

Directors' report (continued)

Donations

During the year, the company made charitable donations totalling £1,960 (2020: £543).

Creditor payment policy and practice

It is the company's policy that payments to suppliers are made in accordance with those terms and conditions agreed between the company and its suppliers, provided that all trading terms and conditions have been complied with.

At 31 March 2021, the company had an average of 49 days (2020: 39 days) purchases outstanding in trade creditors.

Environment

The company is active in controlling the use and cost of energy, control of emissions and in the recycling of waste.

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (SECR)

As it falls within the definition of a large unquoted company, the Company is required to provide an annual SECR report covering mandatory data. However, the Annual Energy Efficiency Statement covers actions taken across the whole Group.

SECR Data and Intensity Ratio Performance

		2020/2021	2019/2020
kWh Energy Consumed	Electricity	3,121,323	2,875,091
	Natural Gas	1,085,691	1,276,417
	Transport	7,357,531	7,964,861
	Other combustible fuel	779,415	781,328
	Total	12,343,960	12,897,697
tCO2e Emitted	Scope 1 Direct emissions: e.g. from combustion of gas and fuel for transport use	2,144	2,279
	Scope 2 Indirect emissions: e.g. from purchased electricity	728	735
	Scope 3 Other indirect consequences i.e not owned or controlled by the Company and not falling within Scope 2	-	-
	Scope 1 + 2	2,872	3,014
Intensity Ratio tCO2e/£million turnover		19.96	22.10

tCO2e is tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Directors' report (continued)

Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (SECR) (continued)

The scope of emissions included in this report include electricity, burning oil (28-sec kerosene), LPG, natural gas, direct diesel and direct petrol. No mandatory emissions were excluded.

This report is aligned with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol methodology. The GHG Protocol establishes comprehensive global standardised frameworks to measure and manage GHG emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains and mitigation actions. The framework has been in use since 2001, and forms a recognised structured format to calculate a carbon footprint.

The emissions factors applied are in accordance with DEFRA 2020.

Annual Energy Efficiency Statement

In the year to 31 March 2021, in line with identified key business performance indicators, the Group has continued with its programme of energy efficiency measures across its branch sites designed to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency.

Monthly monitoring and targeting are used to report on these key performance indicators within regular health, safety, environment, property and energy management meetings.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of group-wide targets were achieved during the financial year ended 31 March 2021, including:

- Attaining certification to ISO 14001 at Bristol surface freight warehouse, Bristol logistics warehouse, Severn Beach logistics warehouse and Heathrow
- The introduction of a Group policy to ensure that all future commercial vehicle purchases are a minimum of Euro 6 compliant, and all future forklift truck purchases are electric variants
- Introduction of a policy to reduce the non-commercial fleet
- Continued implementation of the LED lighting replacement programme at the Bristol logistics warehouse, Hams Hall and Coleshill offices and the Dartford ground floor office during 2020 and the Manchester office during the early part of 2021
- Introducing video conferencing to nearly all our sites to reduce travel for meetings and training
- Compactors for our cardboard waste, which reduced the volume of waste produced and enabled the sale of cardboard bales for recycling from the Dartford, Bristol and Heathrow sites

Subject to assessment, the next planned steps include:

- Achieving certification to ISO 14001 at an additional site within the Group each year
- Continuing the LED lighting replacement programme
- Installing and updating the building management systems across the sites, as per ESOS advice
- Improving mechanical ventilation systems, to include the introduction of more energy efficient heat recovery systems and air source heat pumps
- Exploring the introduction of electric vehicle charging points
- Reviewing the use of cardboard compactors at the Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow sites