

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 01575236

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2025

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2025

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Publishers' Licensing Services Limited
Company Limited by Guarantee
Officers and Professional Advisers

The board of directors	D C Conway (PA) D M Dixon (ALPSP) A R Freeman (PA) S L Fricker (ALPSP) R P Glazebrook - Chair S Merali (PPA) B C Shine (IPG) W C Sime (ALPSP) S Voss (PPA) T J L Williams (IPG) T H H West - Chief Executive H Kogan (IPG) M Walford (PA) M P Cianfarani (PPA)
Company secretary	D G Williams
Registered office	6 Hays Lane, Third Floor, London England SE1 2HB
Auditor	Moore Kingston Smith LLP Chartered accountants & statutory auditor 10 Orange Street London United Kingdom WC2H 7DQ

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors' Report

Year ended 31 March 2025

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Principal activities and review of the business

The principal activity of the Publishers' Licensing Services Limited (PLS) is to represent the interests of publishers in the collective management of their rights and to distribute collective licensing revenue to publishers. PLS's other services to publishers include a permissions clearance service and guidance on best practice in rights management.

Publishers Authorising PLS To Manage Their Collective Licensing Rights

PLS held active Accounts for 4,499 (2024: 4,411) publishers at the year end.

Collective Licensing

PLS works closely with a number of other collective management organisations to deliver the benefits to publishers of effective collective licensing including the following: :

- a) The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) continues to be PLS's primary licensing agent, collecting revenues from the education, public and business sectors for copying and using extracts from books, journals, magazines and websites under (a) licences which it negotiates and issues in the UK and (b) its bilateral agreements with equivalent reproduction rights organisations overseas. PLS works in conjunction with the other members of CLA in overseeing its work on behalf of right holders. The members of CLA are the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) representing authors, and visual artist organisations, Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS) and Picture Industry Collecting Society for Effective Licensing (PICSEL).
- b) NLA media access (NLA), PLS's licensing agent for those magazine publishers that have instructed PLS to license the copying and use of their titles to the business and government sectors through NLA.

Revenue

PLS received collective licensing revenue for the year of £52.3m (2024: £49.5m) from the following sources:

- CLA: £47,785,246 (being the publishers' share of CLA revenues) (2024: £44,910,666) and
- NLA: £4,540,599 (being the publishers', authors' and visual artists' share of NLA revenues) (2024: £4,608,148).

Other sources of revenue for the year included:

- Stichting Reprorecht for publishers' public lending rights in the Netherlands: £50,526 (2024: £51,879) and
- PLSclear: generated gross revenues for publishers of £585,855 (2024: £636,679).

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

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Directors' Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2024/25	2023/24	% change
	£	£	
Collective Licensing			
CLA			
Education	16,893,656	15,932,737	6.0%
Business	20,552,393	18,729,166	9.7%
Government	2,374,336	2,174,483	9.2%
NHS	1,188,642	1,125,422	5.6%
Document delivery	30,385	76,394	(60.2%)
Media monitoring	319,662	225,165	42.0%
Foreign	5,411,304	5,644,124	(4.1%)
CLA Exceptional Distribution	1,014,867	1,003,175	1.2%
CLA Total	47,785,246	44,910,666	6.4%
NLA media access	4,540,599	4,608,148	(1.5%)
	52,325,844	49,518,814	5.7%
Other revenue			
PLR (Netherlands)	50,526	51,879	(2.6%)
PLSclear	585,855	636,679	(8.0%)
Total	52,962,225	50,207,372	5.5%

Distributions

Distributable collective licensing revenue was £49.8m (2024: £47.5m), after deduction of PLS 6% administration fee, and was processed in accordance with the PLS Distribution Charter and the Distribution Timetable, both available on the website at www.pls.org.uk.

The distributable revenue received by PLS from CLA and Stichting Reprerecht was allocated and distributed to publishers. CLA deducts the shares payable to authors and visual artists before distribution to PLS.

The distributable revenue received by PLS from NLA included the shares payable to authors and visual artists. In accordance with the decision in the Rights Valuation, effective 1 January 2016, and as reflected in the Distribution Charter, PLS paid the shares due to authors (17.5%) and visual artists (10%) to ALCS and to DACS and PICSEL respectively for onward distribution prior to distributing NLA revenues to publishers.

A small part (under 1.5% on average per licence sector) of the monies PLS receives from CLA is for copying and use of works owned by publishers who have not previously signed a Publisher Account Form. PLS employs two members of staff who are dedicated to tracing such publishers and inviting them to sign up to PLS so that the monies allocated to the copying of their works can be released to them. Largely as a result of this work 79 publishers returned a PLS Publisher Account Form over the course of the year.

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Directors' Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

PLS Services

In 2025 we brought together our various collective licensing services and responsibilities under a single brand: **PLS Collect**. PLS Collect provides publishers with direct access to UK and international collective licensing. Our service enables publishers to easily manage and track licensing via a user-friendly platform, with regular payments when content is used.

PLSclear is our bespoke permissions management tool that makes it easy to request and grant permission from books, journals, magazines, and online content. Use of the service continues to grow, with the number of publishers using the service to manage their permissions increasing by 38% in the last 12 months to 512.

Access to Research provides users of UK public libraries with free walk-in access to millions of scholarly articles. In 2024 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the service.

PLS's **Rights & Licensing Hub** and the work of the **PLS Rights Group** to promote rights management best practice was an important strategic priority. We launched a popular mentorship scheme and grew direct engagement with our Rights Management Essentials online training by 27%. The Rights Group welcomed two new co-chairs, and established a strategic partnership with US-based Book Industry Studies Group (BISG).

Over the course of the year all services were delivered in accordance with the PLS code of conduct.

Working with Publishers

PLS manages direct relationships with 4,500 publishing organisations: from those that publish single titles, through to multinational STM journal and consumer book publishers. Our publisher engagement programme caters for the full range, ensuring that we maintain close contact and transparency, and working to address the needs of all. In 2024-25 we maintained that engagement through a combination of in-person and online meetings including in-person account review meetings at the London and Frankfurt Book Fairs.

We ran extended consultations on AI licensing including a formal consultation on a CLA Workplace AI licensing extension which is due to launch in Q1 2025-26.

In July we hosted our second all-day conference in London, open to all PLS registered publishers and partner stakeholders. A record number of delegates enjoyed a day of practical seminars and the latest updates from the world of rights and licensing.

PLS sponsored, attended, and presented at various industry conferences over the course of the year, all of which provided valuable opportunities to connect with publishers and support the industry.

Policy and Copyright

PLS has continued to work in close partnership with its trade association members, with CLA and all its members, NLA media access, and various industry bodies including the British Copyright Council and Alliance for IP to support the interests of publishers. The dominant policy issue throughout the year was once again generative AI and the ongoing exchanges between big tech and the creative industries over the unauthorised use of copyright protected works. PLS has played an active role both in supporting industry initiatives and campaigns including the Creative Rights in AI Coalition

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Directors' Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

(CRAIC) and the Make It Fair campaign. We have consistently championed the role of collective licensing in maintaining an orderly marketplace - one that balances the needs of users with respect for copyright and fair remuneration for rightsholders. In February PLS submitted a response to the UK Government's consultation on Copyright and AI.

Compliance and Code of Conduct

PLS is regulated under the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016 and continues to ensure that its governance and operations are compliant with the Regulations.

PLS staff continue to work in accordance with the PLS Code of Conduct. No complaints were received during the year.

Office relocation

In December, PLS moved from its offices at WeWork, St Katharine Docks (London EC3), to new premises at 6 Hays Lane, London SE1, secured under a long-term lease.

Status

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up, each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company such amount as may be required but not exceeding £1. The members of the Company are:

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) Independent Publishers Guild (IPG)
Professional Publishers Association Limited (PPA)
The Publishers Association Limited (PA)

Results

The result for the year is shown in the Income Statement on page 13.

Directors

Up to three directors are nominated by each of the members and approved by the Board. The Chair is appointed by the Board and is independent of the members. The Chief Executive is appointed by the Board. The following directors have held office since 1 April 2024:

RP Glazebrook, Chair	BC Shine (IPG)
THH West – Chief Executive	WC Sime (ALPSP)
MP Cianfarani (PPA) (Appointed 28/11/2024)	S Voss (PPA)
DC Conway (PA)	M Walford (PA)
DM Dixon (ALPSP)	TJL Williams (IPG)
AR Freeman (PA)	ACR Yeates (PPA) (Resigned 27/11/2024)
SL Fricker (ALPSP)	
H Kogan (IPG)	
S Merali (PPA)	

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors' Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

PLS purchased and maintained throughout the financial year directors' liability insurance in respect of itself and for its directors. This gives appropriate cover for any legal action brought against PLS or its directors.

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 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 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 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 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.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP, formerly Shipleys LLP was appointed as auditor to the company by the Directors and in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put at a General Meeting

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Directors' Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board of directors on**2 June 2025**..... and signed on behalf of the board by:



T H H West - Chief Executive
Director

Registered office:
6 Hays Lane, Third Floor,
London
England
SE1 2HB

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Publishers' Licensing Services Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the income statement, statement of financial position 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 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 March 2025 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.

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Publishers' Licensing Services Limited *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 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.
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Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Publishers' Licensing Services Limited *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

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 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.

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 obtained an understanding of the company's activities, controls and laws and regulations and assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement from irregularities, including fraud.

We determined that the laws and regulations that are most significant to the company are those relating to the reporting framework (FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)), the Companies Act 2006 and the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to detecting irregularities, including fraud. Testing undertaken included making enquiries on the management; journal entry testing; review of bank letters; review of board minutes; review of transactions for any undisclosed related party transactions; reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

These procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error.

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Publishers' Licensing Services Limited *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Publishers' Licensing Services Limited *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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.

Signed by:



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Tim Hardy (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
10 Orange Street
London
United Kingdom
WC2H 7DQ

16/6/2025

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Income Statement

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Copyright fees received		52,962,226	50,207,372
Distributable to rightsholders		(49,822,456)	(47,487,682)
Turnover		3,139,770	2,719,690
Administrative expenses		(3,015,473)	(3,017,545)
Operating surplus	5	124,297	(297,855)
Other interest receivable and similar income	8	352,478	297,855
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation		476,775	–
Taxation	9	(127,028)	124
Profit for the financial year		<u>349,747</u>	<u>124</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the year as set out above.

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited**Company Limited by Guarantee****Statement of Financial Position****31 March 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	10	76,804	88,476
Tangible assets	11	215,488	10,709
		<u>292,292</u>	<u>99,185</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	1,869,511	1,560,687
Investments	13	5,159,255	4,149,313
Cash at bank and in hand		4,984,792	6,862,246
		<u>12,013,558</u>	<u>12,572,246</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(11,085,638)</u>	<u>(11,834,364)</u>
Net current assets		<u>927,920</u>	<u>737,882</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,220,212</u>	<u>837,067</u>
Provisions		<u>(47,992)</u>	<u>(14,594)</u>
Net assets		<u><u>1,172,220</u></u>	<u><u>822,473</u></u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss account		1,172,220	822,473
Members funds		<u><u>1,172,220</u></u>	<u><u>822,473</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on ...**2 June 2025**....., and are signed on behalf of the board by:



T H H West - Chief Executive
Director

Company registration number: 01575236

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 6 Hays Lane, Third Floor,, London, SE1 2HB, England.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Section 1A of FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The directors have considered the results for the year and the balance sheet at the accounting date. The directors specifically considered the company's forecasts and are satisfied that the company is in a position to meet its liabilities as they fall due over the next twelve months from the date these financial statements are approved.

Cashflow statement

The company has taken advantage of the small companies exemption from preparing a cashflow under the terms of FRS 102 Section 1A.

Turnover

Turnover consists of the subvention retained by the company (net of VAT) from the amounts receivable for disbursement. The company recognises the income as it becomes legally entitled to it once the revenue is distributed to publishers. Turnover also includes income received from PLS Permissions service. The income is recognised once the permission fees have been received.

Income tax

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Income tax *(continued)*

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses.

Amortisation

Amortisation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful life of that asset as follows:

Computer Software	-	3 years
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If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in amortisation rate, useful life or residual value of an intangible asset, the amortisation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Property improvements	-	Over term of occupation
Computer equipment	-	3 years

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised at amortised cost.

Defined contribution plans

The company makes payments on behalf of employees to a defined contribution scheme. The contributions are charged against income for the period on which the contributions are due.

4. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up, each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company such amount as may be required but not exceeding £1.

5. Operating surplus

Operating profit or loss is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amortisation of intangible assets	60,473	73,918
Depreciation of tangible assets	20,079	4,310
Impairment of trade debtors	5,396	—
Auditor's remuneration - audit services	19,610	19,000
Auditor's remuneration - other services	5,250	5,090
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year, including the directors, amounted to:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Management and administration	19	19
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the year, relating to the above, were:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,047,955	1,005,823
Social security costs	120,838	98,220
Other pension costs	111,078	105,388
	<u>1,279,871</u>	<u>1,209,431</u>

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

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Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

7. Directors' remuneration

The directors' aggregate remuneration in respect of qualifying services was:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Remuneration	192,279	164,507
Company contributions to defined contribution pension plans	18,758	18,695
	<u>211,037</u>	<u>183,202</u>

The highest paid director of the company received emoluments of £150,538 (2024: £69,851) and pension contributions of £18,758 (2024: £11,251).

One director is accruing pension benefits under a defined contribution pension scheme (2023: one).

8. Other interest receivable and similar income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>352,478</u>	<u>297,855</u>

9. Taxation

Major components of tax expense/(income)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current tax:		
UK current tax expense	93,630	3,404
Deferred tax:		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	28,789	(3,528)
Impact of change in tax rate	4,609	—
Total deferred tax	<u>33,398</u>	<u>(3,528)</u>
Taxation	<u>127,028</u>	<u>(124)</u>

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

9. Taxation *(continued)*

Reconciliation of tax expense/(income)

The tax assessed on the profit on ordinary activities for the year is higher than (2024: lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25% (2024: 19%).

	2025	2024
	£	£
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	476,775	–
Profit on ordinary activities by rate of tax	119,194	–
Effect of expenses not deductible for tax purposes	3,225	(124)
Impact of change in tax rate	4,609	–
Tax on profit	<u>127,028</u>	<u>(124)</u>

10. Intangible assets

	Computer Software £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	1,820,401
Additions	48,801
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,869,202</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2024	1,731,925
Charge for the year	60,473
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,792,398</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	<u>76,804</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>88,476</u>

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

11. Tangible assets

	Property improvements £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	–	27,427	27,427
Additions	218,829	6,029	224,858
At 31 March 2025	<u>218,829</u>	<u>33,456</u>	<u>252,285</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	–	16,718	16,718
Charge for the year	14,588	5,491	20,079
At 31 March 2025	<u>14,588</u>	<u>22,209</u>	<u>36,797</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	<u>204,241</u>	<u>11,247</u>	<u>215,488</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>–</u>	<u>10,709</u>	<u>10,709</u>

12. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	1,369,236	1,366,129
Prepayments and accrued income	104,011	60,607
Other debtors	396,264	133,951
	<u>1,869,511</u>	<u>1,560,687</u>

13. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Short-term deposits	<u>5,159,255</u>	<u>4,149,313</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	647,110	879,353
Subvention due back to publishers	–	175,370
Accruals and deferred income	325,796	188,786
Corporation tax	93,630	3,404
Social security and other taxes	28,350	740,030
Publisher's fees	9,307,389	9,166,117
Contributor's fees	683,363	681,304
	<u>11,085,638</u>	<u>11,834,364</u>

Publishers' Licensing Services Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

15. Deferred tax

The deferred tax included in the statement of financial position is as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Included in provisions	47,992	14,594

The deferred tax account consists of the tax effect of timing differences in respect of:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accelerated capital allowances	47,992	14,594

16. Operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	56,572	66,300
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	301,716	–
Later than 5 years	333,145	–
	691,433	66,300

17. Related party transactions

R P Glazebook, A R Freeman, M Walford and S Voss served as directors of the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA), from which the company received the majority of its copyright fee revenue, of which R P Glazebrook is also joint chair.

The four member bodies, being The Publishers Association (PA), Professional Publishers Association (PPA), Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) and Independent Publishers Guild (IPG) are each represented on the board by three directors.

During the year, fees totalling £151,056 (2024: £143,890) were paid to PA, PPA, IPG and ALPSP for governance.

Fees totalling £354,744 (2024: £560,974) were paid to PA, PPA, ALPSP and IPG for sponsorship and services provided.

The company was charged £120,204 (2024: £110,196) for finance services, £19,872 (2024: £17,760) for HR services, £6,000 (2024: £12,000) for project management services, £237,666 for relocation and office fit out (2024: £nil) and £35,459 (2024: £3,903) for premises and office related costs by CLA. The company charged £10,166 (2024: £10,956) to CLA for events and staff training. As at 31 March 2025 CLA had an accounts payable balance of £70,773 (2024: £nil), other debtors balance of £10,166 (2024: £nil) and accounts receivable balance of £nil (2024: £10,254).

During the year, the company entered into an agreement to rent office space from CLA until September 2034 with a break clause after 5 years. Payments to CLA will commence in the next financial year.