Company Registration No. 3003569 (England and Wales)

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The directors present the strategic report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Review of the business
NLA media access limited licenses content from more than 14,000 UK and international newspaper, magazine, newswire and digital only titles and more than 20 foreign collective management organisations; earning copyright royalties for the reproduction of their print and web content. It licenses organisations that reproduce news content; media monitoring organisations (MMOs) providing press and web monitoring services; public relations consultancies; private and public sector organisations that monitor press media coverage. NLA charges a fee for its licences, based on the type and volume of reproduction and the size of the organisation; it retains a percentage of the licence fee to cover its administration and development costs and pays the balance to the publishers. NLA media access licences are not exclusive, as these 'secondary publishing' rights can also be obtained directly from publishers, but NLA provides a convenient 'collective management' service which benefits publishers and users of content. NLA also operates a searchable database of published content - eClips - which receives content directly from publishers and makes it available to media monitoring organisations to create services for their clients. NLA services more than 40 such organisations in the UK and overseas. NLA also provides a number of services to publishers including Clipshare, a content database used by more than 6,000 journalists, and Text Tracker, a copyright infringement tracking and takedown service.

Development and performance of the business during the financial year
As a business that serves the publishing industry and has a diverse client base, NLA experienced challenges in 2021 due to the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Certain areas of the business continued to perform well however an increase in licence cancellations and focus on cost-saving measures by clients led to a decline in publisher royalties.

After prolonged market consultation, the company launched it Simplified Licence in May 2020. The launch has been a success and uptake has been in line with expectations.

NLA launched an Extended Access licence in late 2018 responding to feedback from the markets it serves. The extension allows licensees to access content for print and web content for up to 365 days, a significant improvement on the standard 28 days for print and 100 days for web content. Uptake of this continues to grow. NLA launched an Indefinite Access licence in April 2021 that allows licensees to access content for as long as they hold an NLA licence. Uptake of this extension has been promising.

2021 was the eighth full year of licensing the print and web edition content of magazine publishers. The royalties for this part of the business increased by 5% in the year; royalties for national and regional newspaper publishers also saw increase of 12% and 1% over the previous year. Royalties paid to all publishers were £38.68m.

Key performance indicators
NLA has monitored its performance through 2021 and its progress on its overall strategy by reference to the following KPIs:

KPI	2021	2020	Definition, method of calculation and analysis
Turnover £m	£49.63	£48.20	Turnover in 2021 is up YoY by 3%. The increase reflects partial recovery from the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as increased take up of new products (Simplified License, Extended Access, Indefiite Access).
Licensing royalties £m	£38.68	£38.90	NLA pays the licensing royalties to publishers and retains a smaller % to cover its administration costs. Overall distribution was lower due to board decision to invest in key technology projects and resource, as well as costs related to exiting London and refurbishing the headquarters at Tunbridge Wells, with future economic benefits to be had.
Ratio (£m / Turnover)	78%	81%	
Debtor days	33	38	The NLA licence requires payment within 30 days of invoice and credit control processes are used to ensure adherence to this license term. Return of businesses to the office has helped improve collection period.

Position of the company at the end of 2021 and prospects for 2022
Despite the many challenges, NLA media access ended 2021 with a strong licensee base and plans to continue developing revenues for all publishers.

The range of products and services will continue to be broadened in 2022: to meet the changing needs of media monitoring organisations and publishers; implementing technological developments; protecting publishers' rights over their content; and responding to client demand. The Simplified Licence was launched in May 2020, to sit alongside our Business Licence, to offer users of content an alternative and simpler way to remain copyright compliant. Future revenue growth will come from continued diversified offerings and the company is making progress in this area. The development of current products will continue as magazine publications, regional titles and international content evolves. NLA has also continued to outsource development of certain eClips database processes to speed up progress of title on-boarding, quality control and feed delivery.

The Covid-19 pandemic has undeniably impacted the UK economy. In 2021, NLA continued to see an increased number of cancellations and clients reducing their media monitoring activity. As an annual subscription business, we expect this trend to continue for some, however early signs of recovery and increasing budgets are being seen in certain sectors.

Risks facing the business
NLA is preparing for further decline in licensing revenue as users of content review their media monitoring needs with a view to maintaining lower costs. NLA's news content supply chain may be affected depending on how well content publishers manage the challenges ahead. It is likely that the amount of published news content will reduce as smaller publishers may be irretrievably impacted by the downturn in the economy and larger publishers may lower their pagination. NLA's key suppliers are BCMS (business continuity management system) certified, and the risk of service interruption is considered low.

In the medium term there is a risk that monitoring of print edition content may be replaced by monitoring of web content at a faster rate than anticipated in our business planning; or that publications may reduce pagination or be closed and therefore be unavailable to license. These risks are somewhat mitigated by the development of new products and services to meet demand.

In the longer term, there is a risk that legislation could have a detrimental effect on copyright licensing. Although there is always potential for legislative changes to have unforeseen consequences, we believe that the risk is low, as the UK government understands well the value of effective copyright and the role of effective licensing in supporting the creative sector of the economy.

By order of the board

HT Jones
Director

24 March 2022

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Principal activities
NLA media access limited represents the intellectual property rights of prominent publishing brands in the UK – more than 14,000 newspaper and magazine print and web titles – in the media monitoring market. The company also operates a database providing content and services to media monitoring agencies and publishers, containing 155 million articles from print and web publications. The combination of licensing and database services provided by NLA media access enables UK and international businesses to access published content in an efficient and copyright-compliant way.

Directors
The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

RMJ Ashton	PA Hunter (appointed 18 March 2021)
AW Bannister	L Bailey (appointed 27 April 2021)
A Geere	T Hudson (appointed 6 December 2021)
RAG Hahn	D Parasoglou (appointed 17 December 2021)
S Hanbury	HJ Wilson (appointed 9 June 2021 and resigned on 30 November 2021)
HT Jones	OL Meredith (resigned 31 May 2021)
ZR Leonard	AJ Moore (resigned 18 June 2021)
JT Mann	K Teh (resigned 31 December 2021)
CP Marshall	
FL McKenna	

Results and dividends
The results for the year are set out on page 7.

No ordinary dividends were paid. The directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend.

Charitable donations
During the year the company donated £100,000 (2020: £100,000) to the Journalism Diversity Fund. The company continues to set aside an element of licence fee income for charitable purposes. The company made no political donations in the year.

Auditor
At the annual general meeting held on 14 November 1996 the members invoked section 379A of the Companies Act by passing an elective resolution as permitted by section 386 of the Act, to dispense with the obligation to appoint auditors annually.

Statement of disclosure to auditor
So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the board
Jessie Fung
J Fung
Secretary

24 March 2022

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of NLA Media Access Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the statement of total comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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.

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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the industry and sector, including the legal and regulatory framework that the company operates in and how the company is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and tax compliance regulations. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures, inspecting correspondence with local tax authorities and evaluating advice received from external tax advisors.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to The Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the company is in compliance with these law and regulations and whether the transparency report has been prepared in accordance with these requirements.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and risk of fraud in revenue recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. In respect of the risk of management override of controls, audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, and challenging judgments and estimates applied by management. In respect of the risk of fraud in revenue recognition audit procedures performed included but were note limited to data analytics procedures and substantive testing over revenue transactions.

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

Use of our report

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

RSM UK Audit LLP

Zoe Longstaff-Tyrrell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
The Portland Building
25, High Street
Crawley
RH10 1BG

28 March 2022

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	3	49,630,521	48,170,722
Cost of sales		(38,675,185)	(38,917,738)
Gross profit		**10,955,336**	**9,252,984**
Administrative expenses		(10,503,695)	(8,994,275)
Operating profit	4	**451,641**	**258,709**
Interest receivable and similar income	8	1,026	20,485
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		**452,667**	**279,194**
Taxation	10	(17,025)	(51,565)
Profit for the financial year		**435,642**	**227,629**
Total comprehensive income for the year		**435,642**	**227,629**

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

			2021		2020
	Notes	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**11**		542,493		296,554
Investments	**12**		2		2
			542,495		296,556
Current assets					
Debtors	**14**	6,892,439		7,787,401	
Investments	**15**	1,010,192		2,500,863	
Cash at bank and in hand		9,430,906		6,092,250	
		17,333,537		16,380,514	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	(16,345,668)		(15,582,347)	
Net current assets			987,870		798,167
Net assets			**1,530,365**		**1,094,723**
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	**19**		7		7
Capital redemption reserve	**19**		1		1
Profit and loss reserves			1,530,357		1,094,715
Total equity			**1,530,365**		**1,094,723**

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 24 March 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

CP Marshall
Director

HT Jones
Director

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Capital redemption reserve	Share capital	Profit and loss reserves	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 31 December 2020:				
Balance at 1 January 2020	1	7	867,086	867,094
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	227,629	227,629
Balance at 31 December 2020	1	7	1,094,715	1,094,723
Year ended 31 December 2021:				
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	435,642	435,642
Balance at 31 December 2021	1	7	1,530,357	1,530,365

NLA MEDIA ACCESS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from / (used in) operations	**22**		2,272,209		(341,764)
Taxes (paid) refunded			(76,224)		(41,565)
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities			2,195,985		(383,329)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(349,026)		(172,025)	
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-		-	
(Increase) / Decrease in sums held on long term deposit		1,490,671		(500,863)	
Interest received		1,026		20,485	
Net cash generated from / (used in) investing activities			1,142,671		(652,403)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			3,338,656		(1,035,732)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			6,092,250		7,127,982
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			9,430,906		6,092,250

1 Accounting policies

Company information
NLA media access limited is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Mount Pleasant House, Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1HJ.

The company's principal activities are disclosed in the Directors' Report on page 4.

Accounting convention
The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 including the provisions of The Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

Consolidation
The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The company has taken advantage of section 402 of the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare consolidated financial statements as the directors consider that the company's subsidiary may be excluded from consolidation as it is immaterial for the purpose of a true and fair view.

Going concern
The directors have considered whether the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate with reference to trading, profit, cash flow forecasts and also considering the ongoing impacts of the worldwide pandemic of Covid-19 that struck in 2020. The directors have forecast the profitability and cash flow of the company up to and beyond 12 months from the date of sign off on these financial statements, and conclude that the current cash position and forecast cash position are considered adequate to cover the ongoing costs of the business and the business has remained, and is forecast to remain, within its facilities. The directors are satisfied the company has adequate access to resources which will enable it to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. If revenue falls below forecast, the company can adjust its cost base and/or delay royalty payments to publishers so that it is able to meet its liabilities. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Turnover
Licensing revenue is recognised upon inception of a licence to reproduce media content. Revenue from overseas royalty collecting societies is recognised upon receipt of details of publisher attribution. Revenue from data access is recognised in the period for which it is due.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold improvements	over 10 years or the term of the lease
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	over 3 to 10 years

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the income statement.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fixed asset investments
Interests in subsidiaries are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

Impairment of fixed assets
At each reporting end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible 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 in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Financial instruments
Financial instruments are recognised in the company's Statement of Financial Position when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. The company has elected to apply the provisions of section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS102 to all its financial instruments. Financial instruments are classified into specific categories and the classification depends on the nature and purpose of the instruments and is determined at the time of recognition. The company's financial instruments are categorised as basic financial instruments.

Financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Trade debtors, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Trade, group and other creditors (including accruals) payable within one year that do not constitute a financing transaction are initially measured at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost, being transaction price less any amounts settled.

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities
A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flows expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Equity instruments
Equity instruments issued by the company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs. Dividends payable on equity instruments are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of the company.

Taxation
The tax expense represents the sum of the current tax expense. Current tax assets are recognised when tax paid exceeds the tax payable.

Current and deferred tax is charged or credited to the profit or loss, except when it relates to items charged or credited to other comprehensive income or equity, when the tax follows the transaction or event it relates to and is also charged or credited to other comprehensive income, or equity.

Current tax is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from total comprehensive income because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other periods. Current tax assets and liabilities are measured using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting period.

Employee benefits
The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits
The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme with pensions provided under an insurance company scheme. Contributions payable by the company are charged to the Statement of Total Comprehensive Income as they accrue.

Leases
Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the lease asset are consumed.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the company’s accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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.

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

Critical areas of judgement
Management makes judgements when categorising refurbishment expenditure between revenue and capital as to the nature of the work and whether the expenditure enhances the economic benefits of the asset and the period over which those economic benefits will be derived.

3 Turnover

An analysis of the company's turnover is as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Turnover		
Licensing royalties	45,209,587	44,082,287
Database	4,420,934	4,088,435
	49,630,521	48,170,722
Other significant revenue		
Interest income	1,026	20,485

Turnover analysed by geographical market

	2021	2020
	£	£
United Kingdom	49,630,521	48,170,722

4 Operating profit

	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating profit for the year is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	102,491	378,397
Operating lease charges	834,009	579,976
and after crediting:		
Rent and service charge income	42,681	116,236

5 Auditor's remuneration

	2021	2020
Fees payable to the company's auditor and its associates:	£	£
For audit services		
Audit of the company's financial statements	17,871	18,699
For other services		
Taxation compliance services	2,945	3,536
Audit-related services	3,563	5,664
All other non-audit services	-	1,494
	6,508	10,694

6 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Management	7	9
Sales	32	30
Production	21	19
Administration	12	11
Business development	5	5
	77	74

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	5,119,655	4,684,151
Settlement agreements	101,366	-
Social security costs	597,238	552,095
Pension costs	290,854	252,844
	6,109,113	5,489,090

Settlement agreements relate to £101,366 restructuring costs, which include PILON and ex gratia payments. These costs were recognised in the profit and loss account as staff costs in the period they relate to, and include £59,838 unpaid at the year end but accrued for in the accounts.

7 Directors' remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Remuneration for qualifying services	524,049	596,492
Company pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	32,824	27,927
	556,873	624,419

The number of directors for whom retirement benefits are accruing under defined contribution schemes amounted to 2 (2020 - 2).

Remuneration disclosed above include the following amounts paid to the highest paid director:

	2021	2020
Remuneration for qualifying services	325,811	386,063
Company pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	17,368	17,368

8 Interest receivable and similar income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest income		
Interest on bank deposits	1,026	20,485

9 Interest payable and similar charges

No interest or similar charges were payable in 2021 or 2020.

10 Taxation

	2021	2020
	£	£
Current tax		
UK corporation tax on profits for the current period	15,801	75,000
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	1,224	(23,435)
Total current tax	17,025	51,565
Total tax charge	17,025	51,565

The charge for the year can be reconciled to the profit per the income statement as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Profit before taxation	452,666	279,194
Expected tax charge based on a corporation tax rate of 19% (2020: 19%)	86,007	53,047
Tax effect of expenses in determining taxable profit	49	(1,631)
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	(70,846)	22,889
Foreign tax credits	592	695
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	1,224	(23,435)
Tax expense for the year	17,025	51,565

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2021	432,338	2,581,733	3,014,071
Additions	-	349,026	349,026
Disposals	-	(597)	(597)
At 31 December 2021	432,338	2,930,161	3,362,499
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2021	344,881	2,372,636	2,717,517
Depreciation charged in the year	33,256	69,235	102,491
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	378,137	2,441,871	2,820,008
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2021	54,201	488,292	542,493
At 31 December 2020	87,457	209,097	296,554

12 Fixed asset investments

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Investments in subsidiaries	13	2	2

Movements in fixed asset investments

	Shares
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2021 & 31 December 2021	2
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2021	2
At 31 December 2020	2

13 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate company financial statements for NLA media access limited.

The company owns the entire share capital of The Newspaper Licensing Agency Limited; incorporated in England on 13 May 1998; it has not traded since its incorporation; registered office Mount Pleasant House, Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1HJ. The net assets of the company as at 31 December 2021 and at 31 December 2020 amounted to £2.

14 Debtors

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	5,211,746	5,607,837
Other debtors	64,924	64,924
Prepayments and accrued income	1,615,769	2,114,640
	6,892,439	7,787,401

15 Current asset investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash on deposit	1,010,192	2,500,863

The company held assets in a money market account on 31 December 2021 and on 31 December 2020.

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	12,284,904	11,711,808
Other taxation and social security	521,483	517,444
Accruals and deferred income	3,539,281	3,353,095
	16,345,668	15,582,347

No pension contributions are included within accruals in 2021 and 2020.

17 Financial instruments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	6,507,164	7,338,090
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	2	2
	6,507,166	7,338,092
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	15,573,802	14,821,802

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

The charge to the Statement of Total Comprehensive Income in respect of defined contribution schemes was £290,854 (2020 - £252,844).

19 Share capital and reserves

	2021	2020
	£	£
Ordinary share capital		
Authorised		
1,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	1,000
Issued and fully paid		
7 Ordinary shares of £1 each	7	7

The company has one class of ordinary share which carry no right to fixed income. The shares have attached to them full voting, dividend and capital distribution (including on winding up) rights. They do not confer any rights of redemption.

During 2018, the Company purchased for £1, and then cancelled, one of its ordinary shares in order to comply with its constitution that a shareholding publisher may only hold one share. The maximum number of own shares held is one and this had a nominal value of £1. A capital redemption reserve arose on the purchase and cancellation of this share and this represents the nominal value of the share acquired.

20 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

Operating lease payments represent rentals payable by the company for certain of its properties. Leases are negotiated for an average term of 5 years and rentals are fixed for an average of 5 years.

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	176,796	608,564
Between two and five years	397,791	574,587
	574,587	1,183,151

21 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of directors and managers who are considered to be key management personnel, is as follows.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	1,599,929	1,184,895

No guarantees have been given or received.

One share in the company is held by each of Associated Newspapers Limited, The Financial Times Limited, Guardian News & Media Limited, MGL2 Limited, News Corp UK & Ireland Limited, Telegraph Media Group Limited, and Independent Digital News & Media Limited. During 2018, the share held by Express Newspapers was purchased and cancelled by NLA Media Access Limited.

The shareholders have each given NLA a mandate to grant licences to third parties for the reproduction of newspaper content and to collect licence income from those third parties.

The royalties payable by the company to publisher shareholders during the year ended 31 December 2021 were £21,554,077 (2020: £19,461,282). Of this amount £4,155,340 (2020: £3,102,618) was unpaid at 31 December 2021. Non royalty invoices to publisher shareholders in the year totalled £188,793 (2020: £186,997) with £11,653 (2020: £17,853) unpaid at 31 December 2021.

22 Cash generated from operations	2021 £	2020 £
Profit for the year	452,667	279,194
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in profit or loss	(1,026)	(20,485)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	102,491	378,397
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	894,962	(328,191)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	823,115	(650,679)
Cash inflow / (outflow) from operations	2,272,209	(341,764)