

# I have pleasure in sending you the 2019 auditor's report and accounts, prepared by Mazars.

2019 saw the annual contributions to the Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan, increase by 14.75% to £2,016,975. (2018: £1,757,617)

Total funds under management also increased by 24% to £22,639,650. (2018: £18,259,502)

As in the previous year, we also had one new NGO join the plan.

My thanks as always, to our great client service and administration team, led by Lesley Stevens and Hannah Chorley respectively, they continue to offer a high level of service, support and guidance clearly demonstrated by the numerous compliments they receive from plan members and their employers.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming months and years.

Best wishes



Paul D Beard Founder and Executive Chairman Alexander Beard Group of Companies

# **Contents**

4	Trustee and Advisors
5	Trustee's annual report
8	Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements
9	Independent Auditor`s report to the Trustee of the ABIRP Scheme
11	Fund Account
12	Net Assets Statement (available for benefits)
13	Notes to the financial statements
16	Detailed Breakdown of each Employer

www.abg.net 3

Year ended 31 December 2019

#### **Trustee and advisers**

Sponsor Alexander Beard Group of Companies Limited

14-16 Rossmore Business Village

Inward Way Ellesmere Port CH65 3EY

Trustee Interben Trustees Limited

Third Floor, Cambridge House

Le Truchot St Peter Port Guernsey GY1 1WD

Administrator

(appointed by the Trustee with the consent 14-1

of the sponsor)

Alexander Beard Global Services Limited

14-16 Rossmore Business Village

Inward Way Ellesmere Port CH65 3EY

**Investment Platform Provider** 

(appointed by the Trustee on the recommendation

of the sponsor)

Moventum S.C.A 12 rue Eugene Ruppert

2453 Luxembourg

Bank Lloyds bank

53 King Street Manchester M2 4LQ

Independent Auditor

Mazars LLP

The Pinnacle

160 Midsummer Boulevard

Milton Keynes MK9 1FF

Investment Advisor Alexander Beard Investment Management Limited

(appointed by the Sponsor) 14-16 Rossmore Business Village

Inward Way Ellesmere Port CH65 3EY

# Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)

Year ended 31 December 2019

#### Trustee's annual report

#### Introduction

The Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan ("the Plan") was established by means of a Trust Instrument dated 24 January 2017. The Trust Instrument is between the Alexander Beard Group of Companies Limited and Interben Trustees Limited.

The Plan has been established to provide retirement and other benefits for and in respect of persons who are or previously were in the service of employers participating in the Plan.

The Plan is a defined contribution scheme.

There are multiple employer schemes within the Plan and other employers are welcome to join the Plan at any point. A breakdown of current employers within the Plan is shown on page 16.

#### **Statement of Investment Principles**

A range of investment portfolios are made available to Members which are chosen by the Sponsor upon the advice of the Investment Advisor and with the consent of the Trustee.

Investment portfolios have been chosen in three currencies (GBP, EUR and USD) each with five risk levels ranging from cautious to adventurous. There is also an age-related risk option, which starts in the most adventurous portfolio and automatically moves down the five risk levels in five year increments from age 45 to the cautious portfolio at age 60. A more cautious starting point is also available to Members. Each investment portfolio is composed of 7-8 passive mutual funds (including cash). The investment portfolios are rebalanced monthly.

The Members select whichever investment portfolio meets their individual needs. The selection of the investment portfolios is entirely at the risk of the Members. The Trustee is not responsible for any losses suffered as a result of the selection.

#### **Directors of the Trustee**

Nick Slinn, C.E.O. Brian Taylor, Executive Director Alison Parkes, Executive Director John Hunter, Executive Director

The Board of Directors meets at least four times each year.

# **Changes to Trust Instrument**

5

There have been no significant amendments to the Trust Instrument during the year under review.

4 www.abg.net



Year ended 31 December 2019

# Trustee's annual report

# Financial development of the Plan

The financial statements show that the total value of the Plan at 31 December 2019 was £22,639,650 (2018 £18,259,502).

# Membership

	2019	2018
Members 1st January	1,294	1,256
New Members	121	92
Leaving Members	(21)	(54)
Members 31st December	1,394	1,294

# Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)

5 Adventurous

Year ended 31 December 2019

# Trustee's annual report

# Performance of the investment portfolios supplied by the Investment Advisor

The performance of the funds from the 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 was:

USD % Return	1st Jan 2019 - 31st Dec 2019	
1 Cautious	14.62	(2.52)
2 Quite Cautious	17.92	(3.90)
3 Balanced	22.31	(5.94)
4 Quite Adventurous	24.36	(7.24)
5 Adventurous	25.24	(8.11)
EUR % Return	1st Jan 2019 - 31st Dec 2019	1st Jan 2018 - 31st Dec 2018
1 Cautious	13.23	(3.02)
2 Quite Cautious	16.69	(3.73)
3 Balanced	20.15	(4.65)
4 Quite Adventurous	23.95	(5.04)
5 Adventurous	26.73	(5.00)
GBP % Return	1st Jan 2019 - 31st Dec 2019	1st Jan 2018 - 31st Dec 2018
1 Cautious	11.63	(2.77)
2 Quite Cautious	13.77	(3.73)
3 Balanced	16.12	(4.16)
4 Quite Adventurous	18.47	(4.73)

(4.49)

19.43

6 www.abg.net 7



Year ended 31 December 2019

# Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with the UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) are the responsibility of the trustee. The trustee is responsible for ensuring, that those financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Plan during the Plan year and of the amount and disposition at the end of the Plan year of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the Plan year.

In discharging the above responsibilities, the trustee is responsible for selecting suitable accounting policies, to be applied consistently, making any estimates and judgments on a prudent and reasonable basis, and for the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the scheme will not be wound up.

The trustee is also responsible for making available certain other information about the Plan in the form of an annual

The trustee has a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the scheme and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities, including the maintenance of an appropriate system of internal control.

#### COVID-19

Subsequent to the Plan's year end, the scale and spread of Covid-19 virus worldwide and the actions taken by governments affected has caused and will continue to cause the disruption to almost all sectors and financial markets. However due to the Plan being a Defined Contribution scheme the Covid-19 crisis has not had a material impact and therefore no adjustments have been required to the financial statements as at 31 December 2019.

Approved by the Trustees on .Qct.22, 2020....

and signed on their behalf by

**Director of the Trustee** 

Date: 22 October 2020

# Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)

Year ended 31 December 2019

#### Independent Audit report to the Trustee of the Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan

# Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (the 'Plan') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise fund account, net assets statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Plan during the year ended 31 December 2019, and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities, other than the liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the year;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Instrument.

#### **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 scheme 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 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustee has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Plan's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

#### Other information

The trustee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



Year ended 31 December 2019

Independent Audit report to the Trustee of the Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan

#### **Responsibilities of Trustee**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustee is 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 trustee determines 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 trustee is responsible for assessing the Plan'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 trustee either intend to liquidate the Plan 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.

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

#### Use of the audit report

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the non-statutory financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Trust Instrument, applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the scheme's trustee 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 scheme's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

# Mazars LLP

#### **Mazars LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor The Pinnacle 160 Midsummer Boulevard Milton Keynes MK9 1FF

Date: 22 October 2020

# **Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)**

Year ended 31 December 2019

#### **Fund Account**

	Notes	2019	2018 Restated
Contributions and benefits		£	£
Total Contributions		2,016,975	1,757,617
		2,016,975	1,757,617
Benefit payments and transfers out	2	(358,568)	
Fees	3	(328,833)	
Bank Charges		(2,436)	(3,031)
		(689,837)	(1,697,108)
Net additions from dealings with members		1,327,138	60,509
Other Income	7	2,315	2,380
Returns on investments	4		
Change in market value of investments	8	3,050,240	(30,949)
Compensation costs		-	5,378
Bank Interest		455	1,441
Net returns on investments		3,050,695	(24,130)
Net increase in the fund during the year		4,380,148	38,759
Net assets of the Plan			
At 1 January		18,259,502	18,220,743
At 31 December		22,639,650	18,259,502

The notes on pages 13 to 15 form part of these Financial Statements.





Year ended 31 December 2019

# **Net Assets Statement (available for benefits)**

	Notes	2019 £	2018 Restated £
Investments assets:			
Fund Value		22,475,787	18,113,933
Total investments		22,475,787	18,113,933
Current assets	5	205,340	224,536
Current liabilities	6	(41,477)	(78,967)
		22,639,650	18,259,502

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Plan and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Trustee. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the Plan year.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustee on and signed on their behalf by

Trustee

**Date:** 22 October 2020

# **Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)**

Year ended 31 December 2019

# **Notes to the Financial Statements**

# 1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS102) – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and with the guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (June 2018).

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

# **Accounting policies**

The main accounting policies of the Plan are as follows:

- Contributions
   Contributions are accounted for on a cash received basis.
- (ii) Fees
  All fees are accounted for on an accruals basis.

#### (iii) Currency

The Plan presentation currency is Pounds Sterling. The trust bank accounts and accounts held with the Investment Platform Provider are denominated in US Dollars, Euros and Pounds Sterling. Monetary items denominated in foreign currency are translated into Pounds Sterling using the closing exchange rates at the Plan year end.

(iv) Investments

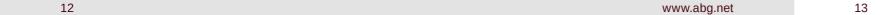
The value of units in all of the investment funds used in the portfolios are determined by the value of its underlying assets, which in turn are valued at their fair value.

# 2 Benefit payments and transfers out

Members can take the full value of their account when they reach their scheme retirement age. In addition, members may elect to transfer their account to a comparable retirement plan.

#### 3 Fees

	2019	2018
	£	£
Fees to Investment Platform Provider	51,980	52,681
Fees to Administrator	276,853	262,118





Year ended 31 December 2019

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### 4 Financial Risk disclosures

# **Investment Risk**

#### **Market Risk**

The Market Risk is borne by the Plan's members and not the Trustee, as is common with Defined Contribution pension arrangements. A range of USD, EUR and GBP portfolios of varying risk levels is offered to the Plan's members. The risk levels are largely attributed to the balance of assets, with greater allocations to equity funds in the higher risk portfolios, and more in cash and bonds, in the lower risk portfolios.

# **Currency Risk**

Investment portfolios are indirectly exposed to currency risk through their underlying holdings.

# 5 Current Assets

	2019	2018 Restated
	£	£
Cash at Bank	205,340	224,536

Current Assets prior year figures have been restated to include all balances held in the bank account at year end.

#### **6 Current Liabilities**

	2019	2018
	£	£
Creditors	31,734	72,582
Accrued Expenses	9,743	6,385
	<del></del>	
	41,477	78,967

# Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)

Year ended 31 December 2019

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

#### 7 Related Party Transactions

The Plan Sponsor owns Alexander Beard Global Services Limited which received administration fees of £276,853 (2018: £262,118) from the Trustee in relation to their services in respect of the Plan during the year.

Other income includes amounts paid by the Plan Sponsor to cover charges not borne by the employers or member of £2,315 (2018: £2,380).

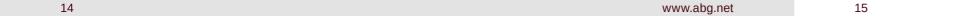
# 8 Change in Market Value

The following table gives a detailed breakdown of the movements in the fund balances in 2019, resulting in the change in market value shown in the accounts. This is shown both in the base currency of the fund and converted to Pound Sterling, using the year end exchange rates.

		Change in N	/larket Value	e				
		Base Currency			Converte	Converted to GBP		
	USD	EUR	£	USD	EUR	GBP	Total	
	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	
Total Fund Balance 2018	21,892	597	548	17,175	537	548	18,260	
Contributions	2,342	125	126	1,786	107	126	2,019	
Payments & transfers out	(303)	(43)	(91)	(231)	(37)	(91)	(359)	
Fees to Investment Platform Provider		(61)			(52)		(52)	
Fees to Administrator	(326)	(19)	(12)	(249)	(16)	(12)	(277)	
Bank Charges		(1)	(2)			(2)	(2)	
2019 Net Additions	1,713	1	22	1,306	2	21	1,329	
Total inc Additions	23,605	598	570	18,481	539	569	19,589	
Change in Market Value of Investments	4,283	236	89	2,788	173	89	3,050	
Total Fund Balance 2019	27,889	834	659	21,270	712	658	22,640	
Net movement in Fund	5,997	237	111	4,095	175	110	4,380	

# 9 Subsequent Events

Subsequent to the Plan's year end, the scale and spread of Covid-19 virus worldwide and the actions taken by governments affected has caused and will continue to cause disruption to almost all sectors and financial markets. However due to the Plan being a Defined Contribution scheme the Covid-19 crisis has not had a material impact and therefore no adjustments have been required to the financial statements as at 31 December 2019.





Year ended 31 December 2019

# **Detailed Breakdown of each Employer**

# **Breakdown of Members by Employer:**

Employer	2018	Leavers	Joiners	2019
Reference	Members			Members
1	355	(4)	67	418
2	21	(2)	2	21
3	36	(2)	2	36
4	53	0	4	57
5	1	0	0	1
6	1	0	0	1
7	61	0	6	67
8	144	(3)	0	141
9	3	0	0	3
10	21	(1)	1	21
11	13	0	0	13
12	41	0	3	44
13	81	0	2	83
14	38	(1)	1	38
15	10	0	1	11
16	34	(1)	2	35
17	7	0	8	15
18	4	0	0	4
19	1	0	0	1
20	33	(1)	0	32
21	13	0	1	14
22	183	(2)	17	198
23	137	(4)	0	133
24	3	0	3	6
25	0	0	1	1
	1,294	(21)	121	1,394

# Alexander Beard International Retirement Plan (ABIRP)

Year ended 31 December 2019

# **Detailed Breakdown of each Employer**

# Fund Account by Employer:

17

Employer Reference	Opening Assets at Investment Platform	Opening Cash Balances	Total Net Assets	Total Contributions	Benefit Payments & Transfers out	Investment Platform Provider Charge	Fees to Administrator	Bank Charges	Net Additions	Change in Market Value	Bank Interest	Closing Balance at Investment Platform	Closing Cash Balances	Total Net Assets
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	2,914,925	48,172	2,963,097	540,655	(38,833)	(8,848)	(54,246)	0	438,728	452,087	0	3,801,144	52,768	3,853,912
2	500,654	0	500,654	67,708	(48,602)	(1,203)	(7,697)	0	10,206	93,312	0	604,172	0	604,172
3	300,490	4,437	304,927	76,477	(3,723)	(963)	(7,027)	0	64,764	48,938	0	418,552	77	418,629
4	938,766	10,412	949,178	132,541	0	(2,593)	(15,900)	0	114,048	125,223	0	1,176,836	11,613	1,188,449
5	0	27,287	27,287	0	0	0	0	0	0	(760)	0	0	26,527	26,527
6	4,213	0	4,213	0	0	(13)	(42)	0	(55)	788	0	4,946	0	4,946
7	2,175,034	38,105	2,213,139	198,311	0	(6,094)	(31,938)	0	160,279	364,431	0	2,689,813	48,036	2,737,849
8	1,799,368	0	1,799,368	16,112	(16,799)	(5,354)	(19,333)	0	(25,374)	362,729	0	2,136,723	0	2,136,723
9	24,520	16	24,536	7,961	0	(89)	(707)	0	7,165	6,097	0	37,780	18	37,798
10	788,947	0	788,947	62,501	(41,292)	(2,250)	(11,476)	0	7,483	151,188	0	947,618	0	947,618
11	131,585	58	131,643	11,195	0	(408)	(1,922)	0	8,865	23,064	0	163,510	62	163,572
12	831,573	11,784	843,357	70,202	0	(2,618)	(11,683)	0	55,901	155,732	0	1,032,918	22,072	1,054,990
13	2,375,042	1,249	2,376,291	241,752	0	(6,143)	(36,772)	0	198,837	304,210	0	2,879,272	66	2,879,338
14	1,345,828	0	1,345,828	197,581	(22,832)	(3,414)	(10,947)	0	160,388	171,135	0	1,677,333	18	1,677,351
15	28,133	1,291	29,424	9,433	0	(102)	(865)	0	8,466	6,614	0	44,127	377	44,504
16	466,142	0	466,142	79,904	(20,177)	(1,437)	(9,716)	0	48,574	93,202	0	607,918	0	607,918
17	65,479	778	66,257	27,267	0	(238)	(1,957)	0	25,072	16,115	0	105,399	2,045	107,444
18	228,989	0	228,989	19,659	0	(722)	(3,202)	0	15,735	39,152	0	281,410	2,466	283,876
19	42,125	0	42,125	5,174	0	(142)	(945)	0	4,087	11,006	0	57,218	0	57,218
20	774,311	0	774,311	0	(40,969)	(2,361)	(7,629)	0	(50,959)	144,617	0	867,969	0	867,969
21	114,211	121	114,332	24,963	0	(355)	(2,904)	0	21,704	20,524	0	156,433	127	156,560
22	1,406,181	4,735	1,410,916	178,466	(32,066)	(4,262)	(29,633)	0	112,505	291,518	0	1,814,865	74	1,814,939
23	817,990	0	817,990	13,557	(93,275)	(2,222)	(8,261)	0	(90,201)	157,464	0	885,253	0	885,253
24	33,042	25	33,067	35,198	0	(149)	(2,051)	0	32,998	11,849	0	74,471	3,443	77,914
25	0	0	0	358	0	0	0	0	358	5	0	363	0	363
Funds not allocated to Employers	0	3,484	3,484	2,315	0	0	0	(2,436)	(121)	0	455	0	3,818	3,818
	18,107,548	151,954	18,259,502	2,019,290	(358,568)	(51,980)	(276,853)	(2,436)	1,329,453	3,050,240	455	22,466,043	173,607	22,639,650

The Trustee has agreed that bank interest is held centrally and not split by employer.



Year ended 31 December 2019

# **Detailed Breakdown of each Employer**

# Net Asset statement by Employer:

Employer Reference	Investment Assets	Current Assets	Current Liabilities	Net Assets
	£	£	£	£
1	3,803,570	52,768	(2,426)	3,853,912
2	605,857	0	(1,685)	604,172
3	418,552	77	0	418,629
4	1,177,415	11,613	(579)	1,188,449
5	0	26,527	0	26,527
6	4,946	0	0	4,946
7	2,692,213	48,036	(2,399)	2,737,849
8	2,136,723	0	0	2,136,723
9	37,780	18	0	37,798
10	947,618	0	0	947,618
11	163,547	62	(37)	163,572
12	1,034,073	22,072	(1,155)	1,054,990
13	2,880,201	66	(929)	2,879,338
14	1,677,333	18	0	1,677,351
15	44,145	377	(18)	44,504
16	607,918	0	0	607,918
17	105,603	2,045	(204)	107,444
18	281,534	2,466	(124)	283,876
19	57,218	0	0	57,218
20	867,969	0	0	867,969
21	156,433	127	0	156,560
22	1,814,865	74	0	1,814,939
23	885,253	0	0	885,253
24	74,639	3,443	(168)	77,914
25	382	0	(19)	363
Funds not allocated to Employers	0	35,551	(31,733)	3,818
	22,475,787	205,340	(41,477)	22,639,650

The Trustee has agreed that bank interest is held centrally and not split by employer.



18 www.abg.net

19

