senior credit facility ⁽¹⁾	EURO	3M EURIBOR + 4.50%	2028	-	-	302,483	302,483
Total senior credit facility				1,043,204	1,031,830	1,051,809	1,051,809
Revolving credit facility	USD	See note (3) below	2027	-	-	-	-
Total secured bank loans				1,043,204	1,031,830	1,051,809	1,051,809
Less: unamortised debt issue costs				(29,028)	(29,028)	(34,183)	(34,183)
Total debt, net of debt issue costs				1,014,176	1,002,802	1,017,626	1,017,626
"A" preference shares	USD	8% fixed		185,380	185,380	176,326	176,326
"B" preference shares	USD	8% fixed		2,212,520	2,212,520	2,043,587	2,043,587
Promissory notes	USD	3% fixed		10,976	10,976	4,963	4,963
Total borrowings				3,423,052	3,411,678	3,242,502	3,242,502

(1) Subject to a 3M USD SOFR / EURIBOR 0.00% floor.

(2) Nominal interest rate as at 31 March 2024

(3) The Revolving credit facility carries an interest rate of 3.35% plus a credit spread adjustment of 0.11448% above 1-month Term SOFR on USD denominated draws, subject to a 0% floor.

Notes to the financial statements

18. Borrowings (continued)

(b) *Bank loans*

The Group's credit facilities at 31 March 2024 comprise the following:

- (i) \$535.0 million USD denominated first lien term debt fully drawn. The facility is repaid at 0.25% (\$1.3 million) per quarter with the remaining balance repayable on 11 July 2028. The debt carries an interest rate of 3.75% above 3 month USD SOFR subject to a 0% floor. During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Group repaid \$5.3 million USD. At 31 March 2024, the undiscounted principal balance outstanding was \$511.7 million with a carrying value of \$510.2 million.
- (ii) €495.0 million EUR denominated first lien term debt fully drawn. The facility is repayable on 11 July 2028 and carries an interest rate of 3.75% above 3 month EURIBOR subject to a 0% floor. At 31 March 2024, the undiscounted principal balance outstanding was \$531.5 million (€495.0 million revalued to the balance sheet foreign exchange rate) with a carrying value of \$521.6 million (€485.8 million revalued to the balance sheet foreign exchange rate).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Group undertook a repricing of the margin on €280 million of EUR denominated first lien debt, previously held as three separate tranches. The margin on all three tranches decreased from 4.5% to 3.75%. In addition, the tranches were consolidated into another €215 million tranche of EUR denominated first lien debt held by the Group. The Group recognised a fair value gain of modification of \$8,895,000, reported within financial income.

- (iii) \$238.0 million of the multi-currency revolving credit facility, repayable on 11 July 2027. The facility carries an interest rate of 3.35% plus a credit spread adjustment of 0.11448% above 1 month Term SOFR on USD denominated draws, subject to a 0% floor.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Group did not draw on the facility (2023: drew down \$68.0 million and repaid \$121.0 million). At 31 March 2024, the revolving credit facility was undrawn, although \$4.1 million of the facility was utilised as security for bank guarantees (31 March 2023: \$4.7 million).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the Group repaid in full its \$100m second lien USD denominated term debt. This facility was repayable on 11 July 2029 and carried an interest rate of 6.5% above 3 month LIBOR subject to a 0% floor.

(c) *Debt issue costs*

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Group capitalised debt issue costs of \$1,717,000 in respect of modifications to the Group's credit facilities (2023: \$12,798,000). The unamortised debt issue costs balance of \$29,028,000 as at 31 March 2024 (2023: \$34,183,000) represents capitalised debt issue costs less amounts amortised to date and minor exchange rate movements.

(d) *"A" preference shares and promissory notes*

"A" preference shares carry the right to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend of 8% compounded quarterly. The "A" preference shares are redeemable by the Company on the 20th anniversary of their issuance or a liquidation, whichever is earlier. The "A" preference shares balance at 31 March 2024 is \$185,380,000 and includes \$30,899,000 of cumulative preferential dividend (31 March 2023: \$176,326,000, including \$18,585,000 of cumulative preferential dividend).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Company issued 10,447,272 "A" preference shares (2023: 5,026,395) at US\$0.01 nominal value and US\$0.99 share premium each to the ERM Partners.

Notes to the financial statements

18. Borrowings (continued)

(d) "A" preference shares and promissory notes (continued)

An Employee Benefit Trust (EBT) has been set up to acquire shares from departing shareholders. The trust is maintained in the Channel Islands and is managed by Ocorian Limited, an organisation independent of ERM. The EBT acquires all ordinary and preference shares re-purchased from ERM Partner leavers, settled partially through cash and partially by the issuing of two-year promissory notes which accrue interest at 3.0% per annum.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, a total of 183,753 "A" ordinary shares, 334,837 "C" ordinary shares, 3,735 "D" ordinary shares and 13,707,593 "A" preference shares were acquired by the EBT from departing shareholders. This was settled (including accrued dividend payable of \$2,175,000 on the preference shares) for \$8,046,000 cash, \$289,000 deferred consideration payable; and \$8,070,000 issue of promissory notes. In addition, \$4,963,000 of deferred consideration payable from the prior year was settled, giving a total cash payment to departing shareholders during the year ended 31 March 2024 of \$13,009,000.

During the year ended 31 March 2023 a total of 133,900 "A" ordinary shares, 79,130 "C" ordinary shares and 18,746,163 "A" preference shares were acquired by the EBT from departing shareholders. This was settled (including accrued dividend payable of \$966,000 on the preference shares) for \$68,000 cash; \$4,963,000 deferred consideration payable; and \$4,963,000 issue of promissory notes. The balance of \$9,932,000 was cash settled in the prior year.

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group cash paid \$2,057,000 in settlement of maturing promissory notes (2023: \$nil.)

(e) "B" preference shares

"B" preference shares carry the right to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend of 8% compounded quarterly. The "B" preference shares are redeemable by the Company on the 20th anniversary of their issuance or a liquidation, whichever is earlier. The "B" preference shares in issue are held by Nature Topco UK Limited, the Company's parent company.

No "B" preference shares were issued during the years ended 31 March 2024 or 31 March 2023.

The "B" preference shares balance at 31 March 2024 is \$2,212,520,000, and includes \$392,595,000 of cumulative preferential dividend (31 March 2023: \$2,043,587,000, including \$223,662,000 of cumulative preferential dividend).

Notes to the financial statements

19. Net Debt

Analysis of net debt

	At 31 March 2023 \$000	Cash flow \$000	Exchange difference \$000	Other non cash flow \$000	At 31 March 2024 \$000
Cash at bank and on hand	206,722	(109,697)	(1,895)	-	95,130
Money market deposits	-	97,743	-	-	97,743
Cash and cash equivalents ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	206,722	(11,954)	(1,895)	-	192,873
Debt due within one year	(7,407)	2,057	-	(3,825)	(9,175)
Debt due after one year ⁽³⁾	(3,235,095)	93,146	3,242	(263,796)	(3,402,503)
Lease liabilities ⁽³⁾	(41,779)	21,366	75	(28,452)	(48,790)
Financing liabilities	(3,284,281)	116,569	3,317	(296,073)	(3,460,468)
Total	(3,077,559)	104,615	1,422	(296,073)	(3,267,595)

(1) The 31 March 2024 cash balance includes \$138 million of cash deposited with ReachCentrum SA (31 March 2023: \$142 million). ReachCentrum SA is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Group and provides administrative support to companies acting in consortia to register chemical substances under the REACH EU regulations. The cash deposited with ReachCentrum SA represents deposits received from consortium members, to be deployed on registrations and subsequent evaluations required under the REACH processes, with any excess funds required to be returned to members of the consortium if requested. A liability of \$144 million held within trade and other payables (refer to note 17) relates to the obligations towards these consortium members.

(2) The 31 March 2024 cash balance includes \$21 million of cash held on behalf of government bodies (31 March 2023: \$18 million). Certain wholly owned subsidiaries of the Group provide administrative support to companies participating in government funded research projects. Deposits are received in advance from various government bodies and released to the external project participants on completion of approved project milestones. A liability of \$21 million held within accrued expenses and other payables (refer to note 17) relates to the obligations towards the external project participants.

(3) See below reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt for components of other non-cash flow.

Notes to the financial statements

19. Net Debt (continued)

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2024 \$000	Year ended 31 March 2023 \$000
Decrease in cash		(11,954)	(10,121)
Issuance of "A" preference shares	18 (d)	(10,286)	(4,271)
Purchase of "A" preference shares from departing shareholders	18 (d)	7,524	67
Settlement of promissory notes	18 (d)	2,057	-
Proceeds from bank loans	18 (b)	-	(361,042)
Repayment of bank loans	18 (b)	5,350	226,350
Debt issue costs	18 (c)	1,717	12,798
Interest payments on bank loans held at amortised cost ⁽¹⁾		88,841	54,424
Repayment of lease liabilities and interest		21,366	22,821
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		104,615	(58,974)
Exchange difference		1,422	(11,524)
Fair value gain on modification of bank loans	18 (b)	8,895	-
Issuance of "A" preference shares	18 (d)	(162)	(756)
Repurchase of "A" preference shares	18 (d)	8,359	19,646
Issuance of promissory notes		(8,070)	(4,963)
Dividends accrued on "A" and "B" preference shares		(183,422)	(169,109)
Interest expense on bank loans held at amortised cost ⁽¹⁾		(93,221)	(64,199)
Interest accrued on leases		(2,798)	(2,436)
Lease additions, acquisitions and disposals		(25,654)	(13,700)
Other non-cash flow movement		(296,073)	(235,517)
Movement in net debt in the financial year		(190,036)	(306,015)
Net debt at 1 April		(3,077,559)	(2,771,544)
Net debt at 31 March		(3,267,595)	(3,077,559)

(1) The reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been updated to separately disclose the interest expense and payments on bank loans held at amortised cost, in line with the current year presentation.

Notes to the financial statements

20. Lease liabilities

The Group leases offices, as well as a number of motor vehicles and office equipment. The leases typically run for a period of one to five years, often with an option to renew the lease after its expiry date. Each lease is reflected in the consolidated statement of financial position as a right-of-use asset and a lease liability.

The Group is required to make additional lease payments when the usage of the underlying assets exceeds the contractual terms. The Group's variable lease payments of \$532,000 (2023: \$483,000) are less than 2.5% (2023: 2.1%) of the total lease payments of \$21,366,000 (2023: \$22,821,000). These payments are not included in the measurement of the lease liabilities and are recognised as an expense in the Group's Income Statement.

Lease liabilities are payable as follows:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	\$000	\$000
Lease liabilities due:		
within one year	14,272	15,297
in two to five years	36,898	26,906
over five years	6,189	5,574
	57,359	47,777
Less unearned interest	(8,569)	(5,998)
Total lease liabilities	48,790	41,779
Disclosed as:		
Current	14,272	15,297
Non-current	34,518	26,482
Total lease liabilities	48,790	41,779

21. Share capital

	2024	2024	Allotted, called up and fully paid	
	No.	\$000	2023	2023
"A" ordinary shares ⁽¹⁾	2,109,661	21	2,293,414	23
"B" ordinary shares ⁽¹⁾	27,574,626	276	27,574,626	276
"C" ordinary shares ⁽¹⁾	8,347,525	83	4,313,645	43
"D" ordinary shares ⁽¹⁾	159,767	2	85,098	1
Deferred shares ⁽¹⁾	33,188,980	332	18,959,126	190
Special shares ⁽¹⁾	131	-	67	-
	714	533		
"A" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	154,480,914	1,545	157,741,235	1,577
"B" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	1,819,925,316	18,199	1,819,925,316	18,199
	19,744	19,776		

(1) Held at US\$0.01 nominal value

Notes to the financial statements

21. Share capital (continued)

The share capital structure available for issue by the Company as at 31 March 2024 is comprised as follows:

- “A” ordinary shares of US\$0.01 each;
- “B” ordinary shares of US\$0.01 each;
- “C” ordinary shares of US\$0.01 each;
- “D” ordinary shares of US\$0.01 each;
- “A” preference shares of US\$0.01 each;
- “B” preference shares of US\$0.01 each;
- “Deferred” shares of US\$0.01 each; and
- “Special” shares of US\$0.01 each;

“A”, “B”, “C” and “D” ordinary shares carry full voting rights. “A” and “B” preference shares carry the right to vote on a limited range of resolutions affecting the rights attached to such shares. Deferred and Special shares do not carry the right to receive notice of or to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company.

The movement in share capital in issue from 31 March 2023 to 31 March 2024 is presented below:

	At 31 March 2023		Issued		Conversions		At 31 March 2024	
	No.	\$000	No.	\$000	No.	\$000	No.	\$000
“A” ordinary shares	2,293,414	23	-	-	(183,753)	(2)	2,109,661	21
“B” ordinary shares	27,574,626	276	-	-	-	-	27,574,626	276
“C” ordinary shares	4,313,645	43	4,368,717	44	(334,837)	(4)	8,347,525	83
“D” ordinary shares	85,098	1	78,404	1	(3,735)	-	159,767	2
Deferred shares	18,959,126	190	-	-	14,229,854	142	33,188,980	332
Special shares	67	-	-	-	64	-	131	-
	533		45		136		714	
“A” preference shares	157,741,235	1,577	10,447,272	105	(13,707,593)	(137)	154,480,914	1,545
“B” preference shares	1,819,925,316	18,199	-	-	-	-	1,819,925,316	18,199
	19,776		105		(137)		19,744	

The movement in share capital in issue from 31 March 2022 to 31 March 2023 is presented below:

	At 31 March 2022		Issued		Conversions		At 31 March 2023	
	No.	\$000	No.	\$000	No.	\$000	No.	\$000
“A” ordinary shares	2,427,314	24	-	-	(133,900)	(1)	2,293,414	23
“B” ordinary shares	27,574,626	276	-	-	-	-	27,574,626	276
“C” ordinary shares	2,068,104	21	2,324,671	23	(79,130)	(1)	4,313,645	43
“D” ordinary shares	76,136	1	8,962	-	-	-	85,098	1
Deferred shares	-	-	-	-	18,959,126	190	18,959,126	190
Special shares	-	-	-	-	67	-	67	-
	322		23		188		533	
“A” preference shares	171,461,003	1,715	5,026,395	50	(18,746,163)	(188)	157,741,235	1,577
“B” preference shares	1,819,925,316	18,199	-	-	-	-	1,819,925,316	18,199
	19,914		50		(188)		19,776	

All shares issued during the year ended 31 March 2024 and year ended 31 March 2023 were issued at US\$0.01 nominal value and US\$0.99 share premium.

Notes to the financial statements

21. Share capital (continued)

During the year ended 31 March 2024 a total of 183,753 "A" ordinary shares, 334,837 "C" ordinary shares, 3,735 "D" ordinary shares and 13,707,593 "A" preference shares were acquired by the EBT from departing shareholders.

During the year ended 31 March 2023 a total of 133,900 "A" ordinary shares, 79,130 "C" ordinary shares and 18,746,163 "A" preference shares were acquired by the EBT from departing shareholders.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company, all "A" ordinary shares, "C" ordinary shares, "D" ordinary shares, and all but one of the "A" preference shares acquired by the EBT from each shareholder are automatically converted into 'deferred shares' of US\$0.01 nominal value each.

'Deferred shares' are not entitled to receive any dividends and do not carry the right to receive notice of nor to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company. The one "A" preference share not converted into a deferred share is instead converted into a special share of US\$0.01 nominal value. At 31 March 2024, there were 131 special shares in issue (31 March 2023: 67). Special shares are not entitled to receive any dividends nor do they carry the right to receive notice of or to attend or vote at any general meeting of the Company.

Preference shares are shown on the statement of financial position as debt and in note 18 as falling due after more than one year.

22. Share-based payments

The Group has a share-based payment scheme for Partners of the Group, whereby they have purchased class C and/or class D ordinary shares in the Company which are entitled to certain rights in the event of an exit or return of capital by the ultimate parent company, Nature Topco UK Limited. The shares are typically forfeited if the employee leaves the Group before such an exit event.

The IFRS 2 fair value of the shares at the grant date was calculated using the Monte Carlo model, which is considered to be the most appropriate method to take into account the impact of the potential exit dates. The fair values are set out below:

Group	Class C Shares No.	IFRS 2 Fair Value \$	Class D Shares No.	IFRS 2 Fair Value \$
At 1 April 2022	2,068,104	4.21	76,136	4.21
Granted during the year	2,324,671	4.73	8,962	4.69
Forfeited during the year	(79,130)	4.21	-	-
At 31 March 2023	4,313,645	4.49	85,098	4.26
Granted during the year	4,048,717	2.91	78,404	2.96
Forfeited during the year	(334,837)	3.96	(3,735)	4.21
At 31 March 2024	8,027,525	3.70	159,767	3.62

Under IFRS 2, the fair value is recognised over the period from issue to assumed exit date. The share-based payment expense for the year ended 31 March 2024 was \$8,759,000 (2023: \$4,804,000), of which \$8,429,000 (2023: \$4,804,000) relates to the equity-settled share based payment scheme above and \$330,000 (2023: \$nil) relates to a liability-settled share based-payment scheme.

Notes to the financial statements

23. Pension commitments

Group companies operate various defined contribution pension schemes in countries around the world, including Australia, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. The schemes are funded by the payment of contributions to separately administered funds. A 401K Plan is maintained by Vanguard for United States employees, to which the US employers make matching contributions.

At the balance sheet date, an accrual of \$5,110,000 relating to unpaid pension contributions is included within the financial statements (2023: \$4,754,000). The amount charged to the income statement during the year ended 31 March 2024 was \$24,469,000 (2023: \$21,525,000).

24. Contingent liabilities

Due to the nature of the Group's operations, the Group is periodically exposed to contingent liabilities arising from its contracting arrangements or actual or potential disputes, claims or litigation. The Group has processes to identify contingent liabilities when they arise and where possible to quantify the potential exposure. Following IAS 37, when it is judged probable that a liability will arise and that liability can be estimated, a charge is made for the cost of settlement and included in accruals. For other cases it is not possible to predict with certainty the results of these contingent liabilities but the Directors believe, taking into account counter-claims including any claims against third parties, insurance coverage and provisions in the accounts, that the outcome will not have a material effect on the Group's financial position.

25. Related party transactions

Balances and transactions between the Company and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, have been eliminated on consolidation and are not disclosed in this note. Transactions between the Group and its associates are disclosed below:

Transactions with the management personnel

The "A" preference shares are owned globally by ERM Partners, who are senior management level leaders of the business. The "A" preference shares balance at 31 March 2024 of \$185,380,000 includes \$30,899,000 of cumulative preferential dividend (31 March 2023: \$176,326,000 includes \$18,585,000 of cumulative preferential dividend). See note 18 (d).

The Company Directors are considered to be the key management personnel. Directors' remuneration is disclosed in note 6. During the year ended 31 March 2024, 375,000 "C" ordinary shares were issued to the Directors of the Company (2023: 149,600); all shares are fully paid and included in note 21. In addition, 528,110 "D" ordinary shares in Nature Topco limited, the ultimate parent company, are held by the EBT on behalf of a Director of the Company (2023: nil).

Other related party balances

KKR provide strategic corporate planning and other management services to the Group in accordance with an annual management advisory agreement. In consideration of these services the Group reported advisory fees and related expenses of \$2,866,000 during the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: \$2,742,000). During the year ended 31 March 2023 the Group also paid advisory fees of \$2,394,000 to KKR Capstone EMEA LLP.

During the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group paid finance arrangement fees of \$1,158,880 to KKR Capital Markets Partners LLP (2023: \$3,526,000). These costs were capitalised as debt issue costs (see note 18).

Notes to the financial statements

26. Financial instruments and related disclosures

Financial risk management

The Directors have overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Group's risk management framework. The Board of Directors usually meets every other month, with extra meetings as required. At these meetings operational performance as well as business risks are monitored and discussed with any necessary actions agreed to mitigate key risks.

Details of the Group's principal risks and uncertainties are also set out in the Strategic report on page 21. Furthermore, details of cash on hand and debt facilities are set out in the Strategic report on page 4.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Group if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. It arises principally from the Group's receivables from and work in progress with customers.

The carrying amount of the Group's non-derivative financial assets represents the maximum credit exposure. The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date was:

		31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	Notes	\$000	\$000
Trade receivables, net	16	193,000	202,622
Amounts recoverable on contracts	16	137,704	142,076
Other receivables ⁽¹⁾		7,593	7,028
Cash and cash equivalents	19	192,873	206,722
Total		531,170	558,448

(1) Comprises note 16 balance less excluded items under IFRS such as local tax and statutory related receivable balances.

The Group has no significant concentrations of credit risk at the balance sheet date. The trade receivables balance is spread across a large number of different customers in the following key sectors: Energy, Power, Chemical, Technology, Finance, Manufacturing, Mining and Pharmaceuticals. The Group has policies in place to ensure that sales are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. The Group only sells to customers who are creditworthy and mitigates risk in certain markets by trading on terms with accelerated payments, bank guarantees and letters of credit. The Group monitors the creditworthiness of counterparties using publicly available information. As a result the Group's exposure to bad debts is not significant and default rates have historically been very low.

The Group is also exposed to credit risk arising from other financial assets, which comprise cash and short-term deposits. The Group's policy is that surplus funds are held with counterparties, who are either party to the Group's banking syndicate, or who are creditworthy counterparties. The Group only deals with banks with A-1 (S&P) / P-1 (Moody's) rating in order to manage this risk.

Notes to the financial statements

26. Financial instruments and related disclosures (continued)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Group ensures that it has sufficient cash or loan facilities to meet all its commitments when they fall due.

The risk is measured by review of forecast liquidity each month to determine whether there are sufficient credit facilities to meet forecast requirements and by monitoring any obligations, limits and covenants (where applicable) on a regular basis to ensure there are no expected significant breaches, which would lead to an "Event of Default". The only covenant relates to the use of revolving credit facility at each quarter end. The Group has been below the threshold for testing this covenant at every quarter end. There are no other covenants that apply to the Group.

The Group has a centralised treasury function that monitors and manages cash balances and cash flow forecasts for the operating entities. Cash flow forecasting is performed in the operating entities of the Group to ensure it has sufficient cash to meet operational needs while maintaining sufficient headroom on its undrawn committed borrowing facilities at all times, so that the Group does not breach on any of its borrowing obligations facilities. Such forecasting takes into consideration the Group's debt financing plans, covenant compliance, compliance with internal balance sheet targets and, if applicable, external regulatory or legal requirements – for example, any currency restrictions.

The Group is exposed to certain restrictions imposed by the terms of its debt facilities and the loans are secured by fixed and floating charges over the assets of the Group. A portion of cash flow from operations is used for the payment of interest and principal. The cash flow forecasts continue to demonstrate the strong cash generating ability of the business and its ability to operate within existing agreed banking facilities. For further details of the Group's borrowings see note 18.

At the year end the Group also had a revolving credit facility of \$238 million, which was undrawn and \$4.1 million of the undrawn amount was utilised as security for bank guarantees (2023: \$238 million facility; undrawn; \$4.7 million utilised as security for bank guarantees).

The carrying amount of the Group's non-derivative financial liabilities at fair values represents the maximum liquidity exposure. The maximum exposure to liquidity risk at the reporting dates was as follows:

		31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	Notes	\$000	\$000
Non-derivative financial liabilities – current:			
Trade payables	17	33,269	39,678
Accrued expenses and other payables ⁽¹⁾		232,287	263,760
Secured bank loans	18	5,350	5,350
Promissory notes	18	3,825	2,057
		274,731	310,845
Non-derivative financial liabilities – non-current:			
Secured bank loans	18	997,452	1,012,276
"A" preference shares	18	185,380	176,326
"B" preference shares	18	2,212,520	2,043,587
Promissory notes	18	7,151	2,906
		3,402,503	3,235,095
Total non-derivative financial liabilities		3,677,234	3,545,940

(1) Comprises note 17 balance less excluded items under IFRS such as local taxes and statutory related balances.

Notes to the financial statements

26. Financial instruments and related disclosures (continued)

Liquidity risk (continued)

The maturity profile of the contractual undiscounted cash flows of the Group's non-derivative financial liabilities is set out below.

31 March 2024 In \$000	Total	Contractual undiscounted cash flows			
		12 months or less	1-2 years	2-5 years	More than 5 years
Non-derivative financial liabilities:					
Trade payables	33,263	33,263	-	-	-
Accrued expenses and other payables	232,287	232,287	-	-	-
Secured bank loans	1,418,562	92,137	91,653	1,234,772	-
"A" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	185,380	-	-	-	185,380
"B" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	2,212,520	-	-	-	2,212,520
Promissory notes	10,976	3,825	7,151	-	-
Total	4,092,988	361,512	98,804	1,234,772	2,397,900

31 March 2023 In \$000	Total	Contractual undiscounted cash flows			
		12 months or less	1-2 years	2-5 years	More than 5 years
Non-derivative financial liabilities:					
Trade payables	39,678	39,678	-	-	-
Accrued expenses and other payables	263,760	263,760	-	-	-
Secured bank loans	1,520,128	91,589	91,104	101,320	1,236,115
"A" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	176,326	-	-	-	176,326
"B" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	2,043,587	-	-	-	2,043,587
Promissory notes	4,963	2,057	2,906	-	-
Total	4,048,442	397,084	94,010	101,320	3,456,028

(1) As disclosed in note 18, the preference shares are redeemable by the Company on the 20th anniversary of their issuance or a liquidation, whichever is earlier.

It is not expected that the cash flows included in the maturity analysis could occur at significantly different amounts.

Notes to the financial statements

26. Financial instruments and related disclosures (continued)

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in the market prices, such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates, will affect the Group's income. Other risks include recession impacting geographies or sectors the Group operates in.

ERM's business is derived in a large part from the petroleum, manufacturing, chemical, pharmaceutical, mining, power, infrastructure and technology industries. A major change in one or more of these industries could result in significant changes in the market for environmental services and ERM's business, which could give rise to temporary or long-term challenges or setbacks for ERM, which may adversely affect operations, financial condition and results of operations.

These risks are managed by strong reporting, control and forecasting over cash flows. Management monitors macro-economic trends and the impact on business or sector performance and, if necessary, takes appropriate action to mitigate risks.

The Group's indebtedness is drawn in US Dollars and Euros to provide a natural hedge against these currencies, being the major currencies in which the Group operates. This provides an economic hedge without derivatives being entered into and therefore hedge accounting is not applied in these circumstances.

Currency risk

The Group operates internationally and is, therefore, exposed to foreign exchange risk which can negatively impact revenue, costs, margins and profit.

The Group's exposure to transaction risk on the translation and conversion of trade transactions is not considered significant to warrant any income statement and balance sheet hedging. A natural hedge is in place as costs are typically in the same currency as sales for ERM entities.

The currency risk is also managed through the use of foreign currency bank accounts.

In order to minimise the Group's exposure over funding costs, such as funding for business acquisitions, the Group's policy allows funds to be raised in currencies other than US Dollars. Where this is done the borrowing will be treated as a natural hedge against net assets in that currency and documented and designated as such.

The level of Group monetary assets and liabilities at the reporting date in currencies other than the local currency of operation is not significant. Monetary assets and liabilities refer to cash, deposits, borrowings and other amounts to be received or paid in cash. Amounts exclude intercompany balances which eliminate on consolidation.

The Group's bank loans include EUR denominated term debt (see note 18(b)). At 31 March 2024 the balance outstanding on the EUR term debt was €495 million revalued to \$532 million at the balance sheet foreign exchange rate (31 March 2023: €495 million EUR debt revalued to \$535 million). The consolidated income statement includes foreign exchange movements on revaluation of the EUR debt, reported within financial income and expenses. The table below discloses the impact on financial income / expenses of a 10% increase / decrease in USD against EUR.

<i>Impact</i>	USD 10% Strengthening		USD 10% Weakening	
	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended	Year ended
	31 March 2024	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
Financial income / (expense)	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Financial income / (expense)	40,811	41,241	(49,880)	(50,406)

Notes to the financial statements

26. Financial instruments and related disclosures (continued)

Interest rate risk

The Group's indebtedness is drawn in US dollars and Euros to provide a natural hedge against the major currencies in which the Group operates. The Group is exposed to the risk of interest rate fluctuations mainly with regard to the interest expense on the external debt. The Group's bank borrowings incur variable interest rates charged at USD SOFR / EURIBOR plus a fixed margin.

The Group assesses whether interest rate hedges should be entered into on a regular basis. The Group has entered into arrangements for interest rate caps and swaps to hedge against the increase of interest rates on the bank loans. The caps and swaps minimise sensitivity to rises rates without impacting existing participation in falling rates. The interest rate caps and swaps have not been designated as hedging instruments.

Details of the Group's caps and swaps are set out in the tables below.

Cap amount CCY'000	Interest rate cap terms		Fair value asset 31 March 2024 \$000
USD 300,000	4-year 2.285% IR Cap on 3M USD SOFR ⁽¹⁾	31 March 2022 to 31 March 2026	12,906
USD 125,000	3-year 3.2725% IR Cap on 3M USD SOFR ⁽²⁾	30 September 2022 to 30 September 2027 ⁽³⁾	2,754
EUR 125,000	3-year 2.5% IR Cap on 3M EURIBOR	30 September 2022 to 30 September 2025	1,602
			17,262

Swap amount CCY'000	Interest rate swap terms		Fair value (liability) 31 March 2024 \$000
EUR 150,000	3-year fixed 3.1065% swap on 3M EURIBOR	31 March 2023 to 31 March 2026	(316)
EUR 50,000	3-year fixed 3.324% swap on 3M EURIBOR	31 March 2023 to 31 March 2026	(336)
			(652)

(1) Amended from 2.5% on 3M USD LIBOR to 2.285% on 3M SOFR effective from 29 September 2023.

(2) Amended from 3.5% on 3M USD LIBOR to 3.2725% on 3M SOFR effective from 29 September 2023.

(3) Expiry date extended from 30 September 2025 to 30 September 2027 subsequent to the year end on 4 May 2024.

At the reporting date the interest rate profile of the Group's interest bearing financial instruments was as follows:

Carrying amount	31 March 2024 \$000	31 March 2023 \$000
Fixed rate instruments		
"A" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	185,380	176,326
"B" preference shares ⁽¹⁾	2,212,520	2,043,587
Promissory notes	10,976	4,963
	2,408,876	2,224,876
Variable rate instruments		
Cash and cash equivalents	(192,873)	(206,722)
Senior credit facility	1,031,830	1,051,809
	838,957	845,087

(1) Subject to non-cash accrued dividends

Notes to the financial statements

26. Financial instruments and related disclosures (continued)

Based on current operating profits the Group's interest coverage is 1.9x thereby providing sufficient headroom to enable the Group to pay its interest expenses on outstanding debt. The ratio is calculated by dividing the Group's operating profit before net transaction costs, amortisation and impairment, net financial expenses and income taxes by the Group's bank interest expense for the year.

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The current effective rate of interest applied to the Group's debt facilities is calculated as 3 month USD SOFR or 3 month EURIBOR rate both subject to a floor of 0.00% plus a margin of between 3.25% and 3.75%. At 31 March 2024, 3 month USD SOFR was 5.30% (2023: LIBOR 5.16%) and 3 month EURIBOR was 3.90% (2023: 3.02%).

The Group's sensitivity to a change in interest rates by +/- 1% on floating rate borrowings (bank borrowings which attract interest at floating rates) would affect the consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of other comprehensive income and equity for the year by approximately \$2.8 million (2023: \$4.6 million).

Capital risk

The Group's objectives when managing capital (defined as net cash plus equity) are to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern whilst seeking to optimise returns to its shareholders. The Board's policy is to retain a strong capital base so as to maintain investor, creditor and market confidence, and to sustain future growth. The Directors regularly monitor:

- The Group's level of capital to ensure that this can be achieved. This is measured on the basis of the net debt leverage ratio. This ratio is calculated as net debt divided by total earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation. Net debt is calculated as total borrowings (including 'current and non-current borrowings' as shown in the consolidated statement of financial position) less cash and cash equivalents.
- Performance versus annual budget and quarterly forecasts.

Cash is used to fund the Group's continued investment and growth of the global brand. It is also used to make routine payments of capital expenditure and tax. The Group also has access to the multi-currency revolving credit facility of \$238 million which was undrawn at 31 March 2024 (\$4.1 million of the undrawn amount was utilised as security for bank guarantees). (31 March 2023 undrawn; \$4.7 million utilised as security for bank guarantees).

The Group is in compliance with the limited financial and other obligations, limits and covenants within its committed bank credit facilities, and has been in compliance throughout the historical period.

Fair value disclosures

The carrying amount of financial assets and liabilities approximate their fair values. The majority of the financial assets are current. The majority of the current interest-bearing liabilities are at variable interest rate. The fair values of the non-current fixed rate interest-bearing liabilities are not materially different from their carrying amounts.

The fair values of financial assets and liabilities, including liabilities held at amortised cost, are approximately equal to the carrying values of the non-derivative financial assets and the carrying values of non-derivative financial liabilities.

The Group did not have any financial instruments designated as hedging instruments as at 31 March 2024 (31 March 2023: none).

Notes to the financial statements

27. Investment in subsidiaries

Details of the related undertakings which the Group and the Company hold, directly or indirectly are shown below. All companies either carry out the principal activities of the Group, namely the provision of sustainability & climate change, safety and digital services to clients, or are holding companies. The address key refers to the registered office address which is provided in the subsequent table.

		Share class	Holding %	Country of incorporation	Address key
<i>North America</i>					
Coho Climate Advisors LLC	*	Interests	100	USA	1
ERM Consultants Canada Ltd.	*	Common	100	Canada	2
	*	Preferred	100		
Environmental Resources Management Michigan, Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	3
Environmental Resources Management Southwest, Inc.	*	Class A	100	USA	4
	*	Class B	100		
Environmental Resources Management, Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	5
ERM Alaska, Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	6
ERM Certification & Verification Services Incorporated	*	Common	100	USA	7
ERM Consulting & Engineering, Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	8
ERM Emerald US Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	9
ERM Information Solutions, Inc.	*	Common A	100	USA	4
	*	Common B	100		
	*	Common C	100		
ERM NC, Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	10
ERM-Delaware, Inc.	*	Common	100	USA	9
ERM-NA Holdings Corp.	*	Common	100	USA	12
Shelton Communications Group, Inc.	*	Ordinary	100	USA	13
SustainAbility, Inc	*	Ordinary	100	USA	1
<i>United Kingdom</i>					
Action Media Safety Ltd.	*	Ordinary	100 1	UK	14
Arcus Consultancy Services Limited	*	Ordinary	100 1	UK	15
Critical Resource Strategy & Analysis Limited	*	Ordinary	100 1	UK	15
CSA Global (UK) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
E4Tech (UK) Ltd	*	Ordinary	100 1	UK	15
Eagle 4 Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
Element Energy Limited	*	Ordinary	100 1	UK	15
Emerald 2 Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
07006868 Limited	*	Ordinary	100 2	UK	15
	*	Ordinary B	100		
Environmental Resources Management Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM-Asia Pacific Holdings, Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM Certification and Verification Services Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM Climate Markets Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	
Dolphyn Hydrogen Limited	*	Ordinary	100 3	UK	16
Dolphyn Hydrogen - Celtic Sea SPV Limited	*	Ordinary	100 4	UK	16
Dolphyn Hydrogen - North Sea SPV Limited	*	Ordinary	100 5	UK	16

* Held by subsidiary undertaking (holding % shown is the holding % by ERM Group as a whole).

(1) The subsidiary is undergoing liquidation process.

(2) During the year the name was changed from Engineering Safety Consultants Ltd to 07006868 Limited.

(3) During the year the name was changed from ERM Dolphyn Holdco Limited to Dolphyn Hydrogen Limited.

(4) During the year the name was changed from ERM Dolphyn SPV1 Limited to Dolphyn Hydrogen - Celtic Sea SPV Limited.

(5) During the year the name was changed from ERM Dolphyn SPV 2 Limited to Dolphyn Hydrogen - North Sea SPV Limited.

Notes to the financial statements

27. Investment in subsidiaries (continued)

		Share class	Holding %	Country of incorporation	Address key
<i>United Kingdom (continued)</i>					
Engineering Safety Consultants Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	1	UK 16
ERM Eurasia Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM-Europe, Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM International Services Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM (Overseas Holdings) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
ERM Regulatory Services Limited	*	Ordinary	100	2	UK 15
ERM Worldwide Group Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
First Option Safety Group Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
Libryo Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
MarineSpace Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
Nature Bidco Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
Nature Midco Limited		Ordinary	100	3	UK 16
Operational Excellence (Opex) Group Ltd	*	Ordinary A	100	UK	17
	*	Ordinary B	100		
	*	Ordinary C	100		
	*	Ordinary Y	100		
	*	Ordinary Z	100		
	*	Preference	100		
SustainAbility Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
The Fifth Business (Scotland) Limited	*	Ordinary A	100	2	UK 14
	*	Ordinary B	100		
The Renewables Consulting Group Limited	*	Ordinary	100	UK	16
<i>EMEA</i>					
Environmental Resources Management-ERM N.V.	*	Ordinary	100	Belgium	18
ReachCentrum SA	*	Registered	100	Belgium	18
ERM Denmark ApS	*	Ordinary	100	Denmark	20
ERM France SAS	*	Ordinary	100	France	21
Emerald Germany GmbH	*	Ordinary	100	Germany	22
ERM GmbH	*	Ordinary	100	Germany	22
ERM Consultants (Ghana) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Ghana	23
ERM-ESL JV Ghana Limited	*	Common	90	Ghana	23
ERM Environmental Resources Management Ireland Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Ireland	24
ERM Italia S.p.A.	*	Ordinary	100	Italy	25
ERM Eurasia Limited Liability Partnership	*	Ordinary	100	Kazakhstan	26
ERM Consulting East Africa Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Kenya	27
Environmental Resources Management Mozambique, SU, LDA	*	Ordinary	100	Mozambique	28
ERM Holdings B.V.	*	Registered	100	Netherlands	29
Environmental Resources Management Nederland B.V.	*	Ordinary	100	Netherlands	19
Sustainalize B.V.	*	Ordinary	100	Netherlands	19
Sustainalize Holding B.V.	*	Ordinary	100	Netherlands	19
The Fifth Business B.V.	*	Ordinary	100	Netherlands	19
RePlan ERM Consulting Nigeria Limited	*	Ordinary	100	2	Nigeria 30
ERM Norway AS	*	Ordinary	100	Norway	31

* Held by subsidiary undertaking (holding % shown is the holding % by ERM Group as a whole).

(1) During the year the name was changed from ERM Emilion Ltd to Engineering Safety Consultants Ltd.

(2) The subsidiary is undergoing liquidation process.

(3) The ERM International Group Limited directly owns Nature Midco Limited.

Notes to the financial statements

27. Investment in subsidiaries (continued)

		Share class	Holding %	Country of incorporation	Address key
<i>EMEA (continued)</i>					
The Renewables Consulting Group (Nordic) AS	*	Ordinary	51	Norway	32
ERM Polska Sp.z.o.o.	*	Ordinary	100	Poland	33
ERM Portugal - Consultores em Engenharia do Ambiente, LDA	*	Quotas	100	Portugal	34
ERM Environmental Resources Management S.R.L	*	Ordinary	100	Romania	35
ERM (Senegal) SARL	*	Ordinary	100	Senegal	36
Arcus Consultancy Services (South Africa) Proprietary Limited	*	Ordinary	100	South Africa	37
CSA Global South Africa (Pty) Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	South Africa	38
Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Proprietary) Limited	*	Ordinary	74.965 1	South Africa	38
Standards & Legal (RF) Proprietary Limited	*	Ordinary	100	South Africa	39
Environmental Resources Management Iberia, SAU	*	Class A	100	Spain	40
	*	Class B	100		
E4tech S.àr.l.	*	Ordinary	100	Switzerland	41
ERM Swiss GmbH	*	Ordinary	100	Switzerland	41
ERM Consulting Tanzania Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Tanzania	42
<i>Asia Pacific</i>					
ACN 077 165 532 Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100 2	Australia	43
Emerald Newco Pty Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
ERM Australia Pacific Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
ERM Emilion Australia Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
ERM Services Australia Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
ERM Australia Consultants Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
Point Advisory Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
The Big Middle Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
The Big Zero Australia Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
The Big Zero Pty Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Australia	43
ERM (Shanghai) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	China	44
ERM CVS (Shanghai) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	China	44
ERM China (Holdings) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Hong Kong	45
ERM-China Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Hong Kong	45
ERM-Hong Kong, Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Hong Kong	45
ERM India Private Limited	*	Equity	100	India	46
PT CSA Global Indonesia	*	Ordinary	100	Indonesia	47
PT. ERM Indonesia	*	Ordinary	100	Indonesia	47
ERM Japan Ltd.	*	Common	100	Japan	48
The Renewables Consulting Group KK	*	Ordinary	100 2	Japan	48
ERM Sumi TRUST Consulting Limited	*	Ordinary	65	Japan	49
ERM Korea Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Korea	50
ReachCentrum Asia Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Korea	50
Environmental Resources Management (M) Sdn. Bhd.	*	Ordinary	20 1	Malaysia	51
ERM Asia Pacific (M) Sdn. Bhd.	*	Ordinary	100	Malaysia	51
ERM Technical Services (M) Sdn. Bhd.	*	Ordinary	100	Malaysia	51
ERM Myanmar Company Limited	*	Ordinary	100 2	Myanmar	52

* Held by subsidiary undertaking (holding % shown is the holding % by ERM Group as a whole).

(1) The subsidiary is consolidated as the Group has the right to exercise dominant influence over the subsidiary Board.

(2) The subsidiary is undergoing liquidation process.

Notes to the financial statements

27. Investment in subsidiaries (continued)

		Share class	Holding %	Country of incorporation	Address key
<i>Asia Pacific (continued)</i>					
ERM New Zealand Limited	*	Ordinary A	100	New Zealand	53
CSA Global (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	*	Ordinary	100	Singapore	54
Environmental Resources Management (S) Pte Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Singapore	54
Environmental Resources Management Taiwan Co., Ltd	*	Ordinary	100	Taiwan	55
The Renewables Consulting Group (Taiwan) Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Taiwan	56
ERM-Siam Co., Ltd.	*	Ordinary	49 ¹	Thailand	57
ERM Vietnam Company Limited	*	Ordinary	100	Vietnam	58
<i>Latin America</i>					
ERM Argentina S.A.	*	Ordinary	100	Argentina	59
ERM Brasil Ltda.	*	Quotas	100	Brazil	60
NINT - Natural Intelligence Ltda.	*	Quotas	100	Brazil	61
ERM-Chile S.A.	*	Ordinary	100	Chile	62
Environmental Resources Management Colombia Ltda.	*	Quotas	100	Colombia	63
ERM Guyana Inc.	*	Common	100	Guyana	64
ERM-Mexico, S.A. de C.V.	*	Common A	100	Mexico	65
	*	Common B	100		
Environmental Resources Management Panama S.A.	*	Common	100	Panama	66
ERM Peru S.A.	*	Common	100	Peru	67
Environmental Resources Management Puerto Rico, Inc.	*	Common A	100	Puerto Rico	68
	*	Common B	100		

* Held by subsidiary undertaking (holding % shown is the holding % by ERM Group as a whole).

(1) The subsidiary is consolidated as the Group has the right to exercise dominant influence over the subsidiary Board.

The companies listed below have a statutory accounting period ended on a date other than 31 March. All other Group companies have a statutory accounting period to 31 March.

	Country of incorporation
CSA Global South Africa (Pty) Ltd	South Africa
ERM (Shanghai) Limited	China
ERM Brasil Ltda.	Brazil
ERM-Chile S.A.	Chile
Environmental Resources Management Colombia Ltda.	Colombia
ERM-Mexico, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico
ERM Peru S.A.	Peru
NINT - Natural Intelligence Ltda.	Brazil
ERM Eurasia Limited Liability Partnership	Kazakhstan
ERM Environmental Resources Management S.R.L.	Romania
ERM (Senegal) SARL	Senegal

Notes to the financial statements**27. Investment in subsidiaries (continued)**

As permitted by section 479A of the Companies Act 2006, the company intends to take advantage of the audit exemption in relation to the individual accounts of the following companies:

	<i>Registered number</i>
CSA Global (UK) Limited	06506117
ERM-Asia Pacific Holdings, Limited	03067139
ERM Eurasia Limited	02451345
ERM International Services Limited	03771741
ERM (Overseas Holdings) Limited	03698847
SustainAbility Limited	02108210
MarineSpace Limited	05945946
The Renewables Consulting Group Limited	08809841

The registered office addresses for the subsidiaries are set out below, with reference to the 'address key' in the preceding tables:

Address key	Address
1	850 New Burton Road, Suite 201, Dover, Delaware, 19904, United States
2	900-885 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 3H1, Canada
3	25 E. 8th Street, Suite 220, Holland MI 49423, United States
4	840 West Sam Houston Parkway North, Suite 600, Houston, Texas 77024, United States
5	75 Valley Stream Parkway, Suite 200, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355, United States
6	900 E. Benson Blvd., Suite 480, Anchorage, AK 99508, United States
7	1155 Perimeter Center, West Suite 1100, Atlanta GA 30338, United States
8	One Beacon Street, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108, United States
9	1105 N. Market Street, Suite 1300, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, United States
10	300 West Summit Avenue, Suite 330, Charlotte NC 28203, United States
11	111 E Jackson Ave suite 201, East Jackson Avenue, Knoxville, Knox County TN 37915, United States
12	75 Valley Stream Parkway, Suite 200, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355, United States
13	111 E Jackson Ave suite 201, East Jackson Avenue, Knoxville, Knox County TN 37915, United States
14	Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 8EB, United Kingdom
15	1 More London Place, London, England, SE1 2AF, United Kingdom
16	2nd Floor Exchequer Court, 33 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8AA, United Kingdom
17	18 Carden Place, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB10 1UQ, United Kingdom
18	3rd Floor, Central Gate, Canterbury 47, Brussels, 1000, Belgium
19	Catharijnesingel 47, 3511 GC, Utrecht, UT, Netherlands
20	Business Center Winghouse, 73 Ørestads Boulevard, 2300, København, Denmark
21	13 Rue Faidherbe, Paris, 75011, France
22	Siemensstrasse 9, Neu-Isenburg, 63263, Germany
23	PwC Tower, A4 Rangoon Lane, Cantonments City, PMB CT42, Cantonments, Accra, Ghana
24	D5 Nutgrove Office Park, Dublin 14, D14 X343, Ireland
25	Via San Gregorio 38, Milan, 20124, Italy
26	Office 709, 86 Gogol str., Almaty, 050000, Republic of Kazakhstan
27	c/- Ikigai Lavington, 2nd Floor, JGO Building, LR. NO.3734/173, 90 James Gichuru Road, Nairobi, Nairobi County, Kenya
28	Torres Rani, Av da Marginal, Lote Nr 141, 6 Andar, Maputo, Mozambique
29	Arthur van Schendelstraat 460, Utrecht, 3511 MJ, Netherlands
30	33 Ogunlowo Street, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
31	Bygg D, Andoyfaret 33, Kristiansand, 4623, Norway

Notes to the financial statements

27. Investment in subsidiaries (continued)

Address key	Address
32	Colletts gate 7, 0169 OSLO, Norway
33	Ul. Chmielna 134, Warsaw, 00-805, Poland
34	Avenida da Repúblca, 6, 1.º Esq, 1050-191, Lisboa, Portugal
35	145 Calea Victoriei, 7th Level (8th Floor), Sector 1, Bucharest, 010072, Romania
36	AZUR 15 Building, 12, Boulevard Djily MBAYE,Dakar, BP 50555, Senegal
37	240 Main Road, 1st Floor Great Westerford, Rondebosch, Western Cape, 7700, South Africa
38	Building 32, The Woodlands Office Park, Woodlands Drive, Woodmead, Johannesburg, 2148, South Africa
39	The Great Westerford, First Floor, 240 Main Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town, Western Cape, 7700, ZA
40	Paseo de la Castellana 257, 2 ^a planta, 28046, Madrid, Spain
41	Techno-Pole 4,Sierre, 3960, Switzerland
42	Amani Place, 7th Floor, Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
43	Level 14/207 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia
44	Suite 2005 Litong Plaza, No.1350 Sichuan North Road, Shanghai, 200080, China
45	Flat/RM 2509, 25/F, One Harbourfront, 18 Tak Fung Street, Hung Hom, Hong Kong
46	B-I/flat no-1770, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, 110070, India
47	Sinarmas MSIG Tower, 37th Floor Unit 37-124, Jalan Jend. Sudirman Kav. 21, RT.10/RW.1, Kuningan, Karet, Kacamantan Setiabudi, Kota Jakarta Selatan, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta, 12920, Indonesia
48	Landmark Tower 19F, 2-2-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 220-8119, Japan
49	1F-3F, Otemachi Building, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
50	12F Samhwa Tower, 16, Eulji-ro 5-gil, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea
51	52, 1st Floor, Jalan SS 21/58, Damansara Utama, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan 47400, Malaysia
52	Room 408 (A), 4th Floor, Prime Hill Business Square, No. 60, Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Yangon (West), Yangon Region, Myanmar
53	MinterEllisonRuddWatts, Level 22, PwC Tower, 15 Customs Street West, Auckland Central, Auckland, 1010, New Zealand
54	88 Market Street, #40-16 CapitaSpring, 048948, Singapore
55	11F, No.223, Songjiang Rd, Zhongshan District, Taipei City, Taiwan
56	Taipei 101 Tower Level 37, No. 7, Sec. 5, Xinyi Road, Taipei, Taiwan
57	179 Bangkok City Tower, 24th Floor, South Sathorn Road, Thungmahamek, Sathorn, Bangkok, 10120, Thailand
58	7th Floor, Saigon Finance Center, 9 Dinh Tien Hoang Street, Dakao Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
59	Av. Cabildo 2677 Piso 6, Buenos Aires, C1428AAI, Argentina
60	Avenida Luis Carlos Berrini, 105 – 17º andar - cj. 171, Cidade Monções, São Paulo/SP, Brazil, 04571-010
61	Rua Lauro Müller, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 22290-160, Brazil
62	Cruz del Sur 133 of, 802 Las Condes, Santiago, Chile
63	Cra 16 No 93A-36 Piso 6,Bogota, Colombia
64	Lot 210 New Market Street, Georgetown, Guyana
65	Mariano Escobedo #476, 13th floor, Colonia Nueva Anzures, Mexico City, 11590, Mexico
66	Century Tower, Piso 17, Oficina 1705, Via Ricardo J. Alfaro, Panama City, 0832-0588, Panama
67	Calle Las Orquideas 675, Interior 402, San Isidro, Lima, 27, Peru
68	G-8 O'neill St, San Juan, PR, 00918, Puerto Rico

28. Non-controlling interests

The non-controlling interest relates to The Renewables Consulting Group (Nordic) AS.

	2024	2023
Cost and carrying amount	\$000	\$000
At 1 April	(7)	(10)
Share of retained profit for the year	7	3
At 31 March	-	(7)

Notes to the financial statements

29. Ultimate parent company

The parent and ultimate parent company is Nature Topco UK Limited, a limited company registered in England and Wales. The smallest group within which the results of the Company are consolidated is The ERM International Group Limited, and the largest group with which the results of the Company are consolidated is Nature Topco UK Limited. The consolidated financial statements of Nature Topco UK Limited are available to the public and can be obtained from their registered address at 11th Floor 200 Aldersgate Street, London, England, EC1A 4HD.

As at 31 March 2024, the shareholdings in The ERM International Group Limited are held 68.45% by Nature Topco UK Limited and 31.55% by ERM management (comprised of approximately 703 individual shareholders). The shareholdings of Nature Topco UK Limited are held 50.03% by KKR Patagonia Aggregator L.P., 39.97% by KKR Core Investor (L) SCSp (both of which are ultimately controlled by KKR & Co. Inc, a Delaware corporation publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange), 10.00% by Alba-KKR Core International SCA (a Luxembourg partnership limited by shares), and a nominal shareholding is held by the ERM Group Employee Benefit Trust.

30. Events since the balance sheet date

On 30 May 2024, ERM Emilion Australia Pty Ltd entered into an agreement to purchase 100% of the share capital of Energetics Group Holdings Pty. Limited for initial cash consideration of AUD 20,000,000. ERM have submitted an investment proposal to the Australian Government Foreign Investment Review Board ("FIRB") and await their decision on approval of the sale. The deal will not be complete until this approval to proceed is granted; this is expected in July 2024. There are several other pre-completion conditions to be satisfied that are being worked on between ERM and the sellers.

Deferred payments of up to AUD 2,500,000 are dependent upon continued employment of certain individuals and hence will be accrued as a post-acquisition expense once the conditions for payment have been met.

By acquiring Energetics, ERM will further strengthen its position as the leading climate change advisory business in Australia and New Zealand, with a team of over 150 people. By adding 100 consultants and specialists to ERM's circa. 520 people in Australia, ERM strengthens its position as a leader in sustainability consulting in the region, offering clients strategic advice and practical, on-the-ground implementation expertise.