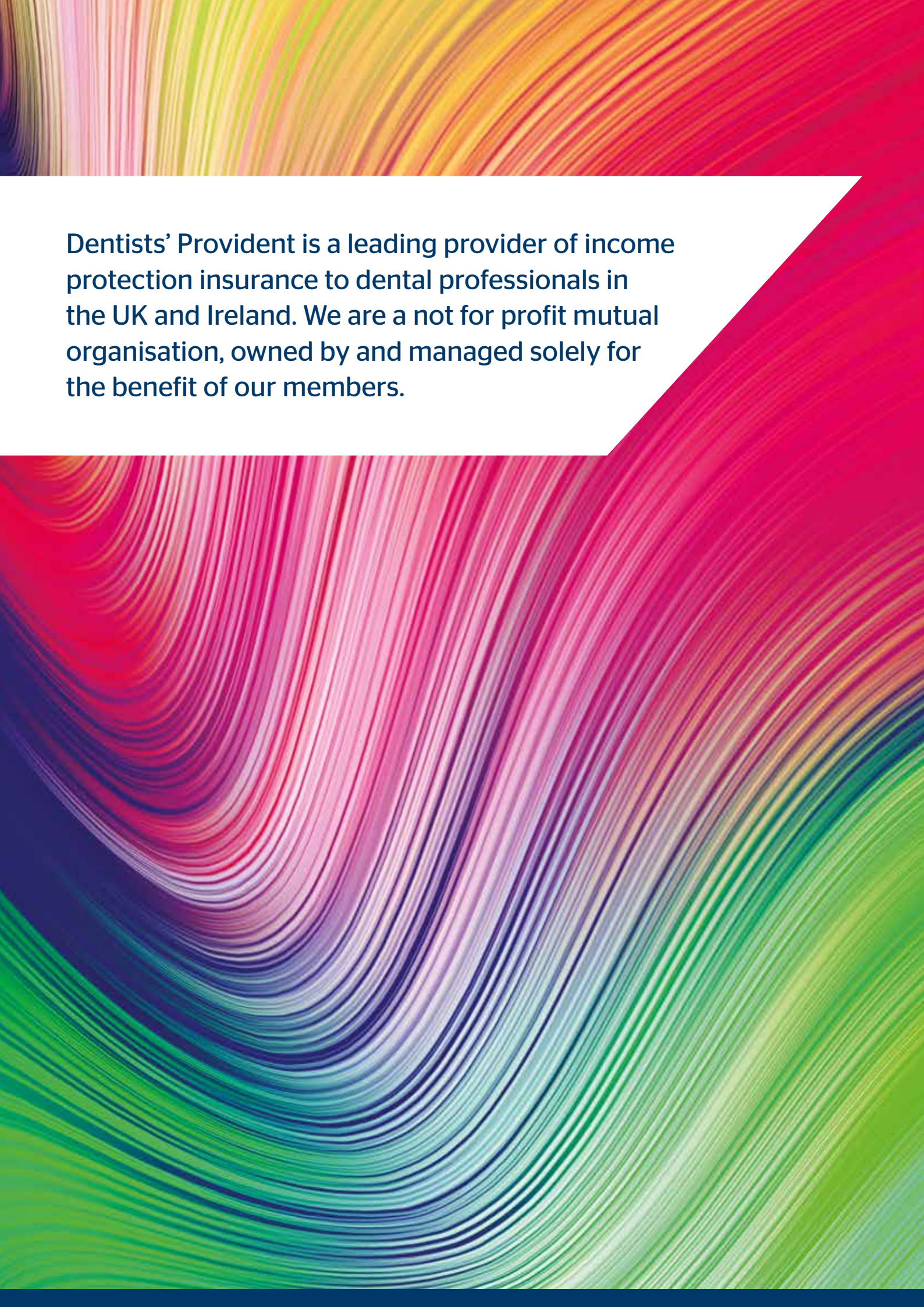




Annual Report 2023

**Dentists'
Provident**

Protecting your lifestyle. Securing your future.



Dentists' Provident is a leading provider of income protection insurance to dental professionals in the UK and Ireland. We are a not for profit mutual organisation, owned by and managed solely for the benefit of our members.

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Strategic report

Performance summary

Group financial summary	2023 £m	2022 £m	2021 £m	2020 £m	2019 £m
Membership premium income	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.6	14.1
Income and gains on investments	25.9	(15.9)	27.7	6.1	29.4
Income protection benefits paid	(5.2)	(5.6)	(5.4)	(5.9)	(5.0)
Exceptional item - Coronavirus support payment	—	—	—	(0.9)	—
Net operating expenses before depreciation	(4.3)	(3.9)	(3.4)	(3.5)	(3.8)
Bonuses to members	(7.5)	(7.3)	(6.9)	(7.3)	(7.4)
Total investment assets and cash	345.8	323.1	340.7	315.3	314.2
Members' bonus accounts	91.9	92.0	90.9	89.7	89.5
Operating expenses before depreciation to premium income ratio	31.8%	28.8%	25.1%	25.7%	27.3%
Benefit claims paid to premium income ratio	38.4%	41.5%	39.8%	43.6%	35.5%

Bonus rates

	Annual dividend rate for 2023 per participation unit	Annual interest rate for 2023	Interim dividend rate for 2024* per participation unit	Interim interest rate for 2024*	Loyalty bonus rate*
Lifestyle security plan	£6.96	4.5%	£6.26	4.0%	15%
Income security plan	£6.96	4.0%	£6.26	3.5%	15%
Income security plan (Ireland)	€9.24	4.0%	€8.31	3.5%	15%
Lifetime membership plan	£6.96	5.0%	£6.26	4.5%	15%
Lifetime membership plan (Ireland)	€9.24	5.0%	€8.31	4.5%	15%
Paid up membership plan	—	4.0%	—	3.5%	15%
Paid up membership plan (Ireland)	—	4.0%	—	3.5%	15%

* Applicable to relevant withdrawal of funds in 2024. Loyalty bonus is only payable on certain qualifying withdrawals. The interim and loyalty bonus rates are not guaranteed and subject to change without notice.

Long term returns

In addition to providing security to our members during their working lives, the Holloway income protection plan also seeks to provide security in retirement. As such, we aim to provide our members with attractive and stable, risk-adjusted long term returns. The following table gives an estimation of the annualised returns to members based on historic rates for two of our longest standing plans.

For the Income security plan, it has been assumed that the plan expires at the age of 60. The annualised returns for both plans include loyalty bonus at the 2023 rates.

Annualised returns for a plan ending after 20 years in 2023

Lifetime membership plan	5.9%
Income security plan	4.2%

Chairman's report

Annual review

I am very pleased to report that the Group has produced another positive set of results in a challenging environment. I firmly believe that the reason for our resilient performance lies in putting our members at the heart of everything we do and doing what is right, not only for our current membership, but also for future generations. Our total surplus for the year was £28.5m driven by resilient performance in all areas, with changes in regulatory capital requirements acting as an additional tailwind.

Our long term focus explains our prudent approach to managing our affairs, including underwriting capacity. I would describe our approach to underwriting as considered and thoughtful but also pragmatic. We understand that the financial and reputational consequences of loose underwriting and uncontrolled pursuit of new business fall directly on you, our members. Within this context, it is good to see that our new business levels performed well in 2023 as more and more individuals sought to improve financial resilience against the impact of illness and injury on their ability to work and earn an income.

We paid out £5.2 million in income protection benefit claims during the year, and 99% of all new claims received a payment. The number of Covid related claims reduced significantly and this helped bring our claims experience back in line with where we were before the pandemic.

Capital withdrawals by our retired members increased in the year, however this was not surprising given the financial challenges affecting UK households.

In a difficult inflationary environment, we have worked hard to keep our costs under control, without compromising our business. I am pleased to report that our total net operating expenses in 2023 were only 5.2% higher than in 2019, compared to a 29.8% increase in the UK RPI.

As I touched on above, our investments performed well in 2023. It is worth noting that our exposure to the 'Magnificent Seven' was modest and rather than be simply dragged up by stock indices, our results were driven by active management and stock selection. We regularly review our portfolio against a number of key metrics, including comparing our long term performance against a peer group of institutional multi-asset funds. I am pleased to note that our risk adjusted returns have consistently performed well against this group, including in 2023.

On the back of our continued stability and strength, I am delighted to confirm that we have increased the final dividend rate for our Income security planholders by 11% to £6.96/€8.31 per participation unit, whilst maintaining all other bonus rates at the same level.

It is gratifying to see that we have remained a source of stability and assurance to our members through another challenging year and that we remain committed to our ethos of *being there when our members need us, from university through into retirement.*

Financial review

Financial management framework

The core objective of our financial management framework is to maximise the value we provide our members, whilst minimising the volatility of returns. We seek to supplement our premium income with high quality diversified streams of other income and manage our expenses effectively, so that the benefits of mutuality are not lost to inefficient business practices.

Financial performance

Quite understandably, our stable and mature book of business means our premium income remains largely unchanged year on year. Driven by strong returns from our equity and private market investments, our total surplus for the year was £28.5 million compared with a deficit of £15.2 million in 2022.

As noted above, despite inflationary pressures, we have kept our overall net operating expenditure in check. The increase in acquisition costs was largely due to an increase in commission payments to financial intermediaries for the introduction of new business.

Due to a change in the regulation which governs the calculation of the Risk Margin, the Group released £8.8 million from the Technical Provisions. Due to minor changes in our reserving assumptions which were updated to account for market inputs, operating conditions and business experience, the net release was £6.7 million.

For more information, please see note 21.

Capital management

We manage our solvency capital to enable us to meet our obligations to the current and future generations of our members, as well as our regulatory requirements. Although we aim to broadly match our assets to our liabilities, at times, we run a mismatched position to achieve better risk adjusted returns for our members.

Ensuring that we have sufficient capital to be resilient in the face of external shocks, is a key element of our capital management and bonus declaration plans. The periodic bouts of volatility in the financial markets serve as an important reminder of the need to manage capital conservatively. Further, the pace of technological change means that to remain relevant in the market, and to serve our members effectively, we need to continually invest in our systems and processes. Ensuring we have sufficient resources to undertake major projects, when the need arises, is a secondary but another important objective of our capital management strategy.

In determining our available capital resources, we apply conservative and generally recognised accounting policies for internal and statutory purposes. The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are set out in note 2.

The Group's capital position as at 31 December was as follows:

Group excess capital under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms	2023 £000	2022 £000
Fund for future appropriations	239,523	211,014
Revaluation of assets under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms	(2,821)	(3,701)
Solvency capital requirement	(146,794)	(121,672)
Excess capital	89,908	85,641

Investment management

Our approach to investing is driven by the profile of our liabilities and our investment risk appetite, which in turn is shaped by our views on the future performance of our protection portfolio and our view of the business and economic outlook.

We do not employ benchmark investment return targets. Instead, we focus on opportunities which not only represent attractive risk adjusted propositions over the long term, but also:

- maintain the overall level of risk, having regard to the currency, nature and duration of the liabilities, within acceptable limits
- maintain a suitable and broad mix of investments
- protect the interests of our members

Our investment strategy permits the use of any investment instrument approved by the board. The Investment and Capital Management Committee oversees the investment policy and strategy, which is implemented using investment mandates. The investment mandates include:

- details of the approved investments
- defined performance bases
- asset allocation by asset type and market
- counterparty, credit and other risk limits

A review of our asset allocation and performance against a hypothetical portfolio, is shown in the following tables:

Group liquidity and investment allocation	2023 %	2022 %	2021 %	2020 %	2019 %
Equities	55	50	46	51	44
Fixed interest securities	12	14	13	11	10
Alternative assets and cash ¹	33	36	41	38	46

¹ Alternative assets include real estate funds, private market funds and hedge funds.

Group investment performance	2023 %	2022 %	2021 %	2020 %	2019 %
Group	7.7	(4.8)	8.4	1.9	9.8
Reference portfolio ²	6.4	(6.8)	9.5	(3.4)	13.6

² Reference portfolio is based on a hypothetical portfolio comprising 60% UK equities, 30% Gilts and 10% cash.
(Figures based on the Group's reporting currency)

Underwriting and claims review

Our long term success, and the competitiveness of our proposition, are intrinsically linked with how effectively we underwrite risks, and the diligence with which we manage claims.

We have put in place a strong system of internal controls, consistent with industry best practice, to price and manage risks effectively. Within this structured framework, underwriters and claims assessors are given significant latitude, to ensure that decisions produce fair outcomes for individuals and our membership as a whole.

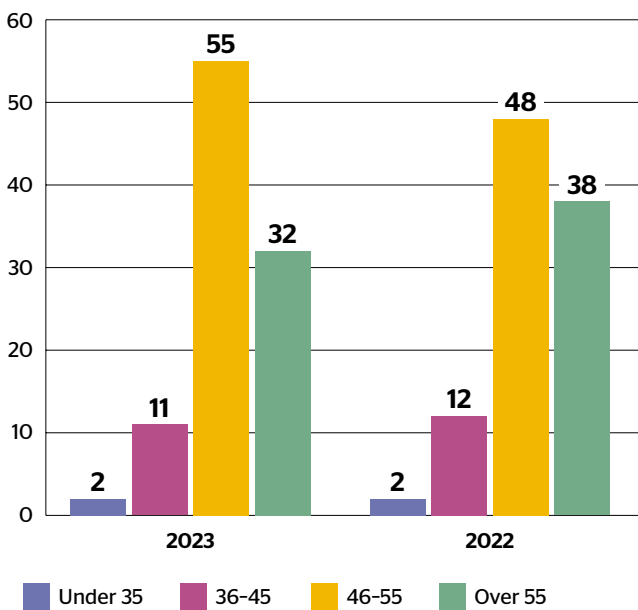
Adverse decisions are subject to additional oversight, to ensure that individual member's interests are protected. Our process also allows for detailed engagement, to ensure that all relevant factors are considered, and members understand the reasons and bases of our decisions. In our opinion, clear communication of the rationale for our decisions, is central in engendering the trust of our members, improving persistency and minimising complaints.

Complaints about our plans and service

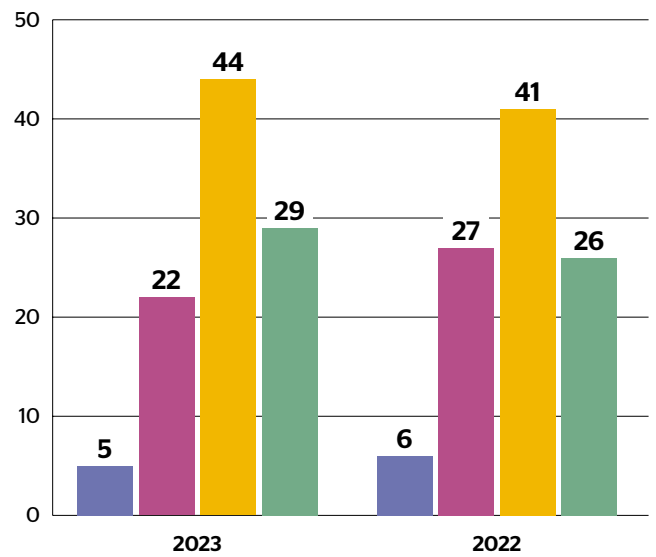
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Underwriting and administration related complaints received	4	1	2	6	10
Claims related complaints received	4	4	2	8	9
Complaints referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service	0	0	0	2	5
Complaints where the final decision by the ombudsman was to uphold the member's complaint	0	0	0	0	0

In 2023, we paid £5.2 million (2022: £56 million) in sickness benefit claims. A further analysis of claims is set out below:

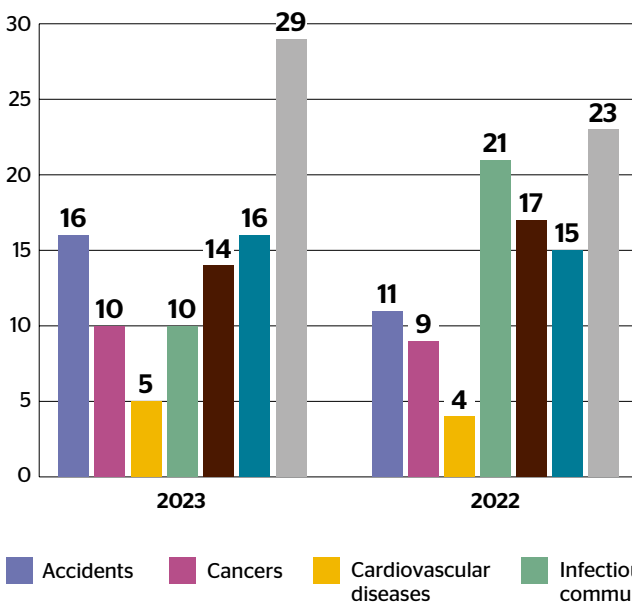
Claims by age - male (%)



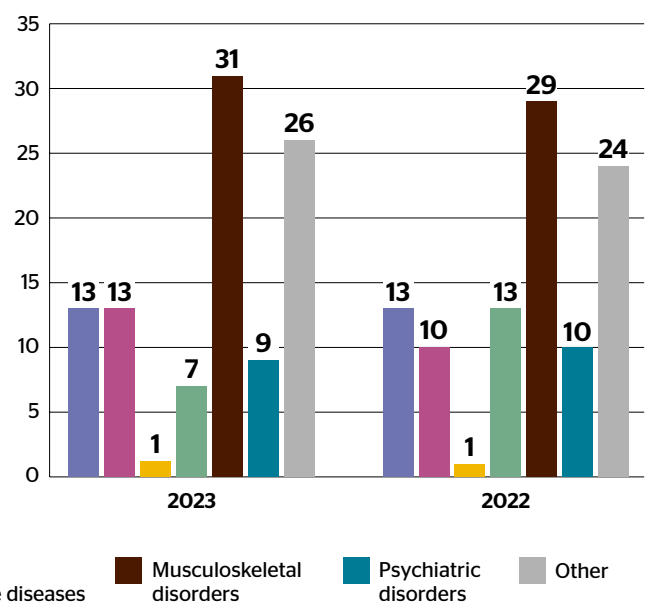
Claims by age - female (%)



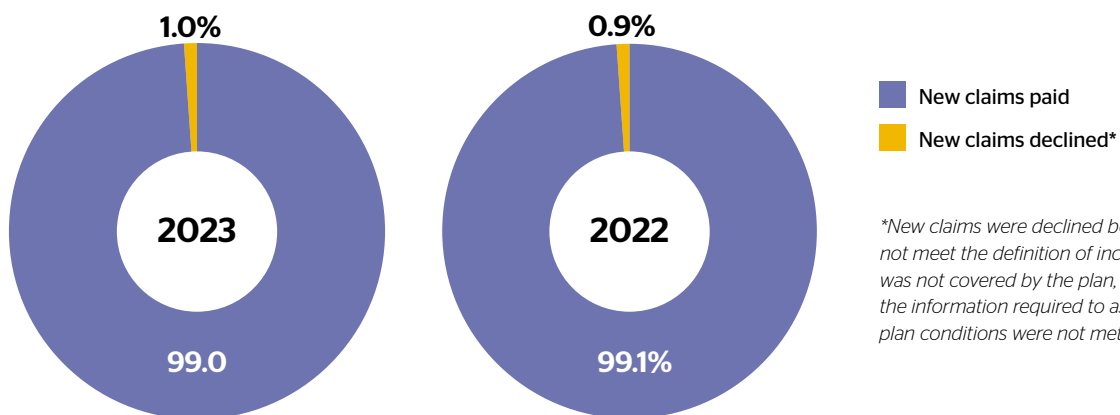
Claims by illness/injury - male (%)



Claims by illness/injury - female (%)



Claims received and paid



Our people

We have an excellent culture, based on honesty, duty and professionalism and I want to thank each and every one of our employees and directors for making it so. It is their dedication and commitment to quality and service to our members that sits behind the Group's continued success.

Giles Kidner

Giles Kidner
Chairman
15 March 2024

Principal risks and uncertainties

The risks and uncertainties described below are considered to have the most significant effect on the Group's business, financial results and prospects. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Strategic risk

Description	How the risk is currently managed
<p>Our success depends on how well we understand our market, our members and other factors which affect our business.</p> <p>We make a number of long term decisions, based on our assumptions about the future environment within which we operate.</p> <p>An inappropriate or ineffective business strategy could have wide ranging implications for our members, market share and reputation.</p>	<p>Our strategic plans are reviewed regularly, to reflect the revised views of our longer term competitive, and market, position. We monitor the progress of the business against our strategic agenda, at regular Group and subsidiary board meetings.</p> <p>We have experienced teams in place, who oversee the delivery of all key projects. Our senior management team provides regular challenge, monitors ongoing progress and ensures that key decisions are being made appropriately.</p>
<p>The Society's business in the Republic of Ireland is currently being managed within the scope of the temporary run-off regime. If we cannot resume normal operations in Ireland before 31 December 2035 when the regime comes to an end, this could adversely affect our members who reside in Ireland.</p>	<p>We and our advisers continue to hold discussions regarding how we can resume normal operations in Ireland cost effectively.</p>

Insurance risk

Description	How the risk is currently managed
<p>The insurance industry is highly price competitive. Prolonged periods of pricing pressure can have negative effects on financial performance, customer service and reputation of individual insurers and the industry's reputation as a whole.</p> <p>If we do not price our plans appropriately, this could damage our financial performance through declining persistency and/or reduced underwriting surpluses.</p>	<p>Our actuarial models are the primary tool for objectively deriving the pricing of our plans, and the models and underlying assumptions, are subject to regular monitoring and challenge.</p> <p>Senior members of our team work closely with operational staff, to ensure the pricing assumptions are supported by actual events, and to identify early indicators of any divergence.</p> <p>We also benchmark our pricing against our competitors regularly, to identify material inconsistencies.</p>
<p>If our claims experience is materially worse than we have assumed in our pricing assumptions, this could adversely impact our members, through a combination of higher future premiums and reduced future bonuses.</p>	<p>Strong operational controls are the primary mechanism for managing our claims experience. Our finance and actuarial teams also undertake detailed trend analysis, and the results are fed back into the actuarial pricing models and operational decision making processes.</p>
<p>If the persistency of our business is significantly lower than our expectations, this will lead to a fall in the future surpluses on our long term insurance business. In turn, this could feed through into higher capital requirements, higher than expected costs of managing our business and lower long term returns for our members.</p>	<p>We continually invest in our proposition, so that it remains competitive and meets the needs of our key stakeholders.</p> <p>We also engage regularly with intermediaries, members and prospective members, to enable them to gain a deeper insight into our products, market positioning and business philosophy, so that they are able to make more informed decisions.</p>

Operational risk

Description	How the risk is currently managed
<p>We are dependent on a number of key information systems and processes. A loss of systems and access to facilities, including the website, on a regular or prolonged basis could lead to significant disruption and could have an adverse operational, reputational and financial impact.</p> <p>If changes are not managed effectively, the core applications could lose their flexibility to adapt to changes within our business, and develop complications.</p>	<p>We have in place a business continuity programme, which includes our disaster recovery arrangements. This is reviewed regularly, to identify areas for improvement, and to ensure that arrangements are adequate and appropriate.</p> <p>We have an experienced technology team, who can respond to incidents as they arise, and who review the technology platforms continuously, to identify areas of improvements and then make the necessary changes.</p>
<p>A cyberattack on our network, could result in us not being able to deliver our service to our members, or expose their sensitive information to the wider public, via the internet. This could result in serious damage to our reputation, with consequential member and revenue loss, and the risk of financial penalties.</p>	<p>We have multiple layers of assurance in place. Our activities include regular employee training, technical assurance and audit activities, including vulnerability scanning and ethical hacking programmes. We assess our security policies, standards and procedures regularly, and adjust them where necessary, so they are appropriate to the risks we face.</p>
<p>We have entered into agreements with third party service providers, for services covering a number of our operations. A failure to adequately manage third parties' performance could affect our reputation and our operational and financial performance. Loss of these contracts, or inability to renew or negotiate favourable replacement contracts, could have adverse effects on our future operating performance.</p>	<p>We have a number of procedures in place to manage our third party service providers' performance, as well as having a centralised process for negotiating new contracts.</p>
<p>We are subject to various legal and regulatory requirements. Our failure to comply with these requirements could lead to fines, public reprimands, damage to our reputation, increased prudential requirements, enforced suspension of operations or, in extreme circumstances, withdrawal of regulatory authorisation.</p> <p>Non compliance may also lead to costs relating to investigations and compensation of affected members. In addition, reputational damage may adversely affect our long term future.</p> <p>Meeting new or changed requirements may also result in additional complexity to the business, increasing costs or capital requirements.</p>	<p>We have allocated significant internal resources to this area. We have a dedicated compliance function resourced by suitably experienced individuals.</p> <p>The work of the Group's compliance function is supplemented by regular internal audit reviews. In addition, the employee rewards scheme, places significant emphasis on legal and regulatory risks being mitigated.</p>
<p>Our success is built on a foundation of fairness and honesty in our dealings with our key stakeholders. A breakdown in our cultural values, could result in failure to conduct our business fairly and ethically. This could expose us to the risk of reputational damage, and contribute to an increase in a range of other business risks.</p>	<p>We have put in place a range of controls and processes to manage this risk. Our culture and remuneration arrangements encourage key decision makers to take a wide ranging view, as opposed to focusing exclusively on narrow, short term commercial factors.</p>
<p>Our long term future is dependent on recruiting and retaining capable people in key roles. If we fail to implement appropriate succession plans and fail to recruit the right people, who share our ethical values, this could adversely affect our ability to deliver on our objectives.</p>	<p>We aim to recruit talented staff and invest in their technical and professional development over many years, so that they have the appropriate experience to take on more senior roles within the Group. We also have detailed succession arrangements in place, to account for planned and unplanned departures.</p>

Counterparty risk

Description

We are exposed to the risk of failure of, or default by, one or more of our counterparties. As part of our business, we invest in debt securities and other assets, to meet our obligations to our members. As a result, exposures can arise to issuers of debt and other financial instruments. Our day to day activities also mean that we are exposed to banking counterparties, as well as third party providers of services.

How the risk is currently managed

We manage our significant counterparty exposures by the application and monitoring of counterparty limits. All material contracts with third parties, are governed by service level agreements, which are monitored and discussed regularly.

Liquidity risk

Description

If we misjudge the level of liquidity required and have insufficient liquid assets to meet our financial obligations, this could result in business disruption, and have an adverse effect on our financial performance.

How the risk is currently managed

We maintain a suitable buffer over our expected routine cash requirements. In addition, the majority of our funds are invested in readily realisable assets.

We also undertake regular stress tests, to ensure that we have sufficient liquidity, to meet our needs.

Market risk

Description

We invest in a range of asset classes where valuations can be affected by non technical factors, such as market sentiment, geopolitical uncertainty or issuer specific issues, which could adversely affect our financial performance.

How the risk is currently managed

We manage asset price risk by maintaining a highly diversified portfolio of assets and by setting asset allocation and performance targets, which ensure that we have an appropriate mix of assets and that we are not over or under exposed to a particular category or investment. The Investment and Capital Management Committee regularly monitors the actual asset allocation and performance against relevant criteria.

We hold assets and liabilities with different maturities, creating exposure to changes in interest rates, which can affect our financial performance, value of our assets and cashflows. The exposure arises mainly from the Group's investments in debt and fixed income securities, and affects the rates used to calculate the technical provisions.

Our exposure to interest rate risk is monitored using stress testing and duration benchmarks. We also use our strategic cash holdings to manage duration, thereby indirectly managing interest rate risk.

We have plans in Ireland, and invest in currencies and in funds, which invest in overseas debt and equity markets, creating exposure to changes in exchange rates, which can affect our financial performance and the value of our assets.

Our exposure to currency risk is managed primarily by authorisation controls. The Investment and Capital Management Committee monitors the currency exposures on a regular basis.

We also work with a number of suppliers whose operations are based outside the UK. This exposes part of our expenses to changes in exchange rates.

We also maintain holdings in selected foreign currencies, to mitigate the effects of fluctuations in exchange rates on the Group's surpluses.

Governance

Board of directors and secretary



Giles Kidner



Farrukh Mirza



Raj Rattan MBE



Brian Bourke



Simon Elliott



Martyn Green



Jim Karim



Kirby Mardle



Matthew Payne



Melanie Stern



Alister Weightman



Huw Winstone

Giles Kidner (58)

Chairman and non executive director

Giles was appointed to the board in 2004 and as Chairman in May 2019. He is also a director of the Group's property holding companies and a member of the Governance Committee, the Investment and Capital Management Committee and the Remuneration Committee. He has previously been the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

He is a consultant orthodontist at Buckinghamshire Healthcare and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trusts and also works part time in private practice. He is lead orthodontist for the Spires regional cleft lip and palate service, Caldicott Guardian and an examiner for the intercollegiate specialty fellowship examination in Orthodontics.

Farrukh Mirza (53)

Chief Executive

Farrukh joined the society as Head of Finance in 1999. He was appointed as deputy Chief Executive in 2003, and to the board and as Chief Executive in 2008. As the Group's Chief Investment Officer, he chairs the Investment and Capital Management committee and is also a director of the Group's property holding companies. After qualifying as a chartered accountant, he worked with Baker Tilly, BayernLB and PricewaterhouseCoopers, specialising in banking and insurance.

Raj Rattan Mbe (66)

Vice chairman and independent non executive director

Raj was appointed to the board in May 2019, and as Vice Chairman in August 2020. He is a member of the Governance Committee and the Operational Risk and Reputation Committee. He combined his career in General Dental Practice with his role as Associate Dean at the London Deanery. He has been a policy adviser at the Department of Health and provided consultancy services to the NHS and the private and corporate sector. He has worked at Dental Protection for over 20 years where he was first appointed as a dento-legal adviser and is now Dental Director. He has been an examiner for the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners and has lectured extensively throughout the UK and overseas. He has written extensively about practice management, governance and risk management within the dental profession and was appointed MBE for services to dentistry in 2008.

Brian Bourke (61)

Independent non executive director

Brian was appointed to the board as a non-executive director and as a member of the Audit Committee in August 2020. He retired as a specialist in orthodontics in 2021 and was an examiner for the Fellowship of the Faculty of Dentistry of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in orthodontics from 2011 to 2023. He has previously been a Consultant Orthodontist and Head of Department at St. Columcille's Hospital in Dublin, Chairman of the Orthodontic Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, member of the Intercollegiate Specialty Advisory Committee in Orthodontics and Chairman of the Gloucestershire Orthodontic Managed Clinical Network.

Simon Elliott (49)

Chief Risk Officer

Simon was appointed to the board as an executive director in 2015 and has operational oversight of the Compliance and Marketing teams. He is also a member of the Investment and Capital Management Committee and a director of the Group's property holding companies. Simon joined the Society in 2007, after working for 11 years at Deloitte LLP in their actuarial practice, advising and working with Friendly Societies and insurance companies within the UK and Europe.

Martyn Green (70)

Independent non executive director

Martyn was appointed to the board in 2010. He is the Chairman of the Governance Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee. He was previously a member of the Operational Risk and Reputation committee. He is on the Council of Reference for the dental charity Bridge2Aid, a member of the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal and a chair of the General Medical Council's Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service.

He was previously a member of the Probate Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a member of the Statutory Panel Assurance Committee of the General Dental Council. He was a chair of the General Dental Council's Fitness to Practise Panel. He has worked extensively in the training of newly qualified dentists, having been in various roles, including Regional Adviser in general dental practice and Associate Postgraduate Dental Dean. He is retired from general practice.

Jim Karim (57)

Independent non executive director

Jim was appointed to the board in 2017 and as Chairman of the Audit Committee in May 2019. Jim is a chartered accountant with over 20 years' experience in the banking industry, working in various senior risk management roles. He is currently a Head of Risk for Liquidity and Banking Market Risk at a major UK bank, with responsibility for risk monitoring and control of the bank's UK liquidity, asset and liability management, ALCO investments and pensions risks.

Kirby Mardle (39)

Chief Finance Officer and Group Secretary

Kirby was appointed to the board in 2019 and has operational oversight of the Finance and Member Services teams. She joined the Society in 2006 as a member services consultant. She later moved into the Finance team and following her qualification as a Chartered Certified Accountant, was appointed as Head of Finance in 2012. She is also the Head of Human Resources.

Matthew Payne (51)

Chief Technology Officer

Matt was appointed to the board in November 2021 and has operational oversight of the Information Systems Team. He joined the Society in early 2021.

Matt is a graduate in computer sciences and holds an MBA from Cardiff Business School. He has over 25 years' experience in information technology development, operations and management, including senior leadership roles in financial services and software industries in the UK, US and EMEA.

Melanie Stern (60)

Independent non executive director

Melanie was appointed to the board in 2019. She was consultant and honorary senior clinical lecturer in orthodontics at the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital and Clinical Lead for 12 years. Melanie is lead cleft orthodontist for the Trent Regional Cleft Network and has previously worked part time in private practice.

Alister Weightman (59)

Independent non executive director

Alister was appointed to the board in 2011. He is the Chairman of the Operational Risk and Reputation Committee and a member of the Audit Committee. He has worked in general dental practice since 1987 and was previously a dental practice adviser for the Yorkshire and Humber Area Team of NHS England, a clinical support manager for IDH Mydentist in the North East region, a past treasurer of the North Lincolnshire Local Dental Committee and dental practice adviser for Doncaster and North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trusts. He has also been a clinical assistant in orthodontics and a vocational trainer.

Huw Winstone (65)

Independent non executive director

Huw was appointed to the board in 2014. He was appointed to the Operational Risk and Reputation Committee and as Chairman of the Remuneration Committee in February 2016. Huw started in general dental practice in 1981 as an Associate and was a partner of a family dental practice in North West Kent for over thirty years. Since 1996 he has been a dental adviser for the NHS and is currently senior dental clinical adviser for NHS England South East. Huw has worked for over twenty five years in Dental Foundation Training, as a Vocational Training Adviser, Training Programme Director and an Associate Dean for Health Education England. He has also been a member of the Kent Local Dental Committee since 1988, being treasurer for over twenty five years.

Other key employees



Paul Dixon



Alexandra Fisk



Bryan Gross



Paul Roberts

Paul Dixon

Paul joined the Society as joint Head of Compliance and Risk in 2015 and was appointed sole Head of Compliance and Risk in 2019. After completing his law degree, he worked in practice for 10 years before moving into compliance in 2011. Experienced in both insurance and consumer credit, Paul received his postgraduate Diploma in Governance, Risk and Compliance through the International Compliance Association in 2015.

Alexandra Fisk

Alex joined the Society in 2013 as part of the marketing team and was appointed as Head of Member Services in 2018. Alex has over 10 years' experience in a variety of commercial businesses in both membership and marketing roles.

Bryan Gross

Bryan joined the Society as a senior underwriter in 2008 and was appointed as Head of Underwriting in 2013. Bryan has a wealth of experience in the insurance industry, covering a variety of roles, having previously worked at The Prudential and Gen Re.

Paul Roberts

Paul joined the Society in 2006 as a claims assessor and was appointed Head of Claims in 2017. Paul has over 20 years' experience working in income protection, previously working for Unum and Legal & General.

Corporate governance

The board of Dentists' Provident has chosen the Quoted Companies Alliance (QCA) Corporate Governance Code as the most appropriate governance reporting framework based on its size, complexity and the governance needs of the Group.

This section provides an explanation of how the Society and the Group applies the principles of the QCA Corporate Governance Code.

Further information on the board's corporate governance procedures can be found on our website.

Establish a strategy and business model which promote long term value for the members

Our strategy and business model is discussed, agreed and reviewed by the board as a regular agenda item at board meetings.

Since our inception in 1908, we have been fully committed to the not for profit mutual business structure. Being owned by our members, with no shareholders, allows us to focus on building a long term sustainable business, that places the interests of our membership ahead of others. Our strategy has always been to be the quality focused income protection insurance provider of choice for dental professionals in the UK and Ireland. We do this by:

- Providing our members with individualised and comprehensive insurance plans, which are flexible enough to remain fit for purpose throughout a dental professional's career
- Investing prudently and with a long term mindset, to maximise the returns for our members and to improve the resilience of our finances
- Employing a team of experienced and dedicated industry professionals, to manage the day to day operations of the Group
- Taking a fair and disciplined approach to underwriting and claims management
- Treating our members ethically, to build mutually beneficial long term relationships, based on respect and trust
- Distributing our proposition directly and through independent financial advisers, using digital and traditional channels
- Pricing our plans in a clear, sustainable and transparent manner
- Effectively managing our cost base and key risks

This has, and continues to, enable us to maximise the long term value we create for our members, within the context of a mutual business model.

Further information regarding our strategy and business model is set out in the other sections of the strategic report.

Seek to understand and meet member needs and expectations

We regularly attend industry events to meet with members, prospective members, intermediaries and other dental industry participants, to ensure that we have a clear and up to date understanding of the needs of these important stakeholders.

Many of our directors have held senior positions within the profession and have been involved in the training and education of dental professionals. This gives our key decision makers a unique opportunity to look at the needs of our core market from the top down and from the bottom up.

All directors are members of the Society. This also gives our board a direct connection with our plans and services, and deeper insight into the needs and expectations of other members.

Our products, their suitability, and relevance to our target market are also discussed regularly as part of the board's discussions regarding strategy.

Take into account wider stakeholder and social responsibilities and their implications for long term success

Our strategic focus on the long term means that, in order to succeed, we need to recognise our responsibilities to a wider spectrum of stakeholders, including staff, financial intermediaries and suppliers. We are committed to meeting the needs of our key stakeholders with whom we maintain a regular dialogue through a range of communication channels where we actively solicit their feedback.

Our staff play a critical role in delivering our strategy. We strive to attract, develop and retain high quality individuals with the right skills to drive our business forward. We actively encourage our staff to provide feedback and express their needs, interests and expectations through frequent formal and informal conversations.

We build long standing mutually beneficial relationships with the financial intermediary community through commercial discussions, face to face meetings and press releases. The Group also has a dedicated intermediary consultant to better understand and serve their needs.

We are a respected member of the dental community and we take an active interest in matters affecting the dental profession. We continue to support charitable bodies involved in improving dental health and supporting members of the dental profession facing financial or health issues. We also give proper consideration to environmental, social and governance factors within our investment decision making process.

Embed effective risk management, considering both opportunities and threats, throughout the organisation

The principal risks, and plans to manage these, are set out on pages 9 to 11 of this report.

Our business is underpinned by a robust risk management framework. An effective risk management system allows us to allocate resources more efficiently. The key objectives of our risk management systems are to:

- support decision making by providing timely and appropriate risk information
- protect our solvency and financial position
- protect and enhance our reputation

The ultimate oversight for risk management remains with the board. However, certain duties have been delegated to board committees, who provide regular updates to the board, on activities that fall within their remit.

There are predefined risk appetites for all key risk areas, and risk management policies and procedures are reviewed and updated regularly, to reflect the environment within which we operate.

The Group continually monitors risks, whether this is through the assessment of applications and claims, security testing of the Group's systems or executive level discussions on how changes in dentistry will affect the services provided by the Group. The risk identification and management process is an intrinsic part of our processes and performed daily by all employees and ensures that key risks are appropriately collated and risk owners identified. The status of the risks is reviewed periodically and a structured reporting process is in place to communicate key risks and other relevant information to the board and its committees.

The day to day responsibility for risk management lies with the Chief Risk Officer. The Heads of Departments are responsible for operational implementation of risk management policies and procedures and for reacting to new and emerging risks.

In addition, regular operational monitoring, augmented by internal audit and compliance reviews provides assurance on the effectiveness of the control environment.

Maintain the board as a well functioning, balanced team led by the chair

The board's primary role is to oversee and direct the affairs of the Group, and to further the interests of our members in accordance with relevant law and our memorandum and rules. The board meets at least four times a year and its responsibilities are set out in the board handbook, which also details the matters reserved specifically for it.

The main responsibilities of the board include:

- approval and oversight of the Group's objectives and strategy
- responsibility for the Group's overall structure and capital requirements
- oversight of the Group's operations, including approval of annual budgets and plans
- oversight of financial reporting, internal controls and risk and capital management
- approval of any material transactions that affect the Group

- dialogue with key stakeholders
- oversight of the corporate governance framework

The board comprises a non executive Chairman, Chief Executive, three executive directors and seven independent non executive directors.

The executive directors all work full time for the Group. The non executive directors work part time, alongside other commitments outside of the Group. A summary of these commitments appears in their biographies on pages 12 to 13. In the Chairman's opinion, having consulted with the other directors, each member of the board gives the right amount of time to fulfil their responsibilities.

In assessing the independence of directors, we take an objective view of a director's tenure and we do not consider that after nine years non executive directors automatically cease to be independent. The main threat to independence arises from conflicts of interest, financial dependence and over familiarity, and the most effective way of ensuring independence of thought and action is by focusing on these risks. Each year, we assess the independence of each non executive director, against highly conservative benchmarks, covering conflicts of interest, personal and professional connections and financial integrity.

The Governance Committee has considered the declarations by the non executive directors and has concluded that all non executive directors, with the exception of the Chairman, remain independent. Giles Kidner was deemed to be independent until his appointment as Chairman. However, in line with common practice, he is no longer classified as an independent non executive director.

The Governance Committee oversees the process of continued appointments. All directors are reappointed annually by our members, subject to the board being satisfied with their performance and commitment to the role. Over the years, the Group has steadily reduced the maximum tenure of non executive directors. Depending on the date of appointment, non executive directors normally retire from the board at the age of 65 or after 15 or 9 years of service. However, for directors appointed on a 9 year term, the Society has the option of offering limited term extension of beyond 9 years to ensure an orderly succession process. In general terms, the Society will seek to avoid more than two director changes in any 12 month period.

Ensure that between them the directors have the necessary up to date experience, skills and capabilities

We are committed to ensuring that we appoint and retain non executive directors who bring relevant experience and expertise, strategic and operational skills and insights required to drive the Group forward.

We are scrupulous in ensuring that all our appointments are on merit. The Governance Committee ensures that new directors are selected through a robust recruitment process, targeted at complementing the strengths of the board as a whole. We strive to ensure that our board represents the views and opinions of the different strands of the dental profession, and that our discussions cover the widest range of thoughts, ideas and opinions. As a result, we do not consider that targets based on gender or ethnicity fit with our meritocratic principles, nor would such targets improve our governance framework.

We believe that keeping up to date with key business issues is vital for each director to improve and maintain their knowledge and skills, so they are able to continue discharging their duties effectively. Therefore, we ensure that our non executive directors:

- receive regular training in areas of significance
- attend training courses covering their duties as directors
- receive formal briefings by external experts during board meetings

In addition, as part of each director's performance appraisal, they are given the opportunity to discuss any individual training and development needs. Each director is responsible for organising their individual training, and for ensuring they remain up to date with the issues affecting the Group, and their responsibilities as a director.

The Group also has procedures in place for directors to obtain additional independent expert professional advice at the Group's expense. No such advice was sought by any director in 2023.

The directors' biographies and skill sets are detailed on pages 12 to 13 of the annual report and on the 'About us' section of our website.

Evaluate board performance based on clear and relevant objectives, seeking continuous improvement

Every year, all directors undergo a formal appraisal, covering their work on the board and any relevant committees. In addition, led by the chairmen, the various committees evaluate their own performance as a whole. The evaluation of executive directors is led by the Chief Executive and the Vice Chairman leads the evaluation of the Chairman. The evaluation of all other directors, including the Chief Executive, is led by the Chairman.

An externally facilitated board review is also carried out by an independent expert at regular intervals, the last of which was carried out in 2021. The independent reviews require each director to complete a confidential questionnaire in respect of their role on the board and its committees which then forms the basis of a confidential one to one meeting between the appraiser and the director. The questionnaire covers the key areas of strategy, risk management, board composition, roles and responsibilities as well as the overall culture and board dynamics.

The Governance Committee review the results of the annual and externally facilitated evaluation as a whole and these form the basis of the discussions by the board of its own performance. The committee chairmen are responsible for presenting a summary of the committee related themes to other members of the committees and to the board.

The Governance Committee regularly discusses succession planning for all key individuals, and these discussions consider the skills and experience required, now and in the future. Within this context, the periodic refreshment of the board is essential, to avoid the risks of complacency, groupthink and perhaps most importantly losing touch with segments of our core market, and over the years we have gradually reduced the maximum length of tenure to manage these risks.

Promote a corporate culture that is based on ethical values and behaviours

A strong product suite is only part of a successful strategy. We believe that treating our members, employees and other stakeholders with the same ethics, honesty and respect that we ourselves, as people would expect, is a simple yet powerful differentiator of our business, and one that has been and continues to be, a key source of our long term competitive advantage. From the moment individuals engage with us, we treat each step as an opportunity to offer extraordinary service and ethical, honest and fair outcomes.

Conduct and corporate citizenship form key elements of the benchmark used to determine the discretionary bonus allocation for employees. We recognise that conflicts of interests can be a risk to ethical behaviour and mainly for this reason, the Society eschews bonuses for executive directors. In addition, we have put the following processes in place to manage the risk of conflicts:

- restrictions on bonus account transactions at certain times of the year
- annual declarations by staff covering actual and potential conflicts
- ongoing responsibility for staff to disclose, immediately, any changes in their circumstances, which may give rise to a conflict of interest
- restrictions on participating in any discussions or decisions in which an individual has a material personal interest

The Group's performance against its ethical values and cultural norms is monitored by the board's committees. The committee chairmen report on the work of the committees to the board as a whole on a quarterly basis.

Maintain governance structures and processes that are fit for purpose and support good decision making by the board

We have a robust system for corporate governance throughout the Group, with a clear division of responsibilities for those involved.

The Chairman is responsible for ensuring we meet our overall governance standards, the leadership and management of the board, overseeing the induction, evaluation and ongoing development of directors and for maintaining an open and cooperative relationship with our members and other key stakeholders.

The Vice Chairman deputises for the Chairman and supports him in the effective management of the board. The Vice Chairman also fulfils the role of the Senior Non Executive Director, serving as an important intermediary between the Chairman, the rest of the board, and our members.

The Chief Executive is responsible for developing the overall strategy, leadership of the management team and oversight of the day to day operations of the Group.

The secretary is responsible for supporting the Chairman in the effective operation of the board. They also act as secretary to each of the committees and are responsible for supporting each of the directors in discharging their duties effectively.

The secretariat role is currently performed by the Chief Finance Officer who is responsible for human resources throughout the Group. When acting as secretary to the Remuneration Committee, procedures are in place to ensure they do not participate in any part of the meeting affecting the terms and conditions of their employment, including remuneration.

The board has established various committees, to assist it in effectively fulfilling its governance responsibilities. Information on the role and work of these committees is detailed on pages 19 to 26 of the annual report and the 'About us' section of our website.

Communicate how the company is governed and is performing by maintaining a dialogue with members and other relevant stakeholders

We report on our financial performance annually.

We are committed to maintaining an open dialogue with our members to raise understanding and awareness of our products, strategy and performance. We use the Annual General Meeting and industry events as the primary mechanisms for doing this.

We encourage members to participate in the Annual General Meeting and notice is given at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. At the Annual General Meeting, separate resolutions are proposed on each substantive issue. When an issue has been determined at the meeting by a show of hands, the Chairman confirms the number of proxy votes for and against the resolution. The chairmen of the board's committees are also available to answer relevant questions at the Annual General Meeting.

Our website provides information about the Group, including its current and past results, vote counts and press releases.



Giles Kidner
Chairman
15 March 2024

The Audit Committee



Jim Karim



Alister Weightman



Brian Bourke

Role of the Audit Committee

The role of the Audit Committee is to assist the board on matters of financial reporting, risk management and internal control.

The main responsibilities of the Audit Committee include:

- oversight of regulatory reporting
- monitoring the integrity of the financial statements and any related announcements
- monitoring the effectiveness of the Group's internal controls and financial risk management systems
- monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness, independence and objectivity of the internal audit function
- oversight of the relationship with the Group's external auditor
- considering and making recommendations to the board for the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditor
- monitoring and reviewing the Group's compliance with any tax obligations

The committee is scheduled to meet four times a year and only members of the committee are entitled to attend the meetings. However normally all executive directors are invited to attend the meeting by invitation from the Chairman. The committee also meets with the external and internal auditors without management present, at least once a year.

Full details of the committee's terms of reference can be found on our website www.dentistsprovident.co.uk.

Committee composition

The committee comprises at least three members, who are appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee. All members of the committee must be independent non executive directors, at least one of whom has recent and relevant financial experience. The Chairman of the board cannot be a member of the committee.

Committee membership and attendance at scheduled meetings

Jim Karim (Chairman)	4/4
Alister Weightman	4/4
Brian Bourke	4/4

Internal and external auditors' access to the committee

Throughout the year, both the internal and external auditors had unrestricted access to the Audit Committee.

Policy on non audit services and auditor rotation

It is our policy not to use our statutory auditor in the provision of any non audit services and, in line with UK requirements, to seek mandatory tendering of our statutory auditor every ten years, with the audit engagement partner being rotated every five.

Retendering of the external audit function

BDO LLP resigned as the Group's auditors in June 2023 and confirmed that there were no circumstances connected to their resignation which they consider should be brought to the attention of the members or creditors of the Society.

MHA LLP were appointed to fill the casual vacancy arising as a result of BDO LLPs resignation and a resolution proposing their appointment as the Society's statutory auditor will be included at the next Annual General Meeting in May 2024.

Key items considered during 2023

During the year, the Audit Committee received regular updates on the Group's financial performance, reviewed and approved regulatory and statutory reports, including the 2022 Annual report and the Solvency and financial condition report. The committee also considered the report of the Chief Actuary on the year end valuation methodology and assumptions and reviewed reports submitted by the internal auditors.

During 2023, the Committee oversaw a competitive tender process to select a new external auditor to be appointed. As the primary driver for this process was to assess whether the Group was achieving value for money for its external audit function, BDO were not invited to take part in the process. Given the nature, scale and complexity of the Group, the committee only invited mid tier firms to take part in the process. The committee met with the partners of each of the shortlisted firms and to discuss their proposals in detail, following which a recommendation was made to the board to appoint MHA LLP be appointed as statutory auditors.

BDO LLP resigned on 26 June 2023 and MHA LLP were appointed to fill the casual vacancy which arose as a result. The Audit Committee also recommended that a resolution be included at the next Annual General Meeting to appoint the firm as the Group's new statutory auditors.

Later in the year, the committee reviewed the performance of the internal auditors and agreed to retain their services for another year.

Over the summer, the committee completed a self assessment of its own performance, reviewed the adequacy of its terms of reference and met without the Chairman present.

In addition to the above items the committee also reviewed the adequacy of the Group's whistleblowing procedure and met with both the internal and external auditors without the executive team present.

2023 annual report

The committee has considered the 2023 annual report and has recommended it for approval by the board. The committee has paid attention to matters materially affecting the view given by the financial statements. In particular:

- the methodology for calculating the fair value of property and non publicly traded investments
- the criteria used for the recognition of income in the financial statements
- the valuation assumptions used in the calculation of the technical provisions
- the adequacy and clarity of disclosures and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles

Jim Karim

Jim Karim
Audit committee chairman
15 March 2024

The Investment and Capital Management Committee



Farrukh Mirza



Simon Elliott



Giles Kidner

Role of the Investment and Capital Management Committee

The role of the Investment and Capital Management Committee is to assist the board in discharging its duty to effectively identify, assess and manage investment and capital management related risks.

The main responsibilities of the Investment and Capital Management Committee include:

- oversight of the Group’s investment strategy
- reviewing and approving the asset and liability management strategy
- oversight, appointment and removal of investment consultants and managers
- reviewing and monitoring the Group’s capital adequacy and capital management plans
- reviewing and monitoring liquidity, market and credit risk management strategies and policies
- agreeing the bonus recommendations with the Chief Actuary and making recommendations to the board

The committee is scheduled to meet four times a year and only members of the committee are entitled to attend the meetings. However, the Chief Actuary and Kirby Mardle attended all four meetings by invitation from the Chairman.

Full details of the committee’s terms of reference can be found on our website www.dentistsprovident.co.uk.

Committee composition

The committee comprises the Chief Executive, another executive director and a non executive director appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee.

Committee membership and attendance at scheduled meetings

Farrukh Mirza (Chairman)	4/4
Simon Elliott	4/4
Giles Kidner	4/4

Access to investment consultants and Chief Actuary/With Profits Actuary

Throughout the year, the committee had unrestricted access to the Group’s investment consultants and Chief Actuary/With Profits Actuary.

Key items considered during 2023

During the year, the committee reviewed reports from the Chief actuary, including the proposed premium rates for 2024 and recommended annual bonuses for 2023.

Over the summer, the committee completed a self assessment of its own performance, reviewed the adequacy of its terms of reference and met without the Chairman present. The committee also received reports from the technical auditors on the claims and underwriting functions.

In addition, the committee reviewed the regular reports from the Group’s investment consultants on performance, sustainability and risk metrics for the Group’s investment portfolio, approved asset allocation decisions and the appointment of new investment managers by the Group.

Farrukh Mirza

Farrukh Mirza

Investment and capital management committee chairman
15 March 2024

The Governance Committee



Martyn Green



Giles Kidner



Raj Rattan MBE

Role of the Governance Committee

The role of the Governance Committee is to assist the board in discharging its duty in the area of corporate governance, nominations and enterprise risk management.

The main responsibilities of the Governance Committee include:

- oversight of governance arrangements
- oversight of succession arrangements for executive and non executive directors
- authorisation of senior appointments
- monitoring progress against the Group’s strategy
- oversight of major infrastructure projects
- oversight of enterprise risk management

The nomination duties focus on ensuring the board has the appropriate mix of skills and knowledge to fulfil its responsibilities and that appropriate arrangements are in place for the succession of key personnel.

The committee acts as the first line of challenge to the detailed strategy initiatives produced by the executive directors. The committee is also responsible for supporting the work of other committees in identifying, assessing and monitoring the new and emerging risks facing the Group, making recommendations regarding risk appetite to the board and evaluating the effectiveness of the Group’s governance and risk management framework.

The committee is scheduled to meet four times a year and only members of the committee are entitled to attend the meetings. However the Chief Executive is required to attend all meetings whereas, normally all other executive directors are invited to attend the meeting by invitation from the Chairman

Full details of the committee’s terms of reference can be found on our website www.dentistsprovident.co.uk.

Committee composition

The committee comprises the Group’s Chairman and two independent non executive directors appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee. The Chairman of the board cannot be the Chairman of the committee.

Committee membership and attendance at scheduled meetings

Martyn Green (Chairman)	4/4
Giles Kidner	4/4
Raj Rattan	4/4

Key items considered during 2023

During the year, the committee received regular updates from the executives on the changes to the enterprise risks facing the Group, the progress of the Group’s strategy regarding its technological infrastructure and, it reviewed the Group’s succession arrangements. The committee also reviewed the results of the Society’s compliance with the new Consumer Duty, which concluded that only a small number of changes were required to implement the new regulation.

Over the summer, the committee completed a self assessment of its own performance, reviewed the adequacy of its terms of reference and also met without the Chairman present.

In addition, the committee also reviewed:

- reports from the regulators and the Society’s associated response
- the performance of the committees and the board
- the Group’s responses to its Own Risk and Solvency Assessment
- the Group’s performance against the agreed business strategy
- the Group’s budgeted expenditure for the next year

Martyn Green

Martyn Green
Governance committee chairman
15 March 2024

The Operational Risk and Reputation Committee



Alister Weightman



Huw Winstone



Raj Rattan MBE

Role of the Operational Risk and Reputation Committee

The role of the Operational Risk and Reputation Committee is to assist the board in discharging its duties in the area of operational, conduct and reputational risk management.

The main responsibilities of the Operational Risk and Reputation Committee include:

- monitoring the adequacy of the conduct, reputational, regulatory compliance and business continuity risk management systems and making appropriate recommendations to the board
- reviewing and reporting to the board on the systems governing the identification and management of conduct, reputational, regulatory compliance, and business continuity risks
- receiving and reviewing regular reports from the executive and making appropriate recommendations to the board

The committee is scheduled to meet four times a year and only members of the committee are entitled to attend the meetings. However normally, all executive directors are invited to attend the meeting by invitation from the Chairman.

Full details of the committee’s terms of reference can be found on our website www.dentistsprovident.co.uk.

Committee composition

The committee comprises at least three members, who are appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee. All members of the committee must be independent non executive directors. The Chairman of the board cannot be a member of the committee.

Committee membership and attendance at scheduled meetings

Alister Weightman (Chairman)	4/4
Huw Winstone	4/4
Raj Rattan	4/4

Key items considered during 2023

During the year, the committee reviewed the results of the routine compliance monitoring process, and reviewed the annual report from the money laundering reporting officer.

Over the summer, the committee completed a self assessment of its own performance, reviewed the adequacy of its terms of reference and met without the Chairman present.

In addition, the committee received regular updates from the executives and external expert on conduct, reputation and regulatory risks.

Alister Weightman

Alister Weightman

Operational risk and reputation committee chairman
15 March 2024

The Remuneration Committee



Huw Winstone



Giles Kidner



Martyn Green

Role of the Remuneration Committee

The role of the Remuneration Committee is to assist the board in discharging its duties in relation to the Group's remuneration related matters.

The main responsibilities of the Remuneration Committee include:

- oversight of remuneration arrangements for directors
- monitoring the level and structure of remuneration for the management team
- determining the targets for any performance related pay plans for the Group
- oversight of any changes in employee benefit structures for the Group

The committee is also responsible for ensuring that contractual terms regarding termination and any termination payments are fair to the individual and the Group, that failure is not rewarded and that the duty to mitigate loss is fully recognised.

The committee is scheduled to meet at least once a year to review and set the remuneration policy for the directors, as well as determining the total individual remuneration package for each executive director. As a rule, no director participates in any part of the meeting covering their own remuneration. Any executive director and the Head of Human Resources may also attend the meetings at the invitation of the Chairman.

Full details of the committee's terms of reference can be found on our website www.dentistsprovident.co.uk.

Committee composition

The committee comprises at least three members, appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Governance Committee. The Chairman of the board cannot be the Chairman of the committee.

Committee membership and attendance at scheduled meetings

Huw Winstone (Chairman)	3/3
Giles Kidner	3/3
Martyn Green	3/3

Remuneration report

The remuneration policy

The objectives of any good remuneration policy are to attract, motivate and retain effective people. The key features of our remuneration policy in relation to our executive directors are as follows:

- to reward genuine contribution to the long term success of the Society with packages aligned to the interests of our members
- to give due consideration to the market environment, but be largely driven by the individual's level of responsibility, competence and contribution to our success
- to make the Lifetime membership plan mandatory for executive directors, to align their long term financial interests with those of our members
- to ensure that notice periods are in accordance with general market practice

Executive directors' base salary

An executive director's base salary provides the core reward for the role, and is set at a level designed to recruit, retain and motivate the skilled individuals required to deliver our strategy. Our Remuneration Committee reviews base salaries independently, annually. When doing so, it takes into account factors such as:

- the individual's responsibilities, skills and experience
- the competitiveness of the salary, by reference to other organisations of similar size and industry and, most importantly, the results of the annual performance reviews
- feedback from independent remuneration consultants
- inflation data

In setting the executive directors' remuneration for 2023, the committee considered the performance of the individual executive directors, their skills and experience and the responsibilities of their respective roles and noted that the duties performed by the executive directors were wider than those typical for their standard roles. The comparison with the executive directors' peers was a secondary, but nonetheless important consideration.

Based on the above, the committee proposed salary increases of 6.0% for the Chief Executive, Chief Technology Officer and Chief Risk Officer and 8% for the Chief Finance Officer. All increases were effective from 1 January 2023.

Executive directors' bonuses

Our board has recognised for many years the asymmetric nature of the risk/reward relationship, especially in relation to bonuses, and the logistical difficulties of implementing a plan that fits appropriately with the Group's not for profit objectives.

For this reason, the Society continues to shun bonuses for executive directors. The primary component of executive directors' reward is therefore the base salary.

Fees for the Chairman and non executive directors

The executive directors are responsible for setting and reviewing the fees of the non executive directors each year.

The Chairman is consulted on the fee arrangements generally and the Vice Chairman on the fees for the Chairman. Changes to the fees normally take effect from 1 January each year.

Non executive directors receive a basic fee and additional fees are payable for membership and chairmanship of the various committees. They may also claim session charges, based on the British Dental Guild rate, but only for duties which do not form part of their normal duties and responsibilities.

The executives proposed an increase of 75%, effective from 1 January 2023, for all board and committee roles held by non executive directors.

Benefits

The executive directors do not receive any benefits other than life insurance and a fixed benefits allowance. Non executive directors are not entitled to any contractual benefits.

Retirement benefits

The Chief Executive was a member of the Group's targeted final salary, defined contribution pension scheme. From 1 January 2017, he stopped accruing further benefits under the scheme and it was wound up in 2018.

The amount required to meet the difference between the value of a reference portfolio based on the assets held in the Chief Executive's pension fund at the date the scheme was wound up, and the amount required to meet the estimated present value of the accrued benefits at the reporting date is recognised in 'Other provisions' in the Balance sheet.

Since 1 January 2017, the Chief Executive is entitled to a cash allowance in lieu of pension. The cash allowance is set as a percentage of base salary in accordance with pre existing terms of employment. The maximum cash allowance payable is 30% of base salary.

The remaining executive directors, are members of the Group's defined contribution arrangement, which is open to all employees. The committee also reviewed their retirement benefit arrangements as part of their overall review of executive remuneration and recommended no change to the executive pension benefits of 15% of salary.

No pension benefits are available to non executive directors, including the Chairman.

Directors' remuneration

Details of directors' remuneration are set out in note 12 to the financial statements.

Service contracts

Subject to the requirements of the law and best practice, the directors' service contracts and terms and conditions of employment aim to strike the appropriate balance between the interests of the Group and those of the individual. Copies of the directors' service contracts and letters of appointment are available for inspection at the registered office of the Society.

The current notice period for non executive directors is six months and nine months for executive directors, which can be given by either party.

Non executive directors are not entitled to any compensation for loss of office and executive directors' compensation is limited to contractual notice pay entitlement.

External directorships

The executive directors are permitted to hold appropriate external non executive director appointments, provided they do not conflict with their commitments to the Group. The executive directors may retain the fees paid for these services, subject to prior approval by the Chairman.

No non executive directorships were held by the executive directors during the year.

Member engagement

The Society welcomes feedback from our members on all matters, including remuneration, and our primary mechanisms for gathering this include our Annual General Meeting and attendance at industry events throughout the year.

We were delighted to once more meet with many of our members face to face, and we strongly encourage their participation in our next Annual General Meeting where a resolution will be put forward, asking them to consider and approve the remuneration policy for the Group. A similar resolution was put forward last year which was supported by 98.6% of the votes cast.

Key items considered during 2023

During the year, the committee completed a review of the executive directors' contracts and Group's remuneration policy. It also approved the remuneration budget for Group employees and the bonus pool for operational employees.

Over the summer, the committee completed a self assessment of its own performance, reviewed the adequacy of its terms of reference and met without the Chairman present.

Following a tender process over the summer, the committee selected Fletcher Jones to carry out an independent review of executive remuneration to assess whether it continues to serve the best interests of the Society and its members. Their review included a comprehensive benchmarking exercise which, alongside the performance of each of the directors, provided the basis for their discussion regarding the pay awards effective from 1 January 2024.

An advisory resolution will be put to our members at the next Annual General Meeting, asking them to consider and approve this report. A similar resolution was put forward at our last Annual General Meeting which was also supported by 98.9% of the votes cast.

Huw Winstone

Huw Winstone

Remuneration committee chairman
15 March 2024

Directors' report

This report should be read in conjunction with the strategic report on pages 4 to 11.

Principal activity and objectives

Dentists' Provident is a not for profit mutual organisation, incorporated under the Friendly Societies Act 1992. The Group's principal business activity is the provision of income protection insurance to dental professionals in the UK and Ireland.

Further discussion of the Group's strategy is contained in the Chairman's report.

The Group did not undertake any activities during the year that were outside its powers.

Business review and future developments

An analysis of the future developments and performance of the business can be found within the Chairman's report.

A description of the material risks facing the Group are set out in the principal risks and uncertainties section of the annual report.

Bonuses to members

The recommended final bonuses applicable to the various plans are set out on page 4. Total bonuses allocated to members in 2023 amounted to £7.5 million (2022: £7.3 million).

Directors

Board membership and attendance at scheduled meetings

Giles Kidner (Chairman)	4/4
Farrukh Mirza (Chief Executive)	4/4
Raj Rattan MBE (Vice Chairman)	4/4
Brian Bourke	4/4
Simon Elliott	4/4
Martyn Green	4/4
Jim Karim	4/4
Kirby Mardle	4/4
Matthew Payne	4/4
Melanie Stern	4/4
Alister Weightman	4/4
Huw Winstone	4/4

The biographies of the directors are set out on pages 12 to 13.

At the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, all of the directors will be offering themselves for re election to the board.

The terms and conditions of appointment of directors are available for inspection at our registered office during normal business hours and at the Annual General Meeting.

Indemnification of directors

In accordance with the Society's memorandum and rules and applicable laws in England and Wales, the Group provided an indemnity to the directors of the Society and its subsidiaries.

Donations

Charitable donations totalled £20,881 (2022: £20,630). The Group's policy on donations is to provide assistance to small local charities, bodies involved in improving dental health and those providing support to members of the dental profession and their families.

Changes in fixed assets

Details of significant changes in the fixed assets of the Group are shown in note 18 to the financial statements.

Climate related financial disclosures

The Group recognises the importance of sustainability in terms of our responsibility to our wider stakeholders and good governance. The Group regularly considers its own approach to sustainability both at its board and committee meetings.

Governance

Our Chief Executive was appointed as our climate reporting officer in 2019 and is responsible for ensuring that material climate related financial risks and opportunities impacting the Group are identified, monitored and managed within our existing risk management framework and in line with the Group's risk appetite.

The Group regularly discusses climate related risks through the Investment and Capital Management Committee, who are responsible for considering sustainability matters within the context of our investment strategy as well as their impact on our plans and pricing.

Strategy

Our investment strategy is based on taking a long term and responsible view. Failure to manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks translates into financial risks, and we see these risks as part of a wider pool. This means that our manager evaluation and monitoring processes are not exclusively driven by ESG ratings. Instead, we look to ensure that our managers seek to incorporate strong and ethical governance, transparency and long term sustainability, within their risk management and stock selection processes.

Having regard to the nature of our plans and their terms and conditions, the board does not consider climate change to be a material risk for our income protection offering in the medium term. This assessment is proportionate and based on our understanding of the projected changes applicable to the UK and Ireland. However, the board continues to keep a watchful eye on scientific developments to ensure that developments in our understanding of the effects of climate change, particularly on the risk of illness and injury, are appropriately reflected in our strategic plans and risk assessments.

Operations

Having a low headcount and occupying modest space in a fairly modern and energy efficient head office means our environmental impact is already relatively low. However, we recognise the need and importance of doing more and we have already taken steps to reduce our impact further by undertaking actions to improve our energy efficiency, using renewable energy sources and minimising business travel by actively promoting virtual meetings where possible. The use of paper and post remains a significant contributor to our environmental footprint and we are actively investing in technology to minimise this.

Going concern

The Group's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position, are set out in the strategic report.

The board has assessed the viability of the Group over a five year period based on the Group's strategic plan. The plan was approved by the board in September 2021, covering the period 2022-2027. The review of the plan in September 2023 did not result in any material changes.

As detailed in this annual report, the Group has a robust process for managing its operations and for the approval of the risk appetite, risk monitoring and reporting. The board believes that the Group is well placed to manage its business effectively, having regard to its nature, scale and complexity. The board does not have any reason to believe the Group will not continue to be in operation over the foreseeable future.

The board also believes the Group has adequate resources and recurring income to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the going concern basis has been used in the preparation of the financial statements.

Solvency

Throughout the financial year, the Society maintained its solvency in excess of the required margin for its relevant class of business.

Accountability and internal controls

The board acknowledges it has overall responsibility for the Group's system of internal controls and for reviewing its effectiveness. The board also acknowledges that it is neither possible nor operationally efficient to eliminate risks completely, so accepts that the Group's system of internal controls is designed to manage, as opposed to eliminate, control risks and can only provide reasonable assurance against material misstatement, loss or error. Therefore, significant effort is dedicated to being fully aware of the risks to the Group and managing these to an acceptable level.

On a day to day basis, the Group's senior managers are responsible for the operation, management and effectiveness of the system of internal controls.

The board has reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal controls during the year, including financial and operational controls and confirms that a continuous process for the identification, evaluation and management of the principal risks facing the Group, was in place throughout the year and up to the date of the approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Cautionary statement regarding forward looking information

This annual report contains forward looking statements. These are made by the directors in good faith, based on the information available at the time of the approval of the annual report. These statements should be treated with caution due to the inherent risks and uncertainties underlying such forward looking information. A number of factors, including those in this document, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward looking statement.

The board does not intend to update any of these statements.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Directors' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements

The following statements should be read with the statement of auditor's responsibilities included in the independent auditor's report. They are made to help members distinguish between the responsibilities of the directors and those of the auditor in relation to this year's financial statements.

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements. It is also their responsibility to state that they consider that the annual report, when taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for members to assess the Group's performance, business model and strategy.

Under the Friendly Societies Act 1992, the directors are required to prepare and approve financial statements for each financial year. The directors must only approve the financial statements when they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and of the surplus or deficit of the Group and the Society for that year. The financial statements of the Group and, where relevant, the Society, have been prepared in accordance with:

- United Kingdom generally accepted accounting principles (UK GAAP)
- The Friendly Societies Act 1992

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the basis that the Group is a going concern, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business

The directors are responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are maintained. These must disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Group and the Society and enable the directors to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Friendly Societies Act 1992.

The directors are also responsible for:

- safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Society
- taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities
- ensuring the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Society's website

UK legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Directors' responsibility statement

Each of the current directors, whose names and functions are listed in the governance section on pages 12 to 13, confirms that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the Group and the Society's financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with UK GAAP, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the Group and of the Society and, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced and understandable.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

The directors of the Society, at the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements, confirm that in so far as they are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors individually have taken all necessary steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

On behalf of the board



Kirby Mardle

Director and Group secretary
15 March 2024

Financial statements

Independent auditor's report to the members of Dentists' Provident Society Limited

For the purpose of this report, the terms 'we' and 'our' denote MHA in relation to UK legal, professional and regulatory responsibilities and reporting obligations to the members of Dentists' Provident Society Limited. For the purposes of the table on page 31 that sets out the key audit matters and how our audit addressed the key audit matters, the terms 'we' and 'our' refer to MHA. The Group financial statements, as defined below, consolidate the accounts of Dentists' Provident Society Limited and its subsidiaries (the 'Group'). The 'Society' is defined as Dentists' Provident Society Limited, as an individual entity. The relevant legislation governing the Society is the Friendly Societies Act 1992.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dentists' Provident Society Limited for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements that we have audited comprise:

- the Group and Society Income and Expenditure Account (Technical account)
- the Group and Society Balance Sheets
- Notes 1 to 28 to the consolidated financial statements, including significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the Group and Society's financial statements 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 and Financial Reporting Standard 103 Insurance Contracts (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the Society's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and the Group's and Society's income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Friendly Societies Act 1992.

Our opinion is consistent with our reporting to the Audit Committee.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group 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 ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Our evaluation of the Directors' assessment of the Group's and the Society's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included:

- The consideration of inherent risks to the Group and the Society's operations and specifically their business model for the provision of insurance policies.
- The evaluation of how those risks might impact on the available financial resources.
- Where additional resources may be required, the reasonableness and practicality of the assumptions made by the Directors' when assessing the probability and likelihood of those resources becoming available.
- Liquidity considerations including examination of cash flow projections at Group and Society level.
- Solvency considerations including review of Technical Provisions as at the year-end.
- Viability assessments at Group and Society levels, including consideration of budgets, forecasts and business plans.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Society'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.

Overview of our audit approach

Scope	Our audit was scoped by obtaining an understanding of the Group, including the Society, and its environment, including the Group's system of internal control, and assessing the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including assessing whether there was evidence of bias by the Directors that may have represented a risk of material misstatement.
	We undertook full scope audits on the complete financial information of all three components.

Materiality	2023	2022	
Group	£2,395,880	£1,055,000	1% of net assets (2022: 0.5% of Fund for Future Appropriation)
Society	£2,360,000	£1,021,000	1% of net assets (2022: 0.5% of Fund for Future Appropriation)

Key audit matters

Recurring	Estimates of Technical Provisions
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Key audit matters

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified. These matters included those matters

which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Estimates of Technical Provisions

Key audit matter description	As described in accounting policies, provisions are made at the year-end for the estimated costs of claims incurred but not settled, at the balance sheet date. As this assessment requires judgements, it is considered a key area of focus for the audit due to the material value of the provision.
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How the scope of our audit responded to the key audit matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our procedures included an assessment of the methodologies used in order to calculate the Technical Provisions at the year end. • We reviewed the work of the client's Chief Risk Officer and Chief Actuary, which included a review of the methodologies adopted, verification of the accuracy of the data inputs into the calculations, and consideration of the resultant Technical Provisions to determine if they were in line with our expectations. • We engaged an independent Reviewing Actuary as auditor's expert to confirm to us that the methodologies, assumptions and calculations used by the Chief Actuary were materially appropriate and to provide conclusions and recommendations concerning the Society's compliance with Solvency II requirements in calculating the Technical Provisions and Solvency Capital Requirement. • We considered the experience and suitability of the Reviewing Actuary to assist our audit conclusions, determined that their work followed both Technical Actuarial Standards and Actuarial Professional Standards, and challenged their approach and conclusions arrived at by the Reviewing Actuary were appropriate. • The accounting policy and disclosures for the Technical Provisions were checked to financial reporting standards where necessary and were confirmed to be appropriate.
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Key observations communicated to the Group's Audit Committee	We concluded that the value of the Technical Provisions is reasonably stated and has been recorded and classified appropriately, and is consistent with required financial reporting standards.
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Our application of materiality

Our definition of materiality considers the value of error or omission on the financial statements that, individually or in aggregate, would change or influence the economic decision of a reasonably knowledgeable user of those financial statements. Misstatements below these levels will not necessarily be evaluated as immaterial as we also take account of the nature of identified misstatements, and the particular circumstances of their occurrence, when evaluating their effect on the financial statements as a whole. Materiality is used in planning the scope of our work, executing that work and evaluating the results.

Materiality in respect of the Group was set at £2,395,880 (2022: £1,055,000 – determined by predecessor auditors) which was determined on the basis of 1% of the Group's Net Assets (2022: 0.5% of Funds for Future Appropriation (FFA)). Materiality in respect of the Society was set at £2,360,000 (2022: £1,021,000), determined on the basis of 1% of the Society's Net Assets (2022: 0.5% of the Society's FFA). Net assets was deemed to be the appropriate benchmark for the calculation of materiality as this is a key area of the financial statements with which the users of the financial statements are principally concerned.

Performance materiality is the application of materiality at the individual account or balance level, set at an amount to reduce, to an appropriately low level, the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

Performance materiality for the Group was set at £1,677,116 (2022: £791,250) and at £1,652,000 (2022: £765,750) for the Society which represents 70% (2022: 75%) of the above materiality levels.

The determination of performance materiality reflects our assessment of the risk of undetected errors existing, the nature of the systems and controls and the level of misstatements arising in previous audits.

We agreed to report any corrected or uncorrected adjustments exceeding £119,794 (2022: £31,650) and £118,000 (2022: £31,650) in respect of the Group and Society respectively to the Board of Directors as well as differences below this threshold that in our view warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

Overview of the scope of the Group and Society audits

Our assessment of audit risk, evaluation of materiality and our determination of performance materiality sets our audit scope for each company within the Group. Taken together, this enables us to form an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. This assessment takes into account the size, risk profile, organisation/distribution and effectiveness of Group-wide controls, changes in the business environment and other factors such as recent internal audit results when assessing the level of work to be performed at each component.

The scope of our audit

In addition to the Society, the Group consists of two components.

- 1908 Property Holdings Limited
- 1908 Property Holdings (No.1) Limited

In assessing the risk of material misstatement to the consolidated financial statements, and to ensure we had adequate quantitative and qualitative coverage of significant accounts in the consolidated financial statements, of the 2 reporting components of the Group, we identified both components in the UK which represent the principal business units within the Group.

Full Scope audits: Both components were considered to be significant components of the Group. All significant Group components were subjected to full scope audits for the purposes of our audit report on the Group financial statements. For the purposes of Group reporting specific procedures were adopted as noted below.

The Group audit team performed the audit of both significant components of the Group.

The control environment

We evaluated the design and implementation of those internal controls of the Group, including the Society, which are relevant to our audit, such as those relating to the financial reporting cycle.

We deployed our internal IT audit specialists to obtain an understanding of the general IT environment.

Climate-related risks

In planning our audit and gaining an understanding of the Group and Society, we considered the potential impact of climate-related risks on the business and its financial statements. We obtained management's climate-related risk assessment, along with relevant documentation relating to management's assessment and held discussions with management to understand their process for identifying and assessing those risks.

We have agreed with management's assessment that climate-related risks are not material to these financial statements, including with regards to the portfolio of investments held. Owing to a number of factors, including the fact the Society has not issued a net zero target, the lack of regulatory involvement from the PRA and no challenges being received from stakeholders, the risk is considered low.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Strategic report and director's report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic report and the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic report and the Directors' report included within the Report of the Board of Directors have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Society and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic report or the Directors' report included within the Director's report.

Directors' remuneration report

Those aspects of the Director's remuneration report which are required to be audited have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Corporate governance statement

We have reviewed the Directors' statement in relation to going concern, longer-term viability and that part of the Corporate Governance Statement relating to the entity's voluntary compliance with the provisions of the Quoted Companies Alliance Corporate Governance Code.

Based on the work undertaken as part of our audit, we have concluded that each of the following elements of the Corporate Governance Statement is materially consistent with the financial statements and our knowledge obtained during the audit:

- Directors' statement with regards the appropriateness of adopting the going concern basis of accounting and any material uncertainties identified set out on page 28;
- Directors' explanation as to its assessment of the Group's prospects, the period this assessment covers and why the period is appropriate set out on page 28;
- Director's statement on whether it has a reasonable expectation that the Group will be able to continue in operation and meets its liabilities set out on page 28;
- Board's confirmation that it has carried out a robust assessment of the emerging and principal risks set out on pages 9 to 11;
- Section of the annual report that describes the review of effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems set out on page 16; and
- Section describing the work of the Audit Committee set out on pages 19 to 20.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Friendly Societies Act 1992 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept by the Society, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received by branches not visited by us; or

- the Society financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

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

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

Auditor 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

Identifying and assessing potential risks arising from irregularities, including fraud

The extent of the procedures undertaken to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, included the following:

- We considered the nature of the industry and sector, the control environment, business performance including remuneration policies and the Group's, including the Society's, own risk assessment that irregularities might occur as a result of fraud or error. From our sector experience and through discussion with the Directors, we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the Group focusing on laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a direct material effect on the financial statements, such as provisions of and regulations issued under the Friendly Societies Act 1992, Financial Reporting Council and Prudential Regulation Authority or those others that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the Group.
- We enquired about the existence of, and investigated the findings of, any communication with regulators that had occurred during the year.
- Legal and professional expenditures were reviewed for any instances of any legal or regulatory communication or payments which had not been disclosed.
- We enquired of the Directors and management including the Audit Committee concerning the Group's and the Society's policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with the laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they had any knowledge of actual or suspected fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by evaluating management's incentives and opportunities for manipulation of the financial statements. This included utilising the spectrum of inherent risk and an evaluation of the risk of management override of controls. We determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase revenue or reduce costs, creating fictitious transactions to hide losses or to improve financial performance, and management bias in accounting estimates particularly in determining expected insurance claim losses and provisions.

Audit response to risks identified

In respect of the above procedures:

- We corroborated the results of our enquiries through our review of the minutes of the Group's and the Society's Board of Directors, and Audit Committee meetings, inspection of legal and regulatory correspondence and correspondences from the regulators the PRA and the FCA;
- Audit procedures performed by the engagement team in connection with the risks identified included:
 - reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations expected to have a direct impact on the financial statements.
 - testing journal entries, including those processed late for financial statements preparation, those posted by infrequent or unexpected users, those posted to unusual account combinations;
 - evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business, and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
 - enquiry of management around actual and potential litigation and claims.
 - challenging the assumptions and judgements made by management and the experts engaged in assisting in its significant accounting estimates, and
 - obtaining confirmations from third parties to confirm existence of a sample of balances.
- The Group and the Society operate in a highly regulated insurance industry. As such, the Senior Statutory Auditor considered the experience and expertise of the engagement team to ensure that the team had the appropriate competence and capabilities; and
- We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including experts, and the component auditors and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Society's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 73 of the Friendly Societies Act 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Society'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 Society and the Society's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sudhir Singh

Sudhir Singh FCA
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
MHA
Statutory Auditor
London, United Kingdom
27 March 2024

MHA is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC312313)

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Technical account - Long term business

	Note	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Earned premiums	5	13,501	13,585	13,501	13,585
Investment income	6	4,985	372	5,519	545
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	7	20,912	(16,311)	24,325	(11,262)
Total income		39,398	(2,354)	43,345	2,868
Claims incurred	8	(11,738)	(11,082)	(11,738)	(11,082)
Withdrawals from bonus accounts by members	8	6,555	5,450	6,555	5,450
Technical provisions	21	6,662	2,244	6,662	2,244
Changes in long term business provisions		13,217	7,694	13,217	7,694
Bonuses to members	9	(7,471)	(7,256)	(7,471)	(7,256)
Net operating expenses	10	(5,065)	(4,672)	(5,237)	(4,862)
Investment management expenses		(107)	(99)	(106)	(98)
Total expenses		(5,172)	(4,771)	(5,343)	(4,960)
Other provisions	22	(451)	1,841	(451)	1,841
Surplus/(Deficit) before taxation		27,783	(15,928)	31,559	(10,895)
Taxation	13	726	766	—	—
Transfer to/(from) fund for future appropriations	20	28,509	(15,162)	31,559	(10,895)

Balance Sheet

31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Assets					
Land and buildings	14	13,130	15,355	–	–
Investment in subsidiaries	15	–	–	7,400	6,600
Other financial investments	16	321,323	286,548	321,323	286,548
Total investments		334,453	301,903	328,723	293,148
Negative technical provisions	21	12,425	14,027	12,425	14,027
Debtors	17	5	357	11,737	10,322
Tangible fixed assets	18	3,094	3,736	3,094	3,736
Cash at bank		11,314	21,219	3,097	14,082
Total other assets		14,408	24,955	6,191	17,818
Prepayments and accrued income		310	373	282	319
Total assets		361,601	341,615	359,358	335,634
Liabilities					
Fund for future appropriations	20	239,523	211,014	238,023	206,464
Technical provisions	21	117,959	126,330	117,959	126,330
Provision for liabilities	22	1,233	782	1,233	782
Provision for deferred taxation	23	493	1,181	–	–
Creditors	24	2,393	2,308	2,143	2,058
Total liabilities		361,601	341,615	359,358	335,634

The attached notes 1 to 28 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 15 March 2024.

Giles Kidner

Giles Kidner
Group Chairman

Farrukh Mirza

Farrukh Mirza
Group Chief Executive

Jim Karim

Jim Karim
Chairman of the Audit Committee

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. General information

Dentists' Provident is a not for profit mutual organisation, incorporated under the Friendly Societies Act 1992. The Group's principal business activity is the provision of income protection insurance to dental professionals in the UK and Ireland.

The Dentists' Provident Group, resident in the United Kingdom, comprises the Dentists' Provident Society Limited (the parent undertaking) and its wholly owned subsidiaries, 1908 Property Holdings Limited, 1908 Property Holdings (No.1) Ltd and CMDH Limited.

The registered office is 91-94 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8QP. The nature of the Group's operations and its principal activities are set out in the strategic report section of the annual report.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with Friendly Societies (Accounts and Related Provisions) Regulations 1994, The Friendly Societies Act 1992 and Financial Reporting Standards 102 and 103 (FRS102 and FRS103).

Statement of cash flows

Dentists' Provident is a mutual life insurer and has taken advantage of the exemption granted to it by FRS 102 from presenting a Statement of cash flows.

Going concern

The Group's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out in the strategic report section of the annual report. This section further describes the financial position of the Group, its liquidity position, its objectives, policies and processes for managing capital, its financial objectives, details of its financial instruments and its exposure to key risks.

The Group meets its operational capital requirements through maintaining part of its assets in suitably liquid assets such as cash and cash equivalents. The board believes the Group has adequate resources to manage its business risks and that the Society and the Group have sufficient resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the going concern basis has been used in the preparation of the financial statements.

Basis of consolidation

The Group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the parent and the entities which are controlled by the Group at 31 December. The subsidiaries have been consolidated from the date that control was presumed to exist and all intercompany balances, surpluses and transactions have been eliminated.

Foreign currencies

The functional currency of the Society and its subsidiaries is pounds sterling as it is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Group operates.

Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of the transaction. At each balance sheet date, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated into sterling at the rate of exchange prevailing at the balance sheet date. All exchange gains and losses are included in the income and expenditure account.

2. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

Income recognition

Premium income

The Society's contracts are long term insurance contracts and premium income is recognised in the income and expenditure account when due from the members of the Society. Where a contract lapses due to non receipt of premiums, then any premium income accrued but not received relating to the period after the date of lapse, is offset against premiums.

Investment income

Investment income includes dividends, interest, rent, realised gains and losses on the sale of investments and related expenses. Dividends, bank interest and rent are recorded on an accruals basis. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as either, the difference between the net sales proceeds and original cost (in the case of investments purchased in the year), or as the difference between the net sales proceeds and prior year's valuation.

Unrealised gains and losses

Unrealised gains and losses on investments are calculated as either the difference between the current year end valuation and purchase price, if acquired in the year, or as the difference between the current year and prior year end valuations.

Insurance contracts

Classification

Insurance contracts are defined as those contracts under which the Society accepts significant insurance risk from the member, by agreeing to compensate them if a specified uncertain future event adversely affects them. Such contracts remain insurance contracts until all rights and obligations are extinguished or expire.

Claims

Claims incurred comprise of sickness benefit and withdrawals of capital by the members of the Society, net of subrogation recoveries. Claims are recognised in the financial statements when the relevant criteria for the payment of the claim are satisfied by the claimant.

Acquisition costs

Acquisition costs represent the direct and indirect costs relating to obtaining and processing new business.

Commissions consist of fees paid to independent third party financial intermediaries and are directly related to the acquisition of new business.

Having regard to the future premium levels, the directors do not consider the deferred acquisition costs to be material. As a consequence, all acquisition costs are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period they are incurred.

Taxation

The existing activities of the Society are not chargeable to corporation tax in the UK.

The corporation tax charge/(credit) is based on the subsidiaries' taxable profits/(loss) for the year as determined in accordance with the relevant tax legislation, together with adjustments for prior years. A reconciliation of the taxable surplus/(deficit) to net surplus/(deficit) is provided in note 13.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of temporary differences arising between the tax bases of the subsidiaries' assets and liabilities and the amounts included within the financial statements at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date and are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities and when they relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority and the Group intends to settle its current assets and liabilities on a net basis.

Land and buildings

Land and buildings are held by the Group to earn rental income and/or provide potential for future capital growth.

Land and buildings are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration given, including the directly attributable transaction costs associated with the acquisition. Subsequent capital expenditure is then capitalised and included within the cost of the property.

In the year of acquisition, the cost of the land and buildings is deemed reflective of its fair value in the open market. In subsequent years, land and buildings are measured at fair value annually, with any change in fair value being recognised in the Group's income and expenditure account.

The accumulated changes in fair value for Land and buildings are recognised in the Fund for future appropriation in the balance sheet. Any amounts which relate to a part of the asset occupied by the Group for its own use are disclosed in note 14.

Land and buildings that are being redeveloped to earn rental income and/or provide potential for future capital growth are measured at fair value, if the fair value can be measured reliably. If the fair value cannot be measured reliably, they are measured at cost less impairment until such time as the fair value can be measured reliably.

Financial assets and liabilities

Recognition

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised when a member of the Group becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Initial measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at their transaction price including any associated transaction costs.

Subsequent measurement

At the end of each reporting period financial assets and liabilities are measured as follows:

- Financial instruments which are publicly traded, or where their value can otherwise be measured reliably in accordance with FRS 102, are measured at fair value. Changes in their fair value are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period in which it arises
- Loans made to or by a subsidiary undertaking are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method
- Investments in a subsidiary undertaking are measured at cost less impairment
- Receivables and payables due within one year are measured at the amount expected to be received or paid

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to the cash flows from that asset have expired or have been settled or when substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial assets are transferred to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, comprising fixtures, fittings, plant and equipment and computer software and equipment, are stated at cost net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Cost includes any associated expenditure directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life. The Group uses the following rates:

- Fixtures, fittings, plant and equipment at 10% and 12.5% per annum on a straight line basis
- Computer equipment and software at 10%, 20% and 25% per annum on a straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on assets in the course of construction.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date the Group assesses whether its assets, other than those measured at fair value, are impaired.

A non financial asset is impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events, its estimated recoverable value has reduced. The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. A financial asset is impaired when there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events, its estimated future cash flows have been affected.

Impairment losses are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period in which they occurred.

Cash

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and demand deposits and other short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Deposits held with credit institutions

Deposits held with credit institutions comprise monetary items, the withdrawal of which is subject to a fixed time constraint and are measured at fair value.

Technical provisions

At each reporting date the Group performs a review of its technical provisions to ensure that the carrying values are appropriate, using current estimates of future cash flows and investment returns. If the assessment shows the carrying values of the technical provisions are no longer appropriate, any deficiency or surplus is recognised in the income and expenditure account.

The technical provisions consist of three elements, the Best estimate of the insurance portfolio liabilities, the Best estimate of bonus account liabilities payable in the future (collectively known as the Best Estimate Liability 'BEL') and, the Risk margin.

The BEL is the present value of future cash flows from the Group's insurance business which can be separated into two different classes of business. The cash flows pertaining to the provision of income protection insurance and other benefits offered by the Group are referred to as the Best estimate of the insurance portfolio liabilities, whereas Best estimate of future bonus account liabilities consists of future cash flows pertaining to the bonus accounts and includes an estimate of future bonus declarations. The risk margin is an allowance for the cost to a third party of undertaking the Group's risks that are not hedgeable under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms.

The technical provisions are calculated on a best estimate market consistent basis in accordance with the requirements under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms.

Where the net future cash inflows pertaining to a class of business are positive, this results in a Negative technical reserve. The Group does not offset negative technical reserves against technical reserves which are disclosed separately on the balance sheet.

Provisions for other liabilities

The provision for other liabilities relates to obligations in respect of compensation and employee entitlements. It is the amount required to meet the difference between, the value of a reference portfolio based on the assets held in the Chief Executive's pension fund at the date the scheme was wound up, and the amount required to meet the estimated present value of the accrued benefits at the reporting date. Changes in value are recognised in Other provisions in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

Leasing

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Rentals receivable under operating leases are recognised as investment income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Rentals payable under operating leases are recognised as operating expenses on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

3. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of accounting estimates. It also requires the directors of the Society to exercise their judgement in the application of the accounting policies which they have chosen to be the most appropriate for use by the Society.

Those areas involving a high degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the values reported, are set out below. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors which are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Critical accounting judgements

While preparing the financial statements, no critical judgements were made in the process of applying the Society's accounting policies, other than those involving estimations, that have had a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

Estimating the fair value of certain assets

Where the fair value of an asset is not based on quoted prices in an active market for an identical asset, the directors must estimate the fair value using other available information. During the year, the sources of estimation uncertainty were:

Freehold land and buildings

The Group owns a portfolio of freehold land and buildings which are held for long term rental yield and capital growth. Each property is unique in its combination of size, location, design and quality and as such a quoted price for an identical asset is not available. The freehold land and buildings were revalued to fair value at 31 December 2021 based on a valuation by Tuckerman Chartered Surveyors, an independent valuer with recent and relevant experience in the location and class of properties being valued. The properties were valued on an open market basis and in accordance with the RICS Appraisal and Valuation Manual.

A Directors' valuation was carried out on 31 December 2023 which used discount rates, current rental yields and growth rates, recent and comparable transactions and industry data as the main inputs. While the directors are satisfied that the valuation figure constitutes fair value, they also recognise the estimation uncertainty created by those inputs. If any of these inputs differ significantly from those used in the valuation, the value of the freehold land and buildings could change materially.

Investments

The Group has a portfolio of investments in private equity and debt funds where the fair values at the reporting date need to be estimated using the information available at the reporting date. These can include the most recent valuation available prior to the reporting date, details of any transactions since that valuation and any other relevant information obtained during the regular discussions with the fund managers.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax arises on timing differences between taxable surpluses and total surpluses. The amount of deferred tax recognised is estimated using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, which means the amount of tax which is paid in the future could differ from these estimates.

Technical provisions

The directors are responsible for approving the recommendations for the valuation methodology and assumptions used in calculating the technical provisions. These recommendations are prepared and presented in accordance with the applicable Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and reviewed by the Society's Chief Actuary.

Other provisions

The valuation of the provision for other liabilities, which relates to obligations in respect of compensation and employee entitlements, requires the directors to make assumptions about the future based on the information available today. The sources of estimation uncertainty include the use of discount rates, investment yields and gilt yields applicable at the balance sheet date. Changes in value are recognised in Other provisions in the Income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

4. Risk management objectives and policies

The business activities of the Group expose it to a number of potential risks, that can impact its abilities to meet its business objectives. The board is responsible for the Group's internal control systems and for reviewing their effectiveness. The systems are designed to manage, as opposed to eliminate, risk and aim to provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance.

The Group's overall appetite for accepting and managing risks is set by the Group's board. The Group's risk management policies and procedures cover areas such as risk identification, management and reporting. The primary objective of the risk management framework is to protect the members, employees and other key stakeholders from consequences that could negatively affect the Group's ability to meet its contractual, business and social objectives.

This note covers the risks relevant to the Group's operations and financial statements from a qualitative and quantitative perspective. The sensitivities shown in this note are based on those used for internal business management purposes.

Insurance risk

The risk under a contract of insurance with a member is the possibility that an insured event will occur and a claim become payable. The very nature of insurance is based on the unpredictability of the timing and severity of events. The principal risks the Group faces in this area of business activity comprise the risk of adverse financial impact on the Group due to inappropriate pricing of the income protection insurance contracts and the risk of claims experience being worse than anticipated, with the associated impact on the sickness benefit reserve. Other less significant, but nonetheless material risks under this heading include, the loss of future premium income from lower than expected renewal of insurance business and higher than expected costs of managing the insurance portfolio.

The Society manages insurance risk by following standard underwriting policies, which take into account the risks the Group is prepared to accept, adopting a structured approach to underwriting and regular, formal analysis and monitoring of the insurance portfolio.

The Society does not have within its product range any embedded options or guarantees.

The two key drivers of the Group's claims experience are the inception rates for claims and the recovery rates for claimants. Part of these risks is mitigated by the fact that most of the Society's income protection contracts allow for the premiums to be reviewed. Additional mechanisms for managing these risks include a structured approach to assessing and managing claims.

The impact of a 10% increase in the morbidity assumption would be to increase the technical provisions by £5.127 million (2022: £5.068 million).

The persistency experience of the Society varies over time but has remained stable in the past. Factors affecting persistency include the effectiveness of the sales process of the independent financial advisers, members' perception of the Society and the insurance industry, regulatory changes in the dental profession, investment performance and the general economic environment.

Given the past level of persistency, a large proportionate increase in the current lapse experience is unlikely to have a material effect on the Society.

The members of the Society bear the impact of any changes in expense levels, as the expenses affect the amounts available for distribution to members as bonuses. An increase in the expense assumption of 20% would increase the technical provisions by 5.512 million (2022: £5.388 million).

A decrease in the yield curves used to calculate the technical provisions of 75 basis points would increase the technical provisions by £0.885 million (2022: £0.611 million).

The maturity profile of the technical provisions is set out in note 21.

Equity risk

The Group is exposed to equity risk through its holdings in collective investment schemes. This risk affects a significant but tightly controlled proportion of the overall investment portfolio and the holdings involved are well diversified across companies, industries and geographical regions. The board keeps the investment strategy under review to ensure the Group's ability to write business and settle claims is not adversely affected by falls in the market value of equities. The fair value of equity type investments in the Group's financial statements at the year end was £201.821 million (2022: £164.803 million).

The equity risk is borne by the members of the Society, as changes in equity valuations and income would directly impact the amounts available for distribution to the members. A 10% reduction in equity valuations would reduce the Group's surplus for the year by £20.182 million (2022: increase the deficit by £16.480 million).

Interest rate risk

The Group's exposure to fixed income investments is principally through collective investment schemes. These investments also represent a significant part of the Group's investment portfolio and are kept under regular review by the board. The fair value of fixed

interest securities is normally inversely correlated to market interest rates, assuming credit and liquidity premia remain unchanged.

The holdings within the collective investment schemes are primarily within highly rated government and corporate debt, asset backed securities and term deposits. The Group's fixed interest portfolio tends to have a relatively short duration, which provides a degree of protection against movements in the longer end of the yield curve. The fair value of fixed interest securities, including deposits with credit institutions, in the Group's financial statements was £104.439 million (2022: 103.925 million).

Although the Group attempts to manage interest rate risk by broadly matching the duration and profile of the assets with underlying member liabilities, the interest rate risk is borne by the members of the Society, as changes impacting the effective yield and valuations would directly impact the amounts available for distribution to the members. A 75 basis points reduction in the yield curve would increase the Groups' surplus for the year by £3.199 million (2022: decrease the deficit by £1.030 million).

Property risk

The Group has significant exposure to property and property related assets, through a combination of direct holdings and holdings in collective investment schemes. The rental income and valuation are affected by the general conditions in the economy, such as GDP growth, employment trends, inflation and interest rates. In addition, local factors, such as competition in the area from other landlords, attractiveness of the properties to prospective tenants, the state of repairs of the premises and the costs of maintenance and insurance, impact the valuation and rental income from individual properties.

The Group manages the risks associated with its own direct investments in property by effective management of the premises, credit evaluations of prospective tenants, application of appropriate lease covenants and ongoing monitoring of existing tenants. A 10% reduction in the valuation of property and property related assets would reduce the Group's surplus for the year by £2.819 million (2022: increase the deficit by £3.188 million).

Currency risk

The Group's exposure to foreign exchange risk arises primarily through entering into insurance and investment contracts denominated in currencies other than pounds sterling. Currency risk is controlled as part of the Group's day to day operations. A number of arrangements have been put in place that provide a partial, non qualifying hedge against currency risk. At the current and preceding year ends, the board did not consider the residual currency risk to be material to the Group's operations.

Credit risk

This is the risk that one party to a financial transaction will fail to discharge its obligations, causing the other party to incur a loss. Credit risk in relation to financial investments and cash and cash equivalents is managed by the Investment and capital management committee. The Group's investment guidelines are constructed to avoid excessive exposure to any single counterparty and to ensure that debt and fixed income investments are concentrated in high quality investment grade holdings. In addition, the Investment and Capital Management Committee has the right to impose stricter credit risk limits, where it deems it appropriate.

The Group credit risk in respect of balances with members is managed primarily by the terms and conditions set out in the Society's rules, which allow it to cancel the membership of individuals in the event of non payment of premiums.

At the year end, the Group had no material debt or fixed income assets that were impaired beyond their reported fair values (2022: £NIL).

Further information on the credit risk profile of the Group's fixed interest securities and deposits with credit institutions is set out in note 16.

Liquidity risk

The Group is exposed to the daily need for cash resources, mainly from claims for sickness benefits and capital withdrawals. Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group, although solvent, is unable to meet its obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by cash and cash equivalents.

A significant part of the Group's investments are in highly liquid assets, which can be readily converted into cash at minimal cost. In addition, the use of budgets and business plans allows the Group the ability to realistically estimate its liquidity requirements.

Capital risk management

The board is responsible for ensuring that the Group holds an appropriate level of surplus capital. The Society is also subject to an externally imposed capital requirement by the UK regulatory authorities. It is the Group's policy to maintain capital in excess of the amounts determined under the regulatory framework.

Please see note 20 for further information.

5. Earned premiums

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Analysis of gross premiums written by class of business				
Total long term insurance contracts	13,501	13,585	13,501	13,585
Analysis of gross premiums written by geographic area				
United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man	12,834	12,918	12,834	12,918
Ireland	667	667	667	667
Total long term insurance contracts	13,501	13,585	13,501	13,585

6. Investment income

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Income from subsidiary	–	–	1,051	652
Income from land and buildings	402	446	–	–
Income from other financial investments	3,943	1,778	3,828	1,745
Gains/(losses) on realisation of investments	640	(1,852)	640	(1,852)
Total investment income	4,985	372	5,519	545

No contingent income has been recognised in the financial statements in the current or previous year.

7. Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Freehold land and buildings	(3,413)	(5,049)	–	–
Other financial investments	24,325	(11,262)	24,325	(11,262)
Total unrealised gains on investments	20,912	(16,311)	24,325	(11,262)

8. Claims incurred

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Withdrawals from bonus accounts by members	6,555	5,450	6,555	5,450
Income protection benefit claims	5,183	5,632	5,183	5,632
Total claims incurred	11,738	11,082	11,738	11,082

9. Bonuses to members

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Dividends and interest to members on withdrawal	225	191	225	191
Annual bonuses to members	6,379	6,443	6,379	6,443
Terminal bonuses on withdrawal of funds	867	622	867	622
Total bonuses to members	7,471	7,256	7,471	7,256

10. Net operating expenses

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Acquisition costs	2,328	2,123	2,328	2,123
Administrative expenses	2,737	2,549	2,909	2,739
Net operating expenses	5,065	4,672	5,237	4,862
Net operating expenses include:				
Commissions to financial intermediaries	347	183	347	183
Auditor's remuneration - audit services	122	133	108	114
Actuarial fees	144	148	144	148
Depreciation and loss on disposal of fixed assets	710	764	710	764

11. Staff costs

The remuneration of our staff, included within note 10 above was:

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Wages and salaries	1,891	1,775	1,891	1,775
Social security costs	219	218	219	218
Other pension and associated costs	125	120	125	120
Total staff costs	2,235	2,113	2,235	2,113

The other pension costs relate to the cost to the group of operating a defined contribution retirement benefit scheme for all qualifying employees. Payments to the scheme are charged as they fall due. The scheme is independently administered by a third party and contributions are made on a contractual basis.

	2023 Group	2022 Group	2023 Society	2022 Society
Average number of employees, including directors				
Acquisition	9	9	9	9
Management and administration	17	17	17	17
Total	26	26	26	26

Details of directors' remuneration included within staff costs above are set out in note 12.

12. Directors' and key employees' remuneration

The remuneration of directors, included within the total staff costs above was:

	2023 £000 Salary and fees	2023 £000 All taxable benefits	2023 £000 Pension related benefits	2023 £000 Total	2022 £000 Salary and fees	2022 £000 All taxable benefits	2022 £000 Pension related benefits	2022 £000 Total
Non executive directors								
Giles Kidner	34	—	—	34	31	—	—	31
Brian Bourke	11	—	—	11	11	—	—	11
Martyn Green	18	—	—	18	17	—	—	17
Jim Karim	13	—	—	13	12	—	—	12
Raj Rattan MBE	17	—	—	17	16	—	—	16
Melanie Stern	6	—	—	6	6	—	—	6
Alister Weightman	18	—	—	18	17	—	—	17
Huw Winstone	18	—	—	18	17	—	—	17
Executive directors								
Farrukh Mirza	345	4	103	452	325	4	98	427
Simon Elliott	162	4	24	190	153	4	23	180
Kirby Mardle	116	4	17	137	107	4	16	127
Matthew Payne	165	4	25	194	156	4	23	183
	923	16	169	1,108	868	16	160	1,044

The remuneration of the key employees detailed on page 12, included within total staff costs was:

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Wages and salaries	354	374	354	374
Taxable benefits	25	10	25	10
Other pension and associated costs	27	28	27	28
	406	412	406	412

13. Taxation

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
UK corporation tax	(38)	54	–	–
Deferred tax	(688)	(820)	–	–
Total tax credit for the year	(726)	(766)	–	–

The difference between the tax credit above and the amount calculated by applying the standard rate of UK corporation tax to the surplus/(deficit) is as follows:

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Surplus/(Deficit) on ordinary activities before tax	27,783	(15,928)	31,559	(10,895)
Tax on surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities at standard UK corporation tax rate of 25% (2022: 19%)	6,946	(3,026)	7,890	(2,070)
Effects of:				
Income not taxable for determining current taxable surplus/(deficit)	(7,037)	3,080	(7,890)	2,070
Movement in deferred tax on revaluation gains	(688)	(820)	–	–
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods	(38)	–	–	–
Expenditure incurred prior to trading	89	–	–	–
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	2	–	–	–
Total tax credit for the year	(726)	(766)	–	–

14. Land and buildings

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Valuation				
Freehold land and buildings at the start of the year	15,355	15,800	—	—
Additions	1,188	4,603	—	—
Revaluation	(3,413)	(5,048)	—	—
Freehold land and buildings at the end of the year	13,130	15,355	—	—
Value of land included in the valuation above	4,792	3,347	—	—
Value of land and buildings occupied by the group for its own use	5,069	5,521	—	—
Value of land and buildings at cost	12,201	11,037	—	—

The freehold land and buildings held at the time, were revalued to fair value at 31 December 2021 based on a valuation by Tuckerman Chartered Surveyors, an independent valuer with recent and relevant experience in the location and class of properties being valued. The properties were valued on an open market basis and in accordance with the RICS Appraisal and Valuation Manual. No special assumptions were applied to the valuation of the properties and there are no restrictions on the realisability of the investment properties.

A directors' valuation was performed for the land and buildings as at 31 December 2023. The main inputs used by the group were discount rates, rental yields, rental growth rates based on current market conditions, comparable transactions and industry data. The directors are satisfied that the valuation of all land and buildings constitutes fair value.

At 31 December, the group had contracted with tenants for the following future minimum lease payments:

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Within one year	357	563	—	—
In the second to fifth years inclusive	61	296	—	—
After five years	—	14	—	—

15. Investment in subsidiaries

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Cost of shares in group undertakings	–	–	7,400	6,600

During the year the Society increased its shareholding in 1908 Property Holdings (No.1) Limited to 2,800,000 ordinary shares (2022: 2,000,000 ordinary shares)

The directors are of the opinion that the aggregate value of the investment is in excess of the amounts stated above.

Information about the subsidiaries	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Holding	Percentage held
1908 Property Holdings Limited, 91-94 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8QP	England and Wales	Property holding	4,600,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	100%
CMDH Limited, Enterprise House, O'Brien Road, Carlow, Ireland (non trading)	Ireland	European Representative for data protection	100 ordinary shares of €1 each	100%
1908 Property Holdings (No.1) Limited, 91-94 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8QP	England and Wales	Property holding	2,800,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	100%

16. Other financial investments

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Valuation				
Shares and other variable yield securities	216,884	183,083	216,884	183,083
Debt and other fixed interest securities	104,439	103,465	104,439	103,465
Total other financial investments	321,323	286,548	321,323	286,548
Cost				
Shares and other variable yield securities	154,455	141,141	154,455	141,141
Debt and other fixed interest securities	93,862	94,202	93,862	94,202
Total other financial investments	248,317	235,343	248,317	235,343

The group and the Society have a portfolio of investments in private equity and debt funds. The structure of these funds is such that the total amount the group and the Society agreed to invest is drawn down over the investment period. The undrawn commitment (total amount committed, net of drawdown) at the balance sheet date for the group and the Society was £13.836 million (2022: £3.735 million).

The credit risk profile of fixed interest securities and deposits with credit institutions shown above is as follows:

	2023 Group	2022 Group	2023 Society	2022 Society
Investment grade	98%	94%	98%	94%
Sub-investment grade	1%	3%	1%	3%
Unrated	1%	3%	1%	3%

17. Debtors

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Due from members	–	1	–	1
Other debtors	5	356	5	356
Amounts owed by subsidiaries	–	–	11,732	9,965
Total debtors	5	357	11,737	10,322

18. Tangible fixed assets

	2023 £000 Group Fixtures, fittings, plant and equipment	2023 £000 Group Computer equipment and software	2023 £000 Group Total	2023 £000 Society Fixtures, fittings, plant and equipment	2023 £000 Society Computer equipment and software	2023 £000 Society Total
Cost						
At the start of the year	498	8,142	8,640	473	8,142	8,615
Additions	–	68	68	–	68	68
At the end of the year	498	8,210	8,708	473	8,210	8,683
Accumulated depreciation and impairment						
At the start of the year	488	4,416	4,904	463	4,416	4,879
Charge for the year	4	706	710	4	706	710
At the end of the year	492	5,122	5,614	467	5,122	5,589
Net book value						
At the start of the year	10	3,726	3,736	10	3,726	3,736
At the end of the year	6	3,088	3,094	6	3,088	3,094

19. Analysis of investments by fair value hierarchy

Where possible, the group will use the price quoted in an active market for an identical asset at the measurement date as a measurement of fair value. If this information is not available, the board will follow the fair value hierarchy, as set out by FRS 102 and outlined below, to estimate the fair value. Any asset not valued at fair value has been excluded from the table below.

Level 1: The unadjusted quoted price in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (i.e. developed using market data) for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs are unobservable (i.e. for which market data is unavailable) for the asset or liability.

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Land and buildings				
Level 1	–	–	–	–
Level 2	–	–	–	–
Level 3	13,130	12,520	–	–
Total	13,130	12,520	–	–
Shares and other variable yield securities				
Level 1	209,985	179,273	209,985	179,273
Level 2	–	–	–	–
Level 3	6,899	3,810	6,899	3,810
Total	216,884	183,083	216,884	183,083
Debt and other fixed interest securities				
Level 1	93,077	93,190	93,077	93,190
Level 2	–	–	–	–
Level 3	11,362	10,275	11,362	10,275
Total	104,439	103,465	104,439	103,465

Transfers between levels of fair value hierarchy

For investments that are measured at fair value, the group determines whether transfers have occurred between the levels of the fair value hierarchy by re-assessing the categorisation at the end of each reporting period. No such transfers occurred in the period.

20. Fund for future appropriations

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
At the start of the year	211,014	226,176	206,464	217,359
Transfer from/(to) the income and expenditure account	28,509	(15,162)	31,559	(10,895)
At the end of the year	239,523	211,014	238,023	206,464
Excess capital under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms				
Fund for future appropriations	239,523	211,014	238,023	206,464
Revaluation of assets under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms	(2,821)	(3,701)	(2,821)	(3,701)
Solvency capital requirement	(146,794)	(121,672)	(146,794)	(121,672)
Excess capital under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms	89,908	85,641	88,408	81,091

The revaluation of assets under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms relates to items of computer equipment and software which are not admissible as assets under the regulations.

The directors are of the opinion that the excess capital under the UK prudential regulatory regime for insurance firms as opposed to the fund for future appropriations is more representative of the amounts available for distribution to members.

21. Technical provisions

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Credited to the income and expenditure account				
Change in best estimate of the insurance portfolio liabilities	1,601	7,591	1,601	7,591
Change in best estimate of future bonus account liabilities	539	(4,102)	539	(4,102)
Change in risk margin	(8,802)	(5,733)	(8,802)	(5,733)
Change in technical provisions	(6,662)	(2,244)	(6,662)	(2,244)
Best estimate liability of the insurance portfolio				
At the start of the year	(14,027)	(21,618)	(14,027)	(21,618)
Changes in assumptions	3,296	7,167	3,296	7,167
Changes in membership	(3,516)	(1,911)	(3,516)	(1,911)
Other changes	1,822	2,335	1,822	2,335
At the end of the year (A)	(12,425)	(14,027)	(12,425)	(14,027)
Best estimate liability of the members' bonus accounts				
At the start of the year	111,913	114,953	111,913	114,953
Changes in assumptions	1,038	(2,996)	1,038	(2,996)
Changes in membership	1,692	3,370	1,692	3,370
Other changes	(2,299)	(3,414)	(2,299)	(3,414)
At the end of the year (B)	112,344	111,913	112,344	111,913

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Analysed as:				
Members' bonus accounts	91,893	92,001	91,893	92,001
Best estimate of future bonus account liabilities	20,451	19,912	20,451	19,912
At the end of the year	112,344	111,913	112,344	111,913
Risk margin				
At the start of the year	14,417	20,150	14,417	20,150
Change in risk margin	(8,802)	(5,733)	(8,802)	(5,733)
At the end of the year (C)	5,615	14,417	5,615	14,417
Negative technical provisions (A)	(12,425)	(14,027)	(12,425)	(14,027)
Technical Provisions (B) + (C)	117,959	126,330	117,959	126,330
Maturity profile of negative technical provisions				
On demand, no fixed maturity or within one year	(101)	917	(101)	917
Between one and five years	(1,560)	(1,859)	(1,560)	(1,859)
Between five and ten years	(3,644)	(3,411)	(3,644)	(3,411)
More than ten years	(7,120)	(9,674)	(7,120)	(9,674)
	(12,425)	(14,027)	(12,425)	(14,027)
Maturity profile of technical provisions				
On demand, no fixed maturity or within one year	80,042	86,677	80,042	86,677
Between one and five years	11,600	12,327	11,600	12,327
Between five and ten years	11,111	11,426	11,111	11,426
More than ten years	15,206	15,900	15,206	15,900
	117,959	126,330	117,959	126,330

Key assumptions

The significant assumptions used to determine the insurance technical provisions are set out below.

Assumption	Details
Short term and future morbidity	This represents expected future sickness and varies by age and gender. This is set with reference to the group's recent experience.
Claims in payment morbidity	This represents the recovery of currently sick members and varies by length of time a member has been sick. This is set with reference to the group's recent experience.
Persistency	This represents members choosing to terminate their policies. This is set with reference to the group's recent experience.
Inflation	This is set with reference to the market implied inflation curve published by the Bank of England.
Expenses	This is set with reference to the group's expected future costs in administering the policies and assets for insured members.
Future interest and dividend	This is set with reference to the prevailing interest rate with consideration of the UK spot yield curve produced by European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority ("EIOPA"). The dividend rates are set assuming a continuation of the last declared dividend rates.
Loyalty bonus	This is set assuming a continuation of the prevailing loyalty bonus at the end of the reporting year.
Discount rate	The UK and Euro spot yield curve produced by EIOPA.

The following table sets out the tables used in calculating the short term and future morbidity experience. In calculating the technical provisions, 50% of the table for males and 70% of the table for females is used as these proportions represent a best estimate of future experience.

Modified weeks of sickness table - Females

Age	First six months	Second six months	Thereafter
25	0.5954	0.0968	0.1245
35	0.6620	0.1021	0.2962
45	0.8660	0.1988	1.2252
55	1.3360	0.5290	3.4633

Modified weeks of sickness table - Males

Age	First six months	Second six months	Thereafter
25	0.4428	0.0543	0.0698
35	0.4924	0.0573	0.1661
45	0.6441	0.1115	0.6871
55	1.0221	0.4628	3.8844

22. Provision for other liabilities

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
At the start of the year	782	2,623	782	2,623
Charged/(credited) to the income and expenditure account	451	(1,841)	451	(1,841)
At the end of the year	1,233	782	1,233	782

The provision comprises obligations in respect of compensation and employee entitlements. Further details of the provision are set out in the Retirement Benefits section of the Remuneration report and note 3.

The entire provision is expected to be settled after 12 months.

23. Provision for deferred tax

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
At the start of the year	1,181	2,001	—	—
Credited to the income and expenditure account	(688)	(820)	—	—
At the end of the year	493	1,181	—	—

The provision relates to the revaluation gains recognised on the group's land and buildings.

24. Creditors

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Due within one year				
Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations	207	185	207	185
Other creditors including taxation and social security	2,186	2,123	1,880	1,809
Amounts owed by subsidiaries	—	—	56	64
Total creditors	2,393	2,308	2,143	2,058

25. Leases

At 31 December, the Society had contracted to pay the following future minimum operating lease payments:

	2023 £000 Group	2022 £000 Group	2023 £000 Society	2022 £000 Society
Within one year	—	—	95	95
Two to five years inclusive	—	—	—	—
After more than five years	—	—	—	—

26. Actuaries

The Chief Actuary of the Society is Miss Alexandra Kim Durniat, a Partner in Barnett Waddingham LLP. The Society has requested Miss Durniat to furnish it with the particulars required under Section 77 of the Friendly Societies Act 1992. Miss Durniat has confirmed that neither she nor her family, nor any of the partners in Barnett Waddingham LLP were members of the Society, nor have they any financial or pecuniary interest in the Society, with the exception of fees paid to Barnett Waddingham LLP for professional services, which amounted to £0.148 million (2022: £0.176 million).

27. Related party transactions

All members of the board are members of the Society and are required to pay premiums to the Society. Individuals practising dentistry are entitled to claim sickness benefits in the event of being unable to carry out their normal duties. Any such payment would be made under the same terms and conditions as those applicable to all other members of the Society. Premiums paid by the directors amounted to £96,687 (2022: £103,879). Sickness payments to the directors amounted to £NIL (2022: £NIL). Capital withdrawals amounted to £NIL (2022: £NIL). There were no outstanding amounts in relation to either at the year end (2022: £NIL).

The group has taken advantage of the exemptions conferred by Financial Reporting Standard 102, section 33, from reporting details of transactions between the Society and its subsidiaries. Details of outstanding balances between Dentists' Provident and other group undertakings are set out in notes 17 and 24.

Details of remuneration related transactions between the group and its key management personnel are detailed in the remuneration report and notes 12 and 22.

28. Valuation report

The actuarial valuation required under the UK prudential regulations has been prepared as at 31 December 2023. The valuation report is available for inspection at the registered office of the Society.

Other information

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-first Annual General Meeting (the 'AGM') of the members will be held at 91-94 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8QP on Friday 24th May 2024 at 12.00 pm for the purposes set out below:

1. To elect the officers of the Society

The following directors retire by rotation and have indicated their willingness to offer themselves for re election:

- a. Giles Kidner BDS, MSc, LDS, FDS(Orth), MOrthRCS
- b. Farrukh Mirza FCA
- c. Raj Rattan MBE BDS, FFDGDP(UK), FICD, FFFLM
- d. Brian Bourke BA, BDentSc, MDentSc(Orth), FDS(Orth)RCS, MOrthRCS, FFDRCSI
- e. Simon Elliott BSc, MSc
- f. Martyn Green BDS, FDSRCS, MFGDP(UK), DPDS
- g. Jim Karim ACA
- h. Kirby Mardle FCCA
- i. Matthew Payne MBA
- j. Melanie Stern BDS, FDSRCS(Eng), MSc, MOrth RCS, FDS (Orth)
- k. Alister Weightman BDS
- l. Huw Winstone BDS, LDSRCS, DGDGP(UK)

2. To appoint the following as arbitrators of the Society

- a. Professor Robert Lee
- b. Sunit Malhan
- c. Saleem Malik
- d. Shiv Pabary MBE
- e. Susie Sanderson OBE

3. To approve the remuneration policy of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. To approve the remuneration report of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2023 by way of an advisory vote

5. To approve the annual report and financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2023

6. To appoint MHA LLP as auditor and to authorise the board of directors to fix their remuneration

By order of the board



Kirby Mardle

Director and Group secretary
15 March 2024

Arbitrators

Complaints procedure

We take all complaints extremely seriously and formal procedures are in place for handling them. We deal with all complaints as a matter of urgency and they are handled by suitably qualified employees. We aim to resolve all complaints, usually within four weeks of being notified.

Serious complaints are dealt with by the Head of Compliance and Risk. If a complaint is not resolved to the complainant's satisfaction, they can refer the matter to County Court, but only if both parties agree to this method. We will normally only agree to this course of action on disputes regarding a point of law. Alternatively, the complainant can refer the matter to a panel of three independent arbitrators or refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

If the complainant refers the matter for arbitration, they have the right to select the members of the panel from the individuals listed below. Both parties will be bound by the decision of the panel and there is no further right of appeal to the Ombudsman.

Prof Robert Lee - dentist

Robert retired as professor and consultant in 2016 and was awarded Distinction in Orthodontics by the British Orthodontic Society. He is co author to a textbook on Orthodontics, which is published worldwide. Robert continues to submit research reports, teaches part time and works in clinical practice privately.

Sunit Malhan - dentist

After qualifying from The University of London in 1985, Sunit worked at The Eastman Dental Hospital for six months as an SHO in oral surgery. Initially, he was an associate in general practice and then purchased a practice in Hendon in 1988, followed by an Enfield practice in 1997. In 2001, he gained an additional qualification (DPDS) from the University of Bristol. Cosmetic dentistry and nervous patients are Sunit's areas of special interest.

Saleem Malik - senior legal adviser

Saleem qualified as a lawyer over 30 years ago and during that time he has worked in house for banks and for major city law firms. His specialisation is banking law. He is recognised by leading legal directories as a leading lawyer in the field of Islamic finance, an area in which he has practised for over 16 years.

For the past twenty years he has been an adviser to several city law firms and has his own niche practice serving banks and corporate clients. He works with clients on transactions in England, the Middle East and Far East.

Saleem lectures and writes regularly and has been a contributor to a number of publications.

Shiv Pabary MBE - dentist

Shiv is a graduate of Newcastle dental school and qualified in 1985. Becoming a principal in 1988, he now works between three NHS practices as a general dental practitioner in addition to being a provider within two NHS orthodontic practices in Newcastle and Gateshead. He is also a dental adviser for NHS England (Cumbria and NE) and a past chairman of the GDC's professional

conduct committee and health committee. He is currently a GDC Educational Associate Inspector for dental programmes.

Having obtained his membership of the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners in 1992, Shiv has held a part time teaching post at Newcastle Dental Hospital in the restorative dentistry department since 1996. He is a member of the British Dental Association's General Dental Practice Committee (GDPC) having been elected on the Executive Committee in 2018. He has been a GDPC member from 1996 to 2015 and currently sits on the Education/Ethics sub committee. He is also vice chair of the British Dental Guild. He has been a vocational trainer for over 30 years and has been a Postgraduate Dental Tutor within Health Education North East since 1995. He is currently the tutor in Clinical Governance for the Northern Deanery and is past chairman of the Oral Health Improvement Group in Newcastle. He was a lay magistrate from 1995 to 2015 and holds a Law Degree (LLB Hons) from Northumbria University. He has also worked as a part time Associate Dento-Legal Adviser for Dental Protection.

In 2009, the Queen awarded Shiv with the MBE for his services to NHS dentistry.

Susie Sanderson OBE - dentist

A general dentist and practice owner for many years, Susie is a past president of the British Dental Association (BDA), Speaker of the General Assembly of the World Dental Federation (FDI) and was a dentolegal advisor at Dental Protection for 10 years. In 2023, Susie joined BDA Indemnity as a Dento-Legal advisor.

She was the elected Chair of the British Dental Association's executive board from 2006 to 2012 and a member of the principal executive committee until 2015. Currently a member of its health and science committee, Susie continues to represent the BDA on issues relating to the Minamata Treaty, the implementation of the EU Mercury regulation and on dentistry's significance in reducing antimicrobial resistance.

Susie has been working with the BDA at local and national level for a number of years enjoying a wide scope of involvement including education, finance, healthcare policy, GDPC, DCPs, students and young dentists. She chaired the UK conference of Local Dental Committees in 2005.

Internationally, Susie was a board member and treasurer of the council of European dentists and continues as a UK delegate. She is a member of the CED's Working Group on Dental Materials and Medical Devices and its Working Group on Oral Health with a special interest in Antimicrobial Stewardship. Susie is also an active member of FDI's Working Group on Antibiotic Stewardship.

As a dentolegal advisor for Dental Protection, Susie was a member of the London case management team supporting and advising members who are subject to regulatory investigations by the GDC and other bodies.

In the 2012 New Year's honours list, Susie received the OBE for services to dentistry.

Dentists' Provident

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Calls are recorded for our mutual security, training and monitoring purposes.

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Dentists' Provident is the trading name of Dentists' Provident Society Limited which is incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Friendly Societies Act 1992 (Registration Number 407F) and has its registered office at 91-94 Saffron Hill, London, EC1N 8QP. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority in the United Kingdom (Firm Reference Number 110015) and regulated in the Republic of Ireland by the Central Bank of Ireland for conduct of business rules (Firm Reference Number C33946).