Registered Number: 01160595

MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 2023

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COMPANIES HOUSE

MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	J Williams A McNicol (resigned 30 June 2023) A McNab S Smart R Lond T Williams A Williams J Andrews P Heyhoe J Bailey S McConnell M Heath C Moore (appointed 3 April 2023, resigned 5 January 2024)
Company secretary	R Lond
Registered number	01160595
Registered office	Maritime House Clickett Hill Road Felixstowe Suffolk IP11 4AX
Independent auditor	Blick Rothenberg Audit LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor 16 Great Queen Street Covent Garden London WC2B 5AH
Bankers	HSBC UK Bank Plc 12 Tavern Street Ipswich Suffolk IP1 3AZ

MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

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MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 2023

Introduction

The business continues to grow its capability and deliver sustainable solutions for its stakeholders, including its employees and customers. The Directors continue to strive to focus on the following underlying areas of the business which they consider will provide a strong platform to achieve further sustainable growth:

- Continued development of a strong, diverse and dynamic management team;
- Investment in the vehicle fleet, including a transition to alternative fuels to reduce CO2 emissions;
- Investment in systems, people and process;
- Strategic growth opportunities, including developing the inter-modal offering and the company's property infrastructure, together with a comprehensive Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) programme;
- Continued focus on client care and partnerships.

Key developments in the year

Through developing relationships with existing and new customers our rail and terminal business generated additional revenue against a backdrop of otherwise reduced industry volumes in the year. Key highlights include:

- The development of our vision to create the cleanest, most sustainable full load supply chain in the country leading the transition to decarbonisation of the supply chain. Awarded Ecovadis Bronze medal in recognition of current sustainability commitment;
- Became a Zero Emission HGV Demonstrator Participant, joining the government-backed ZEHID programme. We will integrate battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell trucks across the network from 2025 alongside charging stations;
- Ensuring that succession at all management levels is in place to allow the company to continue and develop at pace;
- £30m investment in fixed assets, including the rolling programme of vehicle fleet renewal using the latest fuel efficient trucks and the property infrastructure;
- The environmental benefits from rail makes our intermodal service a key ongoing development area within the business. The investment in existing and securing additional property continued during the year expanding our market leading network of terminals, including the facilities at Liverpool, Northampton and East Midlands Freeport;
- Investment in people including implementation of a new HR and payroll system together with a number of other initiatives as mentioned in the strategic and directors' reports; and
- Community engagement including bringing the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal to UK roads.

Performance in the year

The Directors are pleased with the results of the Company. Revenue of £404m, whilst lower than the £482m generated in the post pandemic peak year of 2022, produced a consistent margin, replicating the 26.3% achieved in the previous year.

An element of the reduction in revenue is due to the impact of the lower fuel price. As noted above, both our rail and terminal divisions experienced growth in the year following the continued investment of recent years. The distribution business benefitted from a full year of converting domestic cargo from road to rail, resulting in further carbon savings and is leading the market in modal shift.

A significant amount of development work has been undertaken to replace our HR and payroll system. Our valued colleagues will be able to access better quality information through our continued IT system improvements.

The Company made a charitable donation of £20,000 in the year to the British Red Cross earthquake appeal to help provide essential aid to those suffering as a result of the earthquake that took place in Turkey and Syria.

Gross profit for the year was £106.2m, which at 26.3% is on a par with that generated in 2022. There continues to be a strong focus on ensuring expenditure is both controlled and prioritised for the benefit of stakeholders. Profit before tax for the year was £20.7m compared to £40.1m in the prior year, as the sector returns to normalised trading post pandemic and the supply chain challenges of recent years. Cash position remains very strong enabling the business to continue to grow and invest in further opportunities. Balance sheet equity has increased from £110m to £126m.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Company has various financial assets and liabilities such as trade debtors and trade creditors, arising directly from operations. In addition bank funding and hire purchase agreements raise finance for the company's operational and capital requirements.

The Directors believe the principal risks and uncertainties to be as follows:

Resourcing:

A shortage of drivers represents a risk to all operators in our sector. The Directors have managed this risk by providing several pay increases in recent years, and by ensuring a high standard of facilities and support for our valued drivers.

In addition to the training family recruitment campaign, Family Ties, the company signed up to support Generation Logistics, which is an initiative to find and engage the next generation of logistics professionals.

Price risk:

The company reviews its contract terms and pricing on a regular basis to ensure it's trading activity remains competitive.

Demand:

Fluctuations in consumer demand and market conditions, particularly in relation to global supply chain issues, can impact volumes. The Directors monitor market conditions closely, working with customers and suppliers, and also ensure that the company's cost base is carefully managed to manage the potential impact

Financial key performance indicators

Key performance indicators are dealt with under the results section of the Directors' report.

Future developments

It is anticipated that volumes will increase moving into 2024 and the Company will be well placed to capitalise on the opportunities in the market place.

Section 172 Statement

The Directors set out their section 172 (1) statement in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 in relation to stakeholder engagement for the year ending 27 December 2023.

The Board recognises the importance of engaging with all staff, customers and suppliers across the business and the impact that this can have on the long-term future success of the Company for the benefit of all stakeholders. Key achievements in the year are discussed above.

Engagement with stakeholders

The Directors consider the shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers and local communities to be its core stakeholder groups. The promotion of high standards of business conduct remain at the heart of the Company's culture.

Employees

Directors engage with employees at all levels and believe they are the best asset to the business. Employees are rewarded generously and full consideration is given to the working environment offered, which is continually developed and improved. Professional driver training alongside top of the range trucks, excellent facilities and pre-paid tolls, parking and fuel are all designed to improve our drivers' working experience. Apprenticeships and programmes such as the Careers Transition Partnership for ex-services personnel provide opportunities to train and progress throughout our organisation. Employees are kept up to date through a variety of channels including the in-house company news update "Breaktime".

Customers

The Directors engage with existing and new customers and develop long term relationships at all levels. Understanding the customers' needs is an important factor. Complete supply chain coverage and dedication to customer service ensure peace of mind for customers looking for solutions to complex logistical issues.

Suppliers

The Directors ensure that the Company engages with its suppliers. The business relies heavily on key suppliers and it is an important measure to understand their needs and treat them in a professional and personal manner. This relationship is at all levels throughout the business in operations and central services. Consideration of the needs of a supplier is taken into account when adhering to fair and reasonable payment terms which are often quicker than our customers pay us.

Community and Environment

The Board recognise that the Company has an important role to play in the local community and the environment and measures are taken to reduce any impact the business has. One example is the purchase of latest technology vehicles reducing noise around our network. Ongoing improvements are made towards operating in a paperless environment and energy efficient lighting is installed where appropriate. The directors have sponsored involvement in many local community projects such as Litter-Free Felixstowe, as well as wider national projects such as the campaign to reduce roadside parking.

Emissions from the use of HGVs has an impact on the environment and the Directors have a policy of purchasing the latest Euro emission technology available. Training is provided to our drivers on how to achieve the best fuel performance from the trucks to lower the level of emission. Alternative fuels are now being used in the business and further research into early adoption of battery electric vehicles is underway. The use of rail services is also a conscious strategy to take vehicles off the road and generate lower carbon emissions.

Corporate Governance

The Company is not required to formally apply a corporate governance code, however the Board gives due consideration to the six principles of the Wates Corporate Governance Principles as set out below:

1. Purpose and Leadership

The COVID-19 pandemic and the supply challenges that followed have served to demonstrate the Company's key role as a business of strategic importance to the supply chain in respect of essential goods including food and medical supplies. The responsibility of the Directors to ensure the success of the Company whilst implementing a long term strategy to reduce CO2 and congestion is demonstrated by the investment in intermodal operations and the rail network as detailed above.

2. Board Composition

The reporting structure of the Company ensures feedback from line management through depot managers and the subsidiary Board to the main Holding Company Board.

3. Director Responsibilities

Each Board Director has a clear line of responsibility and a specific area within the business that they are accountable for and these are reviewed as a group once each month. Policies and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis and changes discussed and agreed at Board level.

4. Opportunity and Risk

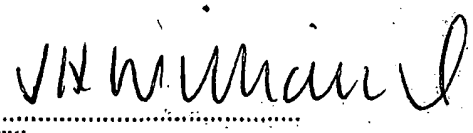
Each member of the Board contributes towards the ongoing development of the business to protect value and identify future opportunities. Risk and compliance are an important focus of the Board and is discussed at every Board meeting. Risk assessments and safe systems of work are regularly reviewed and updated where further improvements can be made. Segregation of duty policies ensure that risk is also minimised.

5. Remuneration
Appropriate remuneration levels are under constant review at all levels within the company to ensure that employees are incentivised to protect and develop further shareholder value. Packages are designed to reward based on levels of responsibility, accountability and control of procedures in place.

6. Stakeholder Relationships and Engagement

The Board is well placed to ensure that there is full engagement with all stakeholders within the business. Regular discussions with staff, customers, suppliers, regulators, community groups and all other stakeholders are key to predicting any future improvements that can be made.

This report was approved by the board on 30 April 2024 and signed on its behalf.



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J Williams
Director

DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 2023

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 27 December 2023.

Directors' responsibilities statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. 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 for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Principal activity

The principal activity of the Company is the transport of containers to and from the container ports and rail terminals of the United Kingdom and the distribution of full-load goods by road or rail.

Results and dividends

The profit for the year, after taxation, amounted to £15,223k (2022 - £32,792k).

The pre-tax return on sales was 5.1% (2022 - 8.3%) and the profit before tax was £20,671k (2022 - £40,144k).

The Directors do not recommend a dividend.

Directors

The Directors who served during the year were:

J Williams
A McNicol (resigned 30 June 2023)
A McNab
S Smart
R Lond
T Williams
A Williams
J Andrews
P Heyhoe
J Bailey
S McConnell
M Heath
C Moore (appointed 3 April 2023, resigned 5 January 2024)

The Directors have professional indemnity insurance as part of a directors' and officers' professional indemnity insurance policy.

Employee involvement

During the year, the policy of providing employees with information about the Company has been continued through internal media methods in which employees have also been encouraged to present their suggestions and views on the Company's performance. Regular meetings are held between local management and employees to allow a free flow of information and ideas.

Disabled employees

The Company's policy is to give full and fair consideration to applications for employment made by disabled persons having regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities. Disabled employees receive appropriate training to promote their career development within the Company. Employees who become disabled are retained in their existing posts where possible or retrained for suitable alternative posts.

Energy and Carbon Report

This report presents the carbon emissions of Maritime Transport Limited (MTL) for the reporting year of 2023, including scope 1, 2, and partial scope 3 emissions.

One of the key strategies MTL has implemented is a modal shift, whereby deliveries previously transported by road have been converted to rail, as rail has a lower carbon footprint for diesel usage. Moreover, MTL is conducting tests into alternative fuels for the first and final mile of transportation, which could lead to significant reductions in emissions from rail and transport. However, since MTL still has a large number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), they plan to continue to invest in the most efficient fleet available.

Additionally, MTL has been working consistently with their sites to reduce gas and electricity usage, which, while not producing as many emissions as transport, is still a crucial step towards reducing their carbon footprint. Furthermore, MTL has committed to achieving net zero by 2050 in line with the UK government's goal and is setting Science Based Targets (SBTs) to ensure they meet their net zero goal.

Statement of Carbon Footprint

The carbon footprint during the period:
159,297 tCO2e

Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
107,288	742	51,267

Carbon Intensity Measure

The total company mileage (road plus rail equivalent) is: 1331.8 hundred thousand miles.
The carbon intensity is, therefore, 119.6 tCO2e per hundred thousand company miles.

	2023	2022
Total electricity use	3,544,499 kWh	3,406,155 kWh
Total gas use	303,839 kWh	133,046 kWh
Total transport fuel	464,892,269 kWh	483,602,488 kWh
Total energy from rail leased assets	97,791,156 kWh	-
Total energy from other fuels	18,254,374 kWh	17,699,555 kWh
Total energy use (all sources)	584,786,137 kWh	504,841,244 kWh
Total carbon emissions (electricity)	734 tCO2e	N/A
Total carbon emissions (gas)	56 tCO2e	N/A
Total carbon emissions (transport)	125,977 tCO2e	N/A
Total carbon emissions (WTT)	28,045 tCO2e	N/A
Total carbon emissions (T&D)	65 tCO2e	N/A
Total carbon emissions (other sources)	4,422 tCO2e	N/A
Total carbon emissions	159,297 tCO2e	N/A
Total estate size	156,070 sqft	N/A
Carbon intensity ratio	1,020 kgCO2e per sqft	N/A
Carbon intensity ratio	1.66 kgCO2e per mile	N/A

Previous year's data taken from ESOS Phase 3 report.
No rail leased assets data available for previous years.

Carbon and Energy Efficient Actions

We are committed to responsible carbon management and will practise energy efficiency throughout our organisation, wherever it's cost effective. We recognise that climate change is one of the most serious environmental challenges currently threatening the global community and we understand we have a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2023 we became the recipient of the EcoVadis bronze medal in recognition of our commitment to sustainability.

We have recently implemented or are planning to implement the policies below for the purpose of increasing the businesses energy efficiency:

- Participant in the Zero Emission HGV and Infrastructure Demonstrator programme (ZEHID), joining 3 of the 4 consortium;
- Over the next 5 years funding awarded by ZEHID will support the trail of 48 battery electric and hydrogen fuel cells trucks across the Maritime network, alongside charging stations;
- 18 of these battery-electric, 42-tonne tractor units have recently been ordered;
- Continued push to move customers from road to rail with a further 3 rail terminals in the initial planning stage;
- Maximising trailer capacity for major customers to minimise unnecessary journeys from their supply chains;
- HVO fuel dispensers installed at 3 key distribution sites;
- Improved car scheme for employees, with additional contributions to actively encourage the selection of an electric car;
- Full LED lighting installation at East Midlands, Northampton, Hams Hall and Liverpool Terminals (These are net zero builds);
- Vehicle charging points will be installed in all new depots;
- Retro fitting of electric charge points to be carried out at key depots;
- Full refit of offices and facilities at Birmingham and Hams Hall currently underway. Air conditioning to be completely renewed with timer and cut off functionality; and
- Extensive solar installations at our East Midlands and Northampton Rail Freight Terminals – scheduled for completion in Autumn 2024.

Site	Watt per panel	No. of panels	KWH per day P/P	KWH per year P/P	KWH Total per site per year
EMG	440w	96	1.5KWH	540	51840
Northampton	500w	68	2KWH	731	49708

Methodology used in the Calculation of Disclosures

ESOS methodology (as specified in Complying with the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme version 6, published by the Environment Agency, 21.01.21) used in conjunction with Government GHG reporting conversion factors.

For carbon only related matters, the SECR methodology as specified in "Environmental reporting guidelines: including Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting and greenhouse gas reporting" was used in conjunction with Government GHG reporting conversion factors.

Matters covered in the Strategic Report

Information regarding the performance of the Company and principal risks and uncertainties together with the corporate governance arrangements can be found in the Strategic Report.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and
- the Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the Company since the year end.

This report was approved by the Board on 30 April 2024 and signed on its behalf.

J Williams
Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Maritime Transport Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 27 December 2023, which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 27 December 2023 and of the Company's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; 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 under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Our assessment of the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included:

- confirming our understanding of the Directors' going concern assessment process;
- assessing the appropriateness of the underlying assumptions used within management's forecasts with reference to information obtained elsewhere in the audit;
- performed sensitivity analysis;
- evaluating the historical accuracy of forecasts prepared by management;
- obtaining confirmation of financing instruments, including the nature, repayment terms and associated covenants, including an assessment against forecasts; and
- assessing the appropriateness of going concern disclosures.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In relation to the Company's reporting on how they have considered the Wates Corporate Governance Code, we have nothing material to add or draw attention to in relation to the Directors' statement in the financial statements about whether the Directors considered it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the strategic report and the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the Directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director is responsible for 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 the Director either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the company's sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Goods Vehicles (Licensing and Operators) Act 1995, taxation legislation, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual movements;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in note 3 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claim.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance.

Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

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.

Blick Rothenberg Audit LLP.

Mahmood Ramji (Senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Blick Rothenberg Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

16 Great Queen Street
Covent Garden
London
WC2B 5AH

30 April 2024

MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £000
Turnover	4	**404,348**	482,304
Cost of sales		**(298,184)**	(355,582)
Gross profit		**106,164**	126,722
Administrative expenses		**(87,103)**	(86,366)
Other operating income	5	**1,134**	1,234
Operating profit	6	**20,195**	41,590
Interest receivable and similar income		**2,491**	291
Interest payable and similar expenses	10	**(2,015)**	(1,737)
Profit before tax		**20,671**	40,144
Tax on profit	11	**(5,448)**	(7,352)
Profit for the financial year		**15,223**	32,792

There was no other comprehensive income for 2023 (2022:£NIL).

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED
REGISTERED NUMBER:01160595

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 27 DECEMBER 2023

	Note		2023 £000		2022 £000
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	12		**588**		674
Tangible assets	13		**133,992**		140,816
			134,580		141,490
Current assets					
Stocks		**716**		672	
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**85,580**		87,342	
Cash at bank and in hand	15	**48,196**		58,025	
		134,492		146,039	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	**(86,022)**		(106,449)	
Net current assets			**48,470**		39,590
Total assets less current liabilities			**183,050**		181,080
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		**(50,270)**		(66,116)
Provisions for liabilities					
Deferred tax	20	**(7,311)**		(4,718)	
			(7,311)		(4,718)
Net assets			**125,469**		110,246
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	21		**1,082**		1,082
Share premium account	22		**97**		97
Profit and loss account	22		**124,290**		109,067
			125,469		110,246

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 30 April 2024.

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J Williams
Director

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

MARITIME TRANSPORT LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 2023

	Called up share capital	Share premium account	Profit and loss account	Total equity
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 28 December 2021	1,082	97	76,275	77,454
Comprehensive income for the year				
Profit for the financial year	-	-	32,792	32,792
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	32,792	32,792
At 28 December 2022	1,082	97	109,067	110,246
Comprehensive income for the year				
Profit for the financial year	-	-	15,223	15,223
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	15,223	15,223
At 27 December 2023	1,082	97	124,290	125,469

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

1. General information

Maritime Transport Limited is a private Company limited by shares and incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Maritime House, Clickett Hill Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 4AX.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Company's accounting policies (see note 3).

The financial statements are prepared to the Saturday falling closest to the year end.

The financial statements are prepared in round thousands, and the reporting currency is pound sterling (£).

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Financial Reporting Standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The Company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by the FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland":

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows;
- the requirements of Section 3 Financial Statement Presentation paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of Section 11 Financial Instruments paragraphs 11.42, 11.44 to 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b) and 11.48(c);
- the requirements of Section 12 Other Financial Instruments paragraphs 12.26 to 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b) and 12.29A;
- the requirements of Section 33 Related Party Disclosures paragraph 33.7.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of Maritime Group Limited as at 27 December 2023 and these financial statements may be obtained from Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ.

2.3 Going concern

The Company has continued to be profitable and cash generative through 2023 and the expectation is that this will continue for the foreseeable future, supported by the forecasts produced for the Board. As a result, the Directors have concluded that the going concern basis remains appropriate for the preparation of the financial statements.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Turnover

Turnover is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the turnover can be reliably measured. Turnover is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before turnover is recognised:

Rendering of services

Turnover from a contract to provide services is recognised in the period in which the services are provided in accordance with the stage of completion of the contract when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of turnover can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the Company will receive the consideration due under the contract;
- the costs incurred and the costs to complete the contract can be measured reliably.

Sale of goods

Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the Company has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the buyer;
- the Company retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of turnover can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the Company will receive the consideration due under the transaction; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

2.5 Operating leases: the Company as lessee

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.6 Leased assets: the Company as lessee

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the Company. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to profit or loss so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

2.7 Government grants

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the same period as the related expenditure.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Pensions

Defined contribution pension plan

The Company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Company in independently administered funds.

2.9 Current and deferred taxation

The tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in profit or loss except that a charge attributable to an item of income and expense recognised as other comprehensive income or to an item recognised directly in equity is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date in the countries where the Company operates and generates income.

Deferred tax balances are recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except that:

- The recognition of deferred tax assets is limited to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits; and
- Any deferred tax balances are reversed if and when all conditions for retaining associated tax allowances have been met.

Deferred tax balances are not recognised in respect of permanent differences except in respect of business combinations, when deferred tax is recognised on the differences between the fair values of assets acquired and the future tax deductions available for them and the differences between the fair values of liabilities acquired and the amount that will be assessed for tax. Deferred tax is determined using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 Intangible assets

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the difference between amounts paid on the cost of a business combination and the acquirer's interest in the fair value of its identifiable assets and liabilities of the acquiree at the date of acquisition. Subsequent to initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is amortised on a straight-line basis to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over its useful economic life.

All intangibles assets are considered to have a finite useful life. If a reliable estimate of the useful life cannot be made. the useful life shall not exceed ten years.

2.11 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

At each reporting date the Company assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined which is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	- 2% to 20% on cost
Leasehold property and building improvements	- 2% to 50% on cost
Plant and machinery	- 5% to 33.33% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 20% to 33.33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% to 20% on cost
Office equipment	- 20% to 33.33% on cost

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in profit or loss.

When certain items of plant and machinery are disposed of, the final period's depreciation charge is adjusted by the profit or loss on disposal.

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

2.12 Debtors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

2.13 Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.14 Provisions for liabilities

Provisions are recognised when an event has taken place that gives rise to a legal or constructive obligation, a transfer of economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made.

Provisions are measured as the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation, taking into account the related risks and uncertainties.

Increases in provisions are generally charged as an expense to profit or loss.

3. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, the following judgements and key estimates have been made by the Directors;

Estimated useful life of tangible fixed assets

At the date of capitalising tangible fixed assets, the Company estimates the useful economic life of the asset based on management's judgement and experience.

4. Turnover

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the principal activity of the Company.

All turnover arose within the United Kingdom.

5. Other operating income

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Other operating income	**3**	-
Rental income	**1,131**	1,234
	1,134	1,234

6. Operating profit

The operating profit is stated after charging:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets (net of profit on disposal)	**27,003**	23,828
Amortisation of intangible assets, including goodwill	**86**	86
Other operating lease rentals	**2,309**	1,772
Defined contribution pension cost	**3,010**	3,242

7. Auditor's remuneration

During the year, the Company obtained the following services from the Company's auditor and its associates:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Fees payable to the Company's auditor and its associates for the audit of the Company's financial statements.	**44**	38

8. Employees

Staff costs, including Directors' remuneration, were as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Wages and salaries	**135,145**	134,782
Social security costs	**14,609**	16,986
Cost of defined contribution scheme	**3,010**	3,242
	152,764	155,010

The average monthly number of employees, including the Directors, during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Office and management	**634**	623
Drivers	**2,221**	2,297
	2,855	2,920

9. Directors' remuneration

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Directors' emoluments	**4,765**	4,240
Company contributions to defined contribution pension schemes	**142**	120
	4,907	4,360

During the year retirement benefits were accruing to 10 Directors (2022 - 9) in respect of defined contribution pension schemes.

The highest paid Director received remuneration of £1,137k (2022 - £1,088k).

The value of the Company's contributions paid to a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of the highest paid Director amounted to £10k (2022 - £4k).

10. Interest payable and similar expenses

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Other loan interest payable	**297**	351
Finance leases and hire purchase contracts	**1,715**	1,384
Other interest payable	**3**	2
	2,015	1,737

11. Taxation

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Corporation tax		
Current tax on profits for the year	**2,857**	3,499
Adjustments in respect of previous periods	**(2)**	(258)
	2,855	3,241
Total current tax	**2,855**	3,241
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	**2,593**	4,111
Total deferred tax	**2,593**	4,111
Tax on profit	**5,448**	7,352

Factors affecting tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is higher than (2022 - lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 23.52% (2022 - 19%). The differences are explained below:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	**20,671**	40,144
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 23.52% (2022 - 19%)	**4,862**	7,627
Effects of:		
Adjustments on assets not quailfying for capital allowance purposes	**-**	222
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes, other than goodwill amortisation and impairment	**408**	201
Non tax-deductible amortisation of goodwill and impaiment	**86**	16
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of prior periods	**(2)**	(258)
Other differences including effect of deferred tax rate	**153**	(471)
Income not chargeable for tax purposes	**(66)**	-
Capital gains	**7**	15
Total tax charge for the year	**5,448**	7,352

11. Taxation (continued)

Factors that may affect future tax charges

There were no factors that may affect future tax charges.

12. Intangible assets

	Goodwill £000
Cost	
At 28 December 2022	1,112
At 27 December 2023	1,112
Amortisation	
At 28 December 2022	438
Charge for the year	86
At 27 December 2023	524
Net book value	
At 27 December 2023	588
At 27 December 2022	674

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £000	Leasehold property £000	Plant and machinery £000	Fixtures and fittings £000	Assets under construction £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation						
At 28 December 2022	14,768	32,950	162,077	13,167	12,142	235,104
Additions	540	43	21,076	3,393	5,165	30,217
Transfers intra group	-	(4,600)	-	-	-	(4,600)
Disposals	(65)	(669)	(17,833)	(1,323)	-	(19,890)
Transfers between classes	4,103	(42)	(87)	192	(4,166)	-
At 27 December 2023	19,346	27,682	165,233	15,429	13,141	240,831
Depreciation						
At 28 December 2022	2,547	8,850	74,128	8,763	-	94,288
Charge for the year	993	1,846	25,868	1,937	-	30,644
Disposals	(35)	(549)	(16,377)	(1,132)	-	(18,093)
Transfers between classes	30	(30)	(4)	4	-	-
At 27 December 2023	3,535	10,117	83,615	9,572	-	106,839
Net book value						
At 27 December 2023	15,811	17,565	81,618	5,857	13,141	133,992
At 27 December 2022	12,221	24,100	87,949	4,404	12,142	140,816

The net book value of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts, included above, are as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Plant and machinery	61,826	77,900
	61,826	77,900

14. Debtors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Trade debtors	**65,781**	65,508
Other debtors	**1,822**	3,770
Prepayments and accrued income	**17,977**	18,064
	85,580	87,342

15. Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	**48,196**	58,025
	48,196	58,025

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Bank loans	**1,333**	1,333
Trade creditors	**17,613**	15,887
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**10,238**	14,894
Other taxation and social security	**13,670**	16,860
Obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts	**22,086**	24,203
Other creditors	**2,113**	2,037
Accruals and deferred income	**18,969**	31,235
	86,022	106,449

Bank financing is secured against trade debtors under an agreement with the bank which includes a further debenture over the assets of the Company.

Bank loans are secured by fixed and floating charges over the Company's assets.

Amounts due under hire purchase and finance leases are secured on the relevant assets.

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Bank loans	**14,111**	15,444
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	**36,159**	50,672
	50,270	66,116

Bank loans are secured by fixed and floating charges over the Company's assets.

Amounts due under hire purchase and finance leases are secured on the relevant assets.

18. Loans

Analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Bank loans	**1,333**	1,333
Amounts falling due 2-5 years		
Bank loans	**14,111**	15,444
	15,444	16,777

The bank loans are repayable in monthly instalments.

19. Hire purchase and finance leases

Minimum lease payments under hire purchase fall due as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Within one year	**23,530**	25,718
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**37,403**	52,354
	60,933	78,072

20. Deferred taxation

	2023 £000	2022 £000
At beginning of year	**(4,718)**	(607)
Credited to profit or loss	**(2,593)**	(4,111)
At end of year	**(7,311)**	(4,718)

The provision for deferred taxation is made up as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Accelerated capital allowances	**(7,946)**	(5,295)
Other timing differences	**635**	577
	(7,311)	(4,718)

21. Share capital

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
1,082,394 (2022 - 1,082,394) Ordinary shares of £1.00 each	**1,082**	1,082

All ordinary shares rank equally.

22. Reserves

Share premium account

The share premium account is recognised as a non-distributable reserve arising on the amount paid on shares in excess of their nominal values.

Profit and loss account

The profit and loss account represents the Company's accumulated profits which are available for distribution for members.

23. Capital commitments

At 27 December 2023 the Company had capital commitments as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements	**24,089**	13,215
	24,089	13,215

24. Pension commitments

The Company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independently administered scheme. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Company to the scheme and amounted to £3,010k (2022 - £3,242k). Included within other creditors at the year end is £273k (2022 - £296k) of unpaid contributions.

25. Commitments under operating leases

At 27 December 2023 the Company had future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Not later than 1 year	**2,428**	2,191
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**8,399**	7,990
Later than 5 years	**1,275**	2,754
	12,102	12,935

26. Related party transactions

The Company is exempt from disclosing transactions with its other group undertakings because it is a wholly owned subsidiary.

Payments in respect of services rendered by close family members totalled £721k (2022 - £1,108k) in the year.

27. Controlling party

The results of the Company are included in consolidated financial statements of its immediate parent Company, Maritime Group Limited. The address of the registered office of Maritime Group Limited is Maritime House, Clickett Hill Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 4AX.

J Williams has ultimate control of the Company, by virtue of his majority shareholding in Maritime Group Limited.