GROUP INFORMATION continued

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Except for transactions with associates (see Note 23.2 of Notes to the Group accounts), no other related party had material transactions or loans with Smith & Nephew over the last three financial years.

RISK FACTORS

There are known and unknown risks and uncertainties relating to Smith & Nephew's business. The factors listed on pages 188–191 could cause the Group's business, financial position and results of operations to differ materially and adversely from expected and historical levels. In addition, other factors not listed here that Smith & Nephew cannot presently identify or does not believe to be equally significant could also materially adversely affect Smith & Nephew's business, financial position or results of operations.

Highly competitive markets

The Group competes across a diverse range of geographic and product markets. Each market in which the Group operates contains a number of different competitors, including specialised and international corporations. Significant product innovations, technical advances or the intensification of price competition by competitors could adversely affect the Group's operating results. Some of these competitors may have greater financial, marketing and other resources than Smith & Nephew. These competitors may be able to initiate technological advances in the field, deliver products on more attractive terms, more aggressively market their products or invest larger amounts of capital and research and development (R&D) into their businesses. There is a possibility of further consolidation of competitors, which could adversely affect the Group's ability to compete with larger companies due to insufficient financial resources. If any of the Group's businesses were to lose market share or achieve lower than expected revenue growth, there could be a disproportionate adverse impact on the Group's share price and its strategic options. Competition exists among healthcare providers to gain patients on the basis of quality, service and price. There has been some consolidation in the Group's customer base and this trend is expected to continue. Some customers have joined group purchasing organisations or introduced other cost containment measures that could lead to downward pressure on prices or limit the number of suppliers in certain business areas, which could adversely affect Smith & Nephew's results of operations and hinder its growth potential.

Continual development and introduction of new products

The medical devices industry has a rapid rate of new product introduction. In order to remain competitive, the Group must continue to develop innovative products that satisfy customer needs and preferences or provide cost or other advantages. Developing new products is a costly, lengthy and uncertain process. The Group may fail to innovate due to low R&D investment, a R&D skills gap or poor product development. A potential product may not be brought to market or not succeed in the market for any number of reasons, including failure to work optimally, failure to receive regulatory approval, failure to be cost-competitive, infringement of patents or other intellectual property rights and changes in consumer demand. The Group's products and technologies are also subject to marketing attack by competitors. Furthermore, new products that are developed and marketed by the Group's competitors may affect price levels in the various markets in which the Group operates. If the Group's new products do not remain competitive with those of competitors, the Group's revenue could decline.

The Group maintains reserves for excess and obsolete inventory resulting from the potential inability to sell its products at prices in excess of current carrying costs. Marketplace changes resulting from the introduction of new products or surgical procedures may cause some of the Group's products to become obsolete. The Group makes estimates regarding the future recoverability of the costs of these products and records a provision for excess and obsolete inventories based on historical experience, expiration of sterilisation dates and expected future trends. If actual product life cycles, product demand or acceptance of new product introductions are less favourable than projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required.

Dependence on government and other funding

In most markets throughout the world, expenditure on medical devices is ultimately controlled to a large extent by governments. Funds may be made available or withdrawn from healthcare budgets depending on government policy. The Group is therefore largely dependent on future governments providing increased funds commensurate with the increased demand arising from demographic trends.

Pricing of the Group's products is largely governed in most markets by governmental reimbursement authorities. Initiatives sponsored by government agencies, legislative bodies and the private sector to limit the growth of healthcare costs, including price regulation, excise taxes and competitive pricing, are ongoing in markets where the Group has operations. This control may be exercised by determining prices for an individual product or for an entire procedure. The Group is exposed to government policies favouring locally sourced products. The Group is also exposed to changes in reimbursement policy, tax policy and pricing which may have an adverse impact on revenue and operating profit. Provisions in US healthcare legislation which previously imposed significant taxes on medical device manufacturers have been suspended since 2016 but may be reinstated. There may be an increased risk of adverse changes to government funding policies arising from deterioration in macro-economic conditions from time to time in the Group's markets.

The Group must adhere to the rules laid down by government agencies that fund or regulate healthcare, including extensive and complex rules in the US. Failure to do so could result in fines or loss of future funding.

World economic conditions

Demand for the Group’s products is driven by demographic trends, including the ageing population and the incidence of osteoporosis and obesity. Supply of, use of and payment for the Group’s products are also influenced by world economic conditions which could place increased pressure on demand and pricing, adversely impacting the Group’s ability to deliver revenue and margin growth. The conditions could favour larger, better capitalised groups, with higher market shares and margins. As a consequence, the Group’s prosperity is linked to general economic conditions and there is a risk of deterioration of the Group’s performance and finances during adverse macro-economic conditions.

During 2018, economic conditions worldwide continued to create several challenges for the Group, including the US Administration’s changed approach to trade policy, deferrals of procedures, heightened pricing pressure, significant declines in capital equipment expenditures at hospitals and increased uncertainty over the collectability of government debt, particularly those in the Emerging Markets. These factors tempered the overall growth of the Group’s global markets and could have an increased impact on growth in the future.

Political uncertainties

The Group operates on a worldwide basis and has distribution channels, purchasing agents and buying entities in over 100 countries. Political upheaval in some of those countries or in surrounding regions may impact the Group’s results of operations. Political changes in a country could prevent the Group from receiving remittances of profit from a member of the Group located in that country or from selling its products or investments in that country. Furthermore, changes in government policy regarding preference for local suppliers, import quotas, taxation or other matters could adversely affect the Group’s revenue and operating profit. War, economic sanctions, terrorist activities or other conflict could also adversely impact the Group. These risks may be greater in Emerging Markets, which account for an increasing portion of the Group’s business.

There remain heightened levels of political and regulatory uncertainty in the UK following the result of the referendum in June 2016 to leave the European Union, the triggering of Article 50 in March 2017 and the general election in June 2017. As of the date of this report, there remains uncertainty as to the UK’s future relationship with the EU. This may adversely impact trading performance across the sector. Regulatory uncertainty forms the most significant risk presently; the ability for us to continue to manufacture and register our products in a compliant manner for global distribution is key. Smith & Nephew has taken steps to prepare for the various Brexit scenarios, including moving certain of its product certifications from UK-based notified bodies to notified bodies based in the EU. The UK accounts for approximately 5% of global Group revenue and the majority of our manufacturing takes place outside the UK and EU. There is also uncertainty around US-China trade relations, which has resulted in tariffs on some medical devices being exported between the two countries.

Currency fluctuations

Smith & Nephew’s results of operations are affected by transactional exchange rate movements in that they are subject to exposures arising from revenue in a currency different from the related costs and expenses. The Group’s manufacturing cost base is situated principally in the US, the UK, China, Costa Rica and Switzerland, from which finished products are exported to the Group’s selling operations worldwide. Thus, the Group is exposed to fluctuations in exchange rates between the US Dollar, Sterling and Swiss Franc and the currency of the Group’s selling operations, particularly the Euro, Australian Dollar and Japanese Yen. If the US Dollar, Sterling or Swiss Franc should strengthen against the Euro, Australian Dollar and the Japanese Yen, the Group’s trading margin could be adversely affected. The Group manages the impact of exchange rate movements on revenue and cost of goods sold by a policy of transacting forward foreign currency commitments when firm purchase orders are placed. In addition, the Group’s policy is for forecast transactions to be covered between 50% and 90% for up to one year. However, the Group is exposed to medium to long-term adverse movements in the strength of currencies compared to the US Dollar. The Group uses the US Dollar as its reporting currency. The US Dollar is the functional currency of Smith & Nephew plc. The Group’s revenues, profits and earnings are also affected by exchange rate movements on the translation of results of operations in foreign subsidiaries for financial reporting purposes. See ‘Liquidity and capital resources’ on page 39.

Manufacturing and supply

The Group’s manufacturing production is concentrated at main facilities in Memphis, Mansfield and Oklahoma City in the US, Hull and Warwick in the UK, Aarau in Switzerland, Tuttlingen in Germany, Devrukh in India, Suzhou and Beijing in China, Alajuela in Costa Rica, Puschino in Russia and Curaçao, in Dutch Caribbean. If major physical disruption took place at any of these sites, it could adversely affect the results of operations. Physical loss and consequential loss insurance is carried to cover such risks but is subject to limits and deductibles and may not be sufficient to cover catastrophic loss. Management of orthopaedic inventory is complex, particularly forecasting and production planning. There is a risk that failures in operational execution could lead to excess inventory or individual product shortages.

The Group is reliant on certain key suppliers of raw materials, components, finished products and packaging materials or in some cases on a single supplier. These suppliers must provide the materials and perform the activities to the Group’s standard of quality requirements. A supplier’s failure to meet expected quality standards could create liability for the Group and adversely affect sales of the Group’s related products. The Group may be forced to pay higher prices to obtain raw materials, which it may not be able to pass on to its customers in the form of increased prices for its finished products. In addition, some of the raw materials used may become unavailable, and there can be no assurance that the Group will be able to obtain suitable and cost effective substitutes. Any interruption of supply caused by these or other factors could negatively impact Smith & Nephew’s revenue and operating profit.

GROUP INFORMATION continued

The Group will, from time to time including as part of the APEX programme, outsource or insource the manufacture of components and finished products to third parties and will periodically relocate the manufacture of product and/or processes between existing and/or new facilities. While these are planned activities, with these transfers there is a risk of disruption to supply.

Requirements of global regulatory agencies have become more stringent in recent years and we expect them to continue to do so. The Group's Quality and Regulatory Affairs team is leading a major Group-wide programme to prepare for implementation of the EU Medical Devices Regulation (MDR), which came into force in May 2017, with a three-year transition period until May 2020. The regulation includes new requirements for the manufacture, supply and sale of all CE marked products sold in Europe and requires the reregistration of all medical devices, regardless of where they are manufactured.

Attracting and retaining key personnel

The Group's continued development depends on its ability to hire and retain highly-skilled personnel with particular expertise. This is critical, particularly in general management, research, new product development and in the sales forces. If Smith & Nephew is unable to retain key personnel in general management, research and new product development or if its largest sales forces suffer disruption or upheaval, its revenue and operating profit would be adversely affected. Additionally, if the Group is unable to recruit, hire, develop and retain a talented, competitive workforce, it may not be able to meet its strategic business objectives.

Proprietary rights and patents

Due to the technological nature of medical devices and the Group's emphasis on serving its customers with innovative products, the Group has been subject to patent infringement claims and is subject to the potential for additional claims. Claims asserted by third parties regarding infringement of their intellectual property rights, if successful, could require the Group to expend time and significant resources to pay damages, develop non-infringing products or obtain licences to the products which are the subject of such litigation, thereby affecting the Group's growth and profitability. Smith & Nephew attempts to protect its intellectual property and regularly opposes third party patents and trademarks where appropriate in those areas that might conflict with the Group's business interests. If Smith & Nephew fails to protect and enforce its intellectual property rights successfully, its competitive position could suffer, which could harm its results of operations.

Product liability claims and loss of reputation

The development, manufacture and sale of medical devices entail risk of product liability claims or recalls. Design and manufacturing defects with respect to products sold by the Group or by companies it has acquired could damage, or impair the repair of, body functions. The Group may become subject to liability, which could be substantial, because of actual or alleged defects in its products. In addition, product defects could lead to the need to recall from the market existing products, which may be costly and harmful to the Group's reputation. There can be no assurance that customers, particularly in the US, the Group's largest geographical market, will not bring product liability or related claims that would have a material adverse effect on the Group's financial position or results of operations in the future, or that the Group will be able to resolve such claims within insurance limits. As at 31 December 2018, a provision of $192m is recognised relating to the present value of the estimated costs to resolve all unsettled known and unknown anticipated metal-on-metal hip implant claims globally.

Regulatory standards and compliance in the healthcare industry

Business practices in the healthcare industry are subject to regulation and review by various government authorities. In general, the trend in many countries in which the Group does business is towards higher expectations and increased enforcement activity by governmental authorities. While the Group is committed to doing business with integrity and welcomes the trend to higher standards in the healthcare industry, the Group and other companies in the industry have been subject to investigations and other enforcement activity that have incurred and may continue to incur significant expense. Under certain circumstances, if the Group were found to have violated the law, its ability to sell its products to certain customers could be restricted.

International regulation

The Group operates across the world and is subject to extensive legislation, including anti-bribery and corruption and data protection, in each country in which the Group operates. Our international operations are governed by the UK Bribery Act and the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act which prohibit us or our representatives from making or offering improper payments to government officials and other persons or accepting payments for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining business. Our international operations in the Emerging Markets which operate through distributors increase our Group exposure to these risks.

The Group is also required to comply with the requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which imposes additional obligations on companies regarding the handling of personal data and provides certain individual privacy rights to persons whose data is stored and became effective on 25 May 2018. As privacy and data protection have become more sensitive issues for regulators and consumers, new privacy and data protection laws, such as the GDPR, continue to develop in ways we cannot predict. Ensuring compliance with evolving privacy and data protection laws and regulations on a global basis may require us to change or develop our current business models and practices and may increase our cost of doing business. Despite those efforts, there is a risk that we may be subject to fines and penalties, litigation, and reputational harm in connection with our European activities as enforcement of such legislation has increased in recent years on companies and individuals where breaches are found to have occurred. Failure to comply with the requirements of privacy and data protection laws, including GDPR, could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Regulatory approval

The international medical device industry is highly regulated. Regulatory requirements are a major factor in determining whether substances and materials can be developed into marketable products and the amount of time and expense that should be allotted to such development.

National regulatory authorities administer and enforce a complex series of laws and regulations that govern the design, development, approval, manufacture, labelling, marketing and sale of healthcare products. They also review data supporting the safety and efficacy of such products. Of particular importance is the requirement in many countries that products be authorised or registered prior to manufacture, marketing or sale and that such authorisation or registration be subsequently maintained. The major regulatory agencies for Smith & Nephew’s products include the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the UK, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan, the China Food and Drug Administration and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration. At any time, the Group is awaiting a number of regulatory approvals which, if not received, could adversely affect results of operations. In 2017, the EU reached agreement on a new set of Medical Device Regulations which entered into force on 25 May 2017. These have a three-year transition period and therefore, will fully apply in EU Member States from 26 May 2020.

The trend is towards more stringent regulation and higher standards of technical appraisal. Such controls have become increasingly demanding to comply with and management believes that this trend will continue. Regulatory requirements may also entail inspections for compliance with appropriate standards, including those relating to Quality Management Systems or Good Manufacturing Practices regulations. All manufacturing and other significant facilities within the Group are subject to regular internal and external audit for compliance with national medical device regulation and Group policies. Payment for medical devices may be governed by reimbursement tariff agencies in a number of countries. Reimbursement rates may be set in response to perceived economic value of the devices, based on clinical and other data relating to cost, patient outcomes and comparative effectiveness. They may also be affected by overall government budgetary considerations. The Group believes that its emphasis on innovative products and services should contribute to success in this environment. Failure to comply with these regulatory requirements could have a number of adverse consequences, including withdrawal of approval to sell a product in a country, temporary closure of a manufacturing facility, fines and potential damage to Company reputation.

Failure to make successful acquisitions

A key element of the Group’s strategy for continued growth is to make acquisitions or alliances to complement its existing business. Failure to identify appropriate acquisition targets or failure to conduct adequate due diligence or to integrate them successfully would have an adverse impact on the Group’s competitive position and profitability. This could result from the diversion of management resources towards the acquisition or integration process, challenges of integrating organisations of different geographic, cultural and ethical backgrounds, as well as the prospect of taking on unexpected or unknown liabilities. In addition, the availability of global capital may make financing less attainable or more expensive and could result in the Group failing in its strategic aim of growth by acquisition or alliance.

Relationships with healthcare professionals

The Group seeks to maintain effective and ethical working relationships with physicians and medical personnel who assist in the research and development of new products or improvements to our existing product range or in product training and medical education. If we are unable to maintain these relationships our ability to meet the demands of our customers could be diminished and our revenue and profit could be materially adversely affected.

Reliance on sophisticated information technology

The Group uses a wide variety of information systems, programmes and technology to manage our business. The Group also develops and sells certain products that are or will be connected to networks and/or the internet. Our systems are vulnerable to a cyber attack, malicious intrusion, loss of data privacy or any other significant disruption. Our systems have been and will continue to be the target of such threats. We have systems in place to minimise the risk and disruption of these intrusions and to monitor our systems on an ongoing basis for current or potential threats. There can be no assurance that these measures will prove effective in protecting Smith & Nephew from future interruptions and as a result the performance of the Group could be materially adversely affected.

Other risk factors

Smith & Nephew is subject to a number of other risks, which are common to most global medical technology groups and are reviewed as part of the Group’s Risk Management process.

GROUP INFORMATION continued

FACTORS AFFECTING SMITH & NEPHEW'S RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Government economic, fiscal, monetary and political policies are all factors that materially affect the Group's operation or investments of shareholders. Other factors include sales trends, currency fluctuations and innovation. Each of these factors is discussed further in the 'Our Markets' on pages 10–11, 'Financial review' on pages 38–39 and 'Taxation information for shareholders' on pages 206–207.

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

	2018 $ million	2017 $ million	2016 $ million	2015 $ million	2014 $ million
Income statement					
Revenue	4,904	4,765	4,669	4,634	4,617
Cost of goods sold	(1,298)	(1,248)	(1,272)	(1,143)	(1,162)
Gross profit	3,606	3,517	3,397	3,491	3,455
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(2,497)	(2,360)	(2,366)	(2,641)	(2,471)
Research and development expenses	(246)	(223)	(230)	(222)	(235)
Operating profit[1]	863	934	801	628	749
Net interest payable	(51)	(51)	(46)	(38)	(22)
Other finance costs	(20)	(10)	(16)	(15)	(11)
Share of results of associates	(11)	6	(3)	(16)	(2)
Profit on disposal of business	–	–	326	–	–
Profit before taxation	781	879	1,062	559	714
Taxation	(118)	(112)	(278)	(149)	(213)
Attributable profit for the year	663	767	784	410	501
Earnings per ordinary share					
Basic earnings per share	76.0¢	87.8¢	88.1¢	45.9¢	56.1¢
Diluted earnings per share	75.7¢	87.7¢	87.8¢	45.6¢	55.7¢
Average number of shares used in basic earnings per share (millions)	873	874	890	894	893
Average number of shares used in diluted earnings per share (millions)	876	875	893	899	899
Adjusted attributable profit[2]					
Attributable profit for the year	663	767	784	410	501
Acquisition and disposal related items	(7)	(10)	9	25	125
Restructuring and rationalisation costs	120	–	62	65	61
Legal and other	38	(13)	(20)	187	(2)
Amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles	118	140	178	204	129
Profit on disposal of business	–	–	(326)	–	–
US tax reform	–	(32)	–	–	–
Taxation on excluded items	(51)	(26)	48	(130)	(71)
Adjusted attributable profit	881	826	735	761	743
Adjusted earnings per ordinary share (EPSA)[3]	100.9¢	94.5¢	82.6¢	85.1¢	83.2¢

1 Reconciliation of operating to trading profit is presented below.
2 Non-IFRS financial measures are explained and reconciled to the most directly comparable financial measure prepared in accordance with IFRS on pages 194-198.
3 Adjusted earnings per ordinary share is calculated by dividing adjusted attributable profit by the basic weighted number of shares.

Reconciliation of operating profit to trading profit

	2018 $ million	2017 $ million	2016 $ million	2015 $ million	2014 $ million
Operating profit	863	934	801	628	749
Acquisition and disposal related items	(7)	(10)	9	12	118
Restructuring and rationalisation costs	120	–	62	65	61
Amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles	113	140	178	204	129
Legal and other	34	(16)	(30)	190	(2)
Trading profit	1,123	1,048	1,020	1,099	1,055

	2018 $ million	2017 $ million	2016 $ million	2015 $ million	2014 $ million
Group balance sheet					
Non-current assets	4,982	5,135	4,815	4,692	4,866
Current assets	3,077	2,731	2,529	2,475	2,440
Total assets	8,059	7,866	7,344	7,167	7,306
Share capital	177	178	180	183	184
Share premium	608	605	600	590	574
Capital redemption reserve	18	17	15	12	11
Treasury shares	(214)	(257)	(432)	(294)	(315)
Retained earnings and other reserves	4,285	4,101	3,595	3,475	3,586
Total equity	4,874	4,644	3,958	3,966	4,040
Non-current liabilities	1,720	1,876	2,038	1,857	2,104
Current liabilities	1,465	1,346	1,348	1,344	1,162
Total liabilities	3,185	3,222	3,386	3,201	3,266
Total equity and liabilities	8,059	7,866	7,344	7,167	7,306
Group cash flow statement					
Cash generated from operations	1,108	1,273	1,035	1,203	961
Net interest paid	(52)	(48)	(45)	(36)	(33)
Income taxes paid	(125)	(135)	(141)	(137)	(245)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	931	1,090	849	1,030	683
Capital expenditure (including trade investments and net of disposals of property, plant and equipment)	(351)	(384)	(394)	(360)	(379)
Acquisitions and disposals	(29)	(159)	(214)	(44)	(1,552)
Proceeds on disposal of business (net of tax)	–	–	225	–	–
Distrubution from/(investment in) associate	2	–	–	(25)	(2)
Proceeds from associate loan redemption	–	–	–	–	188
Proceeds from own shares	10	5	6	5	4
Equity dividends paid	(321)	(269)	(279)	(272)	(250)
Issue of ordinary capital and treasury shares purchased	(45)	(47)	(358)	(61)	(35)
Net cash flow from operating, investing and financing activities	197	236	(165)	273	(1,343)
Termination of finance lease	–	5	–	–	–
Exchange adjustments	(20)	28	(24)	(21)	(17)
Opening net debt	(1,281)	(1,550)	(1,361)	(1,613)	(253)
Closing net debt	(1,104)	(1,281)	(1,550)	(1,361)	(1,613)
Selected financial ratios					
Gearing (closing net debt as a percentage of total equity)	22.7%	27.6%	39%	34%	40%
Dividends per ordinary share	36.0¢[1]	35.0¢	30.8¢	30.8¢	29.6¢
Research and development costs to revenue	5.0%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5.1%
Capital expenditure (including intangibles but excluding goodwill and trade investments) to revenue	7.1%	7.9%	8.4%	7.7%	8.1%

1 The Board has proposed a final dividend of 22.0 US cents per share which together with the first interim dividend of 14.0 US cents makes a total for 2018 of 36.0 US cents.

GROUP INFORMATION continued

NON-IFRS FINANCIAL INFORMATION – ADJUSTED MEASURES

These Financial Statements include financial measures that are not prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).These measures, which include trading profit, trading profit margin, tax rate on trading results, EPSA, ROIC, trading cash flow, free cash flow, trading profit to trading cash conversion ratio, net debt to adjusted EBITDA, and underlying growth, exclude the effect of certain cash and non-cash items that Group management believes are not related to the underlying performance of the Group. These non-IFRS financial measures are also used by management to make operating decisions because they facilitate internal comparisons of performance to historical results.

Non-IFRS financial measures are presented in these Financial Statements as the Group's management believe that they provide investors with a means of evaluating performance of the business segment and the consolidated Group on a consistent basis, similar to the way in which the Group's management evaluates performance, that is not otherwise apparent on an IFRS basis, given that certain non-recurring, infrequent, non-cash and other items that management does not otherwise believe are indicative of the underlying performance of the consolidated Group may not be excluded when preparing financial measures under IFRS. These non-IFRS measures should not be considered in isolation from, as substitutes for, or superior to financial measures prepared in accordance with IFRS.

Underlying revenue growth

'Underlying growth in revenue' is used to compare the revenue in a given year to the previous year on a like-for-like basis. This is achieved by adjusting for the impact of sales of products acquired in material business combinations or disposed of and for movements in exchange rates.

Underlying growth in revenue is considered by the Group to be an important measure of performance in terms of local functional currency since it excludes those items considered to be outside the influence of local management. The Group's management uses this non-IFRS measure in its internal financial reporting, budgeting and planning to assess performance on both a business and a consolidated Group basis. Revenue growth at constant currency is important in measuring business performance compared to competitors and compared to the growth of the market itself.

The Group considers that revenue from sales of products acquired in material business combinations results in a step-up in growth in revenue in the year of acquisition that cannot be wholly attributed to local management's efforts with respect to the business in the year of acquisition. Depending on the timing of the acquisition, there will usually be a further step change in the following year. A measure of growth excluding the effects of business combinations also allows senior management to evaluate the performance and relative impact of growth from the existing business and growth from acquisitions. The process of making business acquisitions is directed, approved and funded from the Group corporate centre in line with strategic objectives.

The material limitation of the underlying growth in revenue measure is that it excludes certain factors, described above, which ultimately have a significant impact on total revenues. The Group compensates for this limitation by taking into account relative movements in exchange rates in its investment, strategic planning and resource allocation. In addition, as the evaluation and assessment of business acquisitions is not within the control of local management, performance of acquisitions is monitored centrally until the business is integrated.

The Group's management considers that the non-IFRS measure of underlying growth in revenue and the IFRS measure of growth in revenue are complementary measures, neither of which management uses exclusively.

'Underlying growth in revenue' reconciles to growth in revenue reported, the most directly comparable financial measure calculated in accordance with IFRS by making two adjustments, the 'constant currency exchange effect' and the 'acquisitions and disposals effect', described below.

The 'constant currency exchange effect' is a measure of the increase/decrease in revenue resulting from currency movements on non-US Dollar sales and is measured as the difference between: 1) the increase/decrease in the current year revenue translated into US Dollars at the current year average exchange rate and the prior revenue translated at the prior year rate; and 2) the increase/decrease being measured by translating current and prior year revenues into US Dollars using the prior year closing rate.

The 'acquisitions and disposals effect' is the measure of the impact on revenue from newly acquired material business combinations and recent material business disposals. This is calculated by comparing the current year, constant currency actual revenue (which include acquisitions and exclude disposals from the relevant date of completion) with prior year, constant currency actual revenue, adjusted to include the results of acquisitions and exclude disposals for the commensurate period in the prior year. These sales are separately tracked in the Group's internal reporting systems and are readily identifiable.

Reported revenue growth, the most directly comparable financial measure calculated in accordance with IFRS, reconciles to underlying growth in revenue as follows:

2018 Consolidated revenue by franchise	Reported growth %	Underlying growth %	Reconciling items Acquisitions/disposals %	Currency impact %
Sports Medicine, Trauma & Other	4	2	1	1
Sports Medicine Joint Repair	11	8	2	1
Arthroscopic Enabling Technologies	(2)	(3)	–	1
Trauma & Extremities	–	(1)	–	1
Other Surgical Businesses	10	10	–	–
Reconstruction	3	3	–	–
Knee Implants	3	3	–	–
Hip Implants	2	2	–	–
Advanced Wound Management	2	–	–	2
Advanced Wound Care	3	1	–	2
Advanced Wound Bioactives	(6)	(6)	–	–
Advanced Wound Devices	10	9	–	1
Total	3	2	–	1

2017 Consolidated revenue by franchise	Reported growth %	Underlying growth %	Reconciling items Acquisitions/disposals %	Currency impact %
Sports Medicine, Trauma & Other	1	3	(2)	–
Sports Medicine Joint Repair	7	6	–	1
Arthroscopic Enabling Technologies	(3)	(3)	–	–
Trauma & Extremities	4	4	–	–
Other Surgical Businesses	(11)	7	(19)	1
Reconstruction	4	3	–	1
Knee Implants	6	5	–	1
Hip Implants	–	–	–	–
Advanced Wound Management	2	2	–	–
Advanced Wound Care	–	–	–	–
Advanced Wound Bioactives	–	–	–	–
Advanced Wound Devices	13	13	–	–
Total	2	3	(1)	–

Trading profit, trading profit margin, trading cash flow and trading profit to cash conversion ratio

Trading profit, trading profit margin (trading profit expressed as a percentage of revenue), trading cash flow and trading profit to cash conversion ratio (trading cash flow expressed as a percentage of trading profit) are trend measures, which present the long-term profitability of the Group. The adjustments made exclude the impact of specific transactions that management considers affect the Group’s short-term profitability and cash flows. The Group has identified the following items, where material, as those to be excluded from operating profit and cash generated from operations when arriving at trading profit and trading cash flow, respectively: acquisition and disposal related items arising in connection with business combinations, including amortisation of acquisition intangible assets, impairments and integration costs; restructuring events; gains and losses resulting from legal disputes and uninsured losses. In addition to these items, gains and losses that materially impact the Group’s profitability or cash flows on a short-term or one-off basis are excluded from operating profit and cash generated from operations when arriving at trading profit and trading cash flow. The cash contribution to fund defined benefit pension schemes that are closed to future accrual are also excluded from cash generated from operations when arriving at trading cash flow.

GROUP INFORMATION continued

Adjusted earnings per ordinary share (EPSA)

EPSA is a trend measure, which presents the long-term profitability of the Group excluding the post-tax impact of specific transactions that management considers affect the Group's short-term profitability and the one-off impact of US tax reform. The Group presents this measure to assist investors in their understanding of trends. Adjusted attributable profit is the numerator used for this measure and is determined by adjusting attributable profit for the items that are excluded from operating profit when arriving at trading profit and items that are recognised below operating profit that affect the Group's short-term profitability. The most directly comparable financial measure calculated in accordance with IFRS is basic earnings per ordinary share ('EPS').

	Revenue $ million	Operating profit[1] $ million	Profit before tax[2] $ million	Taxation[3] $ million	Attributable profit[4] $ million	Cash generated from operating activities[5] $ million	Earnings per share[6] ¢
2018 Reported	4,904	863	781	(118)	663	1,108	76.0
Acquisition and disposal related items	–	(7)	(7)	1	(6)	3	(0.7)
Restructuring and rationalisation costs	–	120	120	(24)	96	83	11.0
Amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles	–	113	118	(27)	91	–	10.3
Legal and other[7]	–	34	38	(1)	37	104	4.3
Capital expenditure	–	–	–	–	–	(347)	–
2018 Adjusted	4,904	1,123	1,050	(169)	881	951	100.9

Acquisition and disposal related items: For the year to 31 December 2018 the credit relates to a remeasurement of contingent consideration for a prior year acquisition and adjustments to provisions on disposal of a business, partially offset by costs associated with the acquisition of Rotation Medical, Inc.

Restructuring and rationalisation costs: For the year to 31 December 2018, these costs relate to the implementation of the Accelerating Performance and Execution (APEX) programme that was announced in February 2018.

Amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles: For the year to 31 December 2018 the charge relates to the amortisation of intangible assets acquired in material business combinations.

Legal and other: For the year ended 31 December 2018 charges primarily relate to legal expenses for ongoing metal-on-metal hip claims and an increase of $72m in the provision that reflects the present value of the estimated costs to resolve all other known and anticipated metal-on-metal hip claims globally. The year to 31 December 2018 also includes costs for implementing the requirements of the EU Medical Device Regulations that will apply from May 2020. These charges in the year to 31 December 2018 were partially offset by a credit of $84m relating to settlements with insurers related to product liability claims involving macrotextured components withdrawn from the market in 2003. $35m of cash funding to closed defined benefit pension schemes is excluded from trading cash flow.

	Revenue $ million	Operating profit[1] $ million	Profit before tax[2] $ million	Taxation[3] $ million	Attributable profit[4] $ million	Cash generated from operating activities[5] $ million	Earnings per share[6] ¢
2017 Reported	4,765	934	879	(112)	767	1,273	87.8
Acquisition and disposal related items	–	(10)	(10)	2	(8)	3	(0.9)
Restructuring and rationalisation costs	–	–	–	–	–	15	–
Amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles	–	140	140	(40)	100	–	11.4
Legal and other[7]	–	(16)	(13)	12	(1)	25	(0.1)
US tax reform	–	–	–	(32)	(32)	–	(3.7)
Capital expenditure	–	–	–	–	–	(376)	–
2017 Adjusted	4,765	1,048	996	(170)	826	940	94.5

Acquisition and disposal related items: For the year to 31 December 2017 the credit relates to a remeasurement of contingent consideration for a prior year acquisition partially offset by costs associated with the acquisition of Rotation Medical, Inc.

Restructuring and rationalisation costs: There were no restructuring and rationalisation costs in the year to 31 December 2017. The restructuring and rationalisation cash flows relate to the implementation of the Group Optimisation plan that was announced in May 2014 and completed at the end of 2016.

Amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles: For the year to 31 December 2017 the charge relates to the amortisation of intangible assets acquired in material business combinations and an impairment charge of $10m.

Legal and other: For the year ended 31 December 2017 charges primarily relate to legal expenses for patent litigation with Arthrex and ongoing metal-on-metal hip claims and an increase of $10m in the provision that reflects the present value of the estimated costs to resolve all other known and anticipated metal-on-metal hip claims globally. These charges were offset by a $54m credit following a settlement payment received from Arthrex relating to patent litigation. $44m of cash funding to closed defined benefit pension schemes is excluded from trading cash flow.

1 Represents a reconciliation of operating profit to trading profit.

2 Represents a reconciliation of reported profit before tax to trading profit before tax.

3 Represents a reconciliation of reported tax to trading tax.

4 Represents a reconciliation of reported attributable profit to adjusted attributable profit.

5 Represents a reconciliation of cash generated from operations to trading cash flow.

6 Represents a reconciliation of basic earnings per ordinary share to adjusted earnings per ordinary share (EPSA).

7 From 1 January 2017, the ongoing funding of defined benefit pension schemes is not included in management's definition of trading cash flow as there is no defined benefit service cost for these schemes.

Free Cash Flow

Free cash flow is a measure of the cash generated for the Group to use after capital expenditure according to its Capital Allocation Framework, it is defined as the net cash flow from operating activities less: capital expenditure and cash flows from interest and income taxes. A reconciliation from net cash flow from operating activities, the most comparable IFRS measure, to free cash flow is set out below:

	2018 $ million	2017 $ million	2016 $ million
Net cash flow from operating activities	1,108	1,273	1,035
Capital expenditure	(347)	(376)	(392)
Interest received	2	2	3
Interest paid	(54)	(50)	(48)
Income taxes paid	(125)	(135)	(141)
Free cash flow	584	714	457

Net debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio

Net debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio is used by the Group to measure leverage. Net debt is reconciled in Note 15 to the Group accounts. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as trading profit before depreciation of property, plant and equipment and amortisation of other intangible assets.

The calculation of net debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio is set out below:

	2018 $ million
Net debt	1,104
Trading profit	1,123
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	251
Amortisation of other intangible assets	63
Adjusted EBITDA	1,437
Net debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio (x)	0.8

GROUP INFORMATION continued

Return on invested capital (ROIC)

Return on invested capital (ROIC) is a measure of the return generated on capital invested by the Group. It provides a metric for long-term value creation and encourages compounding reinvestment within the business and discipline around acquisitions with low returns and long payback.

ROIC is defined as: Net Operating Profit less Adjusted Taxes/((Opening Net Operating Assets + Closing Net Operating Assets)/2).

	2018 $ million	2017 $ million	2016 $ million
Operating profit	863	934	801
Taxation	(118)	(112)	(278)
Taxation adjustment[1]	(14)	(10)	107
Net operating profit less adjusted taxes	731	812	630
Total equity	4,874	4,644	3,958
Retirement benefit asset	(92)	(62)	–
Investments	(34)	(21)	(25)
Investments in associates	(105)	(118)	(112)
Cash at Bank	(365)	(169)	(100)
Long term borrowings	1,301	1,423	1,564
Retirement benefit obligation	114	131	164
Bank overdrafts and loans	164	27	86
Net operating assets	5,857	5,855	5,535
Average net operating assets	5,856	5,695	5,452
Return on invested capital	12.5%	14.3%	11.5%

1 Being the taxation on interest income, interest expense, other finance costs, share of results of associates and profit on disposal of business.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Contractual obligations at 31 December 2018 were as follows:

	Payments due by period			
	Less than one year $ million	One to three years $ million	Three to five years $ million	More than five years $ million
Debt obligations	39	–	304	–
Private placement notes	164	332	274	522
Operating lease obligations	54	72	40	52
Retirement benefit obligation	25	50	–	–
Purchase obligations	359	12	–	–
Capital expenditure	16	–	–	–
Other	98	44	2	3
	755	510	620	577

Other contractual obligations represent $20m of derivative contracts and $127m of acquisition consideration. Provisions that do not relate to contractual obligations are not included in the above table.

The Group has currently agreed to pay annual supplementary payments of $25m until 2021 for the UK defined benefit plan. These supplementary payments will be reviewed when the 30 September 2018 valuation has been completed.

There are a number of agreements that take effect, alter or terminate upon a change in control of the Company or the Group following a takeover, such as bank loan agreements and Company share plans. None of these are deemed to be significant in terms of their potential impact on the business of the Group as a whole. In addition, there are service contracts between the Company and its Executive Directors which provide for the automatic payment of a bonus following loss of office or employment occurring because of a successful takeover bid. Further details are set out on page 111.

The Company does not have contracts or other arrangements which individually are essential to the business.

COMMENTARY ON THE INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

- Group revenue increased by $96m from $4,669m to $4,765m in 2017.
- Cost of goods sold decreased by $24m from $1,272m to $1,248m in 2017 primarily due to underlying efficiencies.
- Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by $6m from $2,366m to $2,360m. In 2017, administrative expenses included amortisation of software and other intangible assets of $62m (2016: $61m), nil restructuring and rationalisation expenses (2016: $62m), an amount of $140m relating to amortisation and impairment of acquired intangibles (2016: $178m), $10m credit for acquisition and disposal related items (2016: $9m charge) and $16m net credit for legal and other items (2016: $30m credit). Excluding the above items, selling, general and administrative expenses were $2,184m in 2017, an increase of $98m from $2,086m in 2016.
- Research and development expenditure as a percentage of revenue remained broadly consistent at 4.7% in 2017 (2016: 4.9%). Expenditure was $223m in 2017 compared to $230m in 2016.
- Operating profit increased by $133m from $801m to $934m in 2017. The year-on-year increase in operating profit primarily reflects a gain of $54m from the settlement of an intellectual property matter, no restructuring charges and lower amortisation and impairment of acquisition intangibles in 2017.
- The taxation charge decreased by $166m from $278m to $112m in 2017. The reported tax rate was lower at 12.7% (2016: 26.2%) due to the $32m net benefit in 2017 from US tax reform and the tax impact of the Gynaecology disposal in 2016.

COMMENTARY ON THE GROUP BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

Non-current assets increased by $320m from $4,815m to $5,135m in 2017. This is principally attributable to the following:

- Property, plant and equipment increased by $67m from $982m to $1,049m in 2017. There were $308m of additions, $1m acquired with the Rotation Medical acquisition and favourable currency movements of $34m. This was partially offset by depreciation of $243m and $33m of assets disposed.
- Goodwill increased by $183m from $2,188m to $2,371m in 2017 due to additions of $132m from the acquisition of Rotation Medical and favourable currency movements of $51m. Intangible assets decreased by $40m from $1,411m to $1,371m in 2017. Amortisation and impairment during 2017 was $202m and this was partially offset by net additions of $70m, $61m from the acquisition of Rotation Medical and favourable currency movements of $31m.
- Retirement benefit assets of $62m (2016: nil) for UK and US retirement schemes due to changes in actuarial assumptions and contributions made during 2017.
- Deferred tax assets increased by $30m in the year from $97m in 2016 to $127m in 2017 due to changes primarily in deferred tax on inventory provisions.

Current assets increased by $202m from $2,529m to $2,731m in 2017. This is principally attributable to the following:

- Inventories rose by $60m to $1,304m in 2017 from $1,244m in 2016 primarily due to favourable currency movements of $62m.
- The level of trade and other receivables increased by $73m to $1,258m in 2016 from $1,185m in 2016. The movement primarily relates to increased net trade receivables of $68m (including favourable currency movements of $44m).
- Cash at bank has increased by $69m from $100m in 2016 to $169m in 2017 due to the timing of a receipt for the settlement of patent litigation in 2017.

Current liabilities decreased by $2m from $1,348m in 2016 to $1,346m in 2017 primarily due to a $59m decrease in bank overdrafts to $27m and a $18m decrease in provisions to $129m. These movements were partially offset by a $73m increase in trade and other payables to $957m primarily due to $47m currency movements and $28m timing difference on the payment of expenses associated with a patent litigation gain.

Non-current liabilities decreased by $162m from $2,038m to $1,876m in 2017. This is principally attributable to the following:

- Long term borrowings decreased by $141m from $1,564m in 2016 to $1,423m in 2017 due to repayments made in 2017.
- Retirement benefit obligations decreased $33m from $164m in 2016 to $131m in 2017 due to changes in actuarial assumptions.
- Trade and other payables were $46m higher at $128m in 2017 from $82m in 2016 primarily due to movements in deferred and contingent consideration for acquisitions.
- Provisions decreased by $37m from $134m in 2016 to $97m in 2017 primarily due to changes in classification between provisions due within one year.

GROUP INFORMATION continued

FINANCIAL CALENDAR

Annual General Meeting	11 April 2019
First quarter Trading Report	2 May 2019
Payment of 2018 final dividend	8 May 2019
Half year results announced	31 July 2019[1]
Third quarter Trading Report	31 October 2019
Payment of 2019 interim dividend	November 2019
Full year results announced	February 2020[1]
Annual Report available	February/March 2020
Annual General Meeting	April 2020

1 Dividend declaration dates.

Annual General Meeting

The Company's Annual General Meeting ('AGM') will be held on Thursday, 11 April 2019 at 2pm at No.11 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0AN. Registered shareholders have been sent either a Notice of Annual General Meeting or notification of availability of the Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Corporate headquarters and registered office

The corporate headquarters is in the UK and the registered office address is: Smith & Nephew plc, 15 Adam Street, London W2N 6LA, UK. Registered in England and Wales No. 324357. Tel. +44 (0)20 7401 7646 website: www.smith-nephew.com.

ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS

Registrar
All general enquiries concerning shareholdings, dividends, changes to shareholders' personal details and the AGM should be addressed to:

Computershare Investor Services plc, The Pavilions, Bridgwater Road, Bristol, BS99 6ZZ.

Tel: 0370 703 0047
Tel: +44 (0) 117 378 5450 from outside the UK
Website: www.investorcentre.co.uk

* Lines are open from 8:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays in England and Wales.

SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

We make quarterly financial announcements, which are made available through Stock Exchange announcements and on the Group's website (www.smith-nephew.com). Copies of recent Annual Reports, press releases, institutional presentations and audio webcasts are also available on the website.

We send paper copies of the Notice of Annual General Meeting and Annual Report only to those shareholders and ADS holders who have elected to receive shareholder documentation by post. Electronic copies of the Annual Report and Notice of Annual General Meeting are available on the Group's website at www.smith-nephew.com. Both ordinary shareholders and ADS holders can request paper copies of the Annual Report, which the Company provides free of charge. The Company will continue to send to ordinary shareholders by post the Form of Proxy notifying them of the availability of the Annual Report and Notice of Annual General Meeting on the Group's website. If you elect to receive the Annual Report and Notice of Annual General Meeting electronically you are informed by e-mail of the documents' availability on the Group's website. ADS holders receive the Form of Proxy by post, but will not receive a paper copy of the Notice of Annual General Meeting.

INVESTOR COMMUNICATIONS

The Company maintains regular dialogue with individual institutional shareholders, together with results presentations. To ensure that all members of the Board develop an understanding of the views of major investors, the Executive Directors review significant issues raised by investors with the Board. Non-Executive Directors are sent copies of analysts' and brokers' briefings. There is an opportunity for individual shareholders to question the Directors at the Annual General Meeting and the Company regularly responds to letters from shareholders on a range of issues.

UK CAPITAL GAINS TAX

For the purposes of UK capital gains tax, the price of the Company's ordinary shares on 31 March 1982 was 35.04p.

SMITH & NEPHEW SHARE PRICE

The Company's ordinary shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange under the symbol SN. The Company's share price is available on the Smith & Nephew website www.smith-nephew.com and at www.londonstockexhchange.com where the live financial data is updated with a 15-minute delay.

AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES ('ADSs') AND AMERICAN DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS ('ADRs')

In the US, the Company's ordinary shares are traded in the form of ADSs, evidenced by ADRs, on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SNN. Each American Depositary Share represents two ordinary shares. Deutsche Bank is the authorised depositary bank for the Company's ADR programme. This relationship is governed under a Depositary Agreement that contains a clause which the Company has been advised by different Depositary Banks was previously considered as standard. This clause supports what we understand to be the normal practice under the US voting system, whereby votes which have not been instructed are then deemed to have given a discretionary proxy ('auto-proxy'). Whilst the wording of our Depositary Agreement does grant auto-proxy rights, the Company can confirm that we do not believe that it is appropriate, within a UK context, to utilise this clause. The Company has therefore always instructed our Depositary Bank to not exercise this right and to only vote those ADRs which have been specifically instructed. The Company will look to remove this clause when updating the Depositary Agreement clause during the course of 2019.

It is also the Company's practice to always notify our ADR holders of upcoming Annual General Meetings and General Meetings and the availability of relevant documentation on the Company website as well as providing instructions on how to submit votes, where applicable. This is in accordance with US regulations, which require NYSE ADR listed issuers to solicit ADR votes regardless of the wording in their Depositary Agreement.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

ADS ENQUIRIES

All enquiries regarding ADS holder accounts and payment of dividends should be addressed to:

Deutsche Bank Shareholder Services
American Stock Transfer and Trust Company
Operations Centre 6201 15th Avenue
Brooklyn, New York
NY 11219

Tel: +1 866 249 2593 (toll free)
E-mail: db@astfinancial.com
Website: www.adr.db.com

The Deutsche Bank Global Direct Investor Services Program is available for US residents, enabling investment directly in ADSs with reduced brokerage commissions and service costs. For further information on Global Direct contact Deutsche Bank Shareholder Services (as above) or visit www.adr.db.com.

SMITH & NEPHEW ADS PRICE

The Company’s ADS price can be obtained from the official New York Stock Exchange website at www.nyse.com and the Smith & Nephew website www.smith-nephew.com where the live financial data is updated with a 15-minute delay, and is quoted daily in the Wall Street Journal.

ADS PAYMENT INFORMATION

The Company hereby discloses ADS payment information for the year ended 31 December 2018 in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission rules 12.D.3 and 12.D.4 relating to Form 20-F filings by foreign private issuers. The depositary collects its fees for delivery and surrender of ADSs directly from investors depositing shares or surrendering ADSs for the purpose of withdrawal or from intermediaries acting for them. The depositary collects fees for making distributions to investors, including payment of dividends by the Company by deducting those fees from the amounts distributed or by selling a portion of distributable property to pay the fees. The depositary may collect its annual fee for depositary services by deductions from cash distributions or by directly billing investors or by charging the book-entry system accounts of participants acting for them. The depositary may generally refuse to provide fee-attracting services until its fee for those services are paid.

Persons depositing or withdrawing shares must pay	For
$5.00 (or less) per 100 ADSs (or portion of 100 ADSs) $0.05 (or less) per ADS	Issuance of ADSs, including issuances resulting from a distribution of shares or rights or other property Cancellation of ADSs for the purpose of withdrawal, including if the deposit agreement terminates Any cash distribution to ADS registered holders, including payment of dividend
$0.05 (or less) per ADS per calendar year Registration or transfer fees	Depositary services Transfer and registration of shares on our share register to or from the name of the depositary or its agent when shares are deposited or withdrawn
Taxes and other governmental charges the depositary or the custodian have to pay on any ADS or share underlying an ADS, for example, stock transfer taxes, stamp duty or withholding taxes	As necessary
Any charges incurred by the depositary or its agents for servicing the deposited securities	As necessary

During 2018, a fee of one US cent per ADS was collected on the 2017 final dividend paid in May and a fee of one US cent per ADS was collected on the 2018 interim dividend paid in October. In the period 1 January 2018 to 15 February 2019, the total program payments made by Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas were $829,350.

DIVIDEND HISTORY

Smith & Nephew has paid dividends on its ordinary shares in every year since 1937. Following the capital restructuring and dividend reduction in 2000, the Group adopted a policy of increasing its dividend cover (the ratio of EPSA, as set out in the 'Selected financial data', to ordinary dividends declared for the year). This was intended to increase the financing capability of the Group for acquisitions and other investments. From 2000 to 2004, the dividend increased in line with inflation and, in 2004, dividend cover stood at 4.1 times. Having achieved this level of dividend cover the Board changed its policy, from that of increasing dividends in line with inflation, to that of increasing dividends for 2005 and after by 10%. Following the redenomination of the Company's share capital into US Dollars, the Board reaffirmed its policy of increasing the dividend by 10% a year in US Dollar terms. On 2 August 2012, the Board announced its intention to pursue a progressive dividend policy, with the aim of increasing the US Dollar value of ordinary dividends over time broadly based on the Group's underlying growth in earnings, while taking into account capital requirements and cash flows.

At the time of the full year results, the Board reviews the appropriate level of total annual dividend each year. The Board intends that the interim dividend will be set by a formula and will be equivalent to 40% of the total dividend for the previous year. Dividends will continue to be declared in US Dollars with an equivalent amount in Sterling payable to those shareholders whose registered address is in the UK, or who have validly elected to receive Sterling dividends.

An interim dividend in respect of each fiscal year is normally declared in July or August and paid in October or November. A final dividend will be recommended by the Board of Directors and paid subject to approval by shareholders at the Company's Annual General Meeting.

Future dividends of Smith & Nephew will be dependent upon: future earnings; the future financial condition of the Group; the Board's dividend policy; and the additional factors that might affect the business of the Group set out in 'Special note regarding forward-looking statements' and 'Risk Factors'.

DIVIDENDS PER SHARE

The table below sets out the dividends per ordinary share in the last five years.

	Year ended 31 December				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Pence per share:					
Interim	10.670 [1]	9.340	10.080	7.680	6.820
Final	17.120	16.240	14.420	13.000	12.340
Total	27.790	25.580	24.500	20.680	19.160
US cents per share:					
Interim	14.000	12.300	12.300	11.800	11.000
Final	22.000	22.700	18.500	19.000	18.600
Total	36.000	35.000	30.800	30.800	29.600

1 Translated at the Bank of England rate on 15 February 2019.

From 6 April 2018 dividends below £2,000 per tax year became tax free and dividends above £2,000 per tax year became subject to personal income tax at the rate of 7.5% for basic rate taxpayers, 32.5% for higher rate taxpayers and 38.1% for additional rate taxpayers. If you need to pay tax, how you pay depends on the amount of dividend income you receive in a year. If your dividend income is up to £10,000 you can request HMRC to change your tax code so that the tax will be taken from your wages or pension or you can complete a self-assessment tax return. If your dividend income is over £10,000 in the tax year, you will need to complete a self-assessment tax return. This will apply to both cash and dividend reinvestment plan ('DRiP') dividends, although dividends paid on shares held within pensions and ISAs will be unaffected, remaining tax free.

Between 6 April 2016 and 6 April 2018 dividends below £5,000 per tax year were tax free and dividends above £5,000 per tax year were subject to personal income tax at the rates referred to above.

Dividends shown in the table above, prior to 6 April 2016, include the associated UK tax credit of 10%, but exclude the deduction of withholding taxes.

Since the second interim dividend for 2005, all dividends have been declared in US cents per ordinary share.

In respect of the proposed final dividend for the year ended 31 December 2018 of 22.0 US cents per ordinary share, the record date will be 5 April 2019 and the payment date will be 8 May 2019. The Sterling equivalent per ordinary share will be set following the record date. Shareholders may elect to receive their dividend in either Sterling or US Dollars and the last day for election will be 17 April 2019. The ordinary shares will trade ex-dividend on both the London and New York Stock Exchanges from 4 April 2019.

The proposed final dividend of 22.0 US cents per ordinary share, which together with the interim dividend of 14.0 US cents, makes a total for 2018 of 36.0 US cents.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

SHARE CAPITAL

The principal trading market for the ordinary shares is the London Stock Exchange. The ordinary shares were listed on the New York Stock Exchange on 16 November 1999, trading in the form of ADSs evidenced by ADRs. Each ADS represents two ordinary shares from 14 October 2014, before which time one ADS represented five ordinary shares. The ADS facility is sponsored by Deutsche Bank acting as depositary.

All the ordinary shares, including those held by Directors and Executive Officers, rank pari passu with each other. On 23 January 2006, the ordinary shares of 12 2/9p were redenominated as ordinary shares of US 20 cents (following approval by shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting in December 2005). The new US Dollar ordinary shares carry the same rights as the previous ordinary shares. The share price continues to be quoted in Sterling. In 2006, the Company issued £50,000 of shares in Sterling in order to comply with English law. These were issued as deferred shares, which are not listed on any stock exchange. They have extremely limited rights and therefore effectively have no value. These shares are held by the Company Secretary, although the Board reserves the right to transfer them to a member of the Board should it so wish.

Shareholdings

As at 15 February 2019, to the knowledge of the Group, there were 14,301 registered holders of ordinary shares, of whom 95 had registered addresses in the US and held a total of 185,400 ordinary shares (0.02% of the total issued). Because certain ordinary shares are registered in the names of nominees, the number of shareholders with registered addresses in the USA is not representative of the number of beneficial owners of ordinary shares resident in the US.

As at 15 February 2019, 41,419,215 ADSs equivalent to 82,838,430 ordinary shares or approximately 9.5% of the total ordinary shares in issue, were outstanding and were held by 85 registered ADS holders.

Major shareholders

As far as is known to Smith & Nephew, the Group is not directly or indirectly owned or controlled by another corporation or by any Government and the Group has not entered into arrangements, the operation of which may at a subsequent date result in a change in control of the Group.

As at 15 February 2019, the Company is not aware of any person who has a significant direct or indirect holding of securities in the Company, as defined in the Disclosure and Transparency Rules (DTRs) of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), other than as shown below, and is not aware of any persons holding securities which may control the Company. There are no securities in issue which have special rights as to the control of the Company.

The following table shows the last notification(s) received by the Company, in accordance with the FCA’s DTRs relating to notifiable interests in the voting rights in the company’s issued share capital:

		As at 31 December		
	15 February 2019 %*	2018 %*	2017 %*	2016 %*
BlackRock, Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2

		As at 31 December		
	15 February 2019 ‘000	2018 ‘000	2017 ‘000	2016 ‘000
BlackRock, Inc.	46,427	46,427	46,427	46,427

* Percentage of ordinary shares in issue, excluding Treasury shares.

Purchase of ordinary shares on behalf of the Company

At the AGM, the Company will be seeking a renewal of its current permission from shareholders to purchase up to 10% of its own shares. In order to avoid shareholder dilution, shares allotted to employees through employee share schemes are bought back on a quarterly basis and subsequently cancelled by the Company.

From 1 January 2018 to 15 February 2019, in the months listed below, the Company has purchased 3,644,693 ordinary shares at a cost of $65,825,922.

	Total shares purchased 000's	Average price paid per share pence	Approximate US$ value of shares purchased under the plan
14-15 February 2018 (Q4 2017)	557	1,261.6308	$ 9,892,872
16-23 May 2018 (Q1 2018)	1,226	1,320.3255	$ 21,758,003
31 July-1 August 2018 (Q2 2018)	216	1,324.2552	$ 3,772,227
19-22 November 2018 (Q3 2018)	670	1,395.2269	$ 12,015,283
11-15 February 2019 (Q4 2018)	976	1,465.1940	$ 18,387,536

The shares were purchased in the open market by J.P. Morgan Securities plc on behalf of the Company.

Exchange controls and other limitations affecting security holders

There are no UK governmental laws, decrees or regulations that restrict the export or import of capital or that affect the payment of dividends, interest or other payments to non-resident holders of Smith & Nephew’s securities, except for certain restrictions imposed from time to time by Her Majesty’s Treasury of the United Kingdom pursuant to legislation, such as the United Nations Act 1946 and the Emergency Laws Act 1964, against the Government or residents of certain countries.

There are no limitations, either under the laws of the UK or under the Articles of Association of Smith & Nephew, restricting the right of non-UK residents to hold or to exercise voting rights in respect of ordinary shares, except that where any overseas shareholder has not provided to the Company a UK address for the service of notices, the Company is under no obligation to send any notice or other document to an overseas address. It is, however, the current practice of the Company to send every notice or other document to all shareholders regardless of the country recorded in the register of members, with the exception of details of the Company’s dividend reinvestment plan, which are not sent to shareholders with recorded addresses in the US and Canada.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

TAXATION INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS

The comments below are of a general and summary nature and are based on the Group's understanding of certain aspects of current UK and US federal income tax law and practice relevant to the ADSs and ordinary shares not in ADS form. The comments address the material US and UK tax consequences generally applicable to a person who is the beneficial owner of ADSs or ordinary shares and who, for US federal income tax purposes, is a citizen or resident of the US, a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation) created or organised in or under the laws of the US (or any State therein or the District of Columbia), or an estate or trust the income of which is included in gross income for US federal income tax purposes regardless of its source (each a US Holder). The comments set out below do not purport to address all tax consequences of the ownership of ADSs or ordinary shares that may be material to a particular holder and in particular do not deal with the position of shareholders who directly, indirectly or constructively own 10% or more of the Company's issued ordinary shares. This discussion does not apply to (i) persons whose holding of ADSs or ordinary shares is effectively connected with or pertains to either a permanent establishment in the UK through which a US Holder carries on a business in the UK or a fixed base from which a US Holder performs independent personal services in the UK, or (ii) persons whose registered address is inside the UK. This discussion does not apply to certain investors subject to special rules, such as certain financial institutions, tax-exempt entities, insurance companies, broker-dealers and traders in securities that elect to use the mark-to-market method of tax accounting, partnerships or other entities treated as partnerships for US federal income tax purposes, US Holders holding ADSs or ordinary shares as part of a hedging, conversion or other integrated transaction or US Holders whose functional currency for US federal income tax purposes is other than the US Dollar. In addition, the comments below do not address the potential application of the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code known as the Medicare Contribution Tax, any alternative minimum tax consequences, any US federal tax other than income tax or any US state, local or non-US (other than UK) taxes. The summary deals only with US Holders who hold ADSs or ordinary shares as capital assets for tax purposes. The summary is based on current UK and US law and practice which is subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. US Holders are recommended to consult their own tax advisers as to the particular tax consequences to them of the ownership of ADSs or ordinary shares. The Company believes, and this discussion assumes, that the Company was not a passive foreign investment company for its taxable year ended 31 December 2018.

This discussion is based in part on representations by the depositary and assumes that each obligation under the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. For purposes of US federal income tax law, US Holders of ADSs will generally be treated as owners of the ordinary shares represented by the ADSs. However, the US Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom depositary shares are released before shares are delivered to the depositary (pre-released) may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by owners of depositary shares. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax, described below, applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate US Holders. Accordingly, the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate US Holders of ADSs could be affected by actions that may be taken by parties to whom ADSs are pre-released.

Taxation of distributions in the UK and the US

The UK does not currently impose a withholding tax on dividends paid by a UK corporation, such as the Company.

Distributions paid by the Company will generally be taxed as foreign source dividends to the extent paid out of the Company's current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for US federal income tax purposes. Because the Company does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under US federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions generally will be reported to US Holders as dividends. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to corporate US Holders.

Dividends paid to certain non-corporate US Holders of ordinary shares or ADSs may be subject to US federal income tax at lower rates than those applicable to other types of ordinary income if certain conditions are met. Non-corporate US Holders should consult their own tax advisers to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at these favourable rates.

Taxation of capital gains

US Holders, who are not resident or ordinarily resident for tax purposes in the UK, will not generally be liable for UK capital gains tax on any capital gain realised upon the sale or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares unless the ADSs or ordinary shares are held in connection with a trade carried on in the UK through a permanent establishment (or in the case of individuals, through a branch or agency). Furthermore, UK resident individuals who acquire ADSs or ordinary shares before becoming temporarily non-UK residents may remain subject to UK taxation of capital gains on gains realised while non-resident.

For US federal income tax purposes, gains or losses realised upon a taxable sale or other disposition of ADSs or ordinary shares by US Holders generally will be US source capital gains or losses and will be long-term capital gains or losses if the ADSs or ordinary shares were held for more than one year. The amount of a US Holder's gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the amount realised on the sale or other disposition and such holder's tax basis in the ADSs, or ordinary shares, each determined in US Dollars.

Inheritance and estate taxes

HM Revenue & Customs imposes inheritance tax on capital transfers which occur on death, and in the seven years preceding death. HM Revenue & Customs considers that the US/UK Double Taxation Convention on Estate and Gift Tax applies to inheritance tax. Consequently, a US citizen who is domiciled in the USA and is not a UK national or domiciled in the UK will not be subject to UK inheritance tax in respect of ADSs and ordinary shares. A UK national who is domiciled in the US will be subject to UK inheritance tax but will be entitled to a credit for any US federal estate tax charged in respect of ADSs and ordinary shares in computing the liability to UK inheritance tax. Special rules apply where ADSs and ordinary shares are business property of a permanent establishment of an enterprise situated in the UK.

US information reporting and backup withholding

Payments of dividends on, or proceeds from the sale of, ADSs or ordinary shares that are made within the US or through certain US-related financial intermediaries generally will be subject to US information reporting, and may be subject to backup withholding, unless a US Holder is an exempt recipient or, in the case of backup withholding, provides a correct US taxpayer identification number and certain other conditions are met.

Any backup withholding deducted may be credited against the US Holder’s US federal income tax liability, and, where the backup withholding exceeds the actual liability, the US Holder may obtain a refund by timely filing the appropriate refund claim with the US Internal Revenue Service.

US Holders who are individuals or certain specified entities may be required to report information relating to securities issued by a non-US person (or foreign accounts through which the securities are held), subject to certain exceptions (including an exception for securities held in accounts maintained by US financial institutions). US Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding their reporting obligations with respect to the ADSs or ordinary shares.

UK stamp duty and stamp duty reserve tax

UK stamp duty is charged on documents and in particular instruments for the transfer of registered ownership of ordinary shares. Transfers of ordinary shares in certificated form will generally be subject to UK stamp duty at the rate of ½% of the consideration given for the transfer with the duty rounded up to the nearest £5.

UK stamp duty reserve tax (SDRT) arises when there is an agreement to transfer shares in UK companies ‘for consideration in money or money’s worth’, and so an agreement to transfer ordinary shares for money or other consideration may give rise to a charge to SDRT at the rate of ½% (rounded up to the nearest penny). The charge of SDRT will be cancelled, and any SDRT already paid will be refunded, if within six years of the agreement an instrument of transfer is produced to HM Revenue & Customs and the appropriate stamp duty paid.

Transfers of ordinary shares into CREST (an electronic transfer system) are exempt from stamp duty so long as the transferee is a member of CREST who will hold the ordinary shares as a nominee for the transferor and the transfer is in a form that will ensure that the securities become held in uncertificated form within CREST. Paperless transfers of ordinary shares within CREST for consideration in money or money’s worth are liable to SDRT rather than stamp duty. SDRT on relevant transactions will be collected by CREST at ½%, and this will apply whether or not the transfer is effected in the UK and whether or not the parties to it are resident or situated in the UK.

A charge of stamp duty or SDRT at the rate of 1.5% of the consideration (or, in some circumstances, the value of the shares concerned) will arise on a transfer or issue of ordinary shares to the depositary or to certain persons providing a clearance service (or their nominees or agents) for the conversion into ADRs and will generally be payable by the depositary or person providing clearance service. In accordance with the terms of the Deposit Agreement, any tax or duty payable by the depositary on deposits of ordinary shares will be charged by the depositary to the party to whom ADRs are delivered against such deposits.

No liability for stamp duty or SDRT will arise on any transfer of, or agreement to transfer, an ADS or beneficial ownership of an ADS, provided that the ADS and any instrument of transfer or written agreement to transfer remains at all times outside the UK, and provided further that any instrument of transfer or written agreement to transfer is not executed in the UK and the transfer does not relate to any matter or thing done or to be done in the UK (the location of the custodian as a holder of ordinary shares not being relevant in this context). In any other case, any transfer of, or agreement to transfer, an ADS or beneficial ownership of an ADS could, depending on all the circumstances of the transfer, give rise to a charge to stamp duty or SDRT.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The following summarises certain material rights of holders of the Company’s ordinary shares under the material provisions of the Company’s Articles of Association and English law. This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Companies Act and the Company’s Articles of Association. In the following description, a ‘shareholder’ is the person registered in the Company’s register of members as the holder of an ordinary share.

The Company is incorporated under the name Smith & Nephew plc and is registered in England and Wales with registered number 324357.

The Company’s ordinary shares may be held in certificated or uncertificated form. No holder of the Company’s shares will be required to make additional contributions of capital in respect of the Company’s shares in the future. In accordance with English law, the Company’s ordinary shares rank equally.

Directors

Under the Company’s Articles of Association, a Director may not vote in respect of any contract, arrangement, transaction or proposal in which he, or any person connected with him, has any material interest other than by virtue of his interests in securities of, or otherwise in or through, the Company. This is subject to certain exceptions relating to proposals (a) indemnifying him in respect of obligations incurred on behalf of the Company, (b) indemnifying a third party in respect of obligations of the Company for which the Director has assumed responsibility under an indemnity or guarantee, (c) relating to an offer of securities in which he will be interested as an underwriter, (d) concerning another body corporate in which the Director is beneficially interested in less than 1% of the issued shares of any class of shares of such a body corporate, (e) relating to an employee benefit in which the Director will share equally with other employees and (f) relating to any insurance that the Company is empowered to purchase for the benefit of Directors of the Company in respect of actions undertaken as Directors (and/or officers) of the Company.

A Director shall not vote or be counted in any quorum present at a meeting in relation to a resolution on which he is not entitled to vote.

The Directors are empowered to exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money, subject to the limitation that the aggregate amount of all monies borrowed after deducting cash and current asset investments by the Company and its subsidiaries shall not exceed the sum of $6,500,000,000.

Any Director who has been appointed by the Directors since the previous Annual General Meeting of shareholders, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional Director holds office only until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and then shall be eligible for re-election by the shareholders. The Company’s Articles of Association provide that Directors should regularly be submitted for re-election at intervals of three years, however in accordance with the UK Corporate Governance Code, all Directors are subject to annual re-election. If not re-appointed, a Director retiring at a meeting shall retain office until the meeting appoints someone in his place, or if it does not do so, until the conclusion of the meeting. The Directors are subject to removal with or without cause by the Board or the shareholders. Directors are not required to hold any shares of the Company by way of qualification.

Under the Company’s Articles of Association and English law, a Director may be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against liabilities he may sustain or incur in the execution of his duties.

Rights attaching to ordinary shares

Under English law, dividends are payable on the Company’s ordinary shares only out of profits available for distribution, as determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the UK and by the Companies Act 2006. Holders of the Company’s ordinary shares are entitled to receive final dividends as may be declared by the Directors and approved by the shareholders in a general meeting, rateable according to the amounts paid up on such shares, provided that the dividend cannot exceed the amount recommended by the Directors.

The Company’s Board of Directors may declare such interim dividends as appear to them to be justified by the Company’s financial position. If authorised by an ordinary resolution of the shareholders, the Board may also direct payment of a dividend in whole or in part by the distribution of specific assets (and in particular of paid up shares or debentures of the Company).

Any dividend unclaimed after 12 years from the date the dividend was declared, or became due for payment, will be forfeited and will revert to the Company.

There were no material modifications to the rights of shareholders under the Articles during 2018.

Voting rights of ordinary shares

The Company’s Articles of Association provide that voting at any general meeting of shareholders is by a show of hands unless a poll, which is a written vote, is duly demanded and held. On a show of hands, every shareholder who is present in person at a general meeting has one vote regardless of the number of shares held. On a poll, every shareholder who is present in person or by proxy has one vote for each ordinary share held by that shareholder. A poll may be demanded by any of the following:

- The chair of the meeting;
- At least five shareholders present or by proxy entitled to vote on the resolution;
- Any shareholder or shareholders representing in the aggregate not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all shareholders entitled to vote on the resolution; or
- Any shareholder or shareholders holding shares conferring a right to vote on the resolution on which there have been paid-up sums in aggregate equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right.

A Form of Proxy will be treated as giving the proxy the authority to demand a poll, or to join others in demanding one, as above.

It is the Company’s usual practice to vote by poll at Annual General Meetings.

The necessary quorum for a general meeting is two shareholders present in person or by proxy carrying the right to vote upon the business to be transacted.

Matters are transacted at general meetings of the Company by the processing and passing of resolutions of which there are two kinds; ordinary or special resolutions:

– Ordinary resolutions include resolutions for the re-election of Directors, the approval of financial statements, the declaration of dividends (other than interim dividends), the appointment and re-appointment of auditors or the grant of authority to allot shares. An ordinary resolution requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes of those persons voting at the meetings at which there is a quorum.
– Special resolutions include resolutions amending the Company’s Articles of Association, dis-applying statutory pre-emption rights or changing the Company’s name; modifying the rights of any class of the Company’s shares at a meeting of the holders of such class or relating to certain matters concerning the Company’s winding up. A special resolution requires the affirmative vote of not less than three-quarters of the votes of the persons voting at the meeting at which there is a quorum.

Annual General Meetings must be convened upon advance written notice of 21 days. Other general meetings must be convened upon advance written notice of at least 14 clear days. The days of delivery or receipt of notice are not included. The notice must specify the nature of the business to be transacted. Meetings are convened by the Board of Directors. Members with 5% of the ordinary share capital of the Company may requisition the Board to convene a meeting.

Variation of rights

If, at any time, the Company’s share capital is divided into different classes of shares, the rights attached to any class may be varied, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, with the consent in writing of holders of three-quarters in nominal value of the issued shares of that class or upon the adoption of a special resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of the shares of that class. At every such separate meeting, all the provisions of the Articles of Association relating to proceedings at a general meeting apply, except that the quorum is to be the number of persons (which must be two or more) who hold or represent by proxy not less than one-third in nominal value of the issued shares of the class and at any such meeting a poll may be demanded in writing by any person or their proxy who hold shares of that class. Where a person is present by proxy or proxies, he is treated as holding only the shares in respect of which the proxies are authorised to exercise voting rights.

Rights in a winding up

Except as the Company’s shareholders have agreed or may otherwise agree, upon the Company’s winding up, the balance of assets available for distribution:

– After the payment of all creditors including certain preferential creditors, whether statutorily preferred creditors or normal creditors; and
– Subject to any special rights attaching to any other class of shares;
– Is to be distributed among the holders of ordinary shares according to the amounts paid-up on the shares held by them. This distribution is generally to be made in US Dollars. A liquidator may, however, upon the adoption of any extraordinary resolution of the shareholders and any other sanction required by law, divide among the shareholders the whole or any part of the Company’s assets in kind.

Limitations on voting and shareholding

There are no limitations imposed by English law or the Company’s Articles of Association on the right of non-residents or foreign persons to hold or vote the Company’s ordinary shares or ADSs, other than the limitations that would generally apply to all of the Company’s shareholders.

Transfers of shares

The Board may refuse to register the transfer of shares held in certificated form which:

– Are not fully paid (provided that it shall not exercise this discretion in such a way as to prevent stock market dealings in the shares of that class from taking place on an open and proper basis);
– Are not duly stamped or duly certified or otherwise shown to the satisfaction of the Board to be exempt from stamp duty, lodged at the Transfer Office or at such other place as the Board may appoint and (save in the case of a transfer by a person to whom no certificate was issued in respect of the shares in question) accompanied by the certificate for the shares to which it relates, and such other evidence as the Board may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer and, if the instrument of transfer is executed by some other person on his behalf, the authority of that person so to do;
– Are in respect of more than one class of shares; or
– Are in favour of more than four transferees.

Deferred shares

Following the re-denomination of share capital on 23 January 2006, the ordinary shares’ nominal value became 20 US cents each. There were no changes to the rights or obligations of the ordinary shares. In order to comply with the Companies Act 2006, a new class of Sterling shares was created, deferred shares, of which £50,000 were issued and allotted in 2006 as fully paid to the Chief Executive Officer. These shares were subsequently transferred and are now held by the Company Secretary, although the Board reserves the right to transfer them to a member of the Board should it so wish. These deferred shares have no voting or dividend rights and on winding up only are entitled to repayment at nominal value only if all ordinary shareholders have received the nominal value of their shares plus an additional US$1,000 each.

Amendments

The Company does not have any special rules about amendments to its Articles of Association beyond those imposed by law.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

CROSS REFERENCE TO FORM 20-F

This table provides a cross reference from the information included in this Annual Report to the requirements of Form 20-F.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the meanings shown below:

Term	Meaning
ACL	The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is one of the four major ligaments in the human knee.
ADR	In the US, the Company's ordinary shares are traded in the form of American Depositary Shares evidenced by American Depositary Receipts (ADRs).
ADS	In the US, the Company's ordinary shares are traded in the form of American Depositary Shares (ADSs).
Arthroscopic Enabling Technologies	A product group which includes a variety of technologies such as fluid management equipment for surgical access, high definition cameras, digital image capture, scopes, light sources and monitors to assist with visualisation inside the joints, radio frequency, electromechanical and mechanical tissue resection devices, and hand instruments for removing damaged tissue.
Advanced Wound Bioactives	A product group which includes biologics and other bioactive technologies that provide unique approaches to debridement and dermal repair/regeneration.
Advanced Wound Care	A product group which includes products for the treatment and prevention of acute and chronic wounds, including leg, diabetic and pressure ulcers, burns and post-operative wounds.
Advanced Wound Devices	A product group which includes traditional and single-use Negative Pressure Wound Therapy and hydrosurgery systems.
AGM	Annual General Meeting of the Company.
Arthroscopy	Endoscopy of the joints is termed 'arthroscopy', with the principal applications being the knee and shoulder.
Basis Point	One hundredth of one percentage point.
Chronic wounds	Chronic wounds are those with long or unknown healing times including leg ulcers, pressure sores and diabetic foot ulcers.
Company	Smith & Nephew plc or, where appropriate, the Company's Board of Directors, unless the context otherwise requires.
Companies Act	Companies Act 2006, as amended, of England and Wales.
Emerging Markets	Emerging Markets include include Latin America, Asia (excluding Japan), Africa and Russia.
EPSA	EPSA (Adjusted earnings per ordinary share) is a trend measure, which presents the long-term profitability of the Group excluding the post-tax impact of specific transactions that management considers affects the Group's short-term profitability. The Group presents this measure to assist investors in their understanding of trends. Adjusted attributable profit is the numerator used for this measure and is determined by adjusting attributable profit for the items that are excluded from operating profit when arriving at trading profit and items that are recognised below operating profit that affect the Group's short-term profitability.
Endoscopy	Through a small incision, surgeons are able to see inside the body using a monitor and identify and repair defects.
Established Markets	Established Markets include United States of America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Japan.
Euro or €	References to the common currency used in the majority of the countries of the European Union.
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration.
Financial statements	Refers to the consolidated Group Accounts of Smith & Nephew plc.
FTSE 100	Index of the largest 100 listed companies on the London Stock Exchange by market capitalisation.
Group or Smith & Nephew	Used for convenience to refer to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.
Health economics	A branch of economics concerned with issues related to efficiency, effectiveness, value and behaviour in the production and consumption of health and healthcare.
Hip Implants	A product group which includes specialist products for reconstruction of the hip joint.
IFRIC	International Financial Reporting Interpretations as adopted by the EU and as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU and as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Term	Meaning
Knee implants	A product group which includes an innovative range of products for specialised knee replacement procedures.
LSE	London Stock Exchange.
MHRA	The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in the UK.
Negative Pressure Wound Therapy	A technology used to treat chronic wounds such as diabetic ulcers, pressure sores and post-operative wounds through the application of sub-atmospheric pressure to an open wound.
NHS	The UK National Health Service.
NYSE	New York Stock Exchange.
Orthopaedic products	Orthopaedic reconstruction products include joint replacement systems for knees, hips and shoulders and support products such as computer-assisted surgery and minimally invasive surgery techniques. Orthopaedic trauma devices are used in the treatment of bone fractures including rods, pins, screws, plates and external frames.
Other Surgical Businesses	A product group which includes robotics-assisted surgery, various products and technologies to assist in surgical treatment of the ear, nose and throat, and gynaecological instrumentation, until the Gynaecology business disposal in August 2016.
OXINIUM	OXINIUM material is an advanced load bearing technology. It is created through a proprietary manufacturing process that enables zirconium to absorb oxygen and transform to a ceramic on the surface, resulting in a material that incorporates the features of ceramic and metal. Management believes that OXINIUM material used in the production of components of knee and hip implants exhibits unique performance characteristics due to its hardness, low-friction and resistance to roughening and abrasion.
Parent Company	Smith & Nephew plc.
Pound Sterling, Sterling, £, pence or p	References to UK currency. 1p is equivalent to one hundredth of £1.
SEC	US Securities and Exchange Commission.
Sports Medicine Joint Repair	The Sports Medicine Joint Repair franchise includes instruments, technologies and implants necessary to perform minimally invasive surgery of joints.
Trading results	Trading profit, trading profit margin (trading profit expressed as a percentage of revenue), trading cash flow and trading profit to cash conversion ratio (trading cash flow expressed as a percentage of trading profit) are trend measures, which present the long-term profitability of the Group excluding the impact of specific transactions that management considers affect the Group’s short-term profitability and cash flows. The Group has identified the following items, where material, as those to be excluded from operating profit and cash generated from operations when arriving at trading profit and trading cash flow, respectively: acquisition and disposal related items arising in connection with business combinations, including amortisation of acquisition intangible assets, impairments and integration costs; restructuring events; gains and losses resulting from legal disputes and uninsured losses. In addition to these items, gains and losses that materially impact the Group’s profitability or cash flows on a short-term or one-off basis and the cash cost to fund defined benefit pension schemes that are closed to future accrual are excluded from operating profit and cash generated from operations when arriving at trading profit and trading cash flow, respectively.
Trauma & Extremities	A product group which includes internal and external devices used in the stabilisation of severe fractures and deformity correction procedures.
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Underlying growth	Growth after adjusting for the effects of currency translation and the inclusion of the comparative impact of acquisitions and exclusion of disposals.
US	United States of America.
US Dollars, $ or cents or ¢	References to US currency. 1 cent is equivalent to one hundredth of US$1.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

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IRAN NOTICE

Section 13(r) of the Exchange Act requires issuers to make specific disclosure in their annual reports of certain types of dealings with Iran, including transactions or dealings with Iranian government-owned entities, as well as dealings with entities sanctioned for activities related to terrorism or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, even when those activities are not prohibited by US law and do not involve US persons.

The Group does not have a legal entity based in Iran, but in 2018 it exported certain medical devices to Iran, via sales by non- US entities, to a privately owned Iranian distributor for sale in Iran. Sales by the distributor were made to hospitals that we understand are owned or controlled by the Government of Iran.

The Group's direct and indirect sales of US origin medical devices into Iran are permitted pursuant to section 560.530(a)(3)(i) of the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations, and its indirect sales of non-US origin medical devices into Iran are made in accordance with applicable law. The Group also provides training to its distributor(s) and surgeons in Iran as necessary and ordinarily incident to the safe and effective use of the medical devices, which is also permitted by applicable law.

In 2018, S&N's gross revenues from sales to Iran were approximately US$3.4m and net losses were approximately US$1.1m.

The Group is reporting the entire gross revenues and net profits for the activities described above, which figures include sales of US origin medical devices. Although the Group is not required to disclose the sales of US origin medical devices because such sales to Iran are licensed under US law, the Group is including sales of these devices in its total gross revenue and net profit figures as it does not separately break out revenues and profits by country of origin.

ABOUT SMITH & NEPHEW

The Smith & Nephew Group (the Group) is a portfolio medical technology business with leadership positions in Orthopaedics, Advanced Wound Management and Sports Medicine, and revenue of approximately $4.9bn in 2018. Smith & Nephew plc (the Company) is the Parent Company of the Group. It is an English public limited company with its shares listed on the premium list of the UK Listing Authority and traded on the London Stock Exchange. Shares are also traded on the New York Stock Exchange in the form of American Depositary Shares (ADSs).

This is the Annual Report of Smith & Nephew plc for the year ended 31 December 2018. It comprises, in a single document, the Annual Report and Accounts of the Company in accordance with UK requirements and the Annual Report on Form 20-F in accordance with the regulations of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Smith & Nephew operates on a worldwide basis and has distribution channels in over 100 countries. The Group is engaged in a single business activity, being the development, manufacture and sale of medical technology products and services. In 2018, the Group was structured as two geographical selling regions: US and International; with a president for each who is responsible for the commercial view of that region. Research & Development, Manufacturing, Supply Chain and Central functions are managed globally for the Group as a whole.

Smith & Nephew's corporate website, www.smith-nephew.com, gives additional information on the Group, including an electronic version of this Annual Report. Information made available on this website, or other websites mentioned in this Annual Report, are not and should not be regarded as being part of, or incorporated into, this Annual Report.

For the convenience of the reader, a Glossary of technical and financial terms used in this document is included on pages 212–213. The product names referred to in this document are identified by use of capital letters and the ™ (on first occurrence) and are trademarks owned by or licensed to members of the Group.

INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS continued

PRESENTATION

The Group's fiscal year end is 31 December. References to a particular year in this Annual Report are to the fiscal year, unless otherwise indicated. Except as the context otherwise requires, 'Ordinary Share' or 'share' refer to the ordinary shares of Smith & Nephew plc of 20 US cents each.

The Group Accounts of Smith & Nephew in this Annual Report are presented in US Dollars. Solely for the convenience of the reader, certain parts of this Annual Report contain translations of amounts in US Dollars into Sterling at specified rates. These translations should not be construed as representations that the US Dollar amounts actually represent such Sterling amounts or could be converted into Sterling at the rate indicated.

Unless stated otherwise, the translation of US Dollars and cents to Sterling and pence in this Annual Report has been made at the Bank of England exchange rate on the date indicated. On 15 February 2019, the latest practicable date for this Annual Report, the Bank of England rate was US$1.28 per £1.00.

The results of the Group, as reported in US Dollars, are affected by movements in exchange rates between US Dollars and other currencies. The Group applied the average exchange rates prevailing during the year to translate the results of companies with functional currency other than US Dollars. The currencies which most influenced these translations in the years covered by this report were Sterling, Swiss Franc and the Euro.

The Accounts of the Group in this Annual Report are presented in millions (m) unless otherwise indicated.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The Group's reports filed with, or furnished to, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including this document and written information released, or oral statements made, to the public in the future by or on behalf of the Group, contain 'forward-looking statements' within the meaning of the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, that may or may not prove accurate. For example, statements regarding expected revenue growth and trading profit margins discussed under 'Outlook' and 'Strategic Priorities', market trends and our product pipeline are forward-looking statements. Phrases such as 'aim', 'plan', 'intend', 'anticipate', 'well-placed', 'believe', 'estimate', 'expect', 'target', 'consider' and similar expressions are generally intended to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause actual results, to differ materially from what is expressed or implied by the statements.

For Smith & Nephew, these factors include: economic and financial conditions in the markets we serve, especially those affecting healthcare providers, payers and customers; price levels for established and innovative medical devices; developments in medical technology; regulatory approvals, reimbursement decisions or other government actions; product defects or recalls; litigation relating to patent or other claims; legal compliance risks and related investigative, remedial or enforcement actions; strategic actions, including acquisitions and dispositions and our success in performing due diligence, valuing and integrating acquired businesses; disruption that may result from transactions or other changes we make in our business plans or organisation to adapt to market developments and numerous other matters that affect us or our markets, including those of a political, economic, business, competitive or reputational nature; relationships with healthcare professionals; reliance on information technology. Specific risks faced by the Group are described under 'Risk factors' on pages 188–191 of this Annual Report. Any forward-looking statement is based on information available to Smith & Nephew as of the date of the statement. All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to Smith & Nephew are qualified by this caution. Smith & Nephew does not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect any change in circumstances or in Smith & Nephew's expectations.

PRODUCT DATA

Product data and product share estimates throughout this report are derived from a variety of sources including publicly available competitors' information, internal management information and independent market research reports.

DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

It is possible to read and copy documents referred to in this Annual Report at the Registered Office of the Company. Documents referred to in this Annual Report that have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the US may be read and copied at the SEC's public reference room located at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms and their copy charges. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that contains reports and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the SEC. This Annual Report and some of the other information submitted by the Group to the SEC may be accessed through the SEC website.

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.		Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
1		Articles of Association	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed on March 1, 2012 (File No. 1-14978)	
2		Smith & Nephew plc is not party to any single instrument relating to long-term debt pursuant to which a total amount of securities exceeding 10% of Smith & Nephew plc's total assets (on a consolidated basis) is authorized to be issued. Smith & Nephew plc hereby agrees to furnish to the SEC, upon its request, a copy of any instrument defining the rights of holders of its long-term debt or the rights of holders of the long-term debt of any of its subsidiaries for which consolidated or unconsolidated financial statements are required to be filed with the SEC.		
4	(a) (i)	Agreement and Appendices dated 3 February 2014 by and among Smith & Nephew plc, Barclays Bank Plc, The Financial Institutions in Schedule 1, Barclays Bank Plc and J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. and J.P. Morgan Europe Limited.	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed on March 6, 2014 (File No.1-14978)	
	(ii)	Agreement and Plan Merger dated 2 February 2014 by and among ArthroCare Corporation Smith & Nephew, Inc. and Smith & Nephew plc.	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed on March 6, 2014 (File No.1-14978)	
	(iii)	Agreement and Appendices dated 24 March 2014 by and among Smith & Nephew plc, Barclays Bank Plc; J.P. Morgan Limited; Bank Of America Merrill Lynch International Limited; Bank Of China Limited, London Branch; The Bank Of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ufj, Ltd.; HSBC Bank Plc; Mizuho Bank, Ltd.; National Australia Bank Limited; The Royal Bank Of Scotland Plc; Societe Generale; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; Wells Fargo Bank International and Deutsche Bank Ag, London Branch.	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed on March 5, 2015 (File No.1-14978)	

Exhibit No.		Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
4	(a) (iv)	Agreement and Appendices dated 19 November 2014 by and among Smith & Nephew plc and the purchasers listed in Schedule A.	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed on March 5, 2015 (File No.1-14978)	
	(v)	Agreement dated 15 June 2018 by and among Smith & Nephew plc; J.P. Morgan Securities plc; Bank Of America Merrill Lynch International Limited; Bank Of China Limited, London Branch; HSBC Bank Plc; Mizuho Bank, Ltd.; Societe Generale, London Branch; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation; and Wells Fargo Bank N.A., London Branch.		X
4	(c) (i)	Service Agreement of Olivier Bohuon	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2010 filed on March 3, 2011 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(ii)	Letter of Appointment of Ian Barlow	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2009 filed on March 26, 2010 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(iii)	Letter of Appointment of The Rt. Hon Baroness Virginia Bottomley	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2012 filed on February 28, 2013 (File No.1-14978)	
	(lv)	Letter of Appointment of Michael Friedman	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2012 filed on February 28, 2013 (File No.1-14978)	

Exhibit No.	Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
4 (c) (v)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Joseph Papa	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 6, 2017 (File No.1-14978)	
(vi)	Letter of Appointment of Roberto Quarta	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2013 filed on March 6, 2014 (File No.1-14978)	
(vii)	Letter of Appointment of Vinita Bali	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed on March 5, 2015 (File No.1-14978)	
(viii)	Letter of Appointment of Erik Engstrom	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed on March 5, 2015 (File No.1-14978)	
(ix)	Letter of Appointment of Robin Freestone	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed on March 4, 2016 (File No.1-14978)	
(x)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Ian Barlow	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed on March 4, 2016 (File No.1-14978)	
(xi)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Michael Friedman	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2015 filed on March 4, 2016 (File No.1-14978)	
(xii)	The Smith & Nephew 2001 UK Approved Share Option Plan	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2004 filed on March 16, 2005 (File No. 1-14978)	
(xiii)	The Smith & Nephew 2001 UK Unapproved Share Option Plan	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2004 filed on March 16, 2005 (File No. 1-14978)	

Exhibit No.		Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
4	(c) (xiv)	The Smith & Nephew 2001 US Share Plan	Registration Statement on Form S-8 No. 333-13694 filed on July 9, 2001 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xv)	The Smith & Nephew Sharesave Plan (2002)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed on April 25, 2003 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xvi)	The Smith & Nephew International Sharesave Plan (2002)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2004 filed on March 16, 2005 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xvii)	The Smith & Nephew Italian Sharesave Plan (2002)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed on April 25, 2003 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xviii)	The Smith & Nephew Dutch Sharesave Plan (2002)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed in April 25, 2003 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xix)	The Smith & Nephew Belgian Sharesave Plan (2002)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed on April 25, 2003 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xx)	The Smith & Nephew French Sharesave Plan (2002)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed on April 25, 2003 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxi)	Smith & Nephew Irish Employee Share Option Scheme	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2003 filed on March 26, 2004 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxii)	Smith & Nephew 2004 Executive Share Option Scheme	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-122801 filed on February 14, 2005 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxiii)	Smith & Nephew 2004 Performance Share Plan	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-122801 filed on February 14, 2005 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxiv)	Smith & Nephew 2004 Co-investment Plan	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-122801 filed on February 14, 2005 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxv)	Smith & Nephew U.S. Employee Stock Purchase Plan	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-12052 filed on May 30, 2000 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxvi)	Smith & Nephew Long Service Award Scheme	Registration Statement on Form S-8 No. 33-39814 filed on April 5, 1991 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxvii)	Smith & Nephew 2004 Performance Share Plan	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-155172 filed on November 7, 2008 (File No. 1-14978)	

Exhibit No.		Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
4	(c) (xxviii)	Smith & Nephew 2001 US Share Plan	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-155173 filed on November 7, 2008 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxix)	Smith & Nephew plc Deferred Bonus Plan	Registration statement on Form S-8 No. 333-158239 filed on March 27, 2009 (File No. 1-14978)	
	(xxx)	Smith & Nephew plc Global Share Plan 2010	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 6, 2017 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxi)	Smith & Nephew ShareSave Plan (2012)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2012 filed on February 28, 2013 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxii)	Smith & Nephew International ShareSave Plan (2012)	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2012 filed on February 28, 2013 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxiii)	Service Agreement of Graham Baker	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 6, 2017 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxiv)	Letter of Appointment of Robin Freestone as Audit Committee Chairman	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 6, 2017 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxv)	Letter of Appointment of Ian Barlow as Senior Independent Director	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 6, 2017 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxvi)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Roberto Quarta	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 6, 2017 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxvii)	Letter of Appointment of Marc Owen	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed on March 5, 2018 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxviii)	Letter of Appointment of Angie Risley	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed on March 5, 2018 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xxxix)	Letter of Appointment of Roland Diggelmann	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed on March 5, 2018 (File No.1-14978)	
	(xl)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Vinita Bali	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed on March 5, 2018 (File No.1-14978)	

	Exhibit No.	Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
	(xli)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Erik Engstrom	Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed on March 5, 2018 (File No.1-14978)	
4	(c) (xlii)	Service agreement of Namal Nawana		X
	(xliii)	Letter of Re-Appointment of The Rt. Hon Baroness Virginia Bottomley		X
	(xliv)	Letter of Re-Appointment of Robin Freestone		X
8		Principal Subsidiaries		X
12	(a)	Certification of Namal Nawana, filed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a -14(a)		X
	(b)	Certification of Graham Baker filed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a -14(a)		X
13	(a)	Certification of Namal Nawana and Graham Baker furnished pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a – 14(b)		X
15.1		Consent of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm		X

Exhibit No.	Description of Document	Incorporated Herein by Reference To	Filed Herewith
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document		
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document		
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document		
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document		
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document		
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document		

SIGNATURE

The Registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this Annual Report on its behalf.

Smith & Nephew plc

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Susan Swabey

Susan Swabey

Company Secretary

London, England
March 4, 2019