SP DATASERVE LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

Registered No. SC215842

SP DATASERVE LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2023

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SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT

The directors present their Strategic Report on SP Dataserve Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2023. This includes an overview of the Company's structure, strategic outlook including 2023 performance, and principal risks and uncertainties.

INTRODUCTION

The principal activity of the Company, registered company number SC215842, is the provision of metering services. This activity will continue for the foreseeable future.

The ultimate parent of the Company is Iberdrola, S.A. ("Iberdrola") whose shares are listed on all four stock markets in Spain. The immediate parent of the Company is Scottish Power Retail Holdings Limited ("SPRH"). Scottish Power Limited ("SPL") is the United Kingdom ("UK") holding company of the ScottishPower Limited Group ("ScottishPower") of which the Company is a member.

The Company is part of ScottishPower's Customer business, (formerly known as the Energy Retail business). The Customer business is responsible for the supply of electricity and gas to domestic and business customers throughout Great Britain. The Customer business is also responsible for the associated metering activity including the smart meter installation programme and managing the smart solutions and hydrogen activities.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Operating review

The Company's principal operations have largely migrated from non-half-hourly domestic metering to Industrial and Commercial ("I&C") half-hourly and non-half-hourly automatic meter reading in response to the move towards smart metering in the non-half-hourly domestic metering market.

2023 performance

	Rev	enue	Operatin	g profit	Capital in	vestment
	(No	ote (a))	(Note	(a))	(No	ote (b))
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Financial key performance indicators	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
SP Dataserve Limited	14,823	14,436	5,104	3,986	445	392

⁽a) Revenue and Operating profit are presented on the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income on page 14.

The Company's revenue increased by £387,000 to £14,823,000 in 2023, principally from an increase in metering services which consists of meter maintenance and communication services.

The Company's operating profit increased by £1,118,000 to £5,104,000 in 2023. This movement is primarily due to higher revenues and lower staff costs arising primarily as a consequence of restructuring programmes in the previous years.

Capital investment increased by £53,000 to £445,000 in 2023 reflecting investment in Computer software.

Outlook for 2024 and beyond

The Company's non-I&C related business is forecasted to continue at current levels. The income from Scottish Power Energy Networks ("SPEN") will be maintained at current levels. The Company's Revenue Protection Services (RPS) will continue to deliver regulatory obligations on theft detection and contribute to SPEN's Non-Technical Losses strategy.

Exit from industrial and commercial ("I &C") energy supply market

ScottishPower Energy Retail Limited ("SPERL") which forms part of the Customer business, continues to work towards fully exiting the I&C energy supply market by 2025. Whilst the supply of electricity to these I&C customers is not contractually linked to the Company's business activities, some of the revenue streams are inherently linked. For example, some metering and data collection income is recovered from customers through the supplier and consequently, some of this revenue may be at risk. This exposure is expected to be relatively low. There is also a reasonable likelihood that the Company's services will be retained by the new supplier given some of the metering equipment on-site belongs to the Company. In the event of de-appointment by the supplier, income will still be received for the use of metering assets until such times as the new Meter Operator fits their own equipment.

Financial instruments

In the current year the Company's financial instruments include Trade and other receivables and Trade and other payables. The Company has exposure to credit risk and treasury risk (comprising of liquidity risk) arising from these financial instruments.

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will not meet its contractual obligations under a financial instrument or customer contract, leading to a financial loss. Credit risk is mitigated by limiting exposure to individual counterparties based upon

⁽b) Capital investment for 2023 is presented within Notes 3 and 4 on pages 22 and 23.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT continued

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK continued

the risk of counterparty default. Credit risk from Iberdrola Group companies is considered to be low as no Iberdrola Group company has a credit rating lower than BBB+ (in line with S&P Global Ratings).

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will have insufficient funds to meet its liabilities and market risk is the risk of loss that results from changes in market rates (e.g. interest rates). This is managed by Scottish Power's Treasury department, who are responsible for arranging banking facilities on behalf of the Company. The Company produces short-term rolling cash flow requirements and if necessary any required funding is obtained via ScottishPower credit facilities already in place.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The delivery of its strategy requires the Company to conduct business in a manner benefitting customers through balancing cost and risk, while delivering shareholder value and protecting its performance and reputation by prudently managing the risks inherent in the business. To maintain this strategic direction, ScottishPower, and so the Company, develops and implements risk management policies and procedures, and promotes a robust control environment at all levels of the organisation. Further details of ScottishPower's risk management practices can be found in the most recent Annual Report and Accounts of SPL.

The principal risks and uncertainties of the Company, that may impact current and future operational and financial performance and the management of these risks are described on pages 2 to 4.

REGULATORY AND POLITICAL			
RISK	RESPONSE		
Compliance with regulatory obligations especially in the context of sudden changes of policy, or interventions outside established regulatory frameworks.	Positive and transparent engagement with all appropriate stakeholders to ensure that long-term regulatory stability and political consensus is maintained, and public backing is secured for the necessary investment in the UK energy system. Providing stakeholders with evidence of the risks of ad hoc intervention in markets.		

GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKET VOLATILITY			
RISK	RESPONSE		
Impacts arising from market and regulatory reactions to events including global conflicts. As well as positive or negative changes in the UK economy.	Positive and transparent engagement with all appropriate stakeholders to ensure that long-term regulatory stability and political consensus is maintained, and public backing is secured for the necessary investment in the UK energy system. Providing stakeholders with evidence of the risks of ad hoc intervention in markets. In addition to monitoring ongoing developments, the Company has specific procedures in place to manage these key market risks. The Company adheres to a ScottishPower treasury risk management policy (comprising foreign currency and liquidity risk) to hedge financial risks which is discussed further within the 'Financial instruments' section on pages 1 and 2.		

DEBT			
RISK	RESPONSE		
Increase in the level of overdue debt impacting on the level of debt write-off required.	There are measures in place across the Customer business, and so the Company's business to manage the key drivers of overdue debt, assess and implement remedial and preventative action, and to establish key metrics to monitor progress in reducing debt levels.		

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT continued

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES continued

ALTERNATIVE INCOME STREAMS			
RISK	RESPONSE		
Alternative income streams are not sufficient to offset the expected reduction in legacy metering income streams following the introduction of the UK Government's smart metering programme.	Reducing the operational resource and associated costs where no longer needed and continuing to focus activities on more enduring functions.		

CLIMATE CHANGE				
RISK	RESPONSE			
The risk that the Company's investments or operations have a significant impact on the environment and on national and international targets to tackle climate change, or that climate change has a significant impact on the Company's assets.	 The Company is committed to reducing its environmental footprint and responding to the risks and opportunities of climate change by: reducing emissions to air, land and water and preventing environmental harm; identifying and managing climate risks and opportunities, implementing adaptation measures where required; minimising energy consumption and use of natural and human-made resources; and sourcing material resources responsibly, cutting waste and encouraging reuse and recycling. 			

HEALTH AND SAFETY			
RISK	RESPONSE		
A major health and safety incident in the course of operations could impact staff, contractors, communities or the environment.	The Company has certified management systems in place to deliver activities as safely as possible. A ScottishPower Health and Safety function exists and provides specialist services and support for the Company in relation to health and safety. A comprehensive framework of health and safety policy and procedures, alongside audit programmes is established, which aims to ensure not only continuing legal compliance but also to drive towards best practice in all levels of health and safety operations.		

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT continued

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES continued

CYBER SECURITY				
RISK	RESPONSE			
The Company operates within an environment where there	The Company, as part of ScottishPower, continues to focus			
is the presence of sophisticated and opportunistic cyber	on enterprise security risks through enhanced internal			
security threat actors motivated to identify and take	governance, complemented by the adoption of a 'three			
advantage of flaws and weaknesses in the Company's cyber	lines of defence' model with clear roles and responsibilities			
security defences. The Company, in alignment with UK	established. This has involved the appointment of a			
Regulation, takes the protection of its Data very seriously.	ScottishPower Chief Information Security Officer as well as			
The Company, as part of ScottishPower, continues to invest	the creation of a Business Information Security Officer for			
significantly in its people, processes, and technologies to	the division.			
enhance its capabilities to prevent, detect and respond to				
security threats.	These risks are managed in accordance with the basic			
	principles defined in internal cyber security rules promoting			
The main risks are:	the safe handling of data, use of IT and communications			
Operational technology used to manage the	systems, use of operational technology systems and assets,			
production, management and distribution of energy or	and other cyber assets, reinforcing detection, prevention,			
physical safety systems (fire protection, CCTV, alarm	defence, and response capabilities against possible attacks.			
reception centres).				
• IT that enables the Company to operate critical	The Iberdrola Group, of which the Company is a part,			

currently has specific insurance against cyber risks, under

the terms allowed by the insurance market, which is revised

and updated periodically in view of the rapid evolution and

wide variety of cyber risks.

ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

information assets.

The importance of engaging with stakeholders

The confidentiality, integrity, and availability of key

Other cyber security risks impacting reputation.

The Company strongly believes that effective and meaningful engagement with stakeholders, especially its people, is key to promoting its success and values. Meaningful engagement with stakeholder groups supports the ethos of section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 which states that directors should have regard to stakeholder interests when discharging their duty to promote, in good faith, the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole. Details of how the Company, engages with its stakeholders, and how these activities influence the Company's operations, are set out below.

Key stakeholders

The Company has five key stakeholder categories: people, customers, government and regulators, suppliers and contractors, and community and environment.

Behind these stakeholders are many people, institutions, organisations and groups. All of them, with their decisions and opinions, influence the Company, and in turn, are also affected by the Company's activities. In addition, these stakeholders interact with each other, creating a universe of relationships that the Company needs to manage in order to achieve a better understanding of its operating environment and to deliver a more sustainable performance across its activities.

Shareholders are important to the Company. The Company's relationship with its shareholders is governed by the Company's Articles of Association and provisions of the Governance and Sustainability System which apply to the Company and ScottishPower, of which the Company is a member. As the Company is ultimately wholly-owned by Iberdrola, all ultimate shareholder management activities are carried out by Iberdrola in accordance with its own Shareholder Engagement Policy as published at www.iberdrola.com.

PEOPLE

As at 31 December 2023, the Company had 87 employees, working across a range of roles. These employees make a real difference in determining how successfully the Company operates. The commitment to customer experience and innovation of the Company's employees enables the Company to build on its future capability to operate effectively in a competitive market and continue to have aspirations which are challenging and rewarding. The Company respects and recognises the importance of individuality as part of its ongoing commitment to promoting an inclusive and diverse culture.

The Company also understands that being a diverse business goes beyond having legally compliant policies and practices; it includes a focus on creating an innovative, integrated organisation where people feel valued, inspiring them to perform at their best.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT continued

ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS continued

In November 2023, 'Workday' became the Company's primary People IT system for managing key people processes across the entire employee journey. Workday supports a host of new processes which will change how the business interacts and develops its people. As such, this will enhance the employee experience.

As part of ScottishPower, the Company's engagement with its employees is driven by the decisions, policies and procedures in place at a ScottishPower level. The directors of the Company ensure that in applying these ScottishPower decisions, policies and procedures they are meeting their duties to the Company.

Details of the following areas in relation to employee engagement which apply fully to the Company are provided in the most recent Annual Report and Accounts of SPL:

- employment regulation;
- training;
- employee feedback and consultation;
- inclusion and diversity;
- rewards and benefits;
- health and safety; and
- employee health and wellbeing.

Modern Slavery Statement

The term 'modern slavery' covers both slavery and human trafficking. ScottishPower, and so the Company, is committed to human and labour rights and to eliminating modern slavery that could in any way be connected to its business. In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, ScottishPower has produced its own Modern Slavery Statement, which is subject to annual approval by the board of directors of SPL. This statement is published on the ScottishPower website at: www.scottishpower.com / 'Corporate Governance'/ 'Governance and Sustainability System'/ 'Social Commitment'/ 'ScottishPower Modern Slavery Policy'.

CUSTOMERS

The Company provides metering services to I&C customers. The Company's success depends on its ability to understand and meet the needs of customers, and engagement is key to its success in this rapidly changing environment. The Company's customers include other ScottishPower companies as well as external parties.

The Company's larger customers are account-managed involving regular direct contact to ensure the services provided are in line with contractual agreements. For these customers, the Company has an accessible help desk and digital solutions to respond to specific queries.

GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORS

Governments and regulators play a central role in shaping the energy sector. ScottishPower, and so the Company engages with them directly and through trade associations, responding to issues of concern and providing expertise to support policy development. Through this engagement, the Company aims to contribute to the delivery of a UK energy system that functions in the interests of customers now, and in the future, including achievement of the UK and Scottish Governments' net zero decarbonisation targets.

The Company is subject to regulatory guidelines put in place by Ofgem, Elexon and Xoserve (who administer and implement the Balancing and Settlement Code) and adhere to the additional guidelines now governed by the Consolidated Metering Code of Practice (CoMCoP). The Company uses the regulatory mechanisms in place across ScottishPower to interact with the UK Government and these regulatory bodies will liaise directly with Meter Operations (which manages Meter Operation Code of Practice (MOCOP)) for any specific discussion points.

SUPPLIERS AND CONTRACTORS

As part of ScottishPower, the Company's engagement with its suppliers and contractors is driven by the decisions, policies and procedures in place at a ScottishPower level. The directors of the Company ensure that in applying these ScottishPower decisions, policies and procedures they are meeting their duties to the Company.

The Company aims to develop and maintain strong relationships across its supply base with a focus on health and safety, quality, cost and sustainability. The Company expects its suppliers to operate to a high standard including working in an ethical and sustainable manner, and the Company has a range of policies that all suppliers must adhere to, including the ScottishPower Code of Ethics.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT continued

ENGAGING WITH STAKEHOLDERS continued

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Company continually strives to be a trusted, respected and integrated part of the community, by operating with integrity, transparency, and working closely within the community to build relationships. The Company is committed to being a good

neighbour throughout all of its operations to ensure the benefits are realised in local areas by helping to create local employment and enabling improvements to local infrastructure and services.

The Company is committed to reducing its environmental footprint and responding to the risks and opportunities of climate change by:

- reducing emissions to air, land and water and preventing environmental harm;
- · identifying and managing climate risks and opportunities, and implementing adaption measures where required;
- minimising energy consumption and use of natural and human-made resources;
- sourcing material resources responsibly cutting waste and encouraging reuse and recycling.

Further details as to how the Company, engages with communities and manages its impact on the environment are provided in the most recent Annual Report and Accounts of SPL.

SECTION 172 STATEMENT

Statement by the directors in performance of their statutory duties in accordance with section 172 of the Companies Act 2006

The Companies (Miscellaneous) Reporting Regulations 2018 requires the directors of SP Dataserve Limited to give a statement which describes how the directors have had regard to the matters set out in section 172(1) of the Companies Act 2006 when discharging their duty under that section.

The directors acknowledge and understand their duties and responsibilities, including that, under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006, a director of a company must act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to:

- a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long-term;
- b) the interests of the company's employees;
- c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment;
- e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

The delivery of the Company's strategy requires the Company to conduct business in a manner benefitting customers through balancing cost and risk while delivering shareholder value and protecting the performance and reputation of the Company by prudently managing risks inherent in the business. In carrying out this strategy, the directors' duties under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 have been considered.

The directors strongly believe that effective and meaningful engagement with stakeholders and employees is key to promoting the success of the Company. Details of the key stakeholders of the Company, and how it engages with them are as follows:

- **People:** details of how the Company engages with its employees are set out in the 'People' section of the Strategic Report, on page 4 and 5. During 2023, the Company's board of directors ("the Board") approved the express adoption by the Company of the Iberdrola People Management Policy, which makes provisions regarding the human resources framework applicable to the Company.
- **Customers:** details of how the Company engages with its customers are explained in the 'Customers' section of the Strategic Report, on page 5. During 2023, the Board approved the express adoption by the Company of the ScottishPower Data Protection Policy which applies to the processing of any personal data, including customer data, by the Company.
- Government and regulators: details of how the Company engages with governments and regulators are set out in the
 'Government and regulators' section of the Strategic Report, on page 5. During 2023, the Board approved the express
 adoption by the Company of the ScottishPower Political Engagement Policy which makes provisions regarding
 compliance with political engagement rules.
- Suppliers and contractors: details of how the Company, engages with its suppliers are set out in the 'Suppliers and contractors' section of the Strategic Report, on page 5. During 2023, the Board approved the express adoption by the Company of the ScottishPower Modern Slavery Policy which makes provisions regarding the Company's supply chain.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STRATEGIC REPORT continued

SECTION 172 STATEMENT continued

• Communities and the environment: details of how the Company engages with communities and considers the environment are set out in the 'Community and environment' section of the Strategic Report, on page 6. During 2023, the Board approved the express adoption by the Company of the Iberdrola Stakeholder Engagement Policy which makes provisions regarding the Company's relationship with its stakeholders, including communities.

In addition, a statement in relation to the Company's interaction with its shareholders is described in the introduction to the 'Engaging with stakeholders' section of the Strategic Report on page 4.

The directors, both individually and together as the Board consider that the decisions taken during the year ended 31 December 2023 in discharging the function of the Board were in conformance with their duty under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Board is assisted in considering key stakeholders as part of the decision-making process by in the inclusion of stakeholder considerations in board papers as appropriate, and board papers are carefully reviewed and considered by all directors.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Volem L.

Valerie Sim Director

25 September 2024

SP DATASERVE LIMITED DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THE STRATEGIC REPORT

The directors have chosen to disclose information on the following, required by the Companies Act 2006 to be included in the Directors' Report, within the Strategic Report, found on pages 1 to 7.

- information on financial risk management and policies;
- information regarding future developments of the Company's business; and
- information on employee regulations and policies.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND

The net profit for the year was £5,045,000 (2022 £3,829,000). A dividend of £4,400,000 was paid during year (2022 £8,000,000).

DIRECTORS

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

Jon Mikel Rubina Diez (resigned 19 September 2023) Stuart Reid

Valerie Sim

As at the date of this report, there have been no changes to the composition of the board of directors of the Company ("the Board") since the year end.

DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY

In terms of the Company's Articles of Association, a qualifying indemnity provision is in force for the benefit of all the directors of the Company and has been in force during the financial year. In addition, the Directors have been granted a qualifying third party indemnity provision, which continues in force.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' ("FRS 101").

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
 and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable law and regulations, the directors are also responsible for preparing a Strategic Report and a Directors' Report that complies with that law and those regulations.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED DIRECTORS' REPORT continued

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS continued

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the ScottishPower website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the directors in office as at the date of this Annual Report and Accounts confirms that:

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

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

AUDITOR

KPMG LLP was re-appointed as auditor of the Company for the year ending 31 December 2024.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Volem L.

Valerie Sim Director

25 September 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SP DATASERVE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SP Dataserve Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial position, Income statement and statement of comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity and related notes, including the accounting policies in note 2.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the Company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Company's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the Company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate; and
- we have not identified, and concur with the directors' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Company will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of directors, the internal audit function, the Company's legal function and the compliance function and
 inspection of policy documentation as to the Company's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect
 fraud, including the internal audit function, and the Company's channel for "whistleblowing", as well as whether they
 have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- · Reading Board meeting minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries.

On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because revenue consists entirely of routine, non-complex transactions which are subject to systematic processing and do not require significant judgments.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SP DATASERVE LIMITED continued

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations - ability to detect continued

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries
 to supporting documentation. These included those posted by senior finance management and those posted to
 unusual accounts.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations. We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the directors and others management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies legislation), distributable profits legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: GDPR compliance, health and safety legislation, fraud, corruption, bribery legislation and employment and social security legislation including minimum wage and pension auto enrolment. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Strategic report and directors' report

The directors are responsible for the strategic report and the directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover those reports and we do not express an audit opinion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the strategic report and the directors' report and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report;
- in our opinion the information given in those reports for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion those reports have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

 adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SP DATASERVE LIMITED continued

Matters on which we are required to report by exception continued

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Directors' responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on pages 8 to 9, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Nikki Palfreman (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor

Novai Partien

Chartered Accountants 319 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5AS

25 September 2024

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION at 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	£000	£000
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Intangible assets	3	53	8
Property, plant and equipment	4	1,895	1,902
Right-of-use assets	5	447	202
Trade and other receivables	6	25,750	25,173
Deferred tax asset	7	-	95
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		28,145	27,380
CURRENT ASSETS			
Current trade and other receivables	6	4,332	3,091
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,332	3,091
TOTAL ASSETS		32,477	30,471
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Of shareholders of the parent		27,354	26,709
Share capital		17,608	17,608
Retained earnings		9,746	9,101
TOTAL EQUITY		27,354	26,709
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Non-current other financial liabilities		29	-
Non-current lease liabilities	5	241	7
Deferred tax liabilities	7	24	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		294	7
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Current provisions	8	2	201
Current other financial liabilities		14	-
Current lease liabilities	5	385	197
Current trade and other payables	9	2,867	2,514
Current tax liabilities		1,561	843
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,829	3,755
TOTAL LIABILITIES		5,123	3,762
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		32,477	30,471

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf on 25 September 2024.

Valerie Sim Director

The accompanying Notes 1 to 19 are an integral part of the Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED INCOME STATEMENT AND STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 31 December 2023

·		2023	2022
	Notes	£000	£000
Revenue	10	14,823	14,436
GROSS MARGIN		14,823	14,436
Staff costs	11	(4,251)	(5,091)
External services		(4,293)	(4,536)
Other operating results		(1)	140
Net operating costs		(8 <i>,</i> 545)	(9,487)
Taxes other than income tax		(2)	(2)
GROSS OPERATING PROFIT		6,276	4,947
Net expected credit losses on trade and other receivables		(254)	(199)
Depreciation and amortisation charge, allowances and provisions	12	(918)	(762)
OPERATING PROFIT		5,104	3,986
Finance income	13	1,531	740
Finance costs	14	(32)	(9)
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		6,603	4,717
Income tax	15	(1,558)	(888)
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		5,045	3,829

Net profit for both years comprises total comprehensive income.

Net profit for both years is wholly attributable to the equity holder of SP Dataserve Limited.

All results relate to continuing operations.

SP DATASERVE LIMITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2023

17.608	9,746	27.354
-	(4,400)	(4,400)
-	5,045	5,045
17,608	9,101	26,709
-	(8,000)	(8,000)
-	3,829	3,829
17,608	13,272	30,880
£000	£000	£000
(Note (a))	(Note (b))	Total
Share capital	earnings	
	Retained	
	(Note (a)) £000 17,608 - - 17,608 -	Share capital (Note (a)) (Note (b)) £000 £000 17,608 13,272 - 3,829 - (8,000) 17,608 9,101 - 5,045 - (4,400)

⁽a) At 31 December 2023, the Company had 17,608,000 allotted, called up and fully paid ordinary shares of £1 each (2022 17,608,000). Holders of these ordinary shares are entitled to dividends as declared from time to time; amounts on the capitalisation of profits and reserves; and notice and attendance at general meetings of the Company, with every member entitled to one vote on a show of hands and on a poll one vote for every share held.

The accompanying Notes 1 to 19 are an integral part of the Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

⁽b) Retained earnings comprise the cumulative balance of profits and losses recognised in the financial statements as adjusted for transactions with shareholders, principally dividends.

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

A COMPANY INFOMATION

SP Dataserve Limited, registered company number SC215842, is a private company limited by shares, incorporated in Scotland and its registered office is 320 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5AD.

B BASIS OF PREPARATION

B1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

The Company is required by law to prepare accounts and to deliver them to the Registrar of Companies. The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2. Monetary amounts are presented in pounds Sterling and are rounded to the nearest thousand unless otherwise indicated. The Accounts are prepared on the historical cost basis.

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework' ("FRS 101"). In preparing these financial statements, the Company has applied the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of international accounting standards ("IAS") as adopted by the UK ("UK-adopted IAS") in conformity with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 including newly effective IAS for the year ended 31 December 2023 (refer to Note 1C). In applying FRS 101, the Company has made amendments where necessary in order to comply with the Companies Act 2006 and had set out below where advantage of the FRS 101 disclosure exemptions has been taken:

- the preparation of a Statement of cash flows and the related notes;
- comparative period reconciliation for intangible assets and property, plant and equipment;
- disclosures in respect of deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two model rules income taxes;
- certain disclosures regarding revenue;
- disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly-owned subsidiaries of Iberdrola, S.A.;
- disclosures in respect of capital management;
- the effects of new, but not yet effective, IAS pronouncements; and
- disclosures in respect of the compensation of key management personnel.

As the consolidated financial statements of Iberdrola, S.A. include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken the exemptions under FRS 101 available in respect of certain disclosures required by IFRS 13 'Fair Value Measurement' and the disclosures required by IFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures'.

B2 GOING CONCERN

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The principal activity of the Company is to undertake the provision of metering services within the group headed by Scottish Power UK plc ("SPUK"), the Company's intermediate parent company. The Company's cash flows are therefore dependent on the continuation, volume, and pricing of those operations and have been considered as part of the SPUK Group's cash flow forecasts, on which the directors of the SPUK Group have performed an assessment of reasonably possible downsides.

To meet its working capital requirements, the Company participates in a UK centralised treasury function operated by the Company's intermediate parent company, SPL, the parent company of SPUK. ScottishPower's treasury function works closely with Iberdrola to manage the Company's funding requirements. There has been no indication that these arrangements may change.

The directors have performed a going concern assessment which indicates that the Company will have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements, the going concern assessment period. Nevertheless, as the group operates a centralised treasury function and in order to take account of reasonably possible downsides, SPUK has indicated its intention to continue to make available such funds as may be needed by the Company, during the going concern assessment period. As with any company placing reliance on other group entities for financial support, the directors acknowledge that there can be no certainty that this support will continue although, at the date of approval of these financial statements, they have no reason to believe that it will not do so.

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION continued

Consequently, the directors are confident that the Company will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements and, therefore, have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

C IMPACT OF NEW IFRS

As noted on the previous page, these Accounts have been prepared in accordance with UK-adopted IAS. In preparing these Accounts, the Company has applied all relevant standards and interpretations that have been adopted by the UK as of the date of approval of these Accounts and that are mandatory for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

For the year ended 31 December 2023, the Company has applied the following standards and amendments for the first time:

Standard	Note
• IFRS 17 'Insurance Contracts' including 'Amendments to IFRS 17' and 'Initial Application of IFRS 17 and	(a)
IFRS 9 - Comparative Information'	
• Amendments to IAS 1 'Presentation of Financial Statements' and IFRS Practice Statement 2 'Making	(a)
Materiality Judgements' : 'Disclosure of Accounting Policies'	
• Amendments to IAS 8 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors: Definition of	(a)
Accounting Estimates'	
• Amendments to IAS 12 'Income Taxes: Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a	(a)
Single Transaction'	
• Amendments to IAS 12 'Income Taxes: International Tax Reform - Pillar Two Model Rules'	(a)

⁽a) The application of these amendments has not had a material impact on the Company's accounting policies, financial position or performance.

2 JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management may be required to make a number of judgements and assumptions regarding the future and about other sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. The judgements and estimation uncertainties made by management are set out below.

NON-SIGNIFICANT ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND JUDGEMENTS POLICIES Expected Credit Losses

At 31 December 2023, there was estimation uncertainty in relation to Expected Credit Losses ("ECLs") on trade receivables and accrued income (refer to Note 2F1.2(d) and Note 6 for further details).

Consideration of climate change

The impact of climate change, including risks identified in the Strategic Report on page 3, on the financial statements has been considered. No material impact on the judgements and estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements has been identified. This consideration focussed on the Company's going concern position, including the cash flow forecasts prepared for the directors' assessment referred to in Note 1B2.

Additionally, consideration has been given to any estimates over the longer term which should be disclosed to allow for an understanding of the financial statements. The Company has no estimates of this nature to disclose.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in preparing the financial statements are set out below. In the process of determining and applying these accounting policies, judgement, apart from those involving estimations (as noted above), is often required that can significantly affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements. Management has made no such judgements.

- **A INTANGIBLE ASSETS**
- **B** PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
- C LEASED ASSETS
- D IMPAIRMENT OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND LEASED ASSETS
- **E RETIREMENT BENEFITS**
- F FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
- **G PROVISIONS**
- H REVENUE

2 JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

I TAXATION

A INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The costs of acquired computer software, such as licences, that are expected to generate economic benefits over a period in excess of one year, are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire, and bring to use, the specific software. The cost of software as a service ("SaaS") cloud agreements are capitalised when the Company controls the software. Costs relating to infrastructure or platform as a service ("laaS" and "PaaS" respectively) cloud agreements are not capitalised. The related liabilities for capitalised SaaS contracts are measured based on the discounted sum of the future payments for each contract and presented within Financial liabilities. Amortisation of acquired computer software is on a straight-line basis over their operational lives, which is generally up to five years.

B PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost and is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the estimated operational lives of the assets once commissioned. Property, plant and equipment includes capitalised employee costs and other directly attributable costs. Reviews of the estimated remaining lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment are undertaken annually. Residual values are assessed based on prices prevailing at each reporting date.

The main depreciation periods used by the Company are as set out below:

	Year	rs
Meters and measuring devices		10
Other facilities and other items of property, plant and equipment	4 -	40

C LEASED ASSETS

A contract is, or contains a lease if, at inception, the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Company uses the definition of a lease in Leases ("IFRS 16").

An identified asset will be specified explicitly, or implicitly in the contract, and will be physically distinct or represent substantially all of the capacity of a physically distinct asset. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right, the asset is not identified.

A contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset if the customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use, and the customer has the right to direct the use of the asset. The customer has this right when they have the decision-making rights that are most relevant to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used. Where this is predetermined, the customer has the right to direct the use of the asset if either they have the right to operate the asset or they designed the asset in a way that predetermines how and for what purposes it will be used.

The Company has elected not to separate non-lease components and thus accounts for the lease and non-lease components in a contract as a single lease component.

As a lessee, the Company recognises a right-of-use asset at the lease commencement date, measured initially at cost. This comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred, and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset, or restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated on a straight-line basis from the commencement date over the shorter of the useful life of the underlying asset and the lease term. The right-of-use asset is reduced by any impairment losses and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability. The Company presents Right-of-use assets within Noncurrent assets in the Statement of financial position and the depreciation charge is recorded within Depreciation, amortisation and provisions in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income.

The lease liability recognised at the commencement date is measured initially at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. Where the rates implicit in the leases cannot be readily determined, the liabilities are discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate, being the currency-specific interest rate that would be incurred on a loan, with similar terms, to purchase a similar asset. The incremental borrowing rates will be updated

2 JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

annually and applied to leases commencing in the subsequent year. Therefore, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments); variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date; lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Company is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option; and penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Company is reasonably certain not to do so.

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in the future lease payments arising from a change in the index or rate, or if the Company changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. This change in the lease liability will result in a corresponding adjustment to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset is zero.

The Company presents lease liabilities separately in the Statement of financial position; the discount on the liabilities unwinds over the term of the lease and is charged to Finance costs in the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income.

The Company has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for certain short-term leases that have a lease term of twelve months or less, and leases of intangible assets. The Company recognises any lease payments associated with such leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

D IMPAIRMENT OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND LEASED ASSETS

At each reporting date, the Company reviews the carrying amount of its intangible assets, property, plant and equipment and leased assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset (the greater of its value-in-use and its fair value less costs to sell) is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). In assessing value-in-use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset and lease liabilities under IFRS 16.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Where the asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from other assets, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs. Any impairment is recognised in the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income in the period in which it is identified. Impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been recognised, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

E RETIREMENT BENEFITS

ScottishPower operates two defined benefit schemes and one defined contribution retirement benefit scheme in the UK. SP Dataserve Limited is a participating company in these group arrangements, and the contributions for the defined benefit schemes are based on pension costs across all the participating companies. The Company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities in the defined benefit schemes, as the scheme administrators do not calculate these separately for each of the various companies participating in the schemes and therefore treats these schemes as if they were defined contribution schemes. The amount charged to the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year.

F FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

F1 FINANCIAL ASSETS

F1.1 CLASSIFICATION

Financial assets are classified as measured at amortised cost. The classification of financial assets depends on the Company's business model for managing them to generate cash flows.

The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both. The business model of the Company does not depend on the intentions of management for an individual

2 JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

instrument. Therefore, it is not an instrument-by-instrument classification approach but determined from a higher level of aggregation.

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions:

- it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- its contractual terms give rise, on specified dates, to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. This assessment is referred to as the 'SPPI' test.

Financial assets are only subsequently reclassified when the Company changes its business model for managing them. Reclassifications are effective from the first day of the first reporting period following the change in business model. Such reclassifications are expected to be infrequent.

F1.2 RECOGNITION AND MEASUREMENT

(a) Initial recognition and measurement

All financial assets, except for trade receivables which are initially recognised when they originate, are initially recognised when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Subject to two exceptions, financial assets are initially measured at fair value. The two exceptions are trade receivables without a significant financing component which are measured at the transaction price determined under IFRS 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' ("IFRS 15"), and financial assets not classified as FVTPL which are measured at fair value plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue.

(b) Subsequent measurement and gains and losses

Financial assets classified as amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by ECLs. Interest income, and net credit losses are recognised in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income.

(c) Derecognition

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when either the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or there is no reasonable expectation of recovering all, or a portion of, the contractual cash flows.

(d) Impairment of financial assets

(i) Measurement of ECLs

Disclosures relating to impairment of financial assets are provided in Note 6. The Company recognises an allowance for ECLs for all financial assets. ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. The Company has adopted the simplified ECL model for its trade receivables and the general ECL model for all other financial assets measured at amortised cost.

In applying the simplified model, loss allowances for trade receivables are measured at an amount equal to a lifetime ECL. For each grouping, the Company has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for, where possible, forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment in which they operate. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cash flows due to the Company in accordance with the contract and those the Company expects to receive). ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

ECLs for all other financial assets are recognised using the general model which works as follows:

- for credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses resulting from default events that are considered possible within the shorter of the next twelve months and the life of the financial asset (a twelve-month ECL); and
- for credit exposures for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss
 allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of
 the default (a lifetime ECL).

As an exception to the general model, if the credit risk of a financial instrument is low at the reporting date, management can measure impairment using a twelve-month ECL and so it does not have to assess whether a significant increase in credit risk has occurred. For this operational simplification to apply, the financial instrument has to meet the following requirements:

2 JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

- it has a low risk of default;
- the borrower is considered, in the short-term, to have a strong capacity to meet its obligations; and
- the lender expects, in the longer term, that adverse changes in economic and business conditions might, but will not
 necessarily, reduce the ability of the borrower to fulfil its obligations.

The Company considers financial assets to have low credit risk when their credit risk rating is equivalent to the globally understood definition of 'investment grade'. The Company considers this to be BBB- or higher per S&P Global Ratings. Therefore, all of the Company's other financial assets are considered to have low credit risk at both the beginning and end of the reporting period.

The Company has different definitions of default (risk of non-payment) for different groups of customers and receivables. For some groups it is based upon the number of days past due and for others it is when internal or external information indicates that the Company is unlikely to receive the outstanding contractual amount in full (before taking into account any credit enhancements held by the Company). These varying definitions of default are inherent in the loss allowances applied in both the simplified and general ECL models.

(ii) Credit-impaired financial assets

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether financial assets carried at amortised cost are 'credit-impaired'. This is the case when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred. Generally, receivables are credit-impaired when payment is past the contractual payment date.

F2 FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

F2.1 CLASSIFICATION

Financial liabilities are classified as measured amortised cost.

F2.2 RECOGNITION AND MEASUREMENT

(a) Initial recognition and measurement

All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

(b) Subsequent measurement and gains and losses

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest expense is recognised in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. Any gain or loss on derecognition is also recognised in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income. This is the category most relevant to the Company as it includes trade and other payables.

Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees, or costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The effective interest charge is included as Finance costs in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income.

(c) Derecognition

The Company derecognises a financial liability when the obligation under that liability is discharged, cancelled or has expired. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, the original liability is derecognised and a new liability recognised. The difference in their respective carrying amounts is recognised in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income.

G PROVISIONS

A provision is recognised when the Company has a present obligation as a result of a past event, that can be reliably measured and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle that obligation.

H REVENUE

The Company recognises revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which it expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services.

Metering services consist of meter maintenance and communication services, meter revenue protection services and the provision of meters to customers. These are performance obligations satisfied over time as the customer benefits from the services as they are provided. The Company has a right to consideration in an amount that corresponds directly with the value to the customer of the Company's performance to date. Therefore, revenue is recognised in the amount to which

2 JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTIES AND PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES continued

the Company has a right to invoice based on the agreed contractual rates. Amounts in contract liabilities consist of invoices issued in advance of the service being provided.

The installation of a meter is a performance obligation satisfied at a point in time. Revenue is recognised at the point the customer obtains control of the meter, which is when installation is completed, at the unit rate specified in the contract.

I TAXATION

Assets and liabilities for current tax are calculated using the tax rates that have been enacted, or substantively enacted, at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable, or recoverable, on the difference between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the Statement of financial position and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profits (temporary differences), and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which deductible temporary differences, unused tax losses or credits can be utilised. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax is calculated on a non-discounted basis at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period in which the liability is expected to be settled, or the asset realised based on tax rates and laws enacted, or substantively enacted, at the reporting date. Deferred tax is charged to the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income.

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income statement and statement of other comprehensive income consistent with the transactions that generated the distributable profits.

3 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Computer
	software
Year ended 31 December 2023	£000
Cost:	
At 1 January 2023	38
Additions	71
Disposals	(38)
At 31 December 2023	71
Amortisation:	
At 1 January 2023	30
Amortisation for the year	25
Disposals	(37)
At 31 December 2023	18
Net book value:	
At 31 December 2023	53
At 1 January 2023	8
(i) Computer software includes SaaS cloud arrangements with a carrying value of £53,000 (2022 fnil)	

⁽i) Computer software includes SaaS cloud arrangements with a carrying value of £53,000 (2022 £nil).

4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(a) Movements in property, plant and equipment in use

	Other items of	
	property, plant	
Meters and	and equipment	
measuring	in use	
devices	(Note (a))	Total
£000	£000	£000
3,829	561	4,390
374	-	374
4,203	561	4,764
2,156	332	2,488
359	22	381
2,515	354	2,869
1,688	207	1,895
1,673	229	1,902
	measuring devices £000 3,829 374 4,203 2,156 359 2,515	measuring in use devices (Note (a)) £000 £000 3,829 561 374 - 4,203 561 2,156 332 359 22 2,515 354 1,688 207 1,673 229

⁽a) Other items of property, plant and equipment principally comprises buildings and fixtures and fittings.

5 LEASING

The Company primarily leases vehicles. Information about the principal leases for which the Company is a lessee is presented below.

(a) Nature of leases

The Company leases vehicles with lease terms of between six and seven years, primarily being pool vehicles to mobilise its operational staff. Agreements cannot be terminated. Certain vehicle leases are considered short-term and the Company has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

Other Information

The Company has not committed to any leases that have not yet commenced. The Company has no contracts containing residual value guarantee, no leases subject to significant restrictions or covenants and no sale and leaseback transactions.

(b) Right-of-use assets

	Vehicles	Other	Total
Year ended 31 December 2022	£000	£000	£000
Cost:			
At 1 January 2022	1,478	21	1,499
Adjustments for changes in liabilities	(12)	5	(7)
At 31 December 2022	1,466	26	1,492
Depreciation:			
At 1 January 2022	957	19	976
Charge for the year	309	5	314
At 31 December 2022	1,266	24	1,290
Net book value:			
At 31 December 2022	200	2	202
At 1 January 2022	521	2	523

⁽b) The cost of fully depreciated property, plant and equipment still in use at 31 December 2023 was £783,000 (2022 £181,000).

5 LEASING continued

	Vehicles	Others	Total
Year ended 31 December 2023	£000	£000	£000
Cost:			
At 1 January 2023	1,466	26	1,492
Adjustments for changes in liabilities	750	7	757
At 31 December 2023	2,216	33	2,249
Depreciation:			
At 1 January 2023	1,266	24	1,290
Charge for the year	505	7	512
At 31 December 2023	1,771	31	1,802
Net book value:			
At 31 December 2023	445	2	447
At 1 January 2023	200	2	202

⁽i) Adjustments for changes in liabilities are movements in the right-of-use asset resulting from remeasurement of the associated lease liability to reflect changes to the lease payments due to any reassessment or lease modifications.

(c) Lease liabilities

The following table sets out a maturity analysis of non-derivative lease liabilities, showing the undiscounted payments to be made after the reporting date.

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Less than one year	405	199
One to five years	254	7
Total undiscounted lease liabilities at 31 December	659	206
Finance cost	(33)	(2)
Total discounted lease liabilities	626	204
Analysis of total lease liabilities		
Non-current	241	7
Current	385	197
Total	626	204

Details of Scottish Power's, and therefore the Company's, management strategy for liquidity risks inherent in the Company's lease liability can be found in the most recent Annual Report and Accounts of SPL.

(d) Amounts recognised in the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income

	2023	2022
Note	£000	£000
	(28)	(11)
(i)	(6)	(12)
	Note	Note £000

2022

(e) Total cash outflow for leases

Total cash outflow for leases	(364)	(366)
	£000	£000
	2023	2022

⁽ii) There are no right-of-use assets measured at revalued amounts.

⁽i) This charge relates to leases for vehicles. Future commitments relating to the portfolio of short-term leases are expected to be similar to the expense charged in the year.

6 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

		2023	2022
	Notes	£000	£000
Current trade and other receivables			·
Receivables due from Iberdrola Group companies - loans	(a), (b)	496	495
Receivables due from Iberdrola Group companies - interest		1,531	740
Trade receivables (including accrued income)	(c)	2,305	1,852
Prepayments		-	4
	(d)	4,332	3,091
Non-current trade and other receivables			
Receivables due from Iberdrola Group companies - loans	(a)	25,750	25,173
		25,750	25,173

⁽a) Loans due from Iberdrola Group companies are repayable on demand and interest is payable at 1% above the Bank of England base rate. The loan is repayable on demand but a portion is classified as non-current as the Company expects to realise some of the assets after twelve months from the reporting date.

(d) The following table provides information about IFRS 15 contract balances included within Trade and other receivables.

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
IFRS 15 Receivables	2,053	1,623

⁽i) £226,000 (2022 £174,000) of impairment losses were recognised during the year on IFRS 15 Receivables arising from the Company's contracts with customers.

7 DEFERRED TAX

Deferred tax recognised in the Accounts is as follows:

	Property,	Other	
	plant and	temporary	
	equipment	differences	Total
	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2022	(69)	(104)	(173)
Charge to the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income	28	50	78
At 1 January 2023	(41)	(54)	(95)
Charge to the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income	73	46	119
At 31 December 2023	32	(8)	24

Legislation was enacted on 10 June 2021 under the Finance Act 2021 that increased the UK Corporation Tax rate to 25% from 1 April 2023. Accordingly, the deferred tax balances at 31 December 2023 have been provided at 25%, to reflect the rate that the temporary differences are expected to reverse at.

8 PROVISIONS

		At		Utilised	Released	At
		1 January	New	during	during	31 December
		2022	provisions	year	year	2022
Year ended 31 December 2022	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Reorganisation and restructuring	(a)	508	26	(333)	-	201
Insurance		2	-	-	(2)	-
Other		3	-	-	(3)	
		513	26	(333)	(5)	201

⁽b) ECLs on loan receivables due from Iberdrola Group companies are £4,000 (2022 £2,000).

⁽c) The gross carrying amount of Trade receivables (including accrued income) is £3,483,000 (2022 £2,774,000). The ECL is £1,178,000 (2022 £922,000) giving a weighted average loss rate of 33.8% (2022 33.2%). Net ECLs on trade receivables per the Income statement and statement of comprehensive income consists of ECLs of £255,000 (2022 £218,000) offset by £1,000 of bad debt write offs (2022 £19,000). The actual level of trade receivables and accrued income collected may differ from the estimated levels of recovery, which could impact Operating profit positively or negatively. Based on the weighted average loss rate of 33.8% (2022 33.2%), a 5% increase in the overall expected loss rate would result in an increase to the ECL of £174,000. A 5% decrease would result in a decrease to the ECL of £174,000.

8 PROVISIONS continued

		At		Utilised	At
		1 January	New	during	31 December
		2023	provisions	year	2023
Year ended 31 December 2023	Note	£000	£000	£000	£000
Reorganisation and restructuring	(a)	201	-	(201)	-
Other		-	2	-	2
		201	2	(201)	2

⁽a) The opening 2023 provision related to a restructuring programme that was launched in 2021, this has been fully utilised in 2023.

9 CURRENT TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

		2023	2022
	Note	£000	£000
Trade payables		1,222	1,010
Other taxes and social security		304	278
Payments received on account	(a)	1,104	1,006
Capital payables and accruals		140	102
Other payables		97	118
		2,867	2,514

⁽a) Trade and other payables include £1,104,000 (2022 £1,006,000) of IFRS 15 contract liabilities. The amount of contract liabilities recognised as income in the year is £1,006,000 (2022 £928,000).

10 REVENUE

Disaggregation of revenue

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Meter maintenance and communication services	9,792	9,385
Meter revenue protection services	4,222	4,291
Meter installation	89	192
Meter provision	720	568
	14,823	14,436

Revenue recognition accounting policies for the above disclosed revenue streams are disclosed at Note 2H. All revenue arises from operations within the UK.

11 EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

(a) Staff costs

		2023	2022
	Note	£000	£000
Wages and salaries		3,072	3,553
Social security costs		277	324
Pension and other costs	(i)	902	1,214
		4,251	5,091

⁽i) Pension and other costs includes costs of £nil for a restructuring programme (2022 £26,000).

(b) Employee numbers

The average numbers of employees (full and part-time) employed by the Company, including UK based directors, were:

	Average	Average
	2023	2022
Operations	95	121

(c) Retirement benefits

The Company' contributions payable in the year were £573,000 (2022 £1,457,000). The Company contributes to ScottishPower's defined benefit and defined contribution schemes in the UK and the contributions payable in the year reflect the contributions payable in respect of active participants in the group schemes who are employed by the Company. Full details of these schemes are provided in the most recent Annual Report and Accounts of SPUK, the intermediate holding company and the sponsoring company of the retirement benefit schemes. As at 31 December 2023, the surplus

11 EMPLOYEE INFORMATION continued

in ScottishPower's defined benefit schemes in the UK amounted to £123.2 million (2022 £240.0 million). The employer contribution rate for these schemes in the year ended 31 December 2023 was 52.9% - 53.4%.

12 DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION CHARGE, ALLOWANCES AND PROVISIONS

12 DEFRECIATION AND AMORTISATION CHARGE, ALLOWANCES AND PROVISIO	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Property, plant and equipment depreciation charge	381	434
Right-of-use asset depreciation charge	512	314
Intangible asset amortisation charge	25	19
Charges and provisions, allowances and impairment of assets		(5)
enarges and provisions) anowances and impairment or assets	918	762
13 FINANCE INCOME		
	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Interest receivable from Iberdrola Group companies	1,531	740
14 FINANCE COSTS		
	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Interest on software licence liabilities	2	-
Net impairment of financing and investment instruments	2	(2)
Interest on lease liabilities	28	11
	32	9
15 INCOME TAX		
13 INCOME TAX	2000	2022
	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Current tax:		
UK Corporation Tax for the year	1,561	843
Adjustments in respect of prior years	(122)	(33)
Current tax for the year	1,439	810
Deferred tax:		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	(8)	55
Adjustments in respect of prior years	127	3
Impact of tax rate change	-	20
Deferred tax for the year	119	78
Income tax for the year	1,558	888

The tax charge on profit before tax for the year varied from the standard rate of UK Corporation Tax as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Corporation Tax at 23.5% (2022 19%)	1,552	896
Adjustments in respect of prior years	5	(30)
Impact of tax rate change on current year tax	-	20
Non-deductible expenses and other permanent differences	1	2
Income tax for the year	1,558	888

Legislation was enacted on 10 June 2021 under the Finance Act 2021 that increased the UK Corporation Tax rate to 25% from 1 April 2023. Accordingly deferred tax balances at 31 December 2023 have been provided at 25%, to reflect the rate that the temporary differences are expected to reverse at.

16 DIVIDENDS

	2023	2022	2023	2022
	pence per ordinary share	pence per ordinary share	£000	£000
Interim dividend paid	25.0	45.4	4,400	8,000

17 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The Company had £123,000 (2022 £84,000) of contractual commitments at 31 December 2023 expected to be settled within one year in both the current and prior year.

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Directors' remuneration

The total remuneration of the directors that provided qualifying services to the Company is set out below. As all of the directors are remunerated for their work for the group headed by SPRH, it has not been possible to apportion the remuneration specifically in respect of services to this Company. All three (2022 three) of the directors were remunerated by other Iberdrola Group companies in both years.

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Aggregate remuneration in respect of qualifying services	492	512
Aggregate contributions payable to a defined contribution pension scheme	8	19
Number of directors who exercised share options	3	3
Number of directors who received shares under a long-term incentive scheme	2	2
Number of directors accruing retirement benefits under a defined benefit scheme	2	2
Number of directors accruing retirement benefits under a defined contribution scheme	1	1
	2023	2022
Highest paid director	£000	£000
Aggregate remuneration	226	181
Accrued pension benefit	49	47

⁽i) The highest paid director exercised share options during both years.

(b) Immediate and ultimate parent company

The immediate parent company is SPRH. The registered office of SPRH is 320 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5AD.

The directors regard Iberdrola, S.A. (incorporated in Spain) as the ultimate parent company, which is also the parent company of the largest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated. The parent company of the smallest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is SPUK.

Copies of the consolidated accounts of Iberdrola, S.A. may be obtained from Iberdrola, S.A., at its registered office, Torre Iberdrola, Plaza Euskadi 5, 48009, Bilbao, Spain. Copies of the consolidated accounts of SPUK may be obtained from its registered office, 320 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5AD.

The Company has no other related undertakings in addition to the Company's parent undertakings disclosed above.

19 AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Audit of the Annual accounts	24	20