

Homeward Legal Limited

Annual report and financial statements

Registered number 07314708

31 December 2022

Unaudited



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Company information

Company registration number	07314708
Registered office	Bevan House Kettering Parkway Kettering Northamptonshire NN15 6XR
Directors	W D Herbertson (resigned 24 April 2023) C M Higham (resigned 24 April 2023) J D Saralis (resigned 24 April 2023) R G Rickwood (appointed 25 April 2023)
Secretary	K Cove (resigned 24 April 2023) EMW Ltd (appointed 25 April 2023)
Bankers	Virgin Money Birmingham Financial Solutions Centre Temple Point No.1 Temple Row Birmingham B2 5YB
Solicitors	EMW Seebeck House 1 Seebeck Place Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8FR

Strategic report

Principal activities

The Company is principally engaged in the provision of online marketing services for home buyers and sellers in England and Wales, on behalf of law firms and surveyors, providing access to providers of local authority and environmental searches.

Trading results

Turnover for the year ended 31 December 2022 is £1,195,622 (2021: £1,893,000), and operating loss for the year is £33,491 (2021: operating profit £57,000).

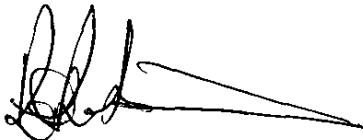
Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have the ultimate responsibility for setting the Company's risk appetite and for effective management of risk. Management of risk and review of key risks is performed when appropriate. The Directors consider that the Company does not currently face significant business or other risks and uncertainties over the short term other than the following:

Loss of key suppliers and customers

The Company uses a small number of key suppliers and works with a small number of key customers. The loss of these suppliers and customers could have a significant impact on the Company's operating ability and profitability. This risk is managed through a dedicated Business Development team and Client Care team who ensures our relationships with these key suppliers and customers are maintained.

By order of the board



R Rickwood
Director

21 July 2023

Seebeck House
1 Seebeck Place
Knowlhill
Milton Keynes
MK5 8FR

Directors' report

The Directors present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Directors

The Directors who held office during the year were as follows:

W D Herbertson
C M Higham
J D Saralis

Dividends

No dividends were paid in the current or prior year.

Going concern

The Company has a positive cash balance at the year end. After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the directors' report and financial statements.

Financial risk management

Through its activities the Company is exposed to a number of risks. The principal risks facing the business are set out below:

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Company's receivables from customers. Management consider the credit risk to be mitigated as a result of a regular review of the receivables balance for overdue accounts by a dedicated credit control function and accounts being put on hold where credit limits are reached.

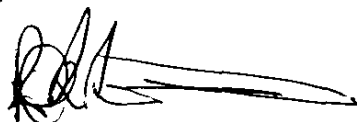
Indemnity provision

The Ultimate Parent Company of the Company maintained during the period and to the date of approval of the financial statements, indemnity insurance for its Directors and Officers against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, subject to the terms and conditions of the Companies Act 2006.

Future developments

Since the end of the financial period the business ownership changed, in April 2023, and is no longer a part of NAHL plc.

By order of the board



R Rickwood
Director

21 July 2023

Seebeck House
1 Seebeck Place
Knowlhill
Milton Keynes
MK5 8FR

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, 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 prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework", 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 the financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 101, have been followed; subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- 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 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.

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.

Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	<i>Note</i>	Year ended 31 December 2022	Year ended 31 December 2021
		£000	£000
Turnover	2	1,196	1,893
Cost of sales		(947)	(1,408)
Gross profit		249	485
Administrative expenses		(282)	(542)
Operating profit/loss	3	(33)	(57)
Profit on disposal of subsidiary		-	1,045
Profit/(Loss) before taxation		(33)	988
Taxation	7	(1)	1
Profit/(Loss) and total comprehensive income for the financial year		(32)	987

All results reported above arise from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
at 31 December 2022

	<i>Note</i>	December 2022 £000	December 2022 £000	December 2021 £000	December 2021 £000
Fixed assets					
Goodwill	8	-		-	
Investments		-		-	
Intangible assets		-		-	
Tangible assets	10	1		3	
			1		3
Current assets					
Debtors	11	236		307	
Cash at bank and in hand		69		172	
		305		479	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(222)		(365)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			83		114
Total assets less current liabilities			84		117
Provision for liabilities: deferred tax	13		(1)		(1)
Net assets/(liabilities)			83		116
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	16		1		1
Retained earnings			115		115
CY P&L			(32)		-
Total Equity			84		116

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

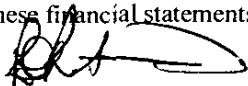
For the year ended 31 December 2022, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479A of the Companies Act relating to qualifying subsidiaries.

Members have not required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to the companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of Directors on 21 July 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



R G Rickwood

Director

Registered number: 07314708

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Called up Share Capital	Retained Earnings	Total equity
	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 1 January 2021	1	(872)	(871)
Total comprehensive income for the year			
Profit for the financial year	-	987	987
Total comprehensive income	-	987	987
Balance at 31 December 2021	1	115	116
Total comprehensive income for the year			
Loss for the financial year	-	(32)	(32)
Total comprehensive income	-	83	84
Balance at 31 December 2022	1	83	84

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

Homeward Legal Limited (the “Company”) is a private Company registered, incorporated and domiciled in the UK.

The registered number is 07314708 and the registered address is Bevan House, Kettering Parkway, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN15 6XR.

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

In preparing these financial statements, the Company applies the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of International Accounting Standards but makes amendments where necessary in order to comply with Companies Act 2006 and has set out below where advantage of the FRS 101 disclosure exemptions has been taken.

The Company is exempt by virtue of s400 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare group financial statements. These financial statements present information about the Company as an individual undertaking and not about its group.

In these financial statements, the Company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- a Cash Flow Statement and related notes;
- Disclosures in respect of capital management;
- Comparative period reconciliations for share capital, tangible fixed assets and intangible assets;
- The effects of new but not yet effective IFRSs;
- Disclosures in respect of the compensation of Key Management Personnel;
- Disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries.

As the consolidated financial statements of NAHL Group plc include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken the exemptions under FRS 101 available in respect of the following disclosures:

- IFRS 2 Share Based Payments in respect of group settled share-based payments;
- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement and the disclosures required by IFRS 7 Financial Instrument Disclosures;
- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 3 Business Combinations in respect of business combinations undertaken by the Company in the current and prior periods including the comparative period reconciliation for goodwill.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

1.1 Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

1.2 Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires management to make judgements and estimates that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates are based on past experience and other reasonable assessment criteria. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the year in which the estimates are revised and in any future years affected.

In applying these accounting policies, management have not identified any areas of judgement or estimates which are material to the amounts reported within the financial statements.

Accounting policies (*continued*)

1.3 Going concern

The Company has a positive cash balance at the period end and net assets of £69,000 (2021: net liabilities of £116,000). After making enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a consequence, the Directors believe that the Company is well placed to manage its business risks successfully. As part of normal management process, detailed projections of future trading are prepared, which include sensitivity analysis for possible changes in market or regulatory conditions. Based on these projections the Board remain positive about the Company's short and longer-term prospects. Accordingly, the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the directors' report and financial statements.

Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Non-derivative financial instruments

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise trade and other debtors, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, and trade and other creditors.

Trade and other debtors and cash and cash equivalents

Trade and other debtors and cash and cash equivalents are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses. Impairment losses for trade and other debtors are measured using the expected credit loss model as permitted by IFRS 9.

Trade and other creditors, loans and borrowings

Trade and other creditors are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.5 Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of fair value of the consideration given over the fair value of the Company's share of the net identifiable assets of the acquired entity at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is not amortised but is tested for impairment annually and again whenever indicators of impairment are detected and is carried at cost less any provision for impairment. Any impairment is recognised in the profit and loss account.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Where parts of an item of tangible fixed assets have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of tangible fixed assets.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Computer equipment 3 years
- Fixtures and fittings 3 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each balance sheet date.

1.7 Intangible assets

Software and assets under construction

Expenditure on internally generated brands is recognised in the profit and loss account as an expense as incurred.

Software that is acquired by the Company is stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and less accumulated impairment losses. Software assets are measured at the cost of bringing the asset into use. This may include externally incurred consultant costs or a proportion of internal time and salary where internal resource have been used to build the asset. Internally allocated time is based on hours spent bringing the asset into use multiplied by hourly salary rates.

The cost of an intangible asset acquired in a business combination is its fair value at the acquisition date.

Amortisation

Amortisation is charged to the profit and loss account within administrative expenses on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets unless such lives are indefinite. Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and goodwill are systematically tested for impairment at each balance sheet date. Other intangible assets are amortised from the date they are available for use. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Brands 3 years
- Other intangibles 3 years

1.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less any amount written off for permanent diminution in value.

1.9 Turnover

The Company receives income from the provision of online marketing services to target home buyers and sellers in England and Wales and offering lead generation services to Panel Law Firms and surveyors in the conveyancing sector. Management consider there to be one performance obligation being the delivery of instructions to the Panel Law Firms and surveyors. Revenue is recognised at a point in time being the transfer of instruction to the Panel Law Firm or surveyor as it is at this point at which the Company has no further obligations in respect of the instruction and so control of the instruction passes to the customer. The full transaction price being the contractually agreed upon fixed fee per instruction is recognised as revenue at this point. All turnover is stated net of Value Added Tax.

1.10 Pension costs

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the profit and loss account.

1.11 Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the period, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is provided on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

2 Turnover

All turnover is derived from the Company's principal business, being referral fees on Conveyancing and Survey transactions. All turnover arose within the United Kingdom.

3 Operating profit

Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Depreciation of fixed assets	1	1
Depreciation of right of use assets	-	-
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	-
Impairment of trade debtors	157	44
Government grants	-	-

Depreciation of fixed assets, depreciation of right of use assets and amortisation of intangible assets are recognised within administrative expenses.

4 Interest payable

Interest payable consists of:

	2022	2021
	£000	£000
Interest on lease liabilities	-	-

Notes (continued)

5 Directors' remuneration

The Directors received £nil emoluments in respect of their services to the Company (2021: £nil). £nil Director fees were charged to the Company's subsidiary undertaking, Searches UK limited, for services provided during the year (2021: £nil). Three Directors were paid by other members of the group of companies headed by NAHL Group plc (the 'Group') for services provided to multiple members of the Group.

6. Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Company (including Directors) during the year was as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2022	2021
Directors	3	4
Other	12	17
	15	21

7. Tax on profit

Recognised in the profit and loss account

Analysis of charge for the year

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
<i>UK corporation tax</i>		
Current tax on income for the year	-	-
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	-	-
Total current tax	-	-
<i>Deferred tax</i>		
Origination/reversal of timing differences	(1)	1
Total deferred tax	(1)	1
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(1)	1

Notes (continued)

8 Goodwill

	£000
Cost	
At 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	_____
Impairment	
At 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	_____ -
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2022	_____ -

9 Intangible assets

	Brands £000	Other £000	Asset under construction £000	Total £000
Cost				
Balance at 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	- _____	- _____	- _____	- _____
Amortisation and impairment				
Balance at 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	- _____	- _____	- _____	- _____
Net book value				
At 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2022	- _____	- _____	- _____	- _____

Notes (continued)

10 Tangible assets

	Computer equipment £000	Fixtures & fittings £000	Total £000
Cost			
Balance at 1 January 2022	4	-	4
Transfers from Group companies	-	-	-
Disposals	1	-	1
Balance at 31 December 2022	3	-	3
Accumulated depreciation and impairment			
Balance at 1 January 2022	6	-	6
Depreciation charge for the year	2	-	2
Disposals	(6)	-	(6)
Balance at 31 December 2022	2	-	2
Net book value			
At 31 December 2021	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	1	-	1

11 Debtors

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Trade debtors	236	307
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-
	236	307

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Trade creditors	20	2
Amounts owed to group undertakings	147	250
Taxation and social security	14	40
Accruals and deferred income	41	73
	222	365

Amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

Notes (continued)

13 Deferred taxation

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Asset/(Liability) at beginning of the year	-	-
Profit and loss account movement during the year	1	(1)
Deferred tax liability at end of year	1	(1)

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

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Accelerated capital allowances recognised on transfer of assets	(1)	1
	(1)	1

14 Capital commitments

The Company had no capital commitments at either 31 December 2022 or 31 December 2021.

15 Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities requiring disclosure at either 31 December 2021 or 31 December 2020

16 Called up share capital

Authorised:

	2022		2021	
	No.	£000	No.	£000
725 Ordinary shares of £1 each	725	1	725	1
	725	1	725	1

All classes of ordinary share carry equal rights over dividends, capital distribution and voting.

Allotted, called up and fully paid:

	2022		2021	
	No.	£000	No.	£000
Ordinary shares of £1 each	725	1	725	1
	725	1	725	1

Notes (continued)

19 Reserves

The following describes the nature and purpose of each reserve within equity:

Share capital - nominal value of share capital subscribed for.

Retained earnings the cumulative amount of all other net gains and losses and transactions with owners not recognised elsewhere.

20 Related parties

All of the Company's voting rights are controlled within the group headed by NAHL Group plc. The Company has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 101 and has therefore not disclosed transactions or balances with entities which form part of the group (or investees of the group qualifying as related parties). The consolidated financial statements of NAHL Group plc, within which this Company is included, can be obtained from the address given in note 21.

21 Ultimate parent Company and controlling party

The Company is a subsidiary undertaking of NAHL Group plc which is the ultimate parent and controlling party incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The smallest and largest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by NAHL Group plc, incorporated in the United Kingdom. No other group financial statements include the results of the Company. The consolidated financial statements are available to the public from the corporate website (www.nahlgroupplc.co.uk) or from the address below:

NAHL Group plc
Bevan House
Kettering Parkway
Kettering
Northants
NN15 6XR