

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Directors report and financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

Registered no: SC213461



Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

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Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Directors and Other Information

Directors	Gregor Alexander (Non-Executive Director) (Chairman) Rob McDonald Maz Alkirwi Charlotte Brunning (Non-Executive Director) Charles Thomazi (Non-Executive Director) Ronald Fleming (Non-Executive Director) Rachel McEwen (Non-Executive Director) Laura Sandys (Independent Non-Executive Director) Gary Steel (Independent Non-Executive Director)
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Registered office	Inveralmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ
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Secretary	Mark McLaughlin
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Auditor	Ernst & Young LLP G1 5 George Square Glasgow G2 1DY
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Registered number	SC213461
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Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report

The Strategic Report sets out the main trends and factors underlying the development and performance of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the “Company”) during the year ended 31 March 2024, as well as those matters which are likely to affect its future development and performance.

The business, its objectives and strategy

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc own and maintain the 132kV, 275kV and 400kV electricity transmission network in its licence area in the north of Scotland. The Company’s network comprises of underground cables, overhead lines, steel towers and electricity substations, and it extends over a quarter of the UK land mass across some of its most challenging terrain.

The Company’s first priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to communities. The Company does this by taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through the transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities.

The Company’s operating area is home to vast renewable energy resources and this is being harnessed by wind, hydro and marine generation. Working closely with National Grid, the GB transmission System Operator, the Company also enable these electricity generators to connect to the transmission system by providing their connections and allowing the electricity generated by them to be transported to areas of demand across the country.

Scotland’s transmission network has a strategic role to play in supporting delivery of the UK and Scotland’s Net Zero targets. The Company is already a mass exporter of renewable energy, with around two thirds of power generated in the network area exported to demand centres further south. By 2050, the north of Scotland is expected to need 40GW of low carbon energy capacity to support net zero delivery. For context, the Company currently have over 9GW of renewable generation connected in the north of Scotland.

Following a minority stake sale which completed in November 2022, the Company is owned 75% by SSE plc and 25% by Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan Board (OTPP).

As a natural monopoly, the Company is closely regulated by the GB energy regulator, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), who determines how much revenue the Company is allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating the transmission network in the north of Scotland. These costs are shared between all those using the transmission system, including generation developers and electricity consumers.

Ofgem sets out the revenue that is allowed to be recovered for constructing, maintaining, and renovating the transmission network within a regulatory Price Control framework. The Company currently operates under the RIIO-T2 (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) Price Control period which runs for five years from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2026. In broad terms, Ofgem seeks to strike the right balance between attracting investment in electricity networks, encouraging companies to operate the networks as efficiently as possible and ensuring fair prices for customers. The RIIO price controls, which are common to all electricity and gas businesses regulated by Ofgem, seek additional emphasis placed on innovation, incentives and outputs, and require regulated businesses to take on additional risk and reward mechanisms, with the possibility of outperformance resulting in additional income or underperformance resulting in penalties. The process for agreeing the RIIO-T3 framework is also well underway with Company Business Plans proposals due for submission by the end of 2024.

Business performance overview

The Company’s strategy and main objectives are to:






- comply fully with all electricity network safety standards and environmental requirements;
- ensure that the electricity network is managed as efficiently as possible, including maintaining tight controls over operational expenditure and the delivery of the capital expenditure programme;
- provide good performance in areas such as reliability of supply, customer service and innovation;
- ensure there is sufficient network capacity for those seeking to generate electricity from renewable and other sources within the licensed network area;
- grow the Regulated Asset Value (“RAV”) of the business, and so, secure increased revenue; and
- engage constructively with the regulator, Ofgem, to secure regulatory outcomes that meet the needs of stakeholders and investors.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Business performance overview (continued)

The Key Performance Indicators of the Company and the related performance during the year to 31 March 2024 were as follows:

Financial / Operational		2024	2023	Non-Financial / Management		2024	2023
	Capital expenditure (£m)	788.5	535.5		Number of Transmission System Incidents	4	2
	Operating profit (£m)	565.7	404.5		Average System Unavailability	0.63%	0.69%
	Regulated asset value (£m)	5,676.0	4,836.4				

The Company's operating profit increased by 39.9% in the year to £565.7m. The Company saw a significant increase in allowed revenues during the year, reflecting both the increased portfolio of works under the RIIO-T2 price control as well as inflation uplifts in line with the regulatory framework, together with a positive timing variance following under-recovery of revenues in the previous year. These were partially offset by increases in operating costs as the business continues to grow its operational capabilities and depreciation as the asset base expands.

The Company's capital expenditure has increased by 47.2% in the year to £788.5m. The Company has made significant progress on its capital investment programme, having entered the third year of the RIIO-T2 price control period. The largest portion of the spend was focused on the final stages of the Shetland connection with offshore works now complete and the project in the final commissioning phase. The East Coast Upgrade to 400kV also progressed well with a further £117m invested during the period, which sees the first of three phases complete and successfully energised.

The RIIO-T2 Price Control commenced in April 2021 and the Company's in-year RAV additions totalled £870.6m. As at March 2024, the Company's RAV totals just under £5.7bn, thus demonstrating the Company's pivotal role in providing the infrastructure required to reinforce and maintain the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. In addition, the Company is exploring a number of growth opportunities which would significantly increase its RAV beyond this level as detailed within the Strategic Report.

The number of Transmission System Loss of Supply Incidents in 2023/24 remained low at 4, an increase of 2 on last year. Only one incident had an impact on energy supply, marginally affecting the Company's incentive reward. The Company's System Average Circuit Unavailability due to faults decreased from 0.69% to 0.63%. This was due to smaller volumes and shorter times for return of the unplanned switch-outs and faults. The focus of these incidents did not have any particular trend, with faults occurring for a number of different reasons.

RIIO-T2 operational delivery

The Company continues to deliver strong operational performance in 2023/24, achieving 95% of the available reward through the 'Energy Not Supplied' (ENS) incentive, equating to £0.7m (18/19 prices) additional income in the year. This slight reduction in performance relates to one brief outage which was quickly resolved, while overall performance has earned 98.3% of available reward since the beginning of RIIO-T2 and £2.3m (18/19 prices) additional incentive income. This performance is underpinned by a robust and ongoing programme of inspection, maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of the Company's assets, keeping the lights on for communities across the north of Scotland and ensuring reliable network access for electricity generators to support security of supply in Great Britain.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Capital investment programme

The Company's RIIO-T2 capital investment programme continues, with progress being made across major projects. This includes the Shetland High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link, with all offshore cable works now complete including seabed rock placement. The onshore cable works are also complete following a successful high voltage test in January 2024. The project is now in the final commissioning stage, remaining on track for completion and full energisation in 2024. Work has also progressed to connect Shetland's existing electricity distribution network to the Shetland HVDC link, connecting Shetland's homes and business to the GB electricity network for the first time via the new Grid Supply Point being constructed at Gremista. The Kergord-Gremista 132kV circuits will then connect the HVDC link to the new Gremista Grid Supply Point. Following a well-publicised incident at the site in May, which resulted in no injuries, work is expected to recommence in stages and the project remains on track to be complete by the end of 2025.

Progress has also been made on increasing the capacity of the North-East Scotland transmission network to 400kV, with all circuits in the first phase completed and energised in February 2024. Work to increase incrementally the voltage in this area of the network continues with the next phase due to be completed towards the end of 2026, in line with RIIO-T2 commitments. Further 400kV infrastructure is expected to enter construction as part of the Company's Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) projects, from 2026 onwards.

As of 31 March 2024, the total installed capacity of the north of Scotland network was almost 10.6GW, of which just over 9.3GW is from renewable and other low carbon sources, including 0.6GW of pumped storage and batteries. Several large renewable schemes are scheduled to connect during 2024/25, and the Company is on track to exceed its RIIO-T2 goal to deliver an electricity network in the north of Scotland with the capacity and flexibility to accommodate 10GW of renewable generation, enough to power more than 10m homes by 2026.

Other regulatory investments

The Company has made significant progress over the course of the last few years in securing the regulatory approvals required to take forward several major investments over and above its baseline investment case secured at the start of RIIO-T2. Initially, large onshore transmission projects were taken forward through Ofgem's Large Onshore Transmission Investment (LOTI) Uncertainty Mechanism, with the Company currently progressing three projects through that framework. However, to accelerate the regulatory process and facilitate delivery of the required offshore and onshore network reinvestments required for the energy transition, Ofgem introduced the ASTI regulatory framework in December 2022 with the Company currently progressing a further eight projects through that framework.

To support the timely delivery of ASTI projects, the Company is actively advocating for a maximum 12-month determination of all Section 37 overhead line planning applications. This is in line with the recommendations of the UK Government's Electricity Networks Commissioner, and others.

LOTI projects

In July 2023, Ofgem approved the Final Needs Case for the Orkney transmission link, the final piece in connecting all three of Scotland's main island groups to the GB electricity network. The Orkney transmission link will accommodate around 220MW of renewable electricity generation, helping further unlock Orkney's vast renewable potential alongside supporting the continued development and growth of Orkney's marine energy sector. Main construction works are due to commence in 2024, with full energisation expected in 2028.

In August 2023, Ofgem also approved the Final Needs Case for the Skye reinforcement project, which will see the replacement and upgrade of the existing Fort Augustus to Skye transmission line. This is required to maintain security of supply and enable the connection of renewable electricity generation along its route. Both substation applications were granted consent by the Highland Council in early 2024 with a decision on the Section 37 overhead line planning application expected during 2024 with construction works ready to begin and full energisation expected in 2028.

In October 2023, Ofgem approved the Final Needs Case for the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV Reinforcement, subject to all material planning consents being secured. The reinforcement is required to upgrade the local transmission network from 132kV to 275kV operation, supporting the forecast growth in renewables in the region. With all substation planning consents for the Argyll and Kintyre 275kV reinforcement now secured, the Company awaits the outcome of the Inveraray to Creagh Dhubh 275kV connection Section 37 planning application and the Public Local Inquiry for the Creagh Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV connection, both of which are expected during 2024. Construction is planned to commence later in 2024, with full energisation expected during 2028.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Other regulatory Investments (continued)

ASTI projects

As part of the National Grid Electricity System Operator's NGESO Holistic Network Design (HND), eight projects were identified for the Company to progress through Ofgem's ASTI framework which included several subsea cables, overhead line and substation installations and upgrades to support the connection of offshore wind and onshore electricity generation. These ASTI projects are wholly owned by the Company, with the exception of the Eastern Green Link 2 (EGL2) and Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL3) which are being jointly developed with National Grid. The estimate of gross nominal investment required to deliver these projects is around £17bn. Further information on EGL2 can be found at note 21.

The EGL2 project – which will see the installation of a 2GW subsea superhighway of electricity transmission between the north east of Scotland and Yorkshire – has made progress during the year with Marine Scotland granting a Marine Licence for cable protection measures in May 2023.

The project also reached contract award status in February 2024 with Prysmian Group to supply around 1,000km of cable as well as Hitachi Energy and BAM to supply the converter stations at either end of the link. With the onshore works now underway in Peterhead, the project remains on track for targeted completion in 2029.

The other ASTI projects also continue to progress, with the Company reaching 'preferred bidder' status with its supply chain partners for its north of Scotland ASTI subsea HVDC projects, Spittal to Peterhead and the Western Isles, in May 2023. In August 2023, the Company entered into Capacity Reservation Agreements with the supply chain for the HVDC cable and converter stations, securing supply chain manufacturing capacity in what is an extremely competitive and constrained global supply chain market. Also in August 2023, the Company reached 'preferred bidder' status for all of its key onshore ASTI projects, a significant milestone in securing the supply chain for the delivery of all overhead line, cabling and substation components.

The Company has also concluded its first round of public consultation across its 100% owned onshore and subsea ASTI projects. Further consultation will take place throughout 2024 in advance of submitting consent applications to the relevant consenting authorities.

Finally, work to progress EGL3 – which will see the installation of a 2GW subsea superhighway of electricity transmission between the north east of Scotland and south Lincolnshire/west Norfolk – is also progressing with the supply chain now engaged with the tender process.

RIIO-T3 price control

The process to determine the parameters of the RIIO-T3 price control for the Company commenced during the year with the publication in October 2023 by Ofgem of their Future Systems and Networks Regulation consultation, which confirmed the framework for the new price controls. While the signals from Ofgem to support investment in the Sector Specific Methodology Consultation (SSMC) were positive, the unprecedented level of investment required to deliver the Company's £20bn plus of LOTI, ASTI and RIIO-T3 projects means the final RIIO-T3 framework must be attractive to both equity and debt providers. The Company will work constructively with Ofgem and wider stakeholders to ensure the future regulatory framework provides the flexibility and agility required to deliver the unprecedented level of required investment. Work progresses to develop the Company Business Plan, which will be submitted to Ofgem, currently scheduled for December 2024.

Future growth opportunities 'Beyond 2030'

Further investment beyond the Pathway to 2030 is required to unlock the north of Scotland's full renewable potential and to deliver energy security and net zero targets. These additional onshore and offshore network reinforcements were set out by National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) through the publication of the second transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP), titled 'Beyond 2030' in March 2024. This will connect another tranche of ScotWind whilst also setting out options to deliver the remainder. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan confirms the need for a number of projects to proceed now for delivery by 2035, which combined represent a potential estimated investment of over £5bn for the Company. This includes a second HVDC link to Shetland and in May 2024, the Sumitomo Electric Van Oord Consortium was selected as preferred bidder for the proposed 1.8GW subsea cable, the anchor project enabling Sumitomo Electric Industries investment in its new cable manufacturing facility at Nigg.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Electricity transmission priorities for 2024/25 and beyond

For the Company, the core activity for the rest of this decade will be construction. Against this background, its priorities for the rest of 2024/25 and beyond are to:

- operate safely and meet all compliance requirements;
- delivery of a large capital investment programme to facilitate improving network resilience and facilitate growth in electricity generation capacity in line with the RIIO-T2;
- reviewing the large capital project programme as part of development of the RIIO-T3 business plan;
- delivery of a large capital investment programme to facilitate improving network resilience and facilitate growth in electricity generation capacity in line with LOTI and ASTI programmes
- provide an excellent service to all customers who rely on their networks and related services;
- deliver required outputs while maintaining tight controls over expenditure;
- maintain good progress in the safe delivery of new assets;
- progress innovations that will improve network reliability, efficiency and customer service and inform industry-wide improvements;
- continuing to progress the case for investment in connections including the Scottish Islands through engagement with key stakeholders while protecting the interest of consumers; and
- develop and maintain effective stakeholder relationships and conduct constructive engagement with regulators and legislators, advocating clarity and stability in the regulatory framework.

Values and responsibilities

SSE plc (the “Group”) and the Company’s strategy is underpinned by a set of core values designed to guide decisions and actions within the business.

	Safety	If it’s not safe, we don’t do it		Sustainability	We do things responsibly to add long-term value
	Service	We are a company customers can rely on		Excellence	We continually improve the way we do things
	Efficiency	We focus on what matters		Teamwork	We work together, respect each other and make a difference

Factors affecting the business

The Company is responsible for managing the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. Transmission of electricity within specified areas is a monopoly activity and the level of allowed revenue for the use of the system is closely regulated by Ofgem, as is the level of investment which is made.

Against this background, the Company’s objective is to manage the consequences of the change in demand for electricity, changes to the generation mix and to ensure the network has the minimum number of faults and the maximum robustness in the face of severe weather and other supply interruption risks.

Other factors which would affect the longer-term performance of the business would include the macroeconomic situation and impact on the Company’s funding costs, and the performance of the Company and its contractors on delivery of large capital projects. The former is addressed by the Group’s SSEN Transmission related treasury policies to ensure that appropriate funding is available to the business. The latter is addressed by use of the Group’s Large Capital Project (LCP) Governance Framework which is designed to ensure projects are governed, developed, approved and executed in an effective manner. All significant transmission projects are governed by this framework.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Understanding and managing our principal risks

To help ensure the Company is able to provide the energy people need whilst delivering value over the long term, the Group has continued to develop its Risk Management Framework, including its Principal Risks and its Risk Appetite Statement. For further detail on how the Group manages risk see the published SSE Group Risk Report and the Risk Management Frameworks section in the SSE plc Annual Report (www.sse.com).

The Group Risk Management Policy requires the Managing Director of each Business Unit to implement a Divisional Risk Approach to support their business in identifying, understanding and managing its key risks. Each division carries out an annual Assurance Evaluation of its compliance with key Group policies, with the output and any areas of required improvement reported to the Group's Chief Executive and Audit Committee.

The risks faced by the Company have been considered by the Board during the financial year. These have been reviewed in line with the Group's approach to risk. Risk workshops have been attended by the Transmission Executive Committee and Company's Board members during the year in order to aid identification of the risks specific to the business. As a result of this process, the main risks were identified which have the potential to threaten the business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity of the Company. An overview of these risks and the mitigating actions are as follows:

- **Safety, Health and Environment**

The Company's operations are challenging many cases undertaken in hazardous environments and involve working with high voltage electricity in a wide variety of locations. Some of the Company's operations require the storage of a significant volume of fuel, oil and other chemicals, and any uncontrolled release of these could result in injury to the Company's staff, contractors or members of the public and damage to the environment. Safety is the number one value and priority for the Group and Company. Due to the large and increasing volume of construction, operation and maintenance activities on site, the safety, health and environmental practices of staff and contractors could result in an increase in safety incidents and accidents. The Safety, Sustainability, Health and Environment Advisory Committee (SSHEAC) reviews this risk against performance whilst providing support to employees with a significant focus on both technical and behavioural safety training. A dedicated Head of SHE and an Occupational Safety Manager drive a strategy of safety which includes operational safety and occupational health. In addition, crisis management and business continuity plans are in place to manage and recover from any significant events.

- **Climate Change**

The Company recognises the impact that climate change has on its assets and activities. Failure to adapt and react to the unpredictability of climate change may result in widespread disruption to the transmission network in the form of potential loss of supply, power outages and impact the delivery of projects which may lead to regulatory or political pressure in the Company. The Company has many years of experience and expertise in dealing with the impact of adverse weather and global climate change by having in place either Network resilience reviews or Climate Risk Workshops to deal with these events. Contingency planning procedures and documents have been established and widely accessible and appropriate training of staff and coordination between project delivery and operations teams regularly takes place.

- **Large Capital Projects Quality and Delivery**

The Company has a significant investment strategy in place and continues to deliver its capital investment programme with a number of ongoing network construction and IT projects. There is significant planning and development required for RIIO-T3 and the ASTI framework from planning and consenting phase through to project delivery. It is critical that these projects are delivered on time, on budget and to a high standard of quality given the long-term nature of the business. The Company will typically manage the development process and organise the delivery of the project by third party contractors, taking a proactive oversight role during the procurement and construction phase. Whilst this model ensures that the correct skills are leveraged, there is a risk of supplier failure, faulty components, and quality defects. The Group-wide LCP Governance Framework helps to mitigate this risk by ensuring a consistent approach to project development and delivery as well as proactive engagement with the supply chain.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Understanding and managing our principal risks (continued)

- **Political and Regulatory Compliance**

The business continues to be subject to regulatory and legislative demands which are driven by political uncertainty. Changes, either explicit or indirect, can lead to additional obligations and can have a significant effect on the profitability and asset base. Geopolitical events may impact supply chain / procurement, which has potential to disrupt or delay major projects resulting in the Company's Price Control or Net Zero targets not being met. Potential change in the political and regulatory landscape includes, but not limited to, impacts of the UK's exit from the European Union, a second Scottish independence referendum and GB energy policy can materially impact the Company's priorities and requirements. Furthermore, due to the assent of the new Energy Act (2023) there is a risk that resultant industry reform, vesting in the publication of the Transmission Acceleration Action Plan (TAAP), including the Future System Operator (FSO) model and acceleration of early competition models, will result in loss of rights in future investment programme(s). These risks are mitigated by the Company's management and staff along with the Group's dedicated Corporate Affairs, Regulation, Legal and Compliance departments which provide advice to the Company on the interpretation of political and regulatory change. The RIIO-Steering Group and Transmission Executive Committee ensures appropriate consultation with Ofgem. In addition, there is proactive engagement with regulators, politicians, officials and other stakeholders on these issues. The Company also continues to engage with all relevant parties including the EU, Westminster and Holyrood parties as well as Ofgem whilst continuing to serve customers through building, maintaining and operating the electricity network.

- **Network Infrastructure Failure**

The Company has an obligation to maintain network resilience and to mitigate the risk of network failure, outages or impact on the delivery of projects. Failure to manage the network performance, where external factors can affect operability may result in loss of supply, customer dissatisfaction, and reputational damage. A robust asset management process is in place to ensure that equipment is of the correct standard and specification to provide a safe, efficient, and reliable network now and in the future. The Company has in place Network resilience reviews and Climate Risk Workshops to deal with these events along with contingency planning procedures and documents.

- **Cyber Security and Resilience**

With the increased incidence of cyber-attacks over recent years there is a risk to the Company's key systems and, as a result, the network could be compromised or rendered unavailable. There is also a risk that Transmission Operations or the IT upgrades do not deliver on time or are afforded adequate scope for consideration. To mitigate this risk, the Company has a fully developed Cyber Resilience Operational and Information Technology Plan in place approved by Ofgem. The Company continues to invest in a long-term security programme including liaising with relevant external stakeholders, maintaining business continuity plans and disaster recovery sites, and ensuring full staff awareness of operational and IT security issues and their importance through mandatory cyber and GDPR training.

- **Financial Control and Fraud**

The Company continues to manage the risk of exposure to fraud, bribery and corruption. The Company has in place sufficient financial and procurement controls which can support the use of a complex global supply chain. The financial team actively mitigates this risk through the design and implementation of strengthened controls within the business, with mandatory Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Financial Sanction training required of all staff. In addition to this, the Company has a presence on the Group Anti-Financial Crime Steering Group, which involves periodic submissions on Corruption and Anti-Financial crime.

- **Energy Affordability**

The Company has an obligation under the current licence conditions to deliver a significant programme of future works to support network resilience and deliver the net zero pathway to 2030 including RIIO-T3 and ASTI. Due to the scale of capital investment required and pressure to manage gearing, there is a risk that there could be an initial funding shortfall if interim measures are not agreed with the regulator which could result in the need to source alternative funding options.

In addition to extensive engagement with regulators and wider Transmission Owner networks, the structure of the business, management oversight and the governance frameworks in place are designed to ensure that this risk is monitored and mitigated.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Understanding and managing our principal risks (continued)

- **People and Culture**

In order to support a strong business culture which meets the demands of the RIIO-T2 plan and Net Zero strategy, the Company must continue to significantly attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce. In order to mitigate the risk of failing to attract talent, the Company continues to enforce a People Strategy which delivers on highlighting the value in attracting an inclusive and diverse workforce. The People Strategy is reviewed regularly throughout the year to ensure it is fit for purpose. A Sustainable Workforce Strategy has been established and associated Key Performance Indicators to increase diversity and inclusion across teams implemented including the assessment of gender balance and pay gap. Through its continuous management of talent and execution of an effective recruitment strategy, the Company's operating model will continue to achieve high performance whilst maintaining an inclusive culture.

Non-Financial and Sustainability Information Statement (NFSIS)

The Company is exempt from the requirement to produce a NFSIS under the Companies Act 2006, as it is included in the consolidated Group NFSIS available on page 108 of the Group's Annual Report. Under the amendments to sections 414C, 414CA and 414CB of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to Climate-related Financial Disclosure in the Strategic Report, the Company is exempt from making disclosures as it is a 75% owned subsidiary of SSE plc. The consolidated Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) are available on pages 98 to 105 of the Group's 2023/24 Annual Report.

Section 172(1) Statement

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires a director of a company to act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, would most likely promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole. In furtherance of this, section 172 requires a director to have regard amongst other matters, to the:

- likely consequences of any decisions in the long term;
- interests of the Company's employees;
- need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- impact of the Company's operations on the community and environment;
- desirability of the Company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct; and
- need to act fairly between members of the Company.

In discharging their section 172 duties, the Directors of the Company, have regard to the factors set out above. They also have regard to other factors which they consider relevant to the decision being made, for example, the Company's applicable regulatory and legal obligations.

The Directors acknowledge that every decision taken will not necessarily result in a positive outcome for all of the Company's stakeholders.

However, by considering the Company's purpose, vision and values, together with its strategic priorities, and having agreed processes in place for decision-making, they do aim to ensure that decisions are consistent and appropriate in all circumstances. Details of the mechanisms which are in place to assist the Directors in understanding relevant views, including how these have been considered during the year, are set out on pages 10 to 14.

As is normal for large companies, authority for day-to-day management of the Company is delegated to senior management, with the setting and oversight of business strategy and related policies remaining the responsibility of the Directors. The Company's statement on its corporate governance arrangements on page 17 sets out further details of how this is governed within the SSE Group and the Company.

The Company is represented by the Directors on the Transmission Executive Committee which reviews health and safety, financial and operational performance and legal and regulatory compliance at every meeting, in addition to other pertinent areas over the course of the financial year, including: the Company's business strategy; key risks; stakeholder-related matters; diversity and inclusion; environmental matters; corporate responsibility; and governance, compliance and legal matters.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Section 172(1) Statement (continued)

This is done through the consideration and discussion of reports which are sent in advance of each meeting and through presentations to the Transmission Executive Committee. Some decisions are reserved matters for the Group Board of Directors as stipulated within the governance framework for the Company.

Set out below are examples of how the directors have had regards to the matters set out in section 172 (1) (a)-(f) when discharging their section 172 duty and the effect of that on principal decisions taken.

Under the Net Zero Acceleration Programme (NZAP) Plus, the Board approved a doubling of investment from £10bn to £20bn in the Company. This investment in the growth of the transmission network is critical for the Scottish and UK Government to reach their 2030 renewable energy targets and is reflective of the ASTI projects identified by Ofgem. These projects and the existing RIIO-T2 Business Plan impact many stakeholders, from communities to society at large, and it is therefore essential the Company continues to engage widely and share stakeholder feedback with the Board.

The Board reviewed the approach to workforce planning and recruitment, focusing on critical talent and targeted programmes for diversity, pipelines and training. As a result, it provided views on the continued development and the importance of SSE's safety culture to support the pace of required network growth.

The Board considered the requirement to secure supply chain capacity to deliver the identified growth opportunities within the Company, which saw a number of businesses and contractors committing to a new ASTI Delivery Charter. This commits all those working on ASTI projects to a series of key working principles, including leaving a legacy and positive impact in the communities where infrastructure will be hosted.

The Board will continue to monitor the delivery of a price control business plan that protects customers' interests and supports the building of national critical infrastructure, including development with stakeholders, of the business plan for the next price control period under RIIO-T3.

National Grid ESO's Beyond 2030 plan confirms the need for a number of additional projects to proceed now, for delivery by 2035, which combined represent a potential estimated investment of over £5bn for the Company. The Board will review the stakeholder engagement required to ensure an appropriate regulatory framework, secure planning and the required regulatory approvals.

Stakeholder engagement

The Company's stakeholders are people, communities and organisations with an interest or concern in its purpose, strategy, operations, and actions, and who may be affected by them. This includes: communities and civil society, shareholders and debt providers; employees; government and regulators; NGOs (non- governmental organisations); suppliers; contractors and partners; and customers. The perspectives, insights and opinions of stakeholders are recognised as a key factor in the relevant operational, investment and business decisions taken by the Company and its Directors, to ensure that as a whole they are more robust and sustainable.

While there are cases where the Directors may judge it appropriate to engage directly with certain stakeholder groups, the size and spread of both the Company's stakeholders and those of the SSE Group, of which the Company sits within, means that stakeholder engagement takes place at many different levels. This includes at SSE Group level, business unit level, company level and operational level. This holistic approach allows a broader representation and deeper understanding of all stakeholder views and contributes towards a greater outcome for business, environmental, social and governance matters than by working in isolation.

There is increasing recognition of the role that business can and should be playing in addressing customer, societal, environmental, and economic issues. As a stakeholder-led business, the Company strives to meet the needs of stakeholders through collaboration, advocacy, and engagement as part of the pathway to Net Zero.

While its first priority is to safely deliver a robust, efficient and reliable network to customers in the north of Scotland, the Company also has a responsibility to customers, employees, communities and shareholders to ensure this essential service is met in the most responsible way possible.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Stakeholder engagement (continued)

The Company continues to adapt and seek improved opportunities with stakeholders. The Company has achieved another year of top-tier rating of “Advanced” in AccountAbility’s Stakeholder Engagement Maturity Ladder demonstrating the continuous commitment and improvement to stakeholder engagement practice.

The Company continues to adapt and seek improved engagement opportunities with customers, suppliers and other key stakeholders. In doing so, the Company also adheres to the Group’s wider stakeholder engagement strategy. For more information regarding the Group’s approach to stakeholder engagement, please see the 2023/24 Annual Report available at www.sse.com.

Employees

The Group and the Company works hard embedding its healthy workplace culture where all employees are treated with fairness and respect. The Group and the Company’s strategy includes being a great place to work providing an inclusive, fulfilling and high-performing workplace. This means maintaining a healthy business culture, adopting a responsible approach to employee relations, providing attractive employee benefits and enabling people to develop their careers.

Safety and wellbeing remain at the heart of the Group and the Company’s culture and is ingrained in the way business is conducted. Safety is the Group and the Company’s number one value with the objective that ‘everyone gets home safe’. The Group and Company continue to prioritise safety and health through immersive safety training programmes combined with the Health Hub programme.

The Group and Company has emphasised the importance of an equal focus between mental and physical health, with initiatives including mental health and wellbeing programmes and training of Mental Health First Aiders.

The innovative solutions required to deliver net zero need a workforce with diverse perspectives, different experiences, and new skills. The Group and the Company continue to place emphasis on inclusion and diversity, recognising that this is an essential driver in delivering strategic growth in a way that is fair and affordable.

The Group and the Company have a range of employment policies which clearly detail the standards, processes, expectations and responsibilities of its people and the organisation. These policies were in place for the duration of the year, and are designed to ensure that everyone, including those with existing or new disabilities and people of all backgrounds, are dealt with in an inclusive and fair way from the recruiting process on through their career. This includes access to appropriate training, development opportunities and job progression. Further details of this approach can be found on pages 38 to 45 of the 2023/24 SSE plc Annual Report available at www.sse.com.

Rewarding employee contribution

Employees at all levels within the Group and the Company are measured against the Performance Edge framework. This is designed to equip employees to focus on the delivery of the Group and the Company’s strategic priorities through agile conversations and continuous learning, feedback, and coaching. Employees also receive formal bi-annual performance reviews designed to provide feedback to employees as well as provide structured career conversations around opportunities for personal and professional development. The Group’s well-established approach to performance management has a structured framework which assesses employee performance against individual agreed objectives as well as alignment to the core values of Safety, Service, Efficiency, Sustainability, Excellence and Teamwork (SSE SET).

The Group and Company offer a wide range of employee benefits. As well as contractual benefits determined by factors such as contribution and length of service, including a company car/allowance and private medical insurance, the Group and the Company offers a comprehensive suite of non-contractual voluntary benefits to all employees. The Company also offers all-employee flexible working arrangements, share plans, 21 weeks of fully paid maternity leave, health benefits, gym membership, childcare vouchers, a holiday purchase scheme, cycle-to-work schemes, salary sacrifice, low emissions car scheme, and technology loans.

Employee participation

The Group and the Company’s long-established teamwork value has been an enduring value that guides employees in their day-to-day working lives. A key way to measure how healthy a business culture is, is through listening to employee feedback. Through this, the Group and the Company can take appropriate action to improve employee experience where possible.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Stakeholder engagement (continued)

Employee participation (continued)

The Group undertakes an in-depth all employee survey every two years and a shorter 'pulse' survey on alternate years. The annual all-employee survey ran by the Group returned an engagement score of 85% (2023: 84%). The Company had a 98% response rate for the 2024 survey and an engagement score of 89% (2023: 88%) in the pulse survey. Three core themes were identified from the 2024 survey: Strategic engagement, Cultural engagement and Ways of working. The Group and the Company continues to develop action plans to prioritise enhanced engagement across these areas.

The Group and the Company has continued to use virtual engagement platforms to connect with a larger audience and this has remained a key part of the engagement strategy providing simultaneous access to a diverse audience of roles and locations.

The adoption of a diverse range of listening channels continues to support the principle that everyone in the Group and the Company should have a voice and is consistent with employee feedback surrounding the benefit of multiple platforms through which to raise areas of interest or concern. In turn, it supports the Board in gathering a fair and representative view of the issues which are important to employees and builds an appreciation of how these may differ by geography, business area, role, and individual circumstances.

Exit surveys aligned to the Group and the Company's overall approach to gathering employee engagement insights through its employee engagement survey, allows a comparison of top/bottom scoring answers for ex-employee sentiment. The results enable the Group and the Company to gather meaningful and robust insights into why employees leave, and to inform actions which aim to improve the employee experience.

The views of Company employees, as gathered through the Group survey, are reviewed at business unit level by the Transmission Executive Committee. This data is supplemented by monthly KPIs, tailored business unit led engagement and the work of the Group's dedicated non-Executive Director for Employee Engagement, who provides feedback to the Managing Director of each business unit following relevant engagement. People strategies and action plans to address employee views are developed and overseen by the Transmission Executive Committee and the Directors in response to feedback received.

Customers

The Company has a well-established customer engagement channel to ensure the perspectives of all customers are considered. A significant part of the Company's engagement with the government and the regulator relates to the maintenance and development of reliable and sustainable electricity networks for the benefit of customers, whilst also delivering value for money. Material considerations include adaptation to industry change, ensuring affordability and accessibility of energy as well as providing a quality customer service.

The Company's comprehensive engagement approach to strategic planning is demonstrated by the positive influence this had on the careful balancing of consumer interests to the creation of local flexible electricity grids that engage all users. The Directors continue to monitor overall business direction and customer performance to ensure delivery of an appropriate level of service and investment.

Suppliers, contractors and partners

Fostering healthy reciprocal relationships helps the Company to make sure it achieves the greatest all-round value from its investments and activities. The Company continues to work closely with suppliers to ensure its values on issues such as environmental protection, safety and modern slavery are upheld throughout its supply chain. As the Company integrates climate action alongside its core business strategy and operations, the Company recognises that a key stakeholder in reaching its objectives are its suppliers.

The Company considers the principles of sustainable procurement as a vital tool in managing risks, maximising opportunities, assessing value and monitoring performance, while enabling stronger relationships with its supply partners. During the year, the Company launched its new Delivery Charter to encourage collaborative work with supply chain partners to achieve joint sustainability ambitions and continues to adopt an approach through effective leadership to collaborate with stakeholders along the supply chain to accelerate ambitions towards its sustainability goals and values.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Stakeholder engagement (continued)

Suppliers, contractors and partners (continued)

To ensure that there has been adequate engagement in fostering the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and other relevant parties', representations are made on a regular basis at business unit level by business partners which represent the areas of Procurement, Corporate Affairs and Legal within the Company.

Such representations are designed to inform the Directors of the current nature of the relationship, the strategic significance that the relationship offers to support the delivering transmission network growth and the prospects or issues associated with the continued fostering of the relationship.

To ensure high operational standards, onsite training is held for contractors and quality, and health and safety audits are undertaken by the Group. Given the rise in contractor hours worked associated with the Company's increase and growth in capital investment, focus was made on contractor safety on large capital projects to improve and reduce the severity of incidents. Contractor safety remains an area of key focus as the Group and the Company works to ensure it gets everyone home safe as it embarks on an increased level and pace of project activity.

The Company does not have any energy supply contracts with Russian counterparties, nor will the Company seek Russian counterparty agreements in light of the Ukraine conflict.

Government and regulators

During 2023/24, the Company continued to extensively liaise with government and regulatory officials, responding to all material regulatory consultations. The Company continues to take an active role in the development of regulations and policies which impact upon the Company and its customers.

At a time of widespread political consensus on the need to speed up deployment of large-scale clean energy infrastructure, the Group regularly engages with the UK and Irish governments on delivering its NZAP Plus investment programme. In the UK, the Company has continued to engage stakeholders across the political spectrum on the steps needed to bolster energy security, create green jobs and meet climate goals. The Group have published a set of policy proposals in a document titled, From Ambition to Action: A delivery plan for cleaner, homegrown energy, which provided the foundation for the Group's political advocacy over the past year. The Group has established a reputation as a clean energy champion and a trusted voice amongst political stakeholders.

As part of RIIO-T2, which sets out the price control for 5 years starting from April 2021, the Company engaged extensively with stakeholders following the co-creation of the business plan: A Network for Net Zero. The Directors continue to monitor engagement activity and responses to regulators to ensure that strategic, financial, investment and operating frameworks remain aligned to the external landscape. The Company will continue to engage with stakeholders as part of the RIIO-T3 business plan.

Communities

The Company places safe delivery of an efficient and reliable network at the core of its priorities. However, it is vital to recognise the importance of effective engagement with communities as the Company's transformational infrastructure roll-out progresses. The Company is working closely with impacted communities and other local stakeholders to ensure their views are heard and factored into decision making.

The Company's Pathway to 2030 programme represents the largest investment programme in the north of Scotland grid since the 1950s and is critical to meet UK and Scottish climate targets. The Company aims to ensure this scale of investment creates lasting, meaningful benefits for the local communities in the region.

As part of this work, the Company announced in December 2023, that it will create long-term, skilled, green employment opportunities across the region with the recruitment of 400 new employees over 2024. It also announced plans to develop a housing strategy, with a commitment to deliver 200 new homes across the north of Scotland which, following completion of the projects, will support local housing requirements. Further benefits will include the establishment of a Community Benefit Fund for communities in the north of Scotland, which is expected to be worth in excess of £100m over its lifetime subject to UK Government guidance, and money off bills for those located closest to new infrastructure.

These initiatives, alongside placing multi-million-pound contracts with local supply chain partners, will create billions of economic value for Scotland.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Stakeholder engagement (continued)

Environment

The Group and the Company continue to step up their efforts in supporting the UK and Scottish Government in achieving global climate goals. With renewable energy being a key aspect in driving a low carbon economy, the Company seeks opportunities in improved engagement with third parties that have similar goals in sustainability. The nature of the Company's activities means it has significant interactions with some of the richest and remote environments in the north of Scotland.

Biodiversity net gain efforts are constantly incorporated throughout the Company's operations. The Company conducts full environmental impact assessments and engages with species protection plans and voluntary work to ensure optimal development of projects that consider the environment and all other stakeholders. To ensure a positive environmental legacy is left in the communities that host transmission infrastructure, and support delivery of the Scottish Government's Biodiversity Strategy, the Company has an ongoing commitment to continually monitor and develop best practice to ensure ambitions best reflect the gravity of the escalating nature challenge.

The Company's key focus is to efficiently deliver additional connections to renewable energy generation, primarily through the implementation of the RIIO-T2 plan to deliver a Network for Net Zero. Understanding the evolution and emergence of new technologies that significantly impact changes in generation, alongside monitoring developments in the electrification of heat and transport is imperative in the process of providing customers excellent service through a reliable network whilst meeting climate targets. These measures, alongside working with robust policies, prove that the Company remains resilient in achieving net zero carbon emissions. The environmental impact has also been considered for RIIO-T3 and other investment programmes such as ASTI and LOTI.

Moving forward with the Group's strengthened 2030 business goals, the Company believes that its efforts in contributing towards the Group's goals of cutting carbon intensity by 80%, increasing renewable energy output by five times, enabling low-carbon generation and demand as well as championing a fair and just energy transition will benefit its stakeholders, society, the environment and the economy in the long run whilst accelerating Net Zero targets. More information on the Group's approach to managing environmental impact can be found in the 2023/24 Annual Report, available at www.sse.com.

The Company's Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting ('SECR') requirements is assessed within the consolidated disclosures of the Group which is available on pages 49 and 106 of the Group's 2023/24 Annual Report.

Internal control

The Group's Audit Committee oversees and reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal control annually across the Group. This covers all material controls including financial, operational and compliance, as well as the financial reporting process.

Throughout the year, the Committee received updates on areas of financial controls, fraud risk effectiveness, cyber security and IT resilience and ethics and compliance.

The Committee oversaw the design and implementation of a controls programme to assess and strengthen the financial reporting control framework which is aligned to the regulatory reform in the UK that will apply to the Company's financial year ending 31 March 2027. This involved establishing a process to update, monitor and report on the control framework and creating a Controls Centre of Excellence to lead on maintaining the controls environment. Transition to this model began on 1 April 2024.

The Committee monitored and assessed the key controls, risks and mitigations in place relating to cyber security and resilience. The Committee recognised this as an important area for SSE due to ongoing geopolitical instability and regulatory changes. The Committee was pleased with the progress made by the Cyber team to create a strong culture and the embedding of a cyber controls framework to allow the identification of cyber threats and help reduce exposures.

During the year, the Committee endorsed several improvements to the engagement and reporting of risks to the Board. These include an annual horizon scanning session facilitated by Group Risk and Group Strategy, and the inclusion of enhanced risk content in Board papers. For details on SSE's Risk Management, see pages 86 to 95 of the Group's 2023/24 Annual Report.

Considering continuous improvement actions, the Board also confirms that no significant failings or weaknesses have been identified during the financial year. Processes are in place to ensure that necessary action is taken and progress is monitored where areas for improvement have been identified.

The Directors of the Company acknowledge that they have responsibility for the Company's systems of internal control and risk management and for monitoring their effectiveness.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Internal control (continued)

The purpose of these systems is to manage, rather than eliminate, the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and provide reasonable assurance as to the quality of management information and to maintain proper control over the income, expenditure, assets, and liabilities of the Company.

No system of control can, however, provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. Accordingly, the Directors have regard to what controls, in their judgement, are appropriate to the Company's business, to the materiality of the risks inherent in the business, and to the relative costs and benefits of implementing specific controls. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board and has been in place for the whole year.

Key contractual arrangements

The Directors consider the Service Level Agreement between the Company and SSE Services plc for the provision of corporate services to be essential for the continuance of the Company's operations in the short-to-medium term. Due to the fact that it is provided by a fellow subsidiary of the Group, the risk of this contract being terminated is low.

The Company enters into a number of contracts for construction and delivery of major projects. Appropriate terms have been included within these contracts to ensure that the services provided and the costs charged are clearly agreed.

However, the nature of these projects is such that there is no monopoly on provision of the required services, and the Directors believe that effective operation of a competitive process has enabled efficiency savings on capital and operational delivery in line with the Company's strategy for shareholders and stakeholders.

Operational resources available

The Company has 1,701 employees which it calls on to maintain its transmission network and carry out investment in future developments. The Company continues to draw upon certain Group shared services covering central functions such as finance, HR, regulation, health and safety, company secretarial and insurance services. All such services are provided under an appropriate Service Level Agreement.

In addition to these employees, the services of key contractors are called upon in a number of large capital projects to ensure that these projects are delivered on time and on budget.

Capital structure

The Company regards its capital as comprising its equity, cash and borrowings. Its objective in managing capital is to maintain a strong balance sheet and credit rating to maintain investor, creditor and market confidence and to sustain future development of the business.

Treasury policy, objectives and financial risk management

The Group's treasury policy is designed to be prudent and flexible. Following the divestment by the Group of a 25% stake in the Company, the Company is no longer underwritten by SSE plc and has adopted a tailored but materially identical Treasury policy to the Group. In line with that, cash from operations is first used to finance regulatory and maintenance capital expenditure and then dividend payments, with capital and investment expenditure for growth generally financed by a combination of cash from operations; bank borrowings and bond issuance. Exposure to currency and interest rate risk arises in the normal course of the Company's business. Derivative financial instruments are entered into to hedge exposure to these risks.

The objectives and policies for holding or issuing financial instruments and similar contracts, and the strategies for achieving those objectives that have been followed during the year are explained in note 18.

The Company's financial risk is managed as part of the wider Group risk management policy. For more information regarding the Group's approach to financial risk management, please see the 2023/24 Annual Report available at www.sse.com.

Liquidity, borrowings and financial resources available

The Group's Treasury function acts on behalf of the Company and is responsible for managing the banking and liquidity requirements of the Company, risk management relating to interest rate and foreign exchange exposures and managing the credit risk relating to the banking counterparties with which it transacts.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Liquidity, borrowings and financial resources available (continued)

Short term liquidity is reviewed daily by Treasury, while the longer term liquidity and funding position is reviewed on a regular basis by the Transmission Executive Committee and by the SSE plc Board. The Treasury department's operations are governed by policies determined by the Board and any breaches of these policies are reported to the Tax and Treasury Committee and Group Audit Committee.

The Group sold a 25% non-controlling interest stake in the Company to OTPP in November 2022. The divestment meant OTPP bought into their share of the Company's external debt with the outstanding inter-company loan stocks remaining in place with SSE plc. These loan stocks will be refinanced on maturity with external debt and all new debt will be funded on an external basis using the £750m committed bank facility and other debt markets including GBP, Euro bond markets and private placements. The £750m (2023: £750m) revolving credit facility has a November 2026 maturity date. As at 31 March 2024, £750m was remaining of the facility for future funding requirements.

Recognising investor demand for debt used to fund sustainable assets, the Company issued a 20 year £500m green bond at a fixed coupon of 5.5% with an all-in funding cost of 5.6% once fees have been included in January 2024. As at 31 March 2024, the Company has loans of £2,868.0m (2023: £2,524.8m) of which £780.0m (2023: £780.0m) is due to the Group, £399.9m (2023: £449.9m) is in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank, £1,338.1m (2023: £844.9m) which is in the form of fixed rate Eurobonds and £350.0m (2023: £350.0m) which is a US Private Placement Loan. The Company entered a three-year £750.0m Revolving Credit Facility in November 2022, which includes two one-year optional extensions with the first year's option exercised in September 2023. The £750m facility is classified as a sustainable facility with interest rate and fees paid dependant on four ESG-related KPI's being achieved. As at 31 March 2024, the facility was undrawn (2023: £100.0m). Interest is paid at fixed interest rates on £2,768.0m (2023: £2,324.8m) with the interest paid at floating rates on a £100.0m (2023: £100.0m) loan from the European Investment Bank, as well as the revolving credit facility, however the balance was £nil as at 31st March 2024 (2023: £100.0m).

As at 31 March 2024, the weighted average interest rate payable was 3.22% (2023: 2.79%) and the weighted average remaining term was 8.33 years (2023: 6.52 years).

Taxation

The headline effective tax rate, which includes the impact of substantively enacted changes in the UK corporation tax rate, is 25.5% compared with 22.5% in the previous year. The increase in rate is primarily as a result of the increase in UK corporation tax rate from 19% to 25% from 1 April 2023.

Dividend

The Directors did not declare a dividend in the year (2023: £nil).

Pensions

1% (2023: 2%) of employees of the Company are members of the Scottish Hydro-Electric Pension Scheme, which, at 31 March 2024, based on an IAS 19 accounting basis, had a surplus included in the Group financial statements, net of deferred tax, of £254.5m (2023: £275.0m). Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

On behalf of the board



Maz Alkirwi (Jul 30, 2024 21:17 GMT+1)

Maz Alkirwi
Director
30 July 2024

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Corporate Governance Statement

As a subsidiary company of the Group, the corporate governance arrangements which apply to the Company are defined by SSE's Group Governance Framework. This is set out on pages 114 and 120 of the SSE plc Annual Report 2024, with the Company being part of the Group.

The Group Governance Framework is reflective of the Principles and Provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code (the Code) which apply to the parent company, SSE plc. It defines the delegation of authority and accountability within the Group, enables review and challenge of management performance, is a pillar of SSE's System of Internal Control, and supports the processes by which principal and emerging risks are identified and managed. The Directors of the Company discharge their duties in line with the governance standards and processes agreed at Group level.

The Company itself does not have listed shares and therefore is not subject to the Code. It has not voluntarily applied the Code nor another publicly available corporate governance code and has instead operated within the Group Governance Framework described above and below.

The Group's approach to corporate governance and compliance with the Code can be found in the Directors' Report within the SSE plc Annual Report and Accounts 2024 at www.sse.com/reportsandresults.

SSE plc Group ("the Group")

The Group's core purpose is to provide energy needed today, while building a better world of energy for tomorrow. Its vision is to be a leading energy company in a net-zero world and its strategy is to create value for shareholders and society in a sustainable way by developing, building, operating and investing in the electricity infrastructure and businesses needed in the transition to net zero. All of which are underpinned by SSE's core values: Safety, Service, Efficiency, Sustainability, Excellence and Teamwork; that are designed to guide decisions and actions within SSE and contribute to the overall culture.

The above matters are reserved for, and set by, the Group Board, who ensures that purpose, strategy, values and culture are aligned. Subsequent implementation is a responsibility of the SSE Group Executive Committee. Each business unit, and in turn, subsidiary Company and its Directors, is further accountable to executive management and ultimately the Group Board, for executing supporting business strategies within agreed Group parameters and promoting the desired culture. The Directors therefore set the strategic aims of the Company, supervise management, monitor and report on performance, approve investment within delegated levels and are responsible for all statutory and regulatory approvals. These responsibilities are set out in agreed Terms of Reference.

More on the Company's strategy and business objectives can be found from page 2 of the Strategic Report.

More on the Group's strategy can be found from pages 8 to 13 of the SSE plc Annual Report 2024 and more on culture can be found on page 127.

There are five principal Board committees: a Nomination Committee, an Audit Committee, an Energy Markets Risk Committee, a Safety, Sustainability, Health and Environment Advisory Committee, and a Remuneration Committee. Full details of the role of each Committee, membership and work undertaken during 2023/24 is set out in the published annual report of the Group, which is available at www.sse.com.

A number of successful transitions in the Group Board membership were made across the year, which followed on from succession planning and Board recruitment work in 2022/23. Barry O'Regan was appointed as Chief Financial Officer on 1 December 2023, when Gregor Alexander retired from the role of Finance Director.

Maarten Wetselaar joined as a new non-Executive Director on 1 September 2023. Liz Tanner became Company Secretary in addition to her role as Group General Counsel on 1 August 2023 upon the retirement of Sally Fairbairn as Company Secretary and Director of Investor Relations. Helen Mahy assumed the role of Senior Independent Director on 1 November 2023. Peter Lynas stepped down from the Board on 20 July 2023.

Within the Group Board Committees, John Bason became Audit Committee Chair on 21 July 2023 and Melanie Smith became Remuneration Committee Chair on 1 April 2023. Both positions have been supported by a comprehensive induction and handover process.

The Group Board now comprises the Chairman, three Executive Directors, a Senior Independent Director and seven independent non-Executive Directors. This gives the Group Board a good balance of independence and experience, ensuring that no one individual or group of individuals has undue influence over the Group Board's decision making.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Corporate Governance Statement (continued)

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (“the Company”)

The following comments on the arrangements for the Company.

Board of Directors

As at 31 March 2024, the Company Board comprised of two Executive Directors and seven Non-Executive Directors one of whom is the Chair of the Company Board. None of the Directors are Directors of Group Companies involved in Retail or Wholesale activities. Two of the Non-Executive Directors of the Company Board during the course of the financial year were Sufficiently Independent Non-Executive Directors as required under the terms of Standard Condition B22 of the Company’s regulatory licence. The Directors believe that the Company Board is an appropriate size and has a good balance of independence and experience, ensuring that no one individual or group of individuals has undue influence over the Company Board’s decision making.

The Executive Directors are experienced senior business leaders and are deemed to possess the appropriate breadth of knowledge and expertise to discharge their role effectively. The Non-Executive Directors provide an appropriate degree of independent judgement and challenge to ensure balanced and fair decision-making and outcomes. The operation and effectiveness of the Company Board is the ultimate responsibility of the Chair, who is supported in their role by the Company Secretary. Agreed procedures are in place to manage and mitigate actual or potential conflicts of interest with Company Board or Company business.

The Company Board does not have a supporting Nomination, Remuneration or Audit Committee. These functions are dealt with, where required, in conjunction with the relevant committee of the Group Board.

SSE has a Group-wide inclusion and diversity strategy including self-led gender ambitions, details of which can be found on pages 44 and 45 of the SSE plc 2024 Annual Report. Any changes and appointments to the Company Board consider both SSE’s approach to inclusion and diversity and the desire to have a Company Board which is balanced overall and supports the Company’s needs.

Those charged with governance met eight times during the year. Individual Director attendance is set out below.

Director	Attendance
Gregor Alexander (Non-Executive Director) (Chairman)	8/8
Rob McDonald	8/8
Maz Alkirwi	8/8
Charlotte Brunning (Non-Executive Director)	8/8
Charles Thomazi (Non-Executive Director)	7/8
Ronald Fleming (Non-Executive Director)	8/8
Rachel McEwen (Non-Executive Director)	8/8
Laura Sandys (Independent Non-Executive Director)	8/8
Gary Steel (Independent Non-Executive Director)	8/8
Mark McLaughlin (Company Secretary)	8/8

Board effectiveness

On appointment all Directors receive induction to the Group and Company Board and briefings on areas pertinent to their role such as a Director’s legal duties. The ongoing effectiveness of the Board is supported by performance evaluation and a commitment to personal development and training by each Director.

Regular Board evaluation is facilitated by the Company Secretary, through which the Director’s reflect upon, and agree, areas for improvement based on an objective assessment of the Board’s operations. Following such assessments, actions are implemented and tracked in advance of further performance evaluations in 2024/25.

Opportunity, risk, and internal control

The long-term sustainable success of the Company, including the opportunities and risks to this, are explicitly considered by the Directors and within strategic decision making. Further details can be found throughout the Strategic Report.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Corporate Governance Statement (continued)

Remuneration

The Remuneration of the Director's is set in line with overall SSE Group policy and further information can be found in note 4.

Stakeholder relationships and engagement

Details of the Company's stakeholders and the associated engagement which takes place can be found throughout the Strategic Report.

Going concern

The Directors consider that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the period to 31 July 2025. The financial statements are therefore prepared on a going concern basis.

In reaching their conclusion, the Directors have reviewed the financial resources in place and the financial strength of the Company against the current economic climate. The Directors have also considered the future financial plans of the Company, including consideration of cashflow and profit forecast under stressed scenarios for the period to 31 July 2025, which is at least 12 months from the approval of the Company's financial statements.

The Company had undrawn committed banking facilities of £750m Credit Facility; a \$300m private placement facility with New York Life and a cash surplus balance of £128.9m as at 31 March 2024. During the year, the Company's internal approach to managing liquidity was to seek to ensure that the Company had available committed borrowings and facilities equal to at least 105% of forecast borrowings over a rolling 6 month period. The Company uses cash flow forecasts to monitor its ongoing borrowing requirements.

The Going Concern conclusion is arrived at after applying severe but plausible downside stress testing sensitivities to the Company's cash flow and funding projections. These sensitivities include no additional external funding being secured and a further contingency against operating cash flow performance, offset by mitigating actions such as reducing uncommitted capital expenditure. The Directors have taken into account the Company's credit rating and the successful issuance of £1.7bn of medium to long term debt over the past four years and the Company's strong investment grade credit rating. The Company has a strong track record of obtaining new committed facilities in the form of the £750m committed Revolving Credit Facility and \$300m Private Placement facility with New York Life. Through successful debt issuances, the Company has shown its ability to access capital markets even during the most difficult of market conditions.

The Company has considered the current market conditions; the Group's credit rating and the assumption that the Company will be able to refinance maturing debt. The Company has also considered its obligations under its debt covenants. There have been no breaches of covenant in the year and the Company's projection supports the expectation that there will be no breaches of covenant over the period to 31 July 2025, even under the severe but plausible downside stress testing.

The refinancing requirement in 2024/25 financial reporting period is £300m being the fixed rate loan that matures in March 2025. The Directors are confident in the ability of the Company to maintain a funding level above 105% for the going concern assessment period based on the strong credit standing and borrowing history of the Company.

Even under a scenario of a more challenging market environment, including the unlikely event of not being able to access debt funding markets or otherwise refinance as required, the Directors are satisfied that the Company has sufficient liquidity available to allow obligations to be met with mitigants and options available to the Company to maintain sufficient headroom to continue as a going concern through any severe but plausible downside scenario for the period to 31 July 2025.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Corporate Governance Statement (continued)

Viability Statement

The Board has voluntarily carried out an assessment of the longer-term viability of the Company consistent with the assessment and governance approach undertaken at Group level by SSE plc.

In doing so, the Board has assessed the prospects of the Company over the next 4 financial years to 31 March 2028. The Directors have determined that as this time horizon aligns with the Company's capital programme and is within the strategy planning period, a greater degree of confidence over the forecasting assumptions modelled can be established.

This statement is included solely for information.

In making this statement the Directors have considered the resilience of the Company taking into account its current position, Principal Risks it faces and the control measures in place to mitigate each of them.

In particular, the Directors recognise the significance of the Company's regulated revenue stream, strong balance sheet and access to available resources including the SSE Group's SSEN Transmission committed lending facilities consisting of a £750m Revolving Credit Facility (fully undrawn as of 31 March 2024) plus a £244m private placement facility with New York Life.

To support this statement, over the course of the year a suite of severe but plausible scenarios has been developed for each of the Principal Risks facing the Company and stress testing has been undertaken against available forecast financial headroom.

Examples include failure of critical network assets, interruptions to the delivery of large capital projects leading to significant overspend, and cyber security attack leading to failure of IT systems.

Upon the basis of the analysis undertaken, and on the assumption that the fundamental regulatory and statutory framework in which the Company operates does not substantively change, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due in the period to 31 March 2028.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Directors' Report

The Directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reporting requirements on the Company's principal activities and future developments, its principal risks and uncertainties and its key performance can be found in the Strategic Report.

1 Principal activities

The Company is part of SSE plc (the 'Group') and the key responsibility of the Group's Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) businesses, including the Company, is to maintain safe and reliable supplies of electricity and to restore supplies as quickly as possible in the event of interruptions. The Directors intend the Company to pursue its principal activity of the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland. A full review of the year including the Company's future developments is contained within the Strategic Report section of these financial statements.

2 Results and dividends

The profit for the financial year amounted to £395.6m (2023: £277.3m). The Board did not declare or pay a dividend during the current or prior year.

3 Directors

The Directors and Secretary who served during the year are listed on page 1. In accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company the Directors are not required to retire by rotation.

4 Indemnification of Directors and insurance

The Directors have the benefit of an indemnity provision contained in the Company's Articles of Association. In addition, the Directors have been granted a qualifying third-party indemnity provision which was in force throughout the financial year and remains in force. Also, throughout the financial year, the Company purchased and maintained Directors' and Officers' liability insurance in respect of itself and for its Directors and Officers.

5 Political donations and expenditure

The Company operates on a politically neutral basis and does not make any donations to political parties, political organisations or independent election candidates. During the year, no political expenditure was incurred and no political donations were made by the Company.

6 Corporate governance

The Corporate Governance Statement for the Company is outlined on page 17.

7 Accounting policies, financial instruments and risk

Details of the Company's policies with regard to financial instruments and risk, are provided in Note 18 to the financial statements.

8 Research and development

The Company is involved in a range of innovative projects and programmes which are designed to progressively transform the energy system. A number of these projects and programmes are referred to in the Strategic Report in pages 2 to 16.

9 Employment of disabled people

The Company has a range of employment policies which clearly detail the standards, processes, expectations and responsibilities of its people and the organisation. These policies were in place for the duration of the year, and are designed to ensure that everyone, including those with existing or new disabilities and people of all backgrounds, are dealt with in an inclusive and fair way from the recruitment process on through their career. This includes access to appropriate training, development opportunities and job progression.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc


Directors' Report (continued)

10 Auditor

Each of the Directors who held office at the date of approval of this Directors' Report confirms that, so far as each Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's Auditors are unaware and each Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken in his or her duty as a Director to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's Auditors are aware of that information.

The Directors have appointed Ernst & Young LLP as auditors of the Company in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board:



Mark McLaughlin (Jul 30, 2024 17:59 GMT+1)

Mark McLaughlin
Company Secretary
30 July 2024

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual 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 they have elected to prepare the Financial Statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including 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 its profit or loss for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies in accordance with IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable, relevant and reliable;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements of FRS 101 is insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the Company's financial position and financial performance;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards, including FRS 101, 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 its 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, Directors' Report, and Corporate Governance Statement that complies with that law and those regulations.

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

Responsibility statement of the Directors in respect of the annual financial report

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with the applicable set of accounting standards, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company; and
- the Strategic Report/Directors' Report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the issuer, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face.

We consider the Annual report and financial statements to be fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for users to assess the Company's position and performance.

On behalf of the Board:



Maz Alkirwi (Jul 30, 2024 21:17 GMT+1)

Maz Alkirwi
Director
30 July 2024

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, Balance Sheet, Statement of Change in Equity, Cash flow Statement and the related notes 1 to 23, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)".

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its 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 UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to listed public interest entities, 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 evaluation of the directors' assessment of the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included the following procedures:

- We confirmed our understanding of management's going concern process;
- We obtained board approved cashflow forecasts, covenant forecast and sensitivities prepared by management for the Company to 31 July 2025 (the 'going concern period'). We tested the arithmetical accuracy of the models;
- We assessed the reasonableness of the cashflow forecast by analysing management's historical forecasting accuracy. We also ensured climate change considerations were factored into future cash flows, including the impact of adverse weather events;
- We validated the cash and borrowing positions at 31 March 2024 to external confirmations;
- We performed reverse stress testing on management's forecasts to understand how severe the downside scenarios would need to be to result in negative liquidity or a covenant breach and how plausible the scenarios were. The EY assessment included consideration of all maturing debt through to 31 December 2025;
- We reviewed management's assessment of mitigating options potentially available to the company to reduce cash flow spend in the Going Concern period, to determine their plausibility and whether such actions could be implemented by management. We have obtained support to determine whether these mitigations were within the control of management and evaluated the impact of these in light of our understanding of the business and its cost structures;
- We reviewed the borrowing facility agreements to assess their continued availability to the Company and to ensure completeness of covenants;
- We reviewed market data for indicators of contradictory evidence to challenge the Going Concern assessment, including review of profit warnings within the sector and review of industry analyst reports; and
- We considered whether management's disclosures in the financial statements sufficiently and appropriately reflect the going concern assessment and outcomes.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Our key observations

The Company is forecast to continue to be profitable during the going concern period. The Company has planned significant capital expenditure in the going concern period, for which additional funding is expected. The Company has a history of raising external financing to fund its capital programme, which includes securing two further private placements for a total of £141.3m subsequent to the year end date as disclosed in note 22 to the financial statements.

The reverse stress testing performed indicated that the Company would need to be exposed to severe downside events impacting profitability and cash flows in order to breach liquidity and covenants.

As part of their assessment, the Directors identified a severe but plausible downside scenario as described in note 1. We consider such a scenario to be highly unlikely, however, in unlikely events, including the business not performing in line with budget, management consider that the impact can be mitigated by further cash and cost saving measures, which are within their control, or through external fund raising, or a combination of both during the going concern period.

The Company's principal sources of funding (the revolving credit facility and private placement) extend beyond the going concern period, with the £750m revolving credit facility currently maturing in November 2026 (although it has a 1-year extension option which could take the maturity out to November 2027) and the £244m private placement facility maturing in March 2026, which can be drawn in approximately two equal tranches 12 months apart.

Having considered the severe downside and reverse stress test scenarios, we have not identified a plausible scenario where the Company would be unable to maintain cash flow liquidity and covenant compliance during the going concern period. We found the capital commitments in the cash flow forecasts to be reflective of the spend to come, including the Company's commitments as part of the SSE plc group wide NZAP Plus programme.

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 to 31 July 2025.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Overview of our audit approach

Key audit matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carrying value of PP&E, specifically risks around incorrect cost capitalisation.• Management override of controls, specifically around revenue recognition.
Materiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall materiality of £29.6m which represents 0.5% of profit Total Assets.

An overview of the scope of our audit

Tailoring the scope

Our assessment of audit risk, our evaluation of materiality and our allocation of performance materiality determine our audit scope for the company. This enables us to form an opinion on the financial statements. We take into account size, risk profile, the organisation of the company and effectiveness of controls, the potential impact of climate change and changes in the business environment when assessing the level of work to be performed. All audit work was performed directly by the audit engagement team.

Changes from the prior year

There were no significant changes to the scope of our audit from the prior year.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Climate change

There has been increasing interest from stakeholders as to how climate change will impact Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. The energy sector has a critical role to play in decarbonisation, by removing carbon from electricity which in turn will support other sectors. The Company operates solely within the UK which is seeking to achieve net zero by 2050. The UK Government's Net Zero Strategy outlines plans to decarbonise the UK's power system by 2035.

The Company's long-term net zero ambitions are supported by a series of interim targets which are included in the RIIO-T2 and RIIO-T3 business plan as referenced in the Strategic Report (page 3 to 5).

During the year, the wider SSE plc group has continued to make progress against their Net Zero Acceleration Programme Plus, which has been upgraded in November 2023 to uplift planned capital investment to £20.5bn, of which 90% is planned for renewables and electricity networks. The growth opportunities within Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc accounted for a large portion of the forecast increase in spending. As part of this commitment, as of 31 March 2024, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc had installed total electricity capacity for the north of Scotland of almost 10.6GW, of which just over 9.3GW is from renewable and other low carbon sources. For 2024/25, several large renewable projects are scheduled to be connected, which will see the Company exceeding their RIIO-T2 goal to deliver an electricity network in the north of Scotland with 10GW capacity of renewable generation by 2026.

The company has determined that the most significant future impact from climate change on its operations will be from storm damage network risk through increased severity of extreme weather events.. This is explained on pages 7 to 9 in the principal risks and uncertainties, which form part of the "Other information," rather than the audited financial statements. Our procedures on these unaudited disclosures therefore consisted solely of considering whether they are materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appear to be materially misstated, in line with our responsibilities on "Other Information".

Government and societal responses to climate change risks are still developing, and are interdependent upon each other, and consequently financial statements cannot capture all possible future outcomes as these are not yet known. The degree of certainty of these changes may also mean that they cannot be taken into account when determining asset and liability valuations and the timing of future cash flows under the requirement of IAS 36.

As explained in the Basis of Preparation in note 1, management have considered the impact of climate change when preparing the financial statements. Cash flow forecasts used in the preparation of the financial statements reflect the £20.5bn NZAP+ investment programme by SSE plc and the potential impact of adverse weather conditions.

Our audit effort in considering climate change was focused on ensuring that the effects of material climate risks disclosed on pages 7 to 9 have been appropriately reflected by management within areas of judgement in the financial statements, specifically cash flow forecasts, fixed asset values and useful life assumptions. We also challenged the Directors' considerations of climate change in their assessment of going concern and associated disclosures. Where considerations of climate change were relevant to our assessment of going concern, these are described above.

We also read the Other Information in the annual report and, in doing so, considered whether the Other Information, includes the Company's climate targets, is materially consistent with the financial statements.

Based on our work we have not identified the impact of climate change on the financial statements to be a key audit matter or to impact a key audit matter.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) that we identified. These matters included those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Key audit matters (continued)

Risk	Our response to the risk	Key observations communicated to Management
<p>Carrying value of PP&E, specifically the risk around incorrect cost capitalisation (PP&E NBV 2024:£5,549bn, PP&E NBV 2023:£4,886bn).</p> <p>Refer to accounting policies (page 39); and Note 8 of the financial statements (page 44).</p> <p>The PP&E balance in Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc is quantitatively the most significant. The capitalisation of costs involves a level of judgement and therefore there is a heightened risk of material misstatement in this area.</p> <p>This risk is specifically related to the potential for incorrect capitalisation of costs. The risk is that costs are capitalised that are not capital in nature. Incorrect cost capitalisation could have a significant effect on the carrying value of the Company's Network assets on the balance sheet. This could result in overstated assets in the year.</p> <p>It is deemed there is a sufficiently high likelihood of misstatement for this to be classified as a key audit matter.</p>	<p>To respond to the risk, we obtained an understanding of the key controls and processes in place over the capitalisation of costs through our walkthrough procedures.</p> <p>The following substantive procedures were performed:</p> <p><i>Additions Testing</i></p> <p>We selected a sample of PP&E additions in the year and agreed the details to third party evidence to confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The correct amount was capitalised • The cost was capital in nature • The cost is correct to be capitalised in line with accounting standards <p><i>Assessment of capitalisation of attributable overheads</i></p> <p>We assessed and agreed the appropriateness of attributable overheads capitalised within fixed assets through our audit of the capitalisation of overheads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We confirmed the clerical accuracy of the model though reconciliation to the trial balance; • We performed a recalculation of the model using centrally obtained GL data; • We verified the valuation of overhead expenses through sample testing of administrative expenses and completion of payroll expense testing; • We performed analytical review procedures to identify significant cost centres and understand any changes in the cost allocation; and • We held meetings with a sample of cost centre managers to understand the judgements made in establishing the proportion of overheads to be capitalised and to validate any significant change in allocation from the prior year. <p><i>Board Minutes Review</i></p> <p>We read Board Minutes to identify any unusual or challenging projects that were receiving executive level attention and may incur costs that were not capital in nature. We cross checked this to our additions work to corroborate our findings.</p> <p>We also read Board Minutes to identify any factors which could contribute to a significant change in the allocation of expenses between operating and capital expenditure and cross checked any findings to the model to confirm these were reflected.</p> <p><i>Disclosure Review</i></p> <p>We assessed the appropriateness and adequacy of the disclosures in line with relevant accounting standards. All audit work in relation to this key audit matter was undertaken by the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc audit engagement team.</p>	<p>We conclude that the costs capitalised in the year were materially correct as a result of the procedures we performed.</p> <p>We are satisfied with the adequacy of disclosure included in the financial statements.</p>

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Key audit matters (continued)

Risk	Our response to the risk	Key observations communicated to Management
<p>Management override of controls, specifically around revenue recognition (Revenue 2024: £885.9m, Revenue 2023: £633.0m).</p> <p>Refer to accounting policies (page 39); and Note 2 of the Financial Statements (page 41).</p> <p>Revenue earned by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc relates to billing National Grid for electricity transmission services.</p> <p>Revenue recognition is a particular area of focus for our audit in considering possible areas of management bias and fraud, arising from management override of controls. There is management incentive to post manual credits to revenue to improve Company profitability.</p> <p>Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc revenue is regulated. All revenue generated from the Ofgem model is recorded by the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission finance team.</p> <p>There are also instances of manual adjustments to revenue figures, and the accuracy and recording of any such material adjustments may represent a fraud risk of material misstatement to revenue.</p>	<p>We obtained an understanding of the key controls and processes in place over revenue recognition and the recording of manual journal entries.</p> <p>We tested selected key IT general controls and performed data analytics procedures.</p> <p>We utilised data analytics techniques to correlate sales through to debtors and subsequently cash. We tested material non-correlating entries to third party evidence to ensure these had been correctly recognised. We also tested a sample of revenue transactions to bank statement to confirm cash receipt.</p> <p>As part of our journal entries testing, we used risk-based filters to test a sample of manual journal entries made to revenue through to supporting third party evidence, to confirm that this revenue recognition was appropriate and had an appropriate business rationale.</p> <p><i>Disclosure Review</i> We assessed the appropriateness and adequacy of the disclosures in line with relevant accounting standards.</p> <p>All audit work in relation to this key audit matter was undertaken by the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc audit engagement team.</p>	<p>We conclude that revenue recognised in the period is materially correct based on the procedures performed.</p> <p>We are satisfied with the adequacy of disclosure included in the financial statements.</p>

In the current year, the key audit matters are consistent with the prior year with no changes.

Our application of materiality

We apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing the audit, in evaluating the effect of identified misstatements on the audit and in forming our audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Materiality

The magnitude of an omission or misstatement that, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of the users of the financial statements. Materiality provides a basis for determining the nature and extent of our audit procedures.

We determined materiality for the company to be £29.6 million (2023: £17.4 million), which is 0.5% of total assets (2023: 5% of profit before tax). Our key criterion in determining materiality remains our perception of the focus of the entity's stakeholders. We consider which earnings, activity or capital-based measure best aligns with their expectations. With the significant capital expenditure commitments planned through the current price control period and across the next decade, we have reassessed our materiality basis and changed this from profit before tax to total assets. The entity generates revenues and profits almost entirely through using its infrastructure assets and therefore we determined that total assets is the most appropriate measure and is aligned to the key focus of the entity's stakeholders.

Performance materiality

The application of materiality at the individual account or balance level. It is set at an amount to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality.

On the basis of our risk assessments, together with our assessment of the company's overall control environment, our judgement was that performance materiality was 75% (2023: 75%) of our planning materiality, namely £22.2m (2023: £13.1m). We have set performance materiality at this percentage due to our assessment of the control environment of the entity including the attitude and integrity of management and those charged with governance.

Reporting threshold

An amount below which identified misstatements are considered as being clearly trivial.

We agreed with those charged with governance that we would report to them all uncorrected audit differences in excess of £1.48m (2023: £0.87m), which is set at 5% of planning materiality, as well as differences below that threshold that, in our view, warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

We evaluate any uncorrected misstatements against both the quantitative measures of materiality discussed above and in light of other relevant qualitative considerations in forming our opinion.

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 with the annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this 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 the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions 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 Directors' Reports have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or 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, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 23, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the 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 directors either intend 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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the company and management.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the company and determined that the most significant are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS101, Companies Act 2006 and UK Corporate Governance Code), relevant tax compliance regulations in the UK and the Electricity Transmission Licence.
- We understood how Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc is complying with those frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We confirmed our enquiries through our review of board minutes, regulatory correspondence and papers provided to the SSE plc Audit Committee.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (continued)

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

- We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with management to understand where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud. We also considered performance targets and their propensity to influence on efforts made by management to manage earnings. We considered the programmes and controls that the company has established to address risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud; and how senior management monitors those programmes and controls at a group level. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address the identified fraud risk, management override of controls, specifically around revenue recognition.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved: journal entry testing, with a focus on manual journals and journals indicating large or unusual transactions based on our understanding of the business and enquiries of legal counsel and management. In addition, we completed procedures to conclude on the compliance of the disclosures in the financial statements and accounts with all applicable requirements.
- We understood the relationship between Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc and its regulator, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM), to understand their scope of authorisation and controls the entity has in place to meet their requirements. We requested copies of any correspondence with the regulator that is relevant to our audit and discussed ongoing regulatory matters with the directors.

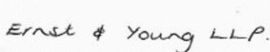
A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters we are required to address

- Following the recommendation from the SSE plc audit committee we were appointed by the company on 18 July 2019 to audit the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2020 and subsequent financial periods.
- The period of total uninterrupted engagement including previous renewals and reappointments is 5 years, covering the years ending 31 March 2020 to 31 March 2024.
- The non-audit services prohibited by the FRC's Ethical Standard were not provided to the company and we remain independent of the company in conducting the audit.
- The audit opinion is consistent with the additional report to the audit committee.

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.

DS


Nicola McIntyre (Senior statutory auditor)
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor
Glasgow

31 July 2024

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Profit and Loss Account

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £m	2023 £m
Revenue	2	885.9	655.0
Cost of Sales		(5.4)	(0.5)
Gross Profit		880.5	654.5
Distribution costs		(287.7)	(223.8)
Administrative costs		(27.1)	(26.2)
Operating profit	3	565.7	404.5
Interest receivable and similar income	5	12.6	2.7
Interest payable and similar charges	6	(47.6)	(49.3)
Profit before taxation		530.7	357.9
Tax on profit	7	(135.1)	(80.6)
Profit for the financial year		395.6	277.3

Continuing operations

The above results are derived from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc
Statement of Other Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Profit for the financial year	395.6	277.3
Other comprehensive income		
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
(Loss)/gain on effective portion of cash flow hedges	(8.8)	10.3
Taxation on cashflow hedges	4.3	(2.4)
Other comprehensive (loss)/gain	(4.5)	7.9
Total comprehensive income relating to the financial year	391.1	285.2


Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £m	2023 £m
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	5,549.3	4,885.5
Intangible assets	9	27.1	20.6
Derivative Financial Assets	18	7.5	-
		5,583.9	4,906.1
Current assets			
Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	214.5	12.4
Cash and cash equivalents	11	128.9	7.9
Derivative financial assets	18	2.7	0.5
Total current assets		346.1	20.8
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(659.7)	(369.1)
Derivative financial liabilities	18	(6.8)	-
Total current liabilities		(666.5)	(369.1)
Net current liabilities		(320.4)	(348.3)
Total assets less current liabilities		5,263.5	4,557.8
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(2,733.0)	(2,536.3)
Derivative financial liabilities	18	(11.2)	-
Deferred taxation	15	(485.0)	(380.3)
Net assets		2,034.3	1,641.2
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	16	354.3	354.3
Profit and loss account		1,685.0	1,287.4
Hedge reserve		(5.0)	(0.5)
Equity Shareholders' funds		2,034.3	1,641.2

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


Maz Alkirwi (Jul 30, 2024 21:17 GMT+1)

Maz Alkirwi
Director
Company registered number: SC213461

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Share capital £m	Retained earnings £m	Hedge reserve £m	Total Equity £m
Balance at 1 April 2022	354.3	1,008.4	(8.4)	1,354.3
Profit for the year	-	277.3	-	277.3
Other comprehensive income	-	-	7.9	7.9
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	277.3	7.9	285.2
Credit in respect of employee share schemes	-	1.7	-	1.7
Balance at 31 March 2023	354.3	1,287.4	(0.5)	1,641.2
Balance at 1 April 2023	354.3	1,287.4	(0.5)	1,641.2
Profit for the year	-	395.6	-	395.6
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(4.5)	(4.5)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	395.6	(4.5)	391.1
Credit in respect of employee share schemes	-	2.0	-	2.0
Balance at 31 March 2024	354.3	1,685.0	(5.0)	2,034.3

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £m	2023 £m
Operating profit		565.7	404.5
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	8	124.7	110.4
Amortisation of intangible assets	9	6.3	4.6
Charge in respect of employee share awards	4	2.0	1.7
Customer contributions and capital grants released		(2.9)	(11.0)
Cash generated from operations before working capital movements		695.8	510.2
Increase in debtors		(202.3)	(1.1)
Increase in creditors		113.5	20.6
Movement in intercompany		(9.8)	(172.1)
Cash generated from operations		597.2	357.6
Interest paid		(69.8)	(62.2)
Taxes paid		(35.5)	(25.5)
Net cash from operating activities		491.9	269.9
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(704.2)	(554.7)
Purchase of intangible assets		(12.8)	(7.0)
Net cash from investing activities		(717.0)	(561.7)
New borrowings	20	492.5	450.0
Repayment of borrowings	20	(150.7)	(150.7)
Settlement of cashflow hedges		4.3	-
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities		346.1	299.3
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		121.0	7.5
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds			
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year		121.0	7.5
Net cash at start of the year		7.9	0.4
Net cash at end of the year		128.9	7.9

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Significant accounting policies

The Company is a public company incorporated, domiciled, and registered, in Scotland. Its registration number is SC213461, and registered office is Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ, United Kingdom.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Company's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including Financial Reporting Standard 101 (Reduced Disclosures) ("FRS 101") as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

In preparing the financial statements, the Company has considered the impact of climate change, taking into account the relevant disclosures in the Strategic Report. These considerations included the capital expenditure planned in order to deliver the Group's £20.5bn 'Net Zero Acceleration Programme Plus' by 2027 and the potential impact adverse weather could have on our network infrastructure, particularly when forecasting cashflows, in assessing going concern, assessing useful economic lives and looking for indicators of impairment.

In these financial statements, the Company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- The effect of new, but not yet effective, IFRSs;
- Related party disclosures; and
- Comparative period reconciliations for property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and share capital.

As the consolidated financial statements of SSE plc include the equivalent disclosure, the Company has also taken advantage of the exemptions, under FRS 101, available in respect of the following disclosures:

- Certain disclosures, required by IAS 36 *Impairment of assets*, in respect of the impairment of goodwill and intangible assets;
- Certain disclosures, required by IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement* and IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments Disclosure* and IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts from Customers*; and
- Certain disclosures, required by IFRS 16 *Leases*.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements. The Company has not included employee share based payments disclosures on the basis of materiality.

There are no new standards, interpretations and amendments effective for the first time from 1 April 2023 which have had a material effect on the financial statements.

Going Concern

The Directors consider that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the period to 31 July 2025. The financial statements are therefore prepared on a going concern basis.

In reaching their conclusion, the Directors have reviewed the financial resources in place and the financial strength of the Company against the current economic climate. The Directors have also considered the future financial plans of the Company, including consideration of cashflow and profit forecast under stressed scenarios for the period to 31 July 2025, which is at least 12 months from the approval of the Company's financial statements.

The Company had undrawn committed banking facilities of £750m Credit Facility; a \$300m private placement facility with New York Life and a cash surplus balance of £128.9m as at 31 March 2024. During the year, the Company's internal approach to managing liquidity was to seek to ensure that the Company had available committed borrowings and facilities equal to at least 105% of forecast borrowings over a rolling 6 month period. The Company uses cash flow forecasts to monitor its ongoing borrowing requirements.

The Going Concern conclusion is arrived at after applying severe but plausible downside stress testing sensitivities to the Company's cash flow and funding projections. These sensitivities include no additional external funding being secured and a further contingency against operating cash flow performance, offset by mitigating actions such as reducing uncommitted capital expenditure. The Directors have taken into account the Company's credit rating and the successful issuance of £1.7bn of medium to long term debt over the past four years and the Company's strong investment grade credit rating. The Company has a strong track record of obtaining new committed facilities in the form of the £750m committed Revolving Credit Facility and \$300m Private Placement facility with New York Life. Through successful debt issuances, the Company has shown its ability to access capital markets even during the most difficult of market conditions.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation (continued)

Going Concern (continued)

The Company has considered the current market conditions; the Group's credit rating and the assumption that the Company will be able to refinance maturing debt. The Company has also considered its obligations under its debt covenants. There have been no breaches of covenant in the year and the Company's projection supports the expectation that there will be no breaches of covenant over the period to 31 July 2025, even under the severe but plausible downside stress testing.

The refinancing requirement in 2024/25 financial reporting period is £300m being the fixed rate loan that matures in March 2025. The Directors are confident in the ability of the Company to maintain a funding level above 105% for the going concern assessment period based on the strong credit standing and borrowing history of the Company.

Even under a scenario of a more challenging market environment, including the unlikely event of not being able to access debt funding markets or otherwise refinance as required, the Directors are satisfied that the Company has sufficient liquidity available to allow obligations to be met with mitigants and options available to the Company to maintain sufficient headroom to continue as a going concern through any severe but plausible downside scenario for the period to 31 July 2025.

The Company is in a net current liability position of £320.4m as at the financial year end.

Further details of the Company's liquidity position and going concern review are provided on page 19.

Revenue

Use of electricity transmission networks

Revenue from use of electricity networks is derived from the allowed revenue as defined by the parameters in the relevant electricity transmission licence, which informs the tariffs set.

Electricity transmission revenue is determined in accordance with its regulatory licence, based on an Ofgem approved revenue model and is recognised "over time" as charged to National Grid. Where this revenue differs from the allowed revenue, there may be an over- or under-recovery of revenue which will be reflected in future financial years' allowed revenue as set out in the regulatory licence. No accounting adjustments are made for over- or under-recoveries in the year that they arise as they are contingent on future events (being the transmission of electricity in a future period). The over or under recovery adjustment is recognised in the subsequent period when included within the tariffs that form allowed revenue under the regulatory agreement.

Transmission network contracted services

Where the Company has an ongoing obligation to provide contracted services (transmission network connections), revenues are recognised "over time" consistent with the customer receiving and consuming benefits of that service across the expected contractual service period. Any assets constructed in order to deliver the service are capitalised and depreciated over their useful life. Payments received from customers in advance of providing the contracted service are deferred on balance sheet. No extended warranty periods are offered.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the Company's functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the profit and loss account except for differences arising on the retranslation of qualifying cash flow hedges, which are recognised in other comprehensive income.

Research

Expenditure on research activities is recognised in the profit and loss account as an expense as incurred.

Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity or other comprehensive income, in which case it is recognised directly in equity or other comprehensive income.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Significant accounting policies (continued)

Taxation (continued)

Deferred tax is provided on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes.

The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

	Years
Network assets:	
Underground and subsea cables, overhead lines	5 to 80
Non-operational assets:	
Fixtures, equipment, plant and machinery, vehicles and mobile plant	5 to 10

Assets held under leasing arrangements are recognised as right-of-use assets and are depreciated over their expected useful lives on the same basis as owned assets or, where shorter, over the term of the relevant lease.

An item of PPE is derecognised on disposal. Where no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of an item of PPE, the asset is fully written off.

Expenditure incurred to replace a component of PPE that is accounted for separately is capitalised. Other subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it increases the future economic benefits of the PPE to which it relates.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Included within intangible assets are application software license fees, software development work, software upgrades and purchased PC software packages. Amortisation is charged on a straight line basis over 3 to 10 years and is included within distribution costs in the profit and loss account.

Capitalised interest

Interest directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of major capital projects, which are projects that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for their intended use, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use, and depreciated as part of the total cost over the useful life of the asset.

Investment

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost less any provisions for impairment. Current asset investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Customer contributions

Customer contributions and capital grants are recorded as deferred income and released to the profit and loss account over the estimated useful life of the related fixed asset, where there is an ongoing service obligation.

Leases

At lease commencement date, the Company recognises a right-of-use-asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which is made up of the initial measurement of the lease liability and any lease payments made in advance of the lease commencement date.

The Company depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The Company also assesses the right-of-use asset for impairment when such indicators exist.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Significant accounting policies (continued)

Leases (continued)

At the commencement date, the Company measures the lease liability at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at that date, discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate.

Impairment review

The carrying amounts of the Company's PPE and other intangible assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable, or where there are indications that a previously recognised impairment loss has reduced. For PPE and other intangible assets that have previously been identified as exhibiting indications of impairment, the review of impairment will be performed annually until there is sufficient evidence to confirm that any potential impairment loss has been appropriately recognised, or until previously recognised impairment losses have been fully written back.

For assets subject to impairment testing, the asset's carrying value is compared to the asset's recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is determined to be the higher of the fair value less costs to sell (FVLCS) and the value-in-use (VIU) of the asset.

If the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment charge will be recognised immediately in the profit and loss account. Reversals of previous impairment charges are recognised if the recoverable amount of the asset significantly exceeds the carrying amount.

Pensions

Some of the Company's employees are members of a Group wide defined benefit pension plan. As there is no contractual agreement or stated Group policy for charging the net defined benefit cost of the plan to participating entities, the net defined benefit cost of the pension plan is recognised fully by the sponsoring employer, which is another member of the Group. The Company then recognises a cost equal to its contribution payable for the period. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Equity and equity-related compensation benefits

SSE plc, the ultimate parent of the Company, operates a number of All Employee Share Schemes as described in the Remuneration Policy Report of the Group. These schemes enable Group employees to acquire shares of the ultimate parent company. The employees of the Company are entitled, where applicable, to participate in these schemes. The Company has not been charged the cash cost of acquiring shares on behalf of its employees, as this cost is borne by the ultimate parent company. Where the fair value of the options granted has been measured, the Company has recognised the expense as if the share based payments related to the Company's own shares.

The exercise prices of the sharesave scheme are set at a discount to market price at the date of the grant. The fair value of the sharesave scheme option granted is measured at the grant date by use of an option pricing model. The fair value of the options granted is recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the period that the scheme vests. Estimates are updated at each balance sheet date with any adjustment in respect of the current and prior years being recognised in the profit and loss account.

The costs associated with the other main employee schemes, the Share Incentive Plan and the Deferred Bonus Scheme, are recognised over the period to which they relate.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and short term money market deposits. The Company receives monies in the form of grants and contributions from Ofgem for innovation projects. The use of this is restricted by the specific terms and conditions of each project. The cash and cash equivalents balance has not been remitted to SSE plc as part of the Group's central treasury operations.

Derivative financial instruments and hedging

Derivative financial instruments are recognised at fair value. The gain or loss on remeasurement to fair value is recognised immediately in profit or loss. However, where derivatives qualify for hedge accounting, recognition of any resultant gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged.

Cash flow hedges

A derivative classified as a 'cash flow' hedge recognises the portion of gains or losses on the derivative which are deemed to be effective directly in equity in the hedge reserve.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Significant accounting policies (continued)

Cash flow hedges (continued)

Any ineffective portion of the gains or losses is recognised in the profit and loss account. The gains or losses that are recognised directly in equity are transferred to the profit and loss account in the same year in which the forecast transaction occurs.

Joint operation

Joint arrangements, as defined by IFRS 11 “Joint Arrangements”, are those arrangements that convey to two or more parties ‘joint control’. Joint control exists when decisions about the ‘relevant activities’, being the financial, operational or strategic policies of the arrangement, are made with the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control. The Company’s interest in its joint operation is accounted for by recognising its share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the operation. EGL2 Limited is a joint operation between the Company and National Grid Electricity Transmission plc to install a 2GW subsea high-voltage connection.

Significant judgements and estimates

There are no significant judgements or estimates in the year.

2 Analysis of Revenue

An analysis of the Company’s revenue by business segment is set out below:

	General use of electricity networks £m	Network connections services £m	Other network activity £m	Other revenue £m	Total £m
Transmission revenue at 31 March 2024	854.9	18.8	10.6	1.6	885.9
Transmission revenue at 31 March 2023	632.9	20.4	0.7	1.0	655.0

The existence of each segment is fundamental to the successful operation of the transmission network. Each segment has similar economic characteristics and therefore the Directors assess that the Company has one reportable operating segment. Revenue earned from the construction, maintenance and renovation of the transmission network in the north of Scotland, is determined in accordance with the regulatory licence, based on an Ofgem approved revenue model and is recognised as charged to one main customer, National Grid. The Company also provides electricity connections providing essential and safe access to the transmission network. The Company continues to operate under the RIIO-T2 price control which runs until 31 March 2026.

3 Expenses and auditor's remuneration

Operating profit is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (note 8)	124.7	110.4
Amortisation of intangible assets (note 9)	6.3	4.6
Lease charges (i)	0.2	0.1
Release of deferred income in relation to customer contributions and capital grants	(2.9)	(11.0)
Net management fees in respect of services provided by Group companies	26.8	27.2
Research costs	4.6	1.8

(i) Represents the expense of leases with a duration of 12 months or less, leases deemed to be “low value” and variable lease payments which do not depend on an index or rate with £0.2m (2023: £0.1m) charged in the current year.

The Company incurred £0.2m of external audit fees (2023: £0.2m). Included within this are audit related assurance service fees of £0.02m (2023: £0.02m).

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc
Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

4 Staff costs and numbers

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Staff costs:		
Wages and salaries	87.1	57.3
Social security costs	10.8	7.7
Share based remuneration	2.0	1.7
Pension costs	14.9	10.3
	114.8	77.0
Less charged as capital expenditure	(71.1)	(44.7)
	43.7	32.3

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Employee numbers		
Customer facing	81	66
Support staff	1,620	1,239
Numbers employed at 31 March	1,701	1,305

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Average employee numbers		
Customer facing	74	57
Support staff	1,443	981
The monthly average number of people employed by the Company during the year	1,517	1,038

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Directors remuneration	3.6	7.3

The total remuneration received by the Directors for qualifying and non-qualifying services including amounts paid and receivable under long term incentive schemes during the year was £3.6m (2023: £7.3m). The total attributable to the highest paid director is £1.4m (2023: £3.2m).

The above value is for 7 Directors (2023: 13), 7 of whom were remunerated via another Group company in the year. A value of services to the Company for these Directors cannot be determined, therefore the above value reflects the remuneration received for services to the SSE Group as a whole.

The aggregate of amounts paid and receivable under long term incentive schemes for Directors is £1.4m (2023: £4.3m), of which £0.8m (2023: £2.2m) is due to the highest paid Director. Total company pension contributions of £0.1m (2023: £0.1m) were made to a money purchase scheme on behalf of the Directors.

4 (2023: 9) Directors exercised share options in the parent's shares during the year. The highest paid Director exercised and received shares under a long-term incentive scheme in the year.

	Number of directors	
	2024	2023
Retirement benefits are accruing to the following number of Directors under:		
Defined benefit schemes	-	2

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc
Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

5 Interest receivable and similar income

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Interest receivable from short term deposits	4.1	0.5
Other income	7.7	2.2
Foreign exchange translation of monetary assets and liabilities	0.8	-
	12.6	2.7

6 Interest payable and similar charges

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Interest payable to Group companies	25.2	23.4
Bank loans and overdrafts	59.2	41.5
Lease interest	0.4	0.4
Interest capitalised	(37.2)	(16.0)
	47.6	49.3

7 Taxation

	2024 £m	2023 £m
UK corporation tax		
Current tax on income for the period	24.0	25.2
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	2.0	0.5
Total current tax charge	26.0	25.7
Deferred tax (see note 15):		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	112.0	44.3
Adjustment in respect of prior years	(2.9)	(3.3)
Effect of change in tax rate	-	13.9
Total deferred tax	109.1	54.9
Total tax on profit	135.1	80.6

The difference between the total tax shown above and the amount calculated by applying the standard rate of UK corporation tax to the profit before tax is as follows:

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Profit before taxation	530.7	357.9
Tax on profit at standard UK corporation tax rate of 25% (2023: 19%)	132.7	68.0
Effects of:		
Depreciation on non-qualifying assets	1.2	0.8
Adjustment in respect of previous periods	(0.8)	(2.7)
Other items	2.0	(0.9)
Disposal of capital grant	-	1.5
Effect of change in tax rate on deferred tax	-	13.9
Total tax charge for year	135.1	80.6

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

7 Taxation (continued)

The Company's profits are taxed at the standard rate of UK corporation tax being 25% for the year to 31 March 2024 (2023: 19%).

There are no announced or enacted changes in corporation tax rates in the year ended 31 March 2024.

Finance Bill 2023 introduced legislation, initially as a temporary measure but then being made permanent in the Autumn Statement, to allow 'Full Expensing' of 100% General Pool plant and machinery, alongside 50% for Special Rate Pool plant and machinery. These changes significantly increase the deductions for Capital Allowances on capital expenditure incurred from 1 April 2023.

8 Property, plant and equipment

	Land and buildings £m	Network assets £m	Vehicles and miscellaneous equipment £m	Total £m
Cost:				
At 1 April 2023	9.1	5,641.2	99.3	5,749.6
Additions	2.5	779.6	6.4	788.5
At 31 March 2024	11.6	6,420.8	105.7	6,538.1
Depreciation:				
At 1 April 2023	(1.3)	(828.7)	(34.1)	(864.1)
Charge for the year	(0.5)	(116.9)	(7.3)	(124.7)
At 31 March 2024	(1.8)	(945.6)	(41.4)	(988.8)
Net book value:				
At 31 March 2024	9.8	5,475.2	64.3	5,549.3
At 31 March 2023	7.8	4,812.5	65.2	4,885.5

The above property, plant and equipment includes £212.1m (2023: £174.9m) of capitalised interest, of which £37.2m was capitalised in the current year (2023: £16.0m). The weighted average interest rate applied in the year was 2.94% (2023: 2.61%). This is depreciated annually according to the useful economic life of the asset to which the capitalised interest relates.

Included in the above line items are the following right-of use assets:

	Land and buildings £m
Cost:	
At 1 April 2023	9.1
Additions	2.5
At 31 March 2024	11.6
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2023	(1.3)
Charge for the year	(0.5)
At 31 March 2024	(1.8)
Net book value:	
At 31 March 2024	9.8
At 31 March 2023	7.8

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc
Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

9 Intangible assets

	IT Software £m
Cost:	
At 1 April 2023	35.5
Additions	12.8
At 31 March 2024	48.3
Amortisation:	
At 1 April 2023	(14.9)
Charge for the year	(6.3)
At 31 March 2024	(21.2)
Net book value:	
At 31 March 2024	27.1
At 31 March 2023	20.6

10 Debtors

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Trade debtors	4.7	1.4
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	-	0.2
Prepayments and accrued income	208.6	4.3
Contracted related receivables	1.2	6.5
	214.5	12.4

The increase in prepayments and accrued income from prior year is due to upfront payments relating to Transmission projects.

11 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Cash and cash equivalents	128.9	7.9

Cash and cash equivalents (which are presented as a single class of assets on the face of the balance sheet) comprise cash at bank and short term highly liquid investments with maturity of three months or less. Any cash and cash equivalents that represent amounts received to fund Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) projects is restricted and can only be used for the purpose of the relevant project. The total restricted cash balance as at 2024 was £0.9m (2023: £0.5m).

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc
Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Trade creditors	105.7	8.1
Loans and borrowings (note 14)	-	150.0
Loans due to ultimate parent (note 14)	300.0	-
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	52.8	62.3
Other creditors	24.8	20.9
Contract related liabilities (i)	5.2	10.5
Accruals	170.9	117.0
Obligations under leases	0.3	0.3
	659.7	369.1

(i) Current contract related liabilities include customer contributions of £3.0m (2023: £2.9m). Revenue recognised in the reporting period of £2.9m was included in contract liabilities at the beginning of the period.

The amounts owed to Group undertakings include interest payable on ultimate parent SSE plc loan (note 14). Interest on the loan is charged at 3.22% (2023: 3.22%). No interest is payable on remaining elements owed to Group undertakings.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Loans and borrowings (note 14)	2,088.0	1,594.8
Loans due to ultimate parent (note 14)	480.0	780.0
Contract related liabilities (i)	154.0	152.7
Obligations under leases	11.0	8.8
	2,733.0	2,536.3

(i) Non-current contract related liabilities include customer contributions of £123.4m (2023: £119.8m).

Details of the interest rates in relation to the loans and borrowings are included in note 14.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

14 Interest bearing loans and borrowings

This note provides information about the contractual terms of the Company's interest-bearing loans and borrowings which are held at amortised cost.

Analysis of Borrowings

	2024 Weighted Average Interest Rate	2024 Face value £m	2024 Fair value £m	2024 Carrying amount £m	2023 Weighted Average Interest Rate	2023 Face value £m	2023 Fair value £m	2023 Carrying amount £m
Current								
Bank Loans – Revolving Credit Facility Advances	-	-	-	-	4.50%	100.0	100.0	100.0
Fixed Rate European Investment Bank repayable 3 August 2023	-	-	-	-	2.65%	50.0	49.4	50.0
2.75% Loan Stock repayable to SSE plc on 31 March 2025	2.75%	300.0	290.9	300.0	-	-	-	-
Total current borrowings		300.0	290.9	300.0		150.0	149.4	150.0
Non-Current								
2.75% Loan Stock repayable to SSE plc on 31 March 2025	-	-	-	-	2.75%	300.0	285.6	300.0
3.375% Loan Stock repayable to SSE plc on 25 February 2026	3.38%	450.0	417.8	450.0	3.38%	450.0	410.4	450.0
5.625% Loan Stock repayable to SSE plc on 31 March 2028	5.63%	30.0	30.2	30.0	5.63%	30.0	29.5	30.0
Fixed Rate European Investment Bank repayable 20 May 2026	2.16%	300.0	279.2	299.9	2.16%	300.0	274.6	299.9
Floating Rate European Investment Bank repayable 9 March 2028	5.54%	100.0	102.5	100.0	5.34%	100.0	102.4	100.0
Fixed Rate Eurobond repayable 24 March 2028	1.50%	250.0	221.5	249.3	1.50%	250.0	212.8	249.1
Between two and five years		1,130.0	1,051.2	1,129.2		1,430.0	1,315.3	1,429.0
Fixed Rate Eurobond repayable 27 September 2035	2.25%	350.0	266.3	347.6	2.25%	350.0	255.9	347.4
Fixed Rate Eurobond repayable 24 March 2036	2.13%	250.0	184.7	248.6	2.13%	250.0	177.7	248.4
Fixed Rate Eurobond repayable 15 January 2044	5.50%	500.0	500.8	492.6	-	-	-	-
Private Placement 30 June 2032	3.13%	175.0	148.0	175.0	3.13%	175.0	152.8	175.0
Private Placement 30 June 2037	3.24%	175.0	146.2	175.0	3.24%	175.0	142.2	175.0
Over five years		1,450.0	1,246.0	1,438.8		950.0	728.6	945.8
Total non-current borrowings		2,580.0	2,297.2	2,568.0		2,380.0	2,043.9	2,374.8
Total borrowings		2,880.0	2,588.1	2,868.0		2,530.0	2,193.3	2,524.8

The effective interest rate is equal to the weighted average interest rate for all borrowings at 31 March 2024.

The 2.65% Fixed Rate European Investment Bank loan repayable on 3 August 2023 of £50.0m has been repaid in the year.

In January 2024, the Company issued a 20 year £500.0m green bond at a fixed coupon of 5.5%.

In November 2022, the Company entered a three-year £750.0m facility, including two one-year optional extensions with the first year's option exercised in September 2023. As at 31 March 2024, the £750.0m facility is undrawn (2023: £100.0m) and classified as a sustainable facility with interest rate and fees paid dependant on four ESG-related KPI's being achieved.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

15 Deferred tax liabilities

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are attributable to the following:

	Assets		Liabilities		Net	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Accelerated capital allowances		-	488.3	382.7	488.3	382.7
Other timing differences	(0.2)	(0.2)	-	-	(0.2)	(0.2)
Fair value movement on derivatives	(3.1)	(2.2)	-	-	(3.1)	(2.2)
Net tax liabilities	(3.3)	(2.4)	488.3	382.7	485.0	380.3

	1 April 2023	Recognised in income	Recognised in equity	31 March 2024
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Movement in deferred tax during the year	380.3	109.0	(4.3)	485.0
	1 April 2022	Recognised in income	Recognised in equity	31 March 2023
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Movement in deferred tax during prior year	323.0	54.9	2.4	380.3

16 Equity

Share capital

	2024	2023
	£m	£m
Equity:		
Allotted, called up and fully paid:		
354,300,000 ordinary shares of £1.00 each	354.3	354.3

Hedge reserve

The hedge reserve comprises the effective portion of the cumulative net change in the fair value of cash flow hedge derivative instruments related to hedged transactions that have not yet occurred.

17 Pensions

1% (2023: 2%) of the Company's employees are members of the Scottish Hydro-Electric Pension Scheme which provides defined benefits based on final pensionable pay. As there is no contractual agreement or stated Group policy for charging the net defined benefit cost of the plan to participating entities, the net defined benefit cost of the pension plan is recognised fully by the sponsoring employer, which is another member of the Group.

New employees can join a defined contribution scheme with the Company matching the members' contributions up to 6% of salary, increasing to a further 3% after two years of service and a further 3% after ten years continuous service. The scheme is managed by Aviva.

The Company's share of the total contribution payable to the pension schemes during the year was £14.9m (2023: £10.3m).

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

18 Derivatives and financial instruments

The Group's Treasury department is responsible for managing the banking and liquidity requirements of the Company, risk management relating to interest rate and foreign exchange exposures, and for managing the credit risk relating to the banking counterparties with which it transacts. Short term liquidity is reviewed daily by the department while longer term liquidity position is reviewed on a regular basis by the Group Board. The department's operations are governed by policies determined by the Group's Board and any breaches of these policies are reported to the Tax and Treasury Committee and the Group's Audit Committee. The Group's policy is to ensure, as far as possible, that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to either the Group or Company's reputation.

The Company has access to a £750m committed bank facility maturing November 2025, which it can utilise as required, plus a £244m Private Placement facility with New York Life. The Directors have considered stress testing sensitivities to the Company's cash flow and funding projects, negative and positive sensitivities on operating cash flows and uncommitted capital expenditure and other adjustments and concluded that the Company has sufficient headroom to continue as a going concern.

(i) Currency risk

Exposure to foreign currency risk arises in the normal course of the Company's business. Derivative financial instruments are entered into to hedge exposure to foreign currency risk.

The Company presents its financial statements in Sterling but also conducts business in foreign currencies. As a result, it is subject to foreign currency exchange risk arising from exchange rate movements which will be reflected in the Company's transaction costs.

The Company's policy is to use forward contracts to manage its exposures to foreign exchange risk. All such exposures are transactional in nature and relate primarily to procurement contracts. The policy is to seek to hedge 100% of its currency requirements arising under all committed contracts.

(ii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk derives from the Company's exposure to changes in value of an asset or liability or future cash flows through changes in interest rates.

The Company's policy is to manage this risk by stipulating that a minimum of 50% of borrowings be subject to fixed rates of interest, either directly through the debt instruments themselves or through the use of derivative financial instruments. The floating rate borrowings are provided by banks including the European Investment Bank (EIB). Such instruments include interest rate swaps and options and forward rate agreements. These practices serve to reduce the volatility of the Company's financial performance.

Although interest rate derivatives are primarily used to hedge risk relating to current borrowings, under certain circumstances they may also be used to hedge future borrowings. Any such pre-hedging is unwound at the time of pricing the underlying debt, either through cash settlement on a net present value basis or by transacting offsetting trades.

The impact of a change in interest rates is dependent on the specific details of the financial asset or liability in question. Changes in fixed rate financial assets and liabilities, which account for the majority of cash, loans and borrowings, are not measured at fair value through the profit and loss account. In addition to this, changes to fixed-to-floating hedging instruments which are recorded under cash flow hedge accounting also do not impact the profit and loss account. A derivative classified as a 'cash flow' hedge recognises the portion of gains or losses on the derivative which are deemed to be effective directly in equity in the hedge reserve.

The exposure measured is therefore based on variable rate debt and instruments.

(iii) Fair values

The fair values of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities, and the carrying amounts in the balance sheet are analysed below. Balances included in the analysis of primary financial assets and liabilities include cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, trade debtors and trade creditors, all of which are disclosed separately.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

18 Derivatives and financial instruments (continued)

Summary fair values

The fair values of the primary financial assets and liabilities together with their carrying values are as follows:

	2024 Carrying value £m	2024 Fair Value £m	2023 Carrying value £m	2023 Fair Value £m
Financial Assets				
Trade and intercompany debtors	4.6	4.6	1.6	1.6
Derivative financial assets	10.2	10.2	0.5	0.5
Financial Liabilities				
Trade and intercompany creditors	158.5	158.5	70.4	70.4
Loans and borrowings	2,088.0	1,849.2	1,744.8	1,467.8
Loans due to ultimate parent	780.0	738.9	780.0	725.5
Derivative financial liabilities	18.0	18.0	-	-

19 Capital commitments

	2024 £m	2023 £m
Contracted but not provided for	823.3	504.6

The year on year increase in capital commitments contracted but not provided for is mainly attributable to large capital projects moving into the initial construction phases.

20 Net debt

Reconciliation of movements in financing liabilities

	At 31 March 2023 £m	Financing cash flows			Non-cash movements			At 31 March 2024 £m
		New Borrowings £m	Repayment of borrowings £m	Repayment of lease creditor £m	Fair Value movement £m	Lease liabilities £m	Re- classification £m	
Loan Stock	780.0	-	-	-	-	-	(300.0)	480.0
Fixed Rate EIB	299.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	299.9
Floating Rate EIB	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Fixed Rate Eurobonds	844.9	492.6	-	-	0.6	-	-	1,338.1
Private Placement	350.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	350.0
Total Long-term liabilities	2,374.8	492.6	-	-	0.6	-	(300.0)	2,568.0
Bank Loans	100.0	-	(100.0)	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed Rate EIB	50.0	-	(50.0)	-	-	-	-	-
Loan Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-	300.0	300.0
Total Short-term liabilities	150.0	-	(150.0)	-	-	-	300.0	300.0
Lease liabilities	9.1	-	-	(0.7)	-	2.9	-	11.3
Total loans and borrowings	2,533.9	492.6	(150.0)	(0.7)	0.6	2.9	-	2,879.3

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

20 Net debt (continued)

Reconciliation of movements in financing liabilities

	At 31 March 2022 £m	Financing cash flows			Non-cash movements			At 31 March 2023 £m
		New Borrowings £m	Repayment of borrowings £m	Repayment of lease creditor £m	Fair Value movement £m	Lease liabilities £m	Re- classification £m	
Loan Stock	780.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	780.0
Fixed Rate EIB	349.9	-	-	-	-	-	(50.0)	299.9
Floating Rate EIB	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Fixed Rate Eurobonds	844.5	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	844.9
Private Placement	-	350.0	-	-	-	-	-	350.0
Total Long-term liabilities	2,074.4	350.0	-	-	0.4	-	(50.0)	2,374.8
Bank Loans	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Fixed Rate EIB	150.0	-	(150.0)	-	-	-	50.0	50.0
Total Short-term liabilities	150.0	100.0	(150.0)	-	-	-	50.0	150.0
Lease liabilities	7.8	-	-	(0.7)	-	2.0	-	9.1
Total loans and borrowings	2,232.2	450.0	(150.0)	(0.7)	0.4	2.0	-	2,533.9

21 Joint Operation

The Company's investment in joint operation undertakings at 31 March is a 50% (2023: 100%) holding in Eastern Green Link 2 Limited of £1.00 ordinary shares which was incorporated on 22 February 2023. Details are as follows:

Company Name	Relation	Country of incorporation	Registered address	2024 Holding %	2023 Holding %	Principal Activity
Eastern Green Link 2 Ltd	Joint Operation	England & Wales	Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street, London, United Kingdom, EC4N 6AF	50	100	Power Transmission

Eastern Green Link 2 Limited is a joint operation between the Company and National Grid Electricity Transmission plc to install a 2GW subsea high-voltage connection.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc

Notes on the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

22 Post balance sheet events

On 7 July 2024, the Company priced and committed to a 10 year NOK 1.5bn private placement being £111.3m at an interest rate of 4.73% with Kommunal Landspensjonskasse (KLP) which was received on 26 June 2024.

On 12 July 2024, the Company also priced and committed to a 15 year £30.0m private placement at an interest rate of 5.59% with Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) which was received on 19 July 2024.

23 Ultimate parent company

The Company is 75% (2023: 75%) owned by SSE plc and 25% (2023: 25%) owned by OTPP. SSE plc is the ultimate parent company and is registered in Scotland. The largest and smallest Group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by SSE plc. The consolidated financial statements of the Group (which include those of the Company) are available from the Company Secretary, SSE plc, Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ or by accessing the Company's website at www.sse.com.