DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors Peter Bateson

David Bowles Andrew Davies

Jonathan Owen (resigned 17 April 2024)

Michael King Martin McNeill Christopher Pope Elizabeth Sandwith

Registered number 09915776

Registered office 77 Mansell Street

England E1 8AN

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DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing 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 applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 '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 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 for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments 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 to 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.

Directors

The directors who served during the year were:

Peter Bateson
David Bowles
Andrew Davies
Jonathan Owen (resigned 17 April 2024)
Michael King
Martin McNeill
Christopher Pope
Elizabeth Sandwith

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Auditors

The auditors, Milton Avis LLP, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small companies note

In preparing this report, the directors have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf.

David Bowles Director	
Date:	

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 March 2024 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

Opinion 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 Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has 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 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; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Directors' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 1, 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD (CONTINUED)

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

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 gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Company and industry in which the company operates, and considered the risk of acts by the Company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to compliance with Companies Act 2006, and FRS 102.

We considered compliance with this framework and performed audit procedures on these areas as considered necessary. Our precedures involved enquiries with management, review of the reporting to the directors with respect to compliance with laws and regulation, review of board meeting minutes and review of legal correspondence.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the Company financial statements. Our tests included but were not limited to:

- . agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- . enquiries of management;
- . testing of journal postings made during the year to identify the potential management override of controls;
- . review of minutes of board meetings throughout the period; and
- . Obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD (CONTINUED)

Stephen Sampson (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of **Milton Avis LLP**

Chartered Accountant

120 Baker Street London W1U 6TU Date:

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Note		2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Turnover	4	2,974,887	2,441,612
Cost of sales		(1,683,673)	(831,225)
Gross Income		1,291,214	1,610,387
Administrative expenses		(428,655)	(354,999)
Operating Income		862,559	1,255,388
Surplus after tax		862,559	1,255,388
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year		879,631	1,369,243
Surplus for the year		862,559	1,255,388
Transfers out of accumulated fund		(860,000)	(1,745,000)
Retained earnings at the end of the year The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.		882,190	879,631

SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD REGISTERED NUMBER: 09915776

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Note			2024 £		As restated 2023
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		1,895		-
		•	1,895	-	-
Current assets					
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	7	108,762		222,887	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	6,582,007		5,701,051	
	•	6,690,769	-	5,923,938	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(60,474)		(154,307)	
Net current assets	•		6,630,295		5,769,631
Total assets less current liabilities			6,632,190	-	5,769,631
Net assets			6,632,190	-	5,769,631

SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS LTD REGISTERED NUMBER: 09915776

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Note		2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Capital and reserves			
Market Development	10	1,430,000	1,000,000
Procurement Reserve	10	200,000	200,000
General Reserve	10	450,000	450,000
Redistribution Reserve	10	2,920,000	2,490,000
Discontinuance Reserve	10	250,000	250,000
Indemnity Fund	10	250,000	250,000
Projects Reserve	10	250,000	250,000
Accumulated Fund	10	882,190	879,631
		6,632,190	5,769,631

The Company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on

David Bowles

Director

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Market Development Reserves	Procurement Reserves	General Reserve	Redistribution Reserves	Discontinuance Fund	Indemnity Fund	Projects Reserves	Accumulated Fund	Total equity
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	-	100,000	1,345,000	-	1,200,000	500,00	-	1,369,243	4,514,243
Comprehensive income for the year									
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,255,388	1,255,388
Transfers	1,000,000	100,000	(895,000)	2,490,000	(950,000)	(250,000	250,00	(1,745,000)	-
At 1 April 2023	1,000,000	200,000	450,000	2,490,000	250,000	250,00	250,00	879,631	5,769,631
Comprehensive income for the year									
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	862,559	862,559
Transfers	430,000	-	-	430,000	-	-	-	(860,000)	-
At 31 March 2024	1,430,000	200,000	450,000	2,920,000	250,000	250,00	250,00	882,190	6,632,190

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. General information

Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales with a registered office of 77 Mansell Street, London, E1 8AN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Company's accounting policies (see note 3).

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Revenue recognition

The Company sets the scale fees in respect of the audit of Local Councils. For administrative purposes, it requires Audit firms to invoice the opted-in bodies on its behalf and to act as its collecting agents in respect of those fees. The Company in turn invoices those Audit firms at the scale fee adjusted for its remuneration.

The accounting policy has been changed in order to reflect real and contractual arrangements between the Company and its suppliers of those services, resulting in a restatement of the prior year comparatives.

2.3 Pensions

Defined contribution pension plan

The Company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Company in independently administered funds.

2.4 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery

- 3 year useful life

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in profit or loss.

2.5 Debtors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

2.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

2.7 Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

3. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In application of the Company's accounting policies management are required to make judgments, estimations and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimation and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. These assumptions are reviewed on a ongoing basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	TOR THE TEAR ENDED ST MIARCH 2024		
4.	Turnover		
	Analysis of turnover by country of destination:		
		2024 £	As restated 2023 £
	United Kingdom	2,974,887	2,441,612
	- - -	2,974,887	2,441,612
	All turnover arose within the United Kingdom.		
5.	Employees		
	The average monthly number of employees, including the directors, during the	e year was as	follows:
		2024	2023
		No.	No.
	Employees	7	5
6.	Tangible fixed assets		
			Plant and machinery £
	Cost or valuation		
	Additions		2,843
	At 31 March 2024		2,843
	Depreciation		
	Charge for the year on owned assets		948
	At 31 March 2024		948
	Net book value At 31 March 2024		1,895

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Trade debtors	106,820	221,577
Prepayments and accrued income	1,942	1,310
	108,762	222,887

8. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	6,582,007	5,701,051
	6,582,007	5,701,051

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Other taxation and social security	53,724	135,368
Accruals and deferred income	6,750	18,939
	60,474	154,307

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. Reserves

Indemnity Reserve

The original Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) required the Company to establish and maintain an 'Indemnity Fund' to cover any costs related to auditors' work that may not be recoverable from authorities, especially where an auditor has taken legal action, and to indemnify audit firms for legal costs relating to any judicial review.

Reserve is consistent with the original government requirements

General Reserve

The General Reserve has no specific purpose and is held to ensure funds are available for contingencies and provide financial strength to the balance sheet. The recommended guideline is between 3 and 12 months of net revenue expenditure.

Redistribution Reserve

The joint procurement, along with 100% participation of Smaller Authorities and low inflation has left the company in a strong position. The company has conducted consultation with representatives of Smaller Authorities on how this may be shared and redistributed to smaller authorities as part of the benefits of procurement at scale. The sector bodies support investing in projects which will streamline the audit process and support good governance. The bodies also support considering the use of reserves when the next contract is let to smooth out any potentially large increases in fees. Furthermore at this time, the results of the governments 'reform' stage of the review of local audit will be known and any impact on Smaller Authorities better understood. SAAA will continue to support the sector and will consult with them further on the effective use of SAAA's reserves, including this redistribution reserve.

Market Development Reserve

Given the current problems in the principal authority market and impact of higher than anticipated inflation in recent years, there could be capacity issues which may require changes to be made to contracting and pricing arrangements. The initial reserve established in 2022/2023 has been increased this year in order to accommodate any such changes.

Projects Reserve

Large strategic project costs are likely in future years such as the potential ongoing AGAR digitisation project, which could incur high costs if full digitisation is thought to be a desirable development, and other projects may require the appointment of project managers or IT specialists for a fixed term.

Procurement Reserve

This reflects the anticipated costs involved in undertaking the next 5 yearly audit contracts procurement due in 2026, which is likely to require structure with added complexity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves (cont.)

Discontinuance Reserve

In the event of winding up, dissolution or any significant amendment to the articles of association, the Company as a non-for-profit company is committed to distribute any surpluses and reserves to a party or parties nominated by the Secretary of State, potentially the opted-in smaller authorities.

This reserve was established to estimate the costs that might be incurred if the Company was to be discontinued; for instance, if the Redmond Review or similar authorities should all be administered by the same organisation.

11. Prior year adjustment

The Directors have reviewed the historic accounting policy for recognising revenue and have now changed it to more accurately reflect the contractual relationship between itself and its customers. The effect of the change in the accounting policy is to restate the revenue and gross income. Previously, these figures were disclosed in note 2 to the accounts and have no effect on the retained earnings for the year.

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		2,974,887	2,441,612
Cost Of Sales		(1,683,673)	(831,225)
Gross Income		1,291,214	1,610,387
Less: overheads			
Administration expenses		(428,655)	(354,999)
Operating Income		862,559	1,255,388
Surplus for the year		862,559	1,255,388

SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Turnover		
Sales	2,764,907	2,388,738
Other income	209,980	52,874
	<u>2,974,887</u>	2,441,612
	2024 £	As restated 2023 £
Cost of sales		
Audit costs	1,683,673	831,225
	<u> 1,683,673</u>	831,225

SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Administration expenses		
Current Staff		
Staff salaries	63,537	-
Staff national insurance	4,118	-
Staff pension costs - defined contribution schemes	500	-
Staff training	549	-
Staff Travel	749	-
Directors		
Directors fees	78,235	94,943
Directors national insurance	16,987	-
Board fees	1,648	43,147
Board development	6,331	-
Contractors		
Subcontractor costs	87,091	136,610
Administrative Costs		
Rent - operating leases	18,177	13,374
Computer costs	7,551	6,739
QRP Program	14,673	-
Website management	4,126	-
Subscriptions	2,161	-
HR costs	6,197	-
Postage	4	-
Depreciation - plant and machinery	948	-
Telephone and fax	1,121	-

SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Project costs and grants		
JPAG and AGAR	10,000	-
Payment to SLCC	-	50,000
Grant expenses	8,000	-
Project digitalisation	39,670	-
Legal and other costs		
Legal and professional	39,878	107
Auditors' remuneration	1,499	6,607
Accountancy fees	8,405	-
Debtor management	2,446	-
Bank charges	163	76
Insurances	3,891	3,396
Total Expenditure	428,655	354,999