

Accounts disclaimer

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Brit Syndicate 2988
Report and Accounts 2023

writing the future

BRIT

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Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent

The Directors of the Managing Agent, Brit Syndicates Limited (BSL) a company registered in England and Wales, present the report and annual accounts of Syndicate 2988 (the Syndicate) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

These annual accounts are prepared using the annual basis of accounting as required by Statutory Instrument No. 1950 of 2008, The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 (Lloyd's Regulations 2008).

Principal activity and review of the business

The Syndicate's principal activity is the underwriting of general insurance and reinsurance business in the Lloyd's market.

The Syndicate participates only on new and renewal business written by Brit's Syndicate 2987. The strategy is to focus on business with a profitable track record and where there are opportunities to underwrite business that Brit leads or where Brit has a strong market presence. The underwriting strategy reflects the Directors' view of prevailing market conditions in the classes of business written by the Syndicate during the year.

The result for the 2023 calendar year is a profit of £45.7m (2022 profit: £0.5m), including an underwriting profit of £32.9m (2022: profit of £10.5m) with a combined ratio of 84.8% (2022: 95.1%) and a net investment gain of £14.3m (2022: loss £6.9m).

The Syndicate's key performance indicators (KPI's) during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Gross premiums written	211.2	252.2
Net premiums written	202.0	235.0
Earned premiums, net of reinsurance	216.8	212.8
Underwriting result	32.9	10.5
Investment return	14.3	(6.9)
Technical result for the financial year	47.2	3.6
Non-technical account for the financial year	(1.5)	(3.1)
Result for the financial year	45.7	0.5
Total comprehensive profit for the financial year	45.4	(3.6)
Claims ratio ¹	59.4%	66.6%
Expense ratio ²	25.4%	28.5%
Combined ratio³	84.8%	95.1%

¹ The ratio of net claims incurred to net earned premiums.

² The ratio of net operating expenses (both net acquisition costs and administrative expenses) to net earned premiums.

³ The total of net claims and net operating expenses as a percentage of net earned premium.

Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (continued)

Gross premiums written

An analysis of gross premiums written by Brit portfolio and division is set out below:

Premium by Portfolio		2023	2022	Variance
		£'m	£'m	%
London Market Direct	FinPro	49.1	61.0	(19.5)
	Programs & Facilities	38.0	46.9	(19.0)
	Property	31.9	29.7	7.4
	Specialty	30.3	30.1	0.7
		149.3	167.7	(11.0)
London Market Reinsurance	Casualty Treaty	19.3	27.0	(28.5)
	Property Treaty	0.2	9.2	(97.8)
		19.5	36.2	(46.1)
Other	Inter Syndicate WAQS	42.1	48.9	(13.9)
Discontinued	Discontinued	0.3	(0.6)	(150.0)
Total		211.2	252.2	(16.3)

The Syndicate's gross premiums written decreased 16.3% to £211.2m (2022: £252.2m).

Whilst the Syndicate achieved positive risk adjusted rate increases of 1.4% during 2023, this was lower than expected and much lower than the prior year (2022:14.0%). This is discussed within the individual portfolio overviews below.

London Market Direct:

FinPro

The Syndicate's FinPro portfolio covers several classes. Cyber is by far the largest component of the portfolio and makes up around half of the income. The other main classes underwritten are US Professional Indemnity, Healthcare Liability and a Warranty & Indemnity book which is written through Ambridge, a leading global Managing General Underwriter.

During the 2022 financial year positive rating movements were experienced across most of the FinPro portfolio. In particular, the Cyber account saw rate increase of over 54%. Through 2023, this pricing trend has turned for some classes and underlying rates have fallen. Again, Cyber is a key driver with rates coming down by c.18% through the course of 2023. This has resulted in a reduction in Cyber income, not only from the reducing rate but also from being unwilling to underwrite risks where pricing has fallen to unacceptable levels.

The Ambridge book of business is heavily driven by M&A activity and has been impacted by continued economic uncertainty reducing deal flow for that class during 2023. US Professional Indemnity and Healthcare Liability have experienced mixed conditions, but in aggregate income is broadly unchanged year on year.

Programmes and Facilities

The Programmes and Facilities portfolio comprises Property Binders and Long-Tail Facilities, as well as Accident & Health and Contingency.

Toward the end of 2022 Brit undertook a strategic review of the Property segments, which resulted in a rebalancing of the portfolios and a managed reduction in income from Property Binders. The decision was also taken to underwrite the Property Binders as a quota share of Syndicate 2987. Income from within the Property Binders division is therefore down during 2023 compared to the prior year, although this has been diluted to a degree by higher than expected positive rate change. This facilitated alignment of the Property Binders business across both syndicates. Across the rest of the portfolio, the main year-on-year movement has come from Contingency which has continued to benefit from favourable conditions resulting in a commensurate increase in income.

Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (continued)

Property

The Property division comprises US and International Property risks written on an open market basis. The portfolio also includes Terrorism and Political & Credit Risk business (collectively referred to as 'Political Risk & Violence' or 'PRV'). The Syndicate reported a premium increase compared to 2022 as further positive rate change was achieved, primarily across the Open Market Property books. The US Open Market property book, in particular, additionally benefited from growth in the renewal portfolio and new business inflow. As with the Property Binders business, the US and International Property books were written as quota shares of Syndicate 2987 in 2023.

Specialty

Specialty lines primarily covers Specialist Liability, Marine and Energy classes of business. Overall year-on-year income is largely unchanged, with positive traction and growth in Energy, being largely offset by reductions across the Specialist Liability classes. Casualty classes, have, in general, experienced challenging conditions during 2023 and this has impacted the income from the Specialist Liability classes.

London Market Reinsurance:

Casualty Treaty

Income from the Casualty Treaty portfolio decreased by £7.7m in 2023. Casualty Treaty is one of Brit's 'high performing' classes and a key portfolio within Syndicate 2988. Market conditions have been challenging, particularly on the Long-Tail part of the account. The underwriting team has taken a firm stance on pricing, terms and conditions and this has resulted in some risks being non-renewed or new business not taken up where it doesn't meet risk appetite.

Property Treaty

As part of the Syndicate's evolving strategy, the amount of Property Treaty underwritten has been steadily reducing. At the end of 2022 the decision was made to no longer underwrite this portfolio into Syndicate 2988 with the resultant drop in income.

Other:

Since 2020, Syndicate 2988 has entered into a whole account quota share agreement with Syndicate 2987. The contract was renewed in 2023 at a slightly reduced cession (3.50% vs 3.75% for 2022). The agreement provides significant benefits to the Syndicate, increasing the Syndicate's premium base and the diversity of risks, while allowing it to benefit from the reinsurance protections that Syndicate 2987 has in place. During the year, the cessions under this agreement reduced partly as a result of the reduced cession % but also from the continued active management of the Syndicate 2987 portfolio and risk profile.

Outwards reinsurance

Outwards reinsurance spend reduced from £17.2m in 2022 to £9.2m in 2023.

Syndicate 2988 has traditionally purchased a combination of aggregate and event cover in order to manage catastrophe risk. This approach was unchanged for 2023, but with the reduction in US property risk being underwritten the extent of cover required and resultant cost was much lower than in 2022.

The Syndicate also continued to buy reinsurance on an excess of loss basis to protect the casualty and specialty accounts, together with a Cyber-specific stop loss. The cost of this cover moved in line with the underlying exposure, but the aggregate cost was similar across both the 2022 and 2023 financial years.

Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (continued)

Claims

Major loss activity

The table below sets out the net impact of major losses on the Syndicate's results analysed by event:

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Major losses		
Hawaii Wildfires	2.6	-
Hurricane Idalia	1.0	-
Hurricane Ian	-	16.6
Australian Floods	-	2.0
Storm Elliot	-	0.8
Total natural catastrophe losses	3.6	19.4
Claims arising from the Russian invasion of Ukraine	-	2.1
Total	3.6	21.5
Effect on the COR%	1.7%	10.1%

Worldwide natural disasters in 2023 resulted in economic losses of around \$250bn (2022: \$250bn), in line with the five-year average, while insured losses were in the region \$95bn (2022: \$125bn), below the five-year average of \$105bn (Source: Munich Re).

The year's most costliest events included the tragic earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria (overall losses of c.\$50bn, with insured of c.\$5.5bn), Typhoon Doksuri (Philippines / China) (overall losses of c.\$25bn, with insured of c.\$2.0bn), Hurricane Otis (the most severe storm ever to hit Mexico's Pacific coast) (overall losses of c.\$12.0bn, with insured of c.\$4.0bn). There were also a significant number of regional weather events, such as thunderstorms in the US and Europe, and wildfires in Canada.

Syndicate 2988's major catastrophe losses in 2023 amounted to £3.6m and added 1.7pps to the combined ratio (2022: £21.5m/10.1pps), driven by the Hawaiian wildfires (£2.6m net) and Hurricane Idalia (£1.0m net). The Syndicate does not have material exposure to other catastrophe events which occurred during the year. It is anticipated that some claims will emerge from these other catastrophe events, but they are expected to be attritional in scale.

Attritional losses

The Syndicate's attritional claims ratio of 58.6% is higher than the previous year (2022: 56.7%). Part of this increase is due to the transition in 2023 to underwriting the Open Market Property and Property Binders business as quota shares of Syndicate 2987. Income is ceded to Syndicate 2988 net of original commission and this distorts the performance ratios, increasing the claims ratio, but reducing the commission ratio (the ratio of net commission expense to net earned premium). The other factor is the changing mix of the portfolio resulting in a shift away from major losses, with the claims performance becoming more attritional in nature.

Prior year development

The Syndicate saw modest favourable prior year development in 2023, improving the loss ratio by 1.1pps (2022: 0.2pps). Favourable attritional experience emerging within the short-tail classes was the main driver.

Expenses

The overall expense ratio for the 2023 financial year of 25.4% has decreased compared to 2022 (28.5%). As noted in the 'Attritional losses' section above, the move to underwriting the Property books as quota shares of Syndicate 2987 has reduced the commission ratio which, for 2023, stands at 18.2% (2022: 19.5%).

Syndicate 2988's ability to leverage the operating model of the wider Brit group has always provided an efficient platform from which to operate from and this has also facilitated an improving operating expense ratio which has reduced from 9.0% in 2022 to 7.1% in the current year.

Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (continued)

Underwriting Result

The Syndicate reported an underwriting profit of £32.9m (2022 profit: £10.5m) and a combined ratio of 84.8% (2022: 95.1%). This marks the Syndicate's best underwriting performance to date and is a clear marker that the underwriting strategy is now starting to materialise in the results.

Investment Return

Total investment return net of investment management fees was a gain of £14.3m (2022: loss £6.9m).

Returns were driven by income in the fixed income portfolio, supported by capital gains. The US Government bond yield curve rose up to 140bps at the shorter tenors over the year, but tenors over 1 year ended the year relatively unchanged (up to 20bps falls or rises depending on the tenor) as the Fed rose rates 100bps over the first half of the year, then paused and at the December meeting pivoted to signal potential rate cuts in 2024.

Over the twelve months the two-year yield fell from 4.43% to 4.25%, the five-year yield fell from 4.00% to 3.85% and the ten-year yield was flat at 3.88%. Investment grade spreads in the US narrowed from 0.90% to 0.77% and in Europe narrowed from 1.56% to 1.28%, while high yield spreads in the US narrowed from 4.68% to 3.23% and in Europe narrowed from 4.90% to 3.83%.

Members' Balance

The Syndicate's Member's Balance of £30.1m at 31 December 2023 (2022 (£36.4m) comprise the cumulative results of the Syndicate for the open years of account, plus any collections that the Syndicate has made from its Members. This increase is driven by the profit in the year of £45.4m.

Financial position

Net Technical Reserves

The Syndicate maintains appropriate loss reserves to cover its estimated future liabilities. The Syndicate's net technical reserves have increased by £7.4m, or 1.8%, to £426.8m (2022: £419.4m). Preserving a strong financial position is critical to the long-term success of an insurance business. Reserves are estimates that involve actuarial and statistical projections of the expected cost of the ultimate settlement and administration of claims. The reserving process is robust and managed by the Chief Risk Officer and Chief Actuary and under the oversight of the Reserving Committee. Reserving estimates are prepared quarterly and are based on facts and circumstances then known, predictions of future developments, estimates of future trends in claims frequency and severity and other variable factors such as inflation. Movement in these reserves forms an integral element of our operating result.

As part of the year-end reserving exercise, the impact of inflation was considered in detail by the Actuarial team to ensure that assumptions are consistent with forward looking expectations for claims inflation. Various techniques have been considered in line with guidance from Lloyd's and regulators.

The Syndicate's reserving policy is to reserve to a best estimate and carry an explicit risk margin above that best estimate. Maintaining reserves is critical to safeguard future obligations to policyholders and the Syndicate's approach provides a secure foundation. It also provides a secure foundation for the pricing of new business which is particularly critical in a soft rating environment.

Financial Investments

The investment portfolio retains a large allocation to cash and cash equivalents (£57.1m or 18.4%) and fixed income securities (£252.2m or 81.0%), (2022: £56.1m cash, 25.0%, fixed income securities £165.7m, 73.8%).

Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (continued)

Syndicate outlook

Stamp capacity for the 2024 year of account has decreased by 21.5% to £173.4m (2023 year of account £221.0m) with the level of planned premium being written off this stamp decreasing by 18.0%.

Going into 2024, the industry faces a number of challenges and uncertainties, driven by the volatile geopolitical and economic landscapes, including ongoing inflationary pressures. Wider challenges also continue to exist such as the potential risk for increased frequency and magnitude of major loss events due to climate change, excess capacity, the cost of doing business in the London Market, and increased competition.

The Syndicate's planned portfolio for 2024 does not include any US Property risk. This has been a material source of volatility in the Syndicate's performance and, whilst conditions are favourable in this area, investor sentiment points to a preference to underwrite and manage this type of risk through their own platforms. In line with this strategy, the Whole Account Quota Share of Syndicate 2987 has also been non-renewed for 2024. The resultant drop in income has been mitigated to a degree by increasing the planned income from other classes. In addition, the 2024 Syndicate plan includes a modest amount of business (max 10%) being underwritten on risks where Syndicate 2987 is not on the slip. This will allow Syndicate 2988 to access a wider pool of business to complement the existing 'Brit' portfolio.

Brit remains cognisant of the potential impacts of inflation, with work being undertaken collaboratively internally to quantify and mitigate its impact on profitability. There is continued focus on ensuring that underwriting and pricing adequately addresses inflationary trends and Brit continues to review the key drivers of claim settlement costs and frequency by class of business. The Syndicate's reserves continue to be set at a margin above the actuarial estimate which is in turn set on a conservative best estimate basis incorporating management's current view of social and economic inflation.

The Syndicate's outwards reinsurance renewals at 1 January have been successfully completed, with the extent and type of cover evolving in line with the development of the inwards book. As the Syndicate will not underwrite US Property business in 2024, the need for catastrophe reinsurance protection has been removed.

The insurance market continues to evolve, but Syndicate 2988's strategy, agile approach and underwriting discipline position it well to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

Going concern

Following a review of the financial performance and position of the Syndicate the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Syndicate has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the report and accounts.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The information on principal risks and uncertainties is disclosed in note 3 to the accounts.

Employee and environmental matters

All staff in the UK are employed by Brit Group Services Limited, the group's service company, and the full staff cost disclosures are included in the notes to those accounts. Amounts are recharged to the Syndicate as part of the annual fixed fee charged by the Managing Agent.

Climate change will have a major impact on Brit's business and all its stakeholders, and Brit is committed to responsible business practices and recognises that it is most effective when acting alongside others in the industry.

Directors

The names of the current Directors of the Managing Agent and those who have served during the year are shown on page 53.

Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (continued)

Independent Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP remain in office as the Syndicate's auditors.

Statement of disclosure of information to the Auditors

Each person who is a Director of the Managing Agent at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the Syndicate's auditors in connection with its report, of which the Syndicate's auditors are unaware; and
- he or she has taken all the steps that he or she is obliged to take as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Syndicate's auditors are aware of that information.

Syndicate Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the Syndicate Meetings (Amendment No. 1) Byelaw (No. 18 of 2000) the Managing Agent does not propose holding a Syndicate Annual General Meeting of members of Syndicate 2988. Objections to this proposal or the intention to reappoint the auditors for a further 12 months can be made by Syndicate members to the Compliance Officer at the Managing Agent's registered address by 26 April 2024.

On behalf of the Board,

Gavin Wilkinson
Chief Financial Officer
27 February 2024

Statement of Managing Agent's Responsibilities

The Managing Agent is responsible for preparing the Syndicate annual accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 require the Managing Agent to prepare Syndicate annual accounts at 31 December each year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom accounting standards and applicable law). The Syndicate annual accounts are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Syndicate as at that date and of its profit or loss for that year.

In preparing the Syndicate annual accounts, the Managing Agent is required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the notes to the Syndicate annual accounts; and
4. prepare the Syndicate annual accounts on the basis that the Syndicate will continue to write future business unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Syndicate will do so.

The directors of the Managing Agent confirm that they have complied with the above requirement in preparing the Syndicate annual accounts.

The Managing Agent is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Syndicate and enable it to comply with the Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Syndicate and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Managing Agent is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the business' website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of annual accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Syndicate 2988

Report on the audit of the syndicate annual accounts

Opinion

In our opinion, Syndicate 2988's syndicate annual accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the syndicate's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its profit and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008.

We have audited the syndicate annual accounts included within the Report and Accounts 2023 (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023; the Income Statement, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Members Balances and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended; and the notes to the syndicate annual accounts, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)"), and The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 and other applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the *Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the syndicate annual accounts* section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the syndicate in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the syndicate annual accounts in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, as applicable to other entities of public interest, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we declare that non-audit services prohibited by the FRC's Ethical Standard were not provided.

Other than those disclosed in note 5, we have provided no non-audit services to the syndicate in the period under audit.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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 syndicate's ability

to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the syndicate annual accounts are authorised for issue.

In auditing the syndicate annual accounts, we have concluded that the Managing Agent's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the syndicate annual accounts is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the syndicate's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the syndicate annual accounts and our auditors' report thereon. The Managing Agent is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the syndicate annual accounts does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the syndicate annual accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the syndicate annual accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the syndicate annual accounts 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 based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Report of the Directors of the Managing Agent (the "Managing Agent's Report"), we also considered whether the disclosures required by The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Managing Agent's Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Managing Agent's Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 is consistent with the syndicate annual accounts and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the syndicate and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Managing Agent's Report.

Responsibilities for the syndicate annual accounts and the audit

Responsibilities of the Managing Agent for the syndicate annual accounts

As explained more fully in the Statement of Managing Agent's Responsibilities, the Managing Agent is responsible for the preparation of the syndicate annual accounts in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Managing Agent is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of syndicate annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the syndicate annual accounts, the Managing Agent is responsible for assessing the syndicate'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 it is intended for the syndicate to cease operations, or it has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the syndicate annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the syndicate annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 syndicate annual accounts.

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

Based on our understanding of the syndicate and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of UK and European regulatory principles, such as

those governed by the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority, and those regulations set by the Council of Lloyd's, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the syndicate annual accounts. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the syndicate annual accounts such as The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the syndicate annual accounts (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the risk of fraud in revenue recognition and management override of controls, including the potential for management bias in significant accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with the Board, management, internal audit and the compliance function of the Managing Agent, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations, and fraud;
- Assessment of matters reported on the Managing Agent's whistleblowing helpline and the results of the investigation of such matters;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes, including those of the Board, the Risk Oversight Committee, the Reserving Committee, and the Audit Committee of the Managing Agent, and correspondence with regulatory authorities, including the Council of Lloyd's, the Prudential Regulatory Authority, and the Financial Conduct Authority;
- Testing and challenging where appropriate the assumptions and judgements made in establishing significant accounting estimates, particularly in relation to estimated premium income and incurred but not reported provisions (gross and net of reinsurance) included in claims outstanding;
- Identifying and testing journal entries identified as potential indicators of fraud, in particular, those with unexpected account combinations, those posted by unexpected users or with unusual words, and post close or backdated journal entries; and
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing and extent of testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the syndicate annual accounts. Also, 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the syndicate annual accounts is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the syndicate's members as a body in accordance with part 2 of The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Under The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Managing Agent in respect of the syndicate; or
- certain disclosures of Managing Agent remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the syndicate annual accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Paul Pannell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
London
27 February 2024

Income Statement

Technical Account – General Business for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Gross premiums written	4	211.2	252.2
Outward reinsurance premiums		(9.2)	(17.2)
Net premiums written		202.0	235.0
Change in the gross provision for unearned premiums	12	14.9	(22.4)
Change in the provision for unearned premiums, reinsurers' share	12	(0.1)	0.2
Net change in the provision for unearned premiums		14.8	(22.2)
Earned premiums, net of reinsurance		216.8	212.8
Allocated investment return transferred from/(to) the non-technical account		14.3	(6.9)
Total technical income		231.1	205.9
Claims paid:			
Gross amount	13	(88.8)	(79.0)
Reinsurers' share	13	2.6	2.0
Net claims paid		(86.2)	(77.0)
Change in the provision for claims:			
Gross amount		(42.0)	(69.9)
Reinsurers' share		(0.5)	5.2
Net change in the provision for claims		(42.5)	(64.7)
Claims incurred, net of reinsurance	13	(128.7)	(141.7)
Net operating expenses	5	(55.2)	(60.6)
Total technical charges		(183.9)	(202.3)
Balance on the technical account for general business		47.2	3.6

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

Income Statement

Non - Technical Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Balance on the technical account for general business		47.2	3.6
Investment income	8(a)*	12.7	4.8
Unrealised gains on investments		9.8	0.2
Investment expenses and charges	8(b)*	(7.8)	(4.5)
Unrealised losses on investments		(0.4)	(7.4)
Net investment return		14.3	(6.9)
Allocated investment return transferred (to)/from general business technical account		(14.3)	6.9
(Loss) on exchange		(1.5)	(3.1)
Result for the financial year		45.7	0.5

**Investment income, expenses and charges have been re-presented from the prior year. In the prior year, gains and losses on the realisation of investments and unrealised gains and losses of investments were presented in single lines in the profit and loss: non-technical account. In the current year realised gains have been reclassified to investment income and realised losses have been reclassified to investment expenses and charges. Furthermore unrealised gains on investments and unrealised losses on investments are now represented into their own financial statement lines. Refer to note 8.*

There was no other comprehensive income or expense in the current or prior year.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Result for the financial year	45.7	0.5
Currency translation differences	(0.3)	(4.1)
Total comprehensive profit/loss for the financial year	45.4	(3.6)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Assets			
Investments:			
Financial investments	10	311.0	220.9
Deposits with ceding undertakings		0.1	-
		311.1	220.9
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions:			
Provision for unearned premium	12	3.9	4.2
Claims outstanding	13	14.5	15.8
		18.4	20.0
Debtors:			
Debtors due within one year:			
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations		60.3	73.4
Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations		55.4	57.0
Other debtors	18	0.2	0.9
Debtors due after one year:			
Other debtors	18	0.1	-
		116.0	131.3
Other assets:			
Cash at bank and in hand	14	4.5	3.4
Other	15	14.3	14.5
		18.8	17.9
Prepayments and accrued income:			
Deferred acquisition costs	16	17.2	23.1
Prepayments and accrued income		2.1	0.7
		19.3	23.8
Total assets		483.6	413.9

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

Liabilities

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Members' balances and liabilities			
Members' balances		30.1	(36.4)
		30.1	(36.4)
Technical provisions:			
Provision for unearned premium	12	97.3	117.3
Claims outstanding	13	347.9	322.1
		445.2	439.4
Creditors:			
Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations	17	1.4	0.4
Creditors arising out of reinsurance operations		4.8	6.3
Other creditors	18	0.4	0.8
		6.6	7.5
Accruals and deferred income		1.7	3.4
Total liabilities		453.5	450.3
Total members' balances and liabilities		483.6	413.9

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

The annual accounts on pages 14 to 53 were approved by the Board of Brit Syndicates Limited on 27 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Gavin Wilkinson
Chief Financial Officer

Martin Thompson
Director

Statement of Changes in Member's Balance
as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Members' balances as at 1 January	(36.4)	(54.7)
Total comprehensive profit/(loss) for the financial year	45.4	(3.6)
Collections from members	21.1	21.9
Members' balances carried forward at 31 December	30.1	(36.4)

The Members' balances relate entirely to Underwriting participation.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Cash flows from operating activities			
Result for the financial year		45.7	0.5
Movement in gross unearned premiums and outstanding claims		27.1	92.3
Movement in reinsurers' share of unearned premiums and outstanding claims		0.6	(5.4)
Increase/(decrease) debtors		9.5	(45.1)
Decrease in creditors		(0.8)	(3.3)
Movement in other assets/liabilities		1.7	(8.2)
Foreign exchange on operating activities		1.1	1.6
Net investment return		(14.3)	6.9
Net cash flows generated from operating activities		70.6	39.3
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of equity and debt instruments		(434.8)	(368.6)
Sale of equity and debt instruments		341.7	323.6
Investment income received		4.9	0.3
Net cash flow used in investing activities		(88.2)	(44.7)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Collections from members		21.1	21.9
Net cash flows generated from financing activities		21.1	21.9
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		3.6	16.5
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		56.1	36.6
Foreign exchange on cash and cash equivalents		(2.6)	3.0
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	14	57.1	56.1

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies, statement of compliance and basis of preparation

1.1 Statement of compliance and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 and FRS 103, being the applicable UK GAAP accounting standards, and in accordance with The Insurance Accounts Directive (Lloyd's Syndicate and Aggregate Accounts) Regulations 2008 (The Regulations 2008), and where appropriate the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (The Regulations) relating to insurance companies.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the recognition of certain financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value. The annual basis of accounting has been applied to all classes of business written by the Syndicate.

The Directors of the Managing Agent have prepared the annual accounts on the going concern basis that the Syndicate will continue to write future business.

The financial statements are reported in sterling (£m), which is the presentational currency of the Syndicate, and rounded to the nearest £0.1m, unless otherwise stated. The functional currency of the Syndicate is the United States dollar (US\$).

1.2 Product classification

Insurance contracts are those contracts that transfer significant insurance risk. The significance of insurance risk is dependent on both the probability of an insured event and the magnitude of its potential effect to the policyholder. Once a contract has been classified as an insurance contract, it remains an insurance contract for the remainder of its lifetime, even if the insurance risk reduces significantly during this period.

1.3 Significant accounting policies

1.3.1 Insurance contracts

a. Premiums

Premiums written relate to business incepted during the year, together with any differences between booked premiums for prior years and those previously accrued, and include estimates of premiums due but not yet receivable or notified, less an allowance for cancellations. Premiums are accreted to the technical account (i.e. earned) on a pro rata basis over the term of the related policy, except for those contracts where the period of risk differs significantly over the contract period. In these circumstances, premiums are recognised over the period of risk in proportion to the amount of insurance protection provided. Reinstatement premiums are accreted to the technical account on a pro rata basis over the term of the original policy to which it relates. Premiums are shown net of premium taxes and other levies on premiums. Pipeline premium estimates (estimated premium income) are derived from ultimate premium estimates which are typically based on standard actuarial projection techniques (e.g. Basic Chain Ladder) on the key assumption that historical development of premiums is representative of future development.

b. Profit commissions

Profit commission income arising from whole account quota share contracts is recognised when the economic benefits are highly probable. These are netted off against commission costs which are included within the 'acquisition costs' line in the technical account.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies, statement of compliance and basis of preparation (continued)

c. Deferred acquisitions costs

Commission and other acquisition costs incurred during the financial period that are related to securing new insurance contracts and/or renewing existing insurance contracts, but which relate to subsequent financial periods, are deferred to the extent that they are recoverable out of future revenue margins. Deferred acquisition costs are capitalised and amortised over the life of the policy to which they relate on a basis consistent with the earnings pattern of that policy.

d. Claims

Claims incurred comprise claims and claims handling costs paid in the year and changes in the outstanding claims provisions, including provisions for claims incurred but not reported (IBNR) and related expenses, together with any adjustments to claims from prior years. Claims handling costs are mainly external costs related to the negotiation and settlement of claims.

Internal costs to negotiate, manage, and settle claims (unallocated loss adjustment expenses) are apportioned to paid claims. The apportionment utilises the annual ULAE assumption that is agreed by the Reserving Committee.

Outstanding claims represent the estimated ultimate cost of settling all claims (including direct and indirect claims settlement costs) arising from events which have occurred up to the date of the statement of financial position, including IBNR, less any amounts paid in respect of those claims. The Syndicate does not discount its liabilities for unpaid claims, the ultimate cost of which cannot be known with certainty at the date of the statement of financial position.

Claims provisions have been established on an individual class of business basis. The underwriting and management teams conduct a quarterly review of each class of business. Claims are projected to the ultimate position and provision is made for known claims and claims IBNR.

While the Directors consider that the estimate of claims outstanding is fairly calculated on the basis of the information currently available to them, there is inherent uncertainty in relation to the ultimate liability which will vary as a result of subsequent information and events. Adjustments to the amounts of the claims provisions established in prior years are reflected in the technical account for the period in which the adjustments are made.

e. Provision for unearned premiums

The proportion of written premiums that relate to unexpired terms of policies in force at the date of the statement of financial position is deferred as a provision for unearned premiums, generally calculated on a time apportioned basis. The movement in the provision is taken to the technical account in order that revenue is recognised over the period of the risk.

f. Unexpired risks provision

Provision is made for any deficiencies arising when unearned premiums, net of related deferred acquisition costs, are insufficient to meet expected claims and expenses. The expected claims are calculated having regard to events that are relevant to the provision at the date of the statement of financial position. Unexpired risk surpluses and deficits are offset where business classes are managed together, and a provision is made if an aggregate deficit arises. At 31 December 2023, the Syndicate reported an unexpired risks provision of £nil (2022: £nil).

g. Reinsurance

The Syndicate assumes and cedes reinsurance in the normal course of business. Premiums and claims on reinsurance assumed are recognised in the technical account along the same basis as direct business, taking into account the product classification. Reinsurance premiums ceded and reinsurance recoveries on claims incurred are included in the respective expense and income accounts. Reinsurance outwards premiums are earned according to the nature of the cover. 'Losses occurring during' policies are earned evenly over the policy period. 'Risks attaching' policies are expensed on the same basis as the inwards business being protected.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies, statement of compliance and basis of preparation (continued)

Reinstatement premiums on both inwards and outwards business are accreted to the technical account on a pro rata basis over the term of the original policy to which they relate.

Reinsurance assets include amounts recoverable from reinsurance companies for paid and unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses and ceded unearned premiums. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are calculated with reference to the claims liability associated with the reinsured risks. Revenues and expenses arising from reinsurance agreements are therefore recognised in accordance with the underlying risk of the business reinsured.

Gains or losses on buying reinsurance are recognised immediately in the technical account.

If a reinsurance asset is impaired, the Syndicate reduces its carrying amount accordingly, and will immediately recognise the impairment loss in the technical account. A reinsurance asset will be deemed to be impaired if there is objective evidence, as a result of an event that occurred after initial recognition of that asset, that the Syndicate may not receive all amounts due to it under the terms of the contract, and that the event has a reliably measurable impact on the amounts that the Syndicate will receive from the reinsurer.

Gains or losses on buying retroactive reinsurance are recognised immediately in the technical account and are not deferred and amortised. Premiums ceded and claims reimbursed are presented on a gross basis in the technical account and statement of financial position as appropriate.

h. Expenses and other income receivable

The Managing Agent has charged the Syndicate a annual fixed fee and has borne all the management expenses of the Syndicate, other than those related to the direct cost of underwriting and investment management charges. Investment management charges are netted off against investment return as disclosed in note 8. Any internal or external claims adjustment or settlement costs are included within gross claims paid.

The Managing Agent also charges the Syndicate profit commission equal to a fixed percentage of profit for each year of account, subject to a deficit clause brought forward from previous years. An accrual is recognised as and when the year of account becomes profitable, with payment crystallising on closure of the year of account after three years. Profit commission of £nil was charged or accrued for in the calendar year to 31 December 2023 (2022: £nil).

i. Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred and subsequently stated at amortised cost. Fair value is normally determined by reference to the fair value of the proceeds received or amounts paid. Any difference between the initial carrying amount and the redemption value is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest rate method.

1.3.2 Investments

a. Financial investments

The Syndicate has designated on initial recognition its financial assets held for investment purposes (investments) at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL). This is in accordance with the Syndicate's documented investment strategy and consistent with investment risk being assessed on a portfolio basis. Information relating to investments is provided internally to the Directors of the Managing Agent and management personnel on a fair value basis.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets (which are the principal markets or the most advantageous markets that maximise the amount that would be received to sell the asset or minimises the amount that would be paid to transfer the liability) is based on quoted market bid and ask price for both financial assets and financial liabilities respectively.

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market, including over-the-counter derivatives, is determined using valuation techniques. The Syndicate uses a variety of methods and makes

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies, statement of compliance and basis of preparation (continued)

assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each reporting date. Valuation techniques include the use of comparable recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and others commonly used by market participants and which make the maximum use of observable inputs.

Gains and losses on investments designated as FVTPL are recognised through the technical account. Interest income from investments in bonds and short term investments is recognised at the effective interest rate.

b. Investment return

Investment return comprises all investment income, interest receivable, dividend income, overseas deposit income, and realised and unrealised investment gains and losses and investment expenses and charges. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Realised gains and losses on investments carried at market value are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and purchase price and are recognised when the sale transaction occurs. Unrealised gains and losses on investments represent the difference between the valuation at the date of the statement of financial position and their valuation at the previous statement of financial position, or purchase price if acquired during the year, together with the reversal of unrealised gains and losses recognised in earlier accounting periods in respect of investment disposals in the current period. Investment expenses and charges relate to those cost incurred in relation to investment activities.

Investment return is initially recorded in the non-technical account. A transfer is made from the non-technical account to the general business technical account to reflect the investment return on funds supporting underwriting business. All investment return is considered to arise on such funds except to the extent that investment income arises on Funds at Lloyd's retained at the Syndicate level, also known as 'Funds in Syndicate' (FIS), that income remains in the non-technical account.

1.3.3 Measurement of other financial assets and financial liabilities

Other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

1.3.4 Recognition and derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Syndicate becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the contract. A financial asset is derecognised when either the contractual rights to the asset's cash flows expire, or the asset is transferred, and the transfer qualifies for derecognition under a combination of risks and rewards and control tests.

A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished which is when the obligation in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired.

All 'regular way purchases and sales' of financial assets are recognised on the trade date, i.e. the date that the Syndicate commits to purchase or sell the asset. Regular way purchases and sales are purchases and sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the marketplace.

If the carrying value of an asset is impaired, it is reduced to the recoverable amount by an immediate charge in the income statement. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

1.3.5 Derivatives

Derivative financial instruments include foreign exchange contracts, forward rate agreements, interest rate futures, currency and interest rate swaps and other financial instruments that derive their value mainly from underlying interest rates, foreign exchange rates, credit indices, commodity values or equity instruments. All derivatives are initially recognised in the statement of financial position at their fair value, which represents their

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies, statement of compliance and basis of preparation (continued)

cost. They are subsequently remeasured at their fair value, with movements in this value recognised in the technical account. Fair values are obtained from quoted market prices or, if these are not available, by using valuation techniques such as discounted cash flow models or option pricing models.

All derivatives are carried as assets when the fair values are positive and as liabilities when the fair values are negative. Derivative contracts may be traded on an exchange or over-the-counter (OTC). Exchange-traded derivatives are standardised and include certain futures and option contracts. OTC derivative contracts are individually negotiated between contracting parties and include forwards and swaps.

Derivatives are subject to various risks including market, liquidity and credit risk, similar to those related to the underlying financial instruments. Many OTC transactions are contracted and documented under International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) master agreements or their equivalent, which are designed to provide legally enforceable set-off in the event of default, reducing the Syndicate's exposure to credit risk. The notional or contractual amounts associated with derivative financial instruments are not recorded as assets or liabilities on the statement of financial position as they do not represent the fair value of these transactions.

1.3.6 Taxation

Under Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 1993, Managing Agents are not required to deduct basic rate income tax from trading income. In addition, all UK basic rate income tax deducted from Syndicate investment income is recoverable by Managing Agents and consequently the distribution made to member or their members agents is gross of tax. Capital appreciation falls within trading income and is also distributed gross of tax.

No provision has been made for any United States Federal Income Tax payable on underwriting results or investment earnings. Any payments on account made by the Syndicate during the year are included in the statement of financial position under the heading 'Member's balance'.

No provision has been made for any overseas tax payable by members on underwriting results.

1.3.7 Pension costs

Brit Group Services Limited operates a defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of the Managing Agent. Contributions are charged to the Syndicate within the annual fixed fee.

1.3.8 Foreign currencies

In accordance with FRS102, the functional currency is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Syndicate operates. The functional currency for Syndicate 2988 is the United States dollar (US\$). The annual accounts are presented in sterling. Foreign exchange resulting from translating balances from the functional currency to the presentational currency is reported in other comprehensive income.

Unless otherwise stated, transactions in sterling, Canadian dollars and euros are translated into the functional currency at average rates of exchange. Transactions in foreign currencies other than sterling, US dollars, Canadian dollars and Euros are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the date the transaction is processed.

Monetary assets and liabilities in currencies other than the functional currency are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December of each year. Exchange profits or losses arising on the translation of foreign currency amounts relating to the Syndicate insurance operations are included within the non-technical account as prescribed by FRS 103.

1.3.9 Offsetting of financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position only when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liability simultaneously.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements in applying accounting policies

The Syndicate makes various assumptions about the future, and other major sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Estimates and judgements are regularly re-evaluated and are based on a combination of historical experience and other factors, including exposure analysis, expectations of future experience and expert judgement.

2.1 Estimation and judgements in relation to determining the ultimate liability arising from claims made under Insurance contracts

The estimation of the ultimate liability arising from claims made under insurance contracts is the Syndicate's most critical accounting estimate. There are several sources of uncertainty that need to be considered in the estimate of the amounts that the Syndicate will ultimately pay to settle such claims. Significant areas requiring estimation and judgement include:

- Estimates of the amount of any liability in respect of claims notified but not settled and incurred but not reported claims (IBNR) to be included within provisions for inwards insurance and reinsurance contracts;
- The corresponding estimate of the amount of outwards reinsurance recoveries which will become due as a result of the estimated claims on inwards business;
- The recoverability of amounts due from reinsurers; and
- Estimates of the proportion of exposure which has expired in the period as represented by the earned proportion of premiums written.

The assumptions used and the manner in which these estimates and judgements are made are set out below, including the reserving process for the estimation of gross, and net of reinsurance, ultimate premiums and claims:

- Quarterly statistical data is produced in respect of gross and net premiums and claims (paid and incurred);
- Projections of ultimate premiums, reinstatement premiums and claims are produced by the internal actuarial department using standard actuarial projection techniques (e.g. Basic Chain Ladder, Bornhuetter-Ferguson, Initial Expected Loss Ratio). The Basic Chain Ladder and Bornhuetter-Ferguson projection methods are based on the key assumption that historical development of premiums and claims is representative of future development. Claims inflation is taken into account in the initial expected loss ratio selections but is otherwise assumed to be in line with historical inflation trends, unless explicit adjustments for other drivers of inflation such as legislative developments are deemed appropriate; Given the early stage of development for the Syndicate, these methods have typically relied on benchmark information e.g. from similar business written by BSL into Syndicate 2987;
- Some classes of business have characteristics which do not necessarily lend themselves easily to statistical estimation techniques e.g. due to low data volumes. In such cases, for example, a policy-by-policy review may also be carried out to supplement statistical estimates;
- In the event of catastrophe losses, and prior to detailed claims information becoming available, claims provision estimates are compiled using a combination of output from specific recognised modelling software and detailed reviews of contracts exposed to the event in question.
- The initial ultimate selections derived by the actuarial department, along with the underlying key assumptions and methodology, are discussed with class underwriters, divisional underwriting directors and the claims team at 'pre-committee' meetings. The actuarial department may make adjustments to the initial ultimates following these meetings;
- Following the completion of the 'pre-committee' meetings and peer review process within the actuarial department, the ultimate selections (actuarial estimate), assumptions, methodology and uncertainties are presented to the Reserving Committee for discussion and debate; and
- Following review of the actuarial estimate, the Reserving Committee recommends the committee estimates to be adopted in the financial statements.

The estimates and judgements are applied in line with the overall reserving philosophy and seek to state the claims provisions on a best estimate, undiscounted basis. A management risk margin is also applied over and above the actuarial best estimate to allow for the inherent uncertainty within the best estimate reserve position.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements in applying accounting policies (continued)

The Syndicate has carefully considered the impact of the higher levels of inflation. As part of the year-end reserving exercise, the impact of inflation has been considered in detail by the internal Actuarial team to ensure that assumptions are consistent with the Syndicate's forward looking expectations for claims inflation. Various techniques have been considered in line with guidance from Lloyd's and regulators.

In addition to claims provisions, the reserve for future loss adjustment expenses is also subject to estimation with consideration being given to the level of internal and third-party loss adjustment expenses incurred annually. The estimated loss adjustment expenses are expressed as a percentage of gross claims reserves and the reasonableness of the estimate is assessed through benchmarking. Further judgements are made as to the recoverability of amounts due from reinsurers. Provisions for bad debts are made specifically, based on the solvency of reinsurers, internal and external ratings, payment experience with them and any disputes of which the Syndicate is aware.

2.2 Estimated premium income

Premium income reported by the Syndicate includes estimates for ultimate premiums for certain contracts, in particular those written under delegated authority agreements. These ultimate premiums are written in line with expected attachments of the underlying policies. The Syndicate considers relevant information when determining estimates, including information provided by brokers and coverholders, past underwriting experience, market conditions, and the contractual terms of policies. As updated information relating to such variables becomes available, for example when bordereaux are received, adjustments to estimates are recorded in the period in which they are determined, and will impact gross premiums written and provisions for unearned premium in the technical account.

2.3 Estimation and judgements in respect of fair value of financial investments

Financial investments are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value. Determining the fair value of certain investments requires estimation.

The Syndicate values investments using designated methodologies, estimations and assumptions. These securities, which are reported at fair value on the statement of financial position, represent the majority of the invested assets. The measurement basis for assets carried at fair value is categorised into a 'fair value hierarchy' in accordance with the valuation inputs and consistent with UK GAAP.

The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level one); the middle priority to fair values other than quoted prices based on observable market information (level two); the lowest priority to unobservable inputs that reflect the assumptions that the Syndicate considers market participants would normally use (level three). To the extent that valuations is based on models or inputs that are unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgement and accordingly, those instruments included in level three will require a greater degree of judgement to be exercised during valuation than for those included in level two or level one. At 31 December 2023, financial investments amounting to £2.3m (2022: £2.3m) were classified as level three.

The classification within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of significant input to its valuation. Any change to investment valuations may affect the Syndicate results of operations and reported financial condition. For further information, refer to note 10.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties

3.1 Insurance risk

Insurance risk arises from the possibility of an adverse financial result due to actual experience being different from that expected when an insurance product was designed and priced. The actual performance of insurance contracts is subject to the inherent uncertainty in the occurrence, timing and amount of the final insurance liabilities. This is the principal risk the Syndicate is exposed to as its primary function is to underwrite insurance contracts. The risk arises due to the possibility of insurance contracts being under-priced, under-reserved or subject to unforeseen catastrophe claims.

The areas of insurance risk discussed below include underwriting (including aggregate exposure management), reinsurance and reserving.

a. Underwriting risk

Underwriting risk is the risk that insurance premiums will not be sufficient to cover the future losses and associated expenses. It arises from the fluctuations in the frequency and severity of financial losses incurred through the underwriting process by the Syndicate because of unpredictable events.

The Syndicate is also exposed to the risks resulting from its underwriters accepting risks for premiums which are insufficient to cover the ultimate claims which result from such policies. The underwriting and economic environment and the associated impact on premium rates, including trends due to the underwriting cycle and inflation, are factored into the Syndicate's pricing models and risk management tools, and is continually monitored to assess whether any corrective action is required. Additional controls over the underwriting strategy are described in the section below.

The Syndicate writes all of its business through Lloyd's and therefore can take advantage of Lloyd's centralised infrastructure and service support. Lloyd's also has an established global distribution framework, with extensive licensing agreements providing the Syndicate access to over 200 territories. Exclusively using the Lloyd's platform subjects the Syndicate to a number of resulting underwriting risks. The Syndicate relies on the efficient functioning of the Lloyd's market. In particular any damage to the brand or reputation of Lloyd's or deterioration in Lloyd's asset base when compared with its liabilities may have a material adverse effect on the Syndicate's ability to write new business.

The Syndicate also benefits from the ability to write business based on the Lloyd's financial rating, which allows the Syndicate to write more business as part of the Lloyd's platform. A downgrade in Lloyd's financial strength ratings may have an adverse effect on the Syndicate.

(i) Controls over underwriting strategy

The BSL Board sets the Syndicate's underwriting strategy for accepting and managing underwriting risk. The Underwriting Committee, chaired by the Chief Underwriting Officer, meets regularly to drive the underwriting strategy and to monitor performance against the plans. The assessment of underwriting performance is all-encompassing applying underwriting key performance indicators (KPIs), technical pricing management information (MI), premium monitoring, delegated underwriting operations and claims. The risks are managed by the committee in line with the underwriting risk policy and within the risk tolerance set by the Board. The underwriting risk policy also sets out a number of controls, which are summarised below:

The Managing Agent carries out a detailed annual business planning process for each of the Syndicate's underwriting units. The resulting plans set out premium, territorial and aggregate limits and reinsurance protection thresholds for all classes of business and represent a key tool in managing concentration risk. Performance against the plans is monitored on a regular basis by the Underwriting Committee as well as by the Board. A dedicated Risk Aggregation team also performs catastrophe modelling and Realistic Disaster Scenarios (RDS) on a regular basis to ensure that the Syndicate's net losses remain within its risk appetite.

The Managing Agent has developed underwriting guidelines, limits of authority and business plans for the Syndicate which are binding upon all staff authorised to underwrite. These are detailed and specific to underwriters and classes of business. Gross and net line size limits are in place for each class of business with additional restrictions in place on catastrophe exposed business.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

A proportion of the Syndicate's insurance risks are written by third parties under delegated underwriting authorities, with the remaining being written through individual risk acceptances or through reinsurance treaties. The third parties are closely vetted in advance and are subject to tight reporting requirements. In addition, the performance of these contracts is closely monitored by underwriters and/or portfolio managers, with regular audits being carried out.

The technical pricing framework ensures that the pricing process in the Syndicate is appropriate. It ensures pricing methodologies are demonstrable and transparent and that technical (or benchmark) prices are assessed for each risk. The underwriting and actuarial functions work together to maintain the pricing models and assess the difference between technical price and actual price. The framework also ensures that sufficient data is recorded and checked by underwriters to enable the Syndicate to maintain an effective rate monitoring process.

Compliance is checked through both a peer review process and, periodically, by the Managing Agent's Internal Audit department which is entirely independent of the underwriting units.

In order to limit risk, the number of reinstatements per policy is limited, deductibles are imposed, policy exclusions are applied and whenever allowed by statute, maximum indemnity limits are put in place per insured event.

(ii) Underwriting risk profile

The core insurance portfolio of property, marine and casualty, covers a variety of largely uncorrelated events and also provides some protection against the underwriting cycle as different classes are at different points in the underwriting cycle. The underwriting portfolio is managed to target top quartile underwriting performance and the mix of business is continually adjusted based on the current environment (including the current pricing strength of each class). This assessment is conducted as part of business planning process, which operates annually, and ongoing strategy process and uses inputs from the technical pricing framework. The business plan is approved by the BSL Board and is monitored monthly.

(iii) Geographical concentration of premium

The Syndicate enters into policies with policyholders from all over the world, with the underlying risk relating to premiums spread worldwide. This allows the Syndicate to benefit from a wide geographic diversification of risk. The principal location of the Syndicate's policyholders is the United States. The concentration of insurance premium before and after reinsurance by the location of the underlying risk is summarised below:

Premiums written	Gross	Net
2023	£'m	£'m
United States	62.3	59.5
United Kingdom	18.5	17.8
Europe (excluding UK)	4.4	4.1
Other (including worldwide)	126.0	120.6
Total	211.2	202.0

Premiums written	Gross	Net
2022	£'m	£'m
United States	80.2	73.3
United Kingdom	18.1	16.6
Europe (excluding UK)	6.4	6.0
Other (including worldwide)	147.5	139.2
Total	252.2	235.1

The nature of the London Market business is such that the insureds and reinsureds are often operating on a multi-territory or worldwide basis and hence coverage is often provided on a worldwide basis. Premiums written on a multi-territory or worldwide basis are included in 'Other' in the table above.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

(iv) Portfolio mix

Premium by Portfolio		2023	2022	Variance
		£'m	£'m	%
London Market Direct	FinPro	49.1	61.0	(19.5)
	Programs & Facilities	38.0	46.9	(19.0)
	Property	31.9	29.7	7.4
	Specialty	30.3	30.1	0.7
		149.3	167.7	(11.0)
London Market Reinsurance	Casualty Treaty	19.3	27.0	(28.5)
	Property Treaty	0.2	9.2	(97.8)
		19.5	36.2	(46.1)
Other	Inter Syndicate WAQS	42.1	48.9	(13.9)
Discontinued	Discontinued	0.3	(0.6)	(150.0)
Total		211.2	252.2	(16.3)

The Syndicate underwrites a business mix of both insurance and reinsurance, long and short tailed business across a number of geographic areas which results in diversification of the Syndicate's portfolio. The business mix is monitored with focus on the short tail vs. long tail split and the proportion of delegated underwriting business. Delegated underwriting represents approximately 31.6% of the portfolio as at 31 December 2023 (2022: 33.0%)

(v) Aggregate exposure management

The Syndicate closely monitors aggregation of exposure to natural catastrophe events against agreed risk appetites using stochastic catastrophe modelling tools, along with knowledge of the business, historical loss information, and geographical accumulations. Climate change impacts natural catastrophe events. Analysis and monitoring also measures the effectiveness of the Syndicate's reinsurance programmes. Risk appetites are set by the Board on an annual basis.

Stress and scenario tests are also run, such as Lloyd's and internally developed Realistic Disaster Scenarios (RDSs). Below are the key RDS losses to the Syndicate for all classes combined as at 1st October 2023 (unaudited):

Lloyd's Prescribed RDS Event	Estimated Industry Loss	Modelled Syndicate Loss at 1 October 2023 (i)		Modelled Syndicate Loss at 1 October 2022 (i)	
		Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Gulf of Mexico Windstorm	111,000	33	17	62	18
Florida Miami Windstorm	131,000	31	17	67	12
US North East Windstorm	81,000	27	18	61	43
San Francisco Earthquake	80,000	55	41	91	51
Japan Earthquake	56,746	11	10	22	19
Japan Windstorm	12,058	3	2	6	6
European Windstorm	26,512	15	15	7	7

(i): At 31 December 2023 foreign exchange rates

Actual results may differ materially from the losses above given the significant uncertainties within model assumptions, techniques and simulations applied to calculate these event loss estimates. There could also be non-modelled losses which result in actual losses exceeding these figures. Moreover, the portfolio of insured risks changes dynamically over time.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

(vi) Sensitivity to changes in net claims ratio

The Syndicate result for the financial year is sensitive to an independent 1% change in the net claims ratio by (excluding the effect of foreign exchange on non-monetary items) class of business as follows:

	Impact on profit of 1% change in claims ratio			
		year ended 2023		year ended 2022
	\$m	%	\$m	%
Core Underwriting	1.7	77%	1.6	76%
Other Underwriting	0.5	23%	0.5	24%
Total	2.2	100%	2.1	100%

The impact on the member's balance would be the same as that on the result following a change in the net claims ratio.

b. Reinsurance risk

The Syndicate purchases reinsurance to manage exposure to individual risks and aggregation of risks arising from individual large claims and catastrophe events. This allows the Syndicate to mitigate exposure to insurance losses against the risk appetite, reduce volatility of reported results and protect capital.

The Syndicate has in place a comprehensive programme of excess of loss reinsurances to protect itself from severe size or frequency of losses. The following covers may be used:

- (i) Facultative reinsurance is used to reduce risk relating to individual contracts. The amount of cover bought varies by class of business. Facultative reinsurance is also used as a tool to manage the net line size on individual risks to within tolerance.
- (ii) Risk excess of loss reinsurance is used to protect a range of individual inwards contracts which could give rise to individual large claims. The optimal net retention per risk is assessed for each class of business given the Syndicate's risk appetite during the business planning exercise.
- (iii) Catastrophe excess of loss reinsurance cover on a basis whereby the Syndicate's reinsurance recoveries under the contract are based on Syndicate 2987's experience rather than Syndicate 2988's. This introduces an element of basis risk, but this is mitigated by the correlation between the Syndicate 2987 and Syndicate 2988 inwards portfolios.

Given the fundamental importance of reinsurance protection to the Syndicate's risk management, the Managing Agent has in place internal controls and processes to ensure that the reinsurance arrangements provide appropriate protection of capital and maintain the Syndicate's ability to meet policyholder obligations. The Outwards Reinsurance Committee makes recommendations on the purchase of reinsurance.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The Syndicate remains exposed to a number of risks relating to its reinsurance programme:

- It is possible for extremely severe losses to exhaust the reinsurance purchased. Any losses exceeding the reinsurance protection would be borne by the Syndicate.
- Some parts of the programme have limited reinstatements which limit the amount that may be recovered from second or subsequent claims. If the entirety of the cover is exhausted, it may not be possible to purchase additional reinsurance at a reasonable price.
- A dispute may arise with a reinsurer which may mean the recoveries received are lower than anticipated.
- Basis risk on reinsurance which responds to something other than the Syndicate's Ultimate Net Loss.

These risks are managed through a combination of techniques and controls including risk aggregation management, capital modelling and internal actuarial review of outward reinsurance costs. The counterparty risk in relation to reinsurance purchased is managed by the Credit Committee. This is further discussed in the Credit risk section below.

c. Reserving risk

Reserving risk arises where the actual cost of losses for policyholder obligations incurred before the reporting date may differ from the established reserves due to inaccurate assumptions or unforeseen circumstances. This is a key risk for the Syndicate as the reserves for unpaid losses represent the largest component of the Syndicate's liabilities and are inherently uncertain. The BSL Reserving Committee is responsible for the management of the Syndicate's reserving risk.

The Syndicate has a rigorous process for establishing reserves for insurance claim liabilities and a number of controls are used to mitigate reserving risk. The reserving process starts with controls over claims data which ensure complete and accurate recording of all paid and notified claims. Claims adjusters validate policy terms and conditions, adjust claims and investigate suspicious or disputed claims in accordance with the Syndicate's claims policy. Case reserves are set for notified claims using the experience of specialist claims adjusters, underwriters and external experts where necessary.

Whilst the case reserve is expected to be sufficient to meet the claims amount when it is settled, incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims require additional reserves. This is particularly the case for the longest tailed classes of business where the final settlement can occur several years after the claim occurred. Actuarial triangulation techniques are employed by the Syndicate's experienced actuaries to establish the IBNR reserves.

These techniques project IBNR reserves based on historical development of paid and incurred claims by underwriting year. For the most uncertain claims, the triangulation techniques are supplemented by additional methods, such as using historical information of Syndicate 2987, to ensure the established reserves are appropriate. The actuarial team work closely with other business functions such as underwriting, claims and risk aggregation to ensure that they have a full understanding of the emerging claims experience across the Syndicate. Inflation is considered as part of reserve setting process.

The Syndicate's reserving policy sets out the approach to estimating claims provisions and is designed to produce accurate and reliable estimates that are consistent over time and across classes of business. The actuarial best estimate set out in the policy is subject to sign-off by the Reserving Committee, as part of the formal governance arrangements for the Syndicate. The estimate agreed by the committees is used as a basis for the Syndicate financial statements. A management risk margin is also applied over and above the actuarial best estimate to allow for the inherent uncertainty within the best estimate reserve position and wider inherent uncertainty across the economic and insurance environment. This margin increases the reserves reflected in the Syndicate financial statements above the mean expectation. Finally, the reserves in the financial statements are presented to the Audit Committee for recommendation to the BSL Board who are responsible for the final sign-off.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The reserves can be more or less than is required to meet the claims arising from earned business. The level of uncertainty varies significantly between the classes written by the Syndicate but typically is highest for those classes where there are significant delays in the settlement of the final claim amount. More specifically, the key areas of uncertainty within the Syndicate's reserves are considered to be claims from the long-tailed direct and reinsurance classes. The issues contributing to this high uncertainty are common to all entities which write such business.

3.2 Liquidity risk

This is the risk the Syndicate may encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset. The predominant liquidity risk the Syndicate faces is the daily calls on its available cash resources in respect of claims arising from insurance contracts.

The Managing Agent monitors the levels of cash and cash equivalents on a daily basis, ensuring adequate liquidity to meet the expected cash flow requirements due over the short-term.

The Syndicate also limits the amount of investment in illiquid securities in line with the liquidity policy set by the Board. This involves ensuring sufficient liquidity to withstand claim scenarios at the extreme end of business plan projections, by reference to modelled RDS. Contingent liquidity also exists in the form of the Group's revolving credit facility.

The table below presents the undiscounted value of monetary liabilities of the Syndicate into their relevant maturing groups based on the remaining period at the end of the year to their contractual maturities or expected repayment dates.

As at 31 December 2023	Up to a year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Liabilities (undiscounted values)	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Claims outstanding	88.4	103.8	63.0	92.7	347.9
Derivative contracts	0.3	-	-	-	0.3
Creditors	8.0	-	-	-	8.0
Total	96.7	103.8	63.0	92.7	356.2

Creditors includes Accruals and Deferred income of £1.7m, creditors arising out of direct insurance operations of £1.4m, creditors arising out of reinsurance operations of £4.8m and other of £0.1m.

As at 31 December 2022	Up to a year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Liabilities (undiscounted values)	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Claims outstanding	92.9	101.2	52.7	75.3	322.1
Derivative contracts	0.1	-	-	-	0.1
Creditors	10.8	-	-	-	10.8
Total	103.8	101.2	52.7	75.3	333.0

3.3 Credit risk

This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation in a timely manner. The main sources of credit risk relate to:

- Reinsurers: through the failure to pay valid claims against a reinsurance contract held by the Syndicate;
- Brokers and coverholders: where counterparties fail to pass on premiums or claims collected or paid on behalf of the Syndicate;
- Investments: through the issuer default of all or part of the value of a financial instrument or derivative financial instrument; and
- Cash and cash equivalents: through the default of the banks holding the cash and cash equivalents.

The insurance and non-insurance related counterparty credit risks are managed separately by the Syndicate.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

a. Investments credit risk

(i) Investment credit risk management process

The Investment Committee is responsible for the management of investment credit risk. The Investment Guidelines and Investment Policy set out clear limits and controls around the level of investment credit risk. The Syndicate has established concentration guidelines that restrict the exposure to any individual counterparty. The investment guidelines further limit the type, credit quality and maturity profile of both the Syndicate's cash and investments. In addition, the investment risk framework further limits potential exposure to credit risk through monitoring of the aggregate investment risk limits.

(ii) Investment credit risk profile

The summary of the investment credit risk exposures for the Syndicate is set out in the tables below:

£'m	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BB or less	Not Rated	Total
As at 31 December 2023							
Shares and other variable yield securities	10.0	11.1	34.5	-	-	2.9	58.5
Debt securities	151.2	5.9	45.4	16.0	-	33.7	252.2
Derivative contracts	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
Overseas deposits	8.5	1.0	3.5	0.9	0.4	-	14.3
Cash at bank and in hand	-	1.1	-	3.4	-	-	4.5
Total	169.7	19.1	83.4	20.3	0.4	36.9	329.8

£'m	AAA	AA	A	BBB	BB or less	Not Rated	Total
As at 31 December 2022							
Shares and other variable yield securities	35.1	17.7	-	-	-	2.3	55.1
Debt securities	121.9	4.2	30.2	5.9	-	3.5	165.7
Derivative contract	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Overseas deposits	7.8	1.8	3.4	0.9	0.6	-	14.5
Cash at bank and in hand	-	-	3.4	-	-	-	3.4
Total	164.8	23.7	37.0	6.8	0.6	5.9	238.8

b. Insurance credit risk

(i) Insurance credit risk management process

The Credit Committee, chaired by the Brit Group Chief Financial Officer, is responsible for the management of credit risk arising from insurance activities.

Reinsurer credit risk is managed by transacting only with reinsurance counterparties that satisfy a minimum level of financial strength or provide appropriate levels of collateral and have been approved for use by the Credit Committee. The reinsurer security list, which sets out the list of approved reinsurance counterparties, is reviewed at least annually and following any significant change in risk profile, which includes any changes to reinsurers' financial ratings. Credit risk appetite limits are set for reinsurance entities and groups to limit accumulations of risk. These positions are monitored quarterly against current statement of financial position exposures and in relation to a number of extreme loss scenarios.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Reinsurance aged debt is monitored and managed against the management risk appetite limits set by the Credit Committee. A bad debt provision is held against all non-rated reinsurers or any reinsurer where there is deemed to be a specific risk of non-payment.

Any breaches of credit risk tolerance and/or appetite are reported to the Risk Oversight Committee and the Board on at least a quarterly basis.

(ii) Insurance credit risk profile

The summary of the insurance credit risk exposures for the Syndicate is set out in the table below:

£'m	AA	A	Not Rated	Total
As at 31 December 2023				
Reinsurers' share of claims outstanding	4.3	6.1	4.1	14.5
Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations	0.1	-	55.3	55.4
Total	4.4	6.1	59.4	69.9

£'m	AA	A	Not Rated	Total
As at 31 December 2022				
Reinsurers' share of claims outstanding	3.7	8.1	4.0	15.8
Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations	0.1	-	56.9	57.0
Total	3.8	8.1	60.9	72.8

Insurance credit risk arises primarily from reinsurers (whereby reinsurers fail to pay recoveries due to the Syndicate in a timely manner) and brokers and coverholders (whereby intermediaries fail to pass on premiums due to the Syndicate in a timely manner).

Collateral of £5.3m (2022: £22.0m) is held in third party trust accounts or as a letter of credit ('LOC') to guarantee Syndicate 2988 against reinsurance counterparties and is available for immediate drawdown in the event of a default. As at 31 December 2023, £4.3m (2022: £3.9m) of reinsurers claims were protected by cash and cash equivalents held in third party trust accounts or by LOC's.

The table below shows the maximum exposure to credit risk for the components of the statement of financial position. The maximum exposure is shown gross, before the effect of mitigation through collateral agreements.

£'m	Neither past due nor impaired	Past due	Impaired	Total
As at 31 December 2023				
Shares and other variable yield securities	58.5	-	-	58.5
Debt securities	252.2	-	-	252.2
Derivative contracts	0.3	-	-	0.3
Overseas deposits	14.3	-	-	14.3
Reinsurer's share of claims outstanding	14.5	-	-	14.5
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	60.3	-	-	60.3
Other assets	79.0	-	-	79.0
Cash at bank and in hand	4.5	-	-	4.5
Total	483.6	-	-	483.6

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

£'m	Neither past due nor impaired	Past due	Impaired	Total
As at 31 December 2022				
Shares and other variable yield securities	55.1	-	-	55.1
Debt securities	165.7	-	-	165.7
Derivative contract	0.1	-	-	0.1
Overseas deposits	14.5	-	-	14.5
Reinsurer's share of claims outstanding	15.8	-	-	15.8
Debtors arising out of direct insurance operations	73.4	-	-	73.4
Other assets	85.9	-	-	85.9
Cash at bank and in hand	3.4	-	-	3.4
Total	413.9	-	-	413.9

3.4 Market risk

This is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. Credit risk on financial investments and cash is covered in the credit risk section.

a. Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that movements in exchange rates impact the financial performance or solvency position of the Syndicate. The split of assets and liabilities for each of the Syndicate's main currencies converted to £ sterling is set out in the tables below:

Converted £'m	UK £	US \$	CAD \$	EUR €	Total
As at 31 December 2023					
Total assets	45.1	380.5	20.1	37.9	483.6
Total liabilities	(60.9)	(345.9)	(24.6)	(22.1)	(453.5)
Net (liabilities)/assets excluding the effect of currency derivatives	(15.8)	34.6	(4.5)	15.8	30.1
Adjustment for foreign exchange derivatives	12.7	(12.6)	(12.1)	12.0	-
Adjusted net (liabilities)/assets	(3.1)	22.0	(16.6)	27.8	30.1
As at 31 December 2022					
Total assets	20.3	340.6	22.7	30.3	413.9
Total liabilities	(50.3)	(355.7)	(25.6)	(18.7)	(450.3)
Net (liabilities)/assets excluding the effect of currency derivatives	(30.0)	(15.1)	(2.9)	11.6	(36.4)
Adjustment for foreign exchange derivatives	-	0.1	(8.3)	8.2	-
Adjusted net (liabilities)/assets	(30.0)	(15.0)	(11.2)	19.8	(36.4)

The non-sterling denominated net assets of the Syndicate may lead to profit or losses (depending on the mix relative to the liabilities), should sterling vary relative to these currencies.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The Syndicate manages its exposure in each of the main currencies and the net asset position is rebalanced periodically. Where mismatches occur, these may lead to foreign exchange gains and losses reported through the income statement.

Foreign currency forward contracts may be used to achieve the desired exposure to each currency. From time to time the Syndicate may also choose to utilise foreign currency derivatives to manage the risk of reported losses due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The degree to which derivatives are used is dependent on the prevailing cost versus the perceived benefit to the Syndicate from reducing the chance of a reported loss due to changes in foreign exchange rates. The details of all foreign currency derivatives contracts entered into are given in Note 11.

b. Sensitivity to changes in foreign exchange rates

The table below gives an indication of the impact on the result of a percentage movement in the relative strength of sterling against the value of the US dollar, Canadian dollar and euro simultaneously, after taking into consideration the effect of hedged positions. The analysis is based on the information at 31 December of each year end:

£'m	Impact on result for the financial year and net assets	
	2023	2022
GBP weakens		
10% against other currencies	3.3	(0.6)
20% against other currencies	6.6	(1.2)
GBP strengthens		
10% against other currencies	(3.3)	0.6
20% against other currencies	(6.6)	1.2

c. Interest rate risk and price risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value and/or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in interest rates. The Syndicate is exposed to interest rate risk through its investment portfolio, borrowings and cash and cash equivalents. The sensitivity of the price of these financial exposures is indicated by their respective durations. This is defined as the modified duration which is the change in the price of the security subject to a 100 basis points parallel shift in interest rates. The greater the duration of a security, the greater the possible price volatility.

Insurance liabilities are measured on an undiscounted basis and therefore are not sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The banded durations of the Syndicate's financial instruments and cash and cash equivalents sensitive to interest-rate risk are shown in the table below:

As at 31 December 2023	Up to a year	1-3 years	3-5 years	Over 5 years	Equities	Total
£'m						
Shares and other variable yield securities and unit trusts	56.2	-	-	-	2.3	58.5
Debt securities	2.5	30.1	121.6	98.3	-	252.5
Derivative contracts	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.3
Overseas deposits as investments	4.8	7.7	1.7	0.1	-	14.3
Cash at bank and in hand	4.5	-	-	-	-	4.5
Total	68.3	37.8	123.3	98.4	2.3	330.1

As at 31 December 2022	Up to a year	1-3 years	3-5 years	Over 5 years	Equities	Total
£'m						
Shares and other variable yield securities and unit trusts	52.8	-	-	-	2.3	55.1
Debt securities	24.2	93.1	17.1	31.3	-	165.7
Derivative contract	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Overseas deposits as investments	4.4	8.4	1.6	0.1	-	14.5
Cash at bank and in hand	3.4	-	-	-	-	3.4
Total	84.9	101.5	18.7	31.4	2.3	238.8

The Syndicate takes into account the duration of its required capital, targeting an investment portfolio duration that, under a variation in interest rates, preserves the solvency ratio of the Syndicate. The duration of the investment portfolio is then set within an allowable range relative to the targeted duration.

d. Sensitivity to changes in investment yields

The sensitivity of the result and net assets to changes in the investment yields is set out in the table below.

£'m	Impact on result for financial year	
	2023	2022
Increase		
25 basis points	(3.0)	(1.0)
50 basis points	(6.0)	(2.0)
100 basis points	(12.0)	(4.0)
Decrease		
25 basis points	3.0	1.0
50 basis points	6.0	2.0
100 basis points	12.0	4.0

Analysis of larger movements in yield is not shown above as the relationship between profit and investment yields is linear in respect of Brit's portfolio. Subject to taxation, the effect on shareholders' equity would be the same as the effect on profit.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

3.5 Operational Risk

Operational risk is the potential for loss arising from the failure of people, process or technology or the impact of external events. The nature of operational risk means that it is dispersed across all functional areas of the Brit Group which the syndicate is managed by. Operational risk exposures are managed through a consistent set of management processes that drive risk identification, assessment, control and monitoring.

The BSL Operations Committee, chaired by the Group Head of Claims and Operations, is a key governance committee reporting to the Executive Committee. The BSL Operations Committee is responsible for managing operational risk in line with the operational risk policy and the risk tolerance and management appetite limits set by the BSL Board and management respectively. Each individual risk committee is provided with relevant operational risk updates and these committees include operational risk owners within executive management who actively manage operational risk within their respective areas (such as Underwriting, Claims, Investments and Finance).

An operational risk management framework is in place to ensure an appropriate standard approach is taken to managing operational risk across the Brit Group. The key elements of this framework are:

- Allocation of responsibility for the identification and assessment of operational risk. Standard tools are used to facilitate these assessments;
- Definition of standard elements of sound operating controls that are expected to be in place to address all identified operational risks;
- A process that integrates with Brit's internal model to support the setting and monitoring of operational risk appetite and tolerances;
- Governance, reporting and escalation for operational risk;
- Infrastructure supporting the operational risk management framework; and
- Operational risk management training and awareness.

A conduct risk framework is in place across the Brit Group to ensure Brit's products and services continue to meet the needs of our customers.

3.6 Emerging risks

Brit undertakes a formal emerging risk review annually with the results reported to the Risk Oversight Committee and included in the Own Risk & Solvency Assessment (ORSA) report and Commercial Insurer's Solvency Self-Assessment (CISSA) reports of the underwriting entities. The review is an important part of the risk identification aspect of the RMF and includes horizon scanning of the internal and external risk environment to identify potential new or developing risks to Brit. These risks can then be included in the risk register and managed appropriately as required.

The emerging risk review has previously identified risks such as climate change and cyber risk. These risks have been managed throughout their development and are now monitored as part of the business-as-usual risk management process.

3.6.1 Climate Change Risk

Risk Management Framework

Climate change has been recognised as an emerging risk in Brit's ORSAs since 2014 and has been an area of focus since having been identified as a high priority in the 2018 emerging risks analysis.

Brit's Risk Management Framework (RMF) sets out the methodology by which Brit Group, which the syndicate is managed, identifies, measures, and manages risks associated with climate change. Brit considers natural catastrophe risk, liability risk and investment risks to be the most material risks. Using Board tolerances and management metrics, exposure to the above risk types is managed and monitored on an ongoing basis.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

The RMF is reviewed annually, and regulatory developments are monitored on an ongoing basis. All Brit syndicates have been compliant with PRA Supervisory Statement SS3/19 since 2021 which sets expectations for firms regarding their consideration of climate risk.

Climate risk management

Natural catastrophe risk

Natural catastrophe risk relates to the physical risks of increased frequency and severity of weather-related natural catastrophes. This could result in additional claims. Climate change to date may already be affecting present-day weather events and therefore claims.

Natural catastrophe modelling is leveraged in pricing and outwards reinsurance purchasing decisions. Brit Group, which the syndicate is managed, seeks to ensure a balanced and well diversified portfolio (including exposure to weather perils), Brit has reviewed its property underwriting strategy in recent years and has sought to reduce exposure in peak catastrophe regions.

Natural Catastrophe risk is assessed using software provided by Verisk (developed by scientists and specialists) for the most material and established perils. The modelling is supplemented using the 'Brit View of Risk' which is a set of in-house adjustments used to apply Brit's view of risk to vendor model output. We continuously monitor scientific studies, and regularly review both the completeness of existing models and the application of the Brit view of risk.

Brit's exposure to natural catastrophe risks at an overall and peril-region level at key return periods is monitored on an ongoing basis by the Risk Management Function. Board limits are in place to ensure Brit is not over-exposed to natural catastrophe risk, and reinsurance is purchased to manage tail risk.

Liability risk

Climate change could result in liability claims arising from litigation against Brit's clients. For example, claims could arise from firms being held responsible for directly contributing to climate change, not taking climate change into account in business decisions or inadequate disclosures.

The Syndicate exposure is managed by use of limits on gross underwriting exposure, contract wording and through the purchase of reinsurance. There is uncertainty over whether courts rule against insurers and if so, over what time horizon. The number of climate change litigation related claims notifications is monitored to enable early identification of any material increase.

Market risk

Investment losses have the potential to arise from exposure to industries contributing to climate change whose market value could reduce as the economy transitions away from fossil fuels. This transition risk could occur over the short or long-term depending on government policies and financial market movements.

The Syndicate has a diversified investment portfolio, with limits on exposure to individual issuers. Additionally, Brit has developed metrics to monitor investment exposure to potentially 'at-risk' industries such as oil and gas or transport. An annual review of equity holdings is conducted which includes a review of the ESG strategy of the underlying companies.

Other risks

There may be reputational risk to firms if customers deem they are insufficiently responsive to concerns about climate change. Brit has developed an ESG strategy, as discussed above, which seeks to address this.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Climate scenario analysis and understanding climate risk

Climate scenario analysis is key to understanding the potential impact of climate-related risks. Analysis performed to date has identified physical risks arising from natural catastrophes as having the highest potential for insured losses therefore this is an area of greater focus.

PRA stress tests

Syndicate 2987 which is part of the Brit Group participated in the PRA Climate Change Biennial Exploratory Stress Test (CBES) in 2021. The exercise was designed to assess the impact of climate change on physical and asset risks over a 30-year time horizon in three policy action scenarios. It also required general insurance participants to consider the impact of seven PRA-designed litigation scenarios on liability classes as well as articulation of Brit's current and future risk management actions.

Internal scenario analysis

In addition to the above, Brit Group, which the syndicate is managed, performs climate change related scenario analysis in each syndicate's ORSA which encompasses natural catastrophe, market and liability risk.

Building on CBES, a more detailed climate change related litigation risk scenario analysis was also performed in 2022. This considered the potential gross and net impact of climate change related litigation under three hypothetical scenarios.

The findings from the tests above have been integrated into:

- The internally developed 'Brit View of Risk' which is used to supplement natural catastrophe modelling software (relevant to Natural catastrophe risk);
- Brit's Property Catastrophe underwriting strategy, identifying the regions and perils most sensitive to climate change (relevant to Natural catastrophe risk);
- Industry level exposure monitoring for Brit's asset portfolio for 'high risk' sectors (relevant to Natural catastrophe risk);
- Clarity on potential losses to be accounted for in underwriting and business planning decisions (relevant to Natural catastrophe risk); and
- The ORSA process, to ensure climate change related risks are considered across relevant areas of the business (relevant to all risks).

3.6.2 Geopolitics

Geopolitical events, such as the ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, have the potential to cause insurance losses and disruption to financial markets. Insurance losses could arise either as a result of direct damage from the conflicts or from second order impacts such as supply chain disruptions and economic instability. There may also be a potential impact on the operational costs of the syndicate attributable to the downstream effects of high inflation. The syndicate continues to monitor developments closely.

Geopolitical risk events may also impact the global economy, as discussed in section 3.6.3 below.

3.6.3 Global economic environment

Inflation in the USA and the UK remains above target levels and interest rates have risen relative to recent years. Recessionary risks remain given these factors as well as geopolitical risks. Recessions may impact the frequency and cost of claims, investment results, the likelihood of counterparty defaults and the potential for operational risk events. Brit continues to actively monitor and respond to changes in the economic environment.

Brit Group, which the syndicate is managed by, has considered the impact of the increased level of inflation and the economic downturn. Increased focus has been placed on ensuring Brit's pricing models adequately address current inflationary trends. Feeding into these models is an enhanced framework assessing the key drivers of claim settlement costs for each class of business. Inflationary impacts were also considered during the year end reserving process.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

We remain cognisant of the impact of inflation on the underlying portfolio.

We continue to review the key drivers of claim settlement costs and frequency by class of business, which in turn will further inform any required recalibration of our pricing models. Our reserves continue to incorporate our current view of social and economic inflation and include a risk adjustment to allow for uncertainty.

3.7 Capital risk management

Capital framework at Lloyd's

The Society of Lloyd's (Lloyd's) is a regulated undertaking and subject to the supervision of the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, and in accordance with the Solvency II framework. Within this supervisory framework, Lloyd's applies capital requirements at member level and centrally to ensure that Lloyd's complies with Solvency II, and beyond that to meet its own financial strength, licence and ratings objectives.

Although, as described below, Lloyd's capital setting processes use a capital requirement set at syndicate level as a starting point, the requirement to meet Solvency II and Lloyd's capital requirements apply at overall and member level respectively, not at syndicate level. Accordingly, the capital requirement in respect of Syndicate 2988 is not disclosed in these financial statements.

Lloyd's capital setting process

In order to meet Lloyd's requirements, each syndicate is required to calculate its Solvency Capital Requirement (SCR) for the prospective underwriting year. This amount must be sufficient to cover a 1 in 200-year loss, reflecting uncertainty in the ultimate run-off of underwriting liabilities (SCR to ultimate). The syndicate must also calculate its SCR at the same confidence level but reflecting uncertainty over a one-year time horizon (one year SCR) for Lloyd's to use in meeting Solvency II requirements. The SCRs of each syndicate are subject to review by Lloyd's and approval by the Lloyd's Capital and Planning Group.

A syndicate may comprise one or more underwriting members of Lloyd's. Each member is liable for its own share of underwriting liabilities on the syndicate(s) on which it participates, but not other members' shares. Accordingly, the capital requirement that Lloyd's sets for each member operates on a similar basis. Each member's SCR shall thus be determined by the sum of the member's share of the syndicate SCR to ultimate.

Where a member participates on more than one syndicate, a credit for diversification is provided to reflect the spread of risk, but consistent with determining an SCR which reflects the capital requirement to cover a 1 in 200-year loss to ultimate for that member. Over and above this, Lloyd's applies a capital uplift to the member's capital requirement, known as the Economic Capital Assessment (ECA). The purpose of this uplift, which is a Lloyd's not a Solvency II requirement, is to meet Lloyd's financial strength, licence and ratings objectives. The capital uplift applying for 2023 was 35% (2022: 35%) of the member's SCR to ultimate.

Provision of capital by members

Each member may provide capital to meet its ECA either by assets held in trust by Lloyd's specifically for that member (funds at Lloyd's), held within and managed within a syndicate (funds in syndicate) or as the member's share of the members' balances on each syndicate on which it participates. Funds in syndicate are not applicable to Syndicate 2988, as participants' capital is held at member level. Accordingly, all of the assets less liabilities of the syndicate, as represented in the members' balances reported on the statement of financial position on page 17, are taken into account when determining the members' Lloyd's capital requirements.

Capital calculation

The SCR to Ultimate is calculated using a stochastic risk-based capital model developed by the Brit Group which allows the Board of the Managing Agent to identify an appropriate level of capital required. This capital requirement is specific to the actual reserving history, reinsurance programme and business profile of Syndicate

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

2988 rather than being based on company market averages. The Board of the Managing Agent reviews and approves all capital modelling submissions to Lloyd's.

4 Analysis of underwriting result

An analysis of the underwriting result before investment return is set out below:

Year ended 31 December 2023	Gross premiums written £'m	Gross premiums earned £'m	Gross claims incurred £'m	Gross operating expenses £'m	Reinsurance balance £'m	Total £'m
Direct Insurance:						
Accident and health	2.2	2.4	(1.3)	(0.9)	(0.1)	0.1
Marine aviation and transport	17.1	17.3	(8.5)	(5.4)	(0.8)	2.6
Fire and other damage to property	9.8	25.4	(11.9)	(7.8)	(0.7)	5.0
Third party liability	46.0	48.8	(29.0)	(12.9)	(2.4)	4.5
Credit and suretyship	8.8	8.8	(2.2)	(2.8)	(0.5)	3.4
Total Direct Insurance	83.9	102.7	(52.9)	(29.8)	(4.4)	15.6
Reinsurance	127.3	123.4	(77.9)	(25.4)	(2.8)	17.3
Total	211.2	226.1	(130.8)	(55.2)	(7.2)	32.9

Year ended 31 December 2022	Gross premiums written £'m	Gross premiums earned £'m	Gross claims incurred £'m	Gross operating expenses £'m	Reinsurance balance £'m	Total £'m
Direct Insurance:						
Accident and health	2.2	2.2	(0.4)	(0.8)	(0.2)	0.8
Marine aviation and transport	16.8	14.2	(6.8)	(4.5)	(0.4)	2.5
Fire and other damage to property	40.5	37.2	(22.6)	(12.5)	(1.3)	0.8
Third party liability	59.4	51.0	(31.6)	(14.7)	(3.1)	1.6
Credit and suretyship	7.1	6.3	(2.1)	(2.0)	(0.2)	2.0
Total Direct Insurance	126.0	110.9	(63.5)	(34.5)	(5.2)	7.7
Reinsurance	126.2	118.9	(85.4)	(26.1)	(4.6)	2.8
Total	252.2	229.8	(148.9)	(60.6)	(9.8)	10.5

Commissions on direct insurance gross premiums written during 2023 were £18.2m (2022: £28.8m).

The geographical analysis of premiums by the location of the underlying risk is as follows:

	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
United States	62.3	80.2
United Kingdom	18.5	18.1
Europe (excluding UK)	4.4	6.4
Other (including worldwide)	126.0	147.5
Total	211.2	252.2

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

5 Net operating expenses

	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Acquisition costs	34.5	46.8
Change in deferred acquisition costs	5.0	(5.3)
Administrative expenses	15.7	19.1
Total	55.2	60.6

Members' standard personal expenses of £3.5m (2022: £4.0m) are included within administrative expenses.

The auditors' remuneration and audit services charged to the Syndicate within the annual fixed fee charged by the Managing Agent and the auditors' remuneration are as follows:

	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Audit of the Syndicate annual accounts	0.1	0.1
Other services pursuant to Regulations and Lloyd's Byelaws	0.1	0.1
Total	0.2	0.2

6 Staff numbers and costs

All staff in the UK are employed by the Brit Group service company, Brit Group Services Limited, and the full staff cost disclosures are included in the notes to those accounts. Amounts are recharged to the Syndicate as part of the annual fixed fee charged by the Managing Agent, but are not separately identifiable.

7 Remuneration of the Directors of Brit Syndicates Limited and Active Underwriter

Remuneration of the Directors of BSL have been recharged to the Syndicate as part of the annual flat fee for 2023 and 2022 calendar year. It is not practical to allocate these amounts to the underlying entities to which the directors provide services. The following table therefore represents the total emoluments paid to directors by the managing agent. There were no advances or credit granted by the Managing Agent to any of its Directors during the year.

Director's Remuneration

	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Director's emoluments	3.9	5.1
Total	3.9	5.1

The active underwriter received the following remuneration in respect of the Syndicate. This remuneration was paid to the active underwriter by the Managing Agent from the annual fixed fee it charged to the Syndicate.

Underwriter's Remuneration

	2023 £'m	2022 £'m
Aggregate remuneration	0.4	0.5
Total	0.4	0.5

No advances, pension contributions or credit were granted by the Managing Agent to any of its directors during the year.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

8 Investment income, expenses and charges

8(a) Investment income

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Income from investments	11.3	3.5
Gains on the realisation of investments	1.4	1.3
	12.7	4.8

8(b) Investment expenses and charges

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Investment management expenses	(0.2)	(0.1)
Losses on the realisation of investments	(7.6)	(4.4)
	(7.8)	(4.5)

Average amount of funds held as cash and cash equivalents during the year:

	2023	2022
	in currency	in currency
Sterling	6.1	6.1
US dollars	31.5	27.1
Canadian dollars	17.8	23.8
Euros	2.6	4.0
Combined in Sterling	43.7	46.8

	2023	2022
Sterling	0.98%	3.37%
US dollars	7.39%	2.43%
Canadian dollars	5.13%	3.45%
Euros	5.34%	-
Combined in Sterling	5.95%	2.67%

Overseas deposits have been excluded from the analysis as these are actively management by Lloyd's on behalf of the Syndicate.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Claims development tables

The following tables illustrate the development of the estimates of earned ultimate cumulative claims incurred, including claims notified and IBNR, for each successive underwriting year, illustrating how amounts estimated have changed from the first estimates made. Non-sterling cumulative claims estimates and cumulative payments are translated into £ sterling at the period end rate as at 31 December 2023.

As these tables are on an underwriting year basis, there is an apparent large increase from amounts reported for the end of the underwriting year to one year later as a large proportion of premiums are earned in the year of account's second year of development.

Estimate of cumulative gross incurred claims

£'m

Underwriting year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
At end of underwriting year	63.8	46.8	28.7	68.1	74.6	84.4	67.9
One year later	96.1	83.6	76.4	122.9	135.0	140.4	
Two years later	101.1	87.3	82.8	122.6	129.0		
Three years later	100.6	89.4	82.2	128.9			
Four years later	99.1	90.6	83.9				
Five Years later	98.7	92.4					
Six years later	99.4						
Current estimate of cumulative claims incurred	99.4	92.4	83.9	128.9	129.0	140.4	67.9
Cumulative payments	(92.7)	(75.1)	(63.0)	(78.9)	(56.0)	(26.6)	(1.7)
Gross outstanding claims provision as at 31 December 2023	6.7	17.3	20.9	50.0	73.0	113.8	66.2

te of cumulative gross incurred claims

Estimate of cumulative net incurred claims

£'m

Underwriting year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
At end of underwriting year	39.8	46.2	28.4	67.4	73.9	79.1	66.5
One year later	70.6	82.5	75.6	121.3	132.1	134.6	
Two years later	73.3	86.1	80.6	121.6	125.5		
Three years later	71.7	88.2	79.7	128.2			
Four years later	69.6	89.4	81.3				
Five years later	69.5	91.3					
Six years later	70.3						
Current estimate of cumulative claims incurred	70.3	91.3	81.3	128.2	125.5	134.6	66.5
Cumulative payments	(65.3)	(74.9)	(61.0)	(78.8)	(56.0)	(26.6)	(1.7)
Net Outstanding claims provision as at 31 December 2023	5.0	16.4	20.3	49.4	69.5	108.0	64.8

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

10 Financial investments

	2023 £'m	Market Value 2022 £'m	2023 £'m	Cost 2022 £'m
Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts	58.5	55.1	55.5	55.1
Debt securities	252.2	165.7	248.2	170.5
Derivative contracts	0.3	0.1	-	-
Total	311.0	220.9	303.7	225.6

Shares and other variable yield securities and units in unit trusts comprise short-term deposits that are highly liquid cash equivalents, all of which are not listed. £2.3m of this balance (2022: £2.3m) relates to market wide Syndicate loans to the Lloyd's Central Fund for which collections were made on the 2020 year of account in two tranches of £0.6m and £1.3m, and one on the 2019 year of account for £0.4m during those calendar years.

All financial investments have been designated as held at fair value through profit or loss.

The following table shows financial investments recorded at fair value analysed between the three levels in the fair value hierarchy:

	Level 1 £'m	Level 2 £'m	Level 3 £'m	Total £'m
Year ended 31 December 2023				
Shares and other variable yield securities	21.7	34.5	2.3	58.5
Debt Securities	3.3	248.9	-	252.2
Derivative contracts	-	0.3	-	0.3
Total	25.0	283.7	2.3	311.0
Year ended 31 December 2022				
Shares and other variable yield securities	23.6	29.2	2.3	55.1
Debt Securities	2.2	163.5	-	165.7
Derivative contracts	-	0.1	-	0.1
Total	25.8	192.8	2.3	220.9

There have been no movements between any levels for investments held from prior year.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

10 Financial investments (continued)

a. Basis for determining the fair value hierarchy of financial instruments

The Syndicate has classified the fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making those measurements. The fair value hierarchy comprises the following levels:

- (i) Level one – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets
- (ii) Level two – inputs other than quoted prices included within level one that are observable for the asset, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and
- (iii) Level three – inputs for the assets that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Assets are categorised as level one where fair values determined in whole directly by reference to an active market relate to prices which are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service or regulatory agency and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis, i.e. the market is still active.

For assets and liabilities that are recognised at fair value on a recurring basis, the Syndicate determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Fair values for level two and level three assets include:

- Values provided at the request of the Syndicate by pricing services and which are not publicly available or values provided by external parties which are readily available but relate to assets for which the market is not always active; and
- Assets measured on the basis of valuation techniques including a varying degree of assumptions supported by market transactions and observable data.

For all assets not quoted in an active market or for which there is no active market, the availability of financial data can vary and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including the type of financial instrument, whether it is new and not yet established in the marketplace, and other characteristics specific to each transaction. To the extent that valuation is based on the models or inputs that are unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgement. Accordingly, the degree of judgement exercised is higher for instruments classified in level three and the classification between level two and level three depends highly on the proportion of assumptions used, supported by market transactions and observable data.

b. Valuation techniques

Level one

These represent assets traded in an active market whose quoted price is readily and regularly available and those prices represent actual and regular transactions on an arm's length basis.

Level two

Inputs include directly or indirectly observable inputs (other than level one inputs) such as quoted prices for similar financial instruments exchanged in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar financial instruments exchanged in inactive markets and other market observable inputs.

Level two securities contain certain investments in US and non-US government agency securities, US and non-US corporate debt securities and specialised investment funds. US government agency securities are priced using valuations from independent pricing vendors who use discounted cash flow models supplemented with market and credit research to gather specific information. Market observable inputs for these investments may include broker-dealer quotes, reported trades, issuer spreads and available bids. Non-US government agency securities are priced with over-the-counter (OTC) quotes or broker-dealer quotes. Other market observable inputs include benchmark yields and reported trades. Issuer spreads are also available for these types of investments.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

10 Financial investments (continued)

US and non-US corporate debt securities are investment grade and the information collected during pricing of these instruments includes credit data as well as other observations from the market and the particular sector. Prices for all these securities are based on a limited number of transactions (OTC prices/broker-dealer quotes) so they are derived indirectly using inputs that can be corroborated by observable market data. These also include certain private placement corporate debt securities which are valued with the use of discounted cash flow models.

Level two specialised investment funds contain credit opportunities funds that are valued based on the underlying assets in the fund on a security by security basis. A number of direct and indirect inputs such as benchmark yield curves, credit spreads, estimated default rates, anticipated market interest rate volatility, coupon rates and anticipated timing of principal repayments are considered during their valuation.

Level three

Level 3 investments comprise only of a Syndicate loan to the central fund. Lloyd's introduced Syndicate loans to the Central Fund with effect from the 2019 year of account and plan to continue to do so in subsequent years, subject to PRA approval each year. During 2020, two further tranches were collected from the Syndicate on the 2020 year of account. No such loans were collected during the 2021 calendar years and there were no further tranches in 2022 nor in 2023.

The proceeds from these loans were used to strengthen Lloyd's central resources and to inject capital into Lloyd's Insurance Company SA (Lloyd's Brussels). Loans will not be repaid before 5 years have elapsed. Interest thereon is determined by reference to the risk-free yield plus a credit spread, and will normally be paid annually on an anniversary of the loan. Interest on all three tranches of loans was received during 2023. These investments have been classified as an equity share for which the fair value cannot be determined using direct or indirect observable inputs, therefore these have been classified as Level 3.

11 Derivative contracts

The Syndicate purchases derivative financial instruments:

- i) to hedge its foreign currency exposure on future commitments;
- ii) as part of its investment management strategy.

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Assets and liabilities		
Foreign exchange forward contract assets	0.3	0.1
Foreign exchange forward contracts liabilities	(0.3)	(0.1)
Net value of derivatives at 31 December	-	-

The hierarchy of fair values of derivatives contracts is included within the Fair Value Hierarchy in note 10 above.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Provision for unearned premium

	Gross £'m	Reinsurers' share £'m	Net £'m
Balance at 1 January 2023	117.3	(4.2)	113.1
Premiums written in the year	211.2	(9.2)	202.0
Premiums earned in the year	(226.1)	9.3	(216.8)
Effect of movement in exchange rates	(5.1)	0.2	(4.9)
Balance at 31 December 2023	97.3	(3.9)	93.4

	Gross £'m	Reinsurers' share £'m	Net £'m
Balance at 1 January 2022	85.7	(3.6)	82.1
Premiums written in the year	252.2	(17.2)	235.0
Premiums earned in the year	(229.8)	17.0	(212.8)
Effect of movement in exchange rates	9.2	(0.4)	8.8
Balance at 31 December 2022	117.3	(4.2)	113.1

13 Claims outstanding

	Gross £'m	Reinsurers' share £'m	Net £'m
Balance at 1 January 2023	322.1	(15.8)	306.3
Claims incurred in relation to current underwriting year	69.2	(1.3)	67.9
Claims incurred in relation to prior underwriting years	61.6	(0.8)	60.8
Claims paid in the year	(88.8)	2.6	(86.2)
Effect of movement in exchange rates	(16.2)	0.8	(15.4)
Balance at 31 December 2023	347.9	(14.5)	333.4
Claims reported and loss adjustment expenses	79.4	(3.5)	75.9
Claims Incurred but not reported provisions	268.5	(11.0)	257.5
Balance at 31 December 2023	347.9	(14.5)	333.4

	Gross £'m	Reinsurers' share £'m	Net £'m
Balance at 1 January 2022	226.7	(9.3)	217.4
Claims incurred in relation to current underwriting year	86.7	(5.4)	81.3
Claims incurred in relation to prior underwriting years	62.2	(1.8)	60.4
Claims paid in the year	(79.0)	2.0	(77.0)
Effect of movement in exchange rates	25.5	(1.3)	24.2
Balance at 31 December 2022	322.1	(15.8)	306.3
Claims reported and loss adjustment expenses	79.0	(4.2)	74.8
Incurred but not reported provisions	243.1	(11.6)	231.5
Balance at 31 December 2022	322.1	(15.8)	306.3

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Cash at bank and in hand	4.5	3.4
Short-term deposits	52.6	52.7
Total	57.1	56.1

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash at bank and in hand, short-term deposits and other highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the date of acquisition. Short-term deposits are presented within Financial Investments on the Statement of Financial Position.

15 Other assets

Other assets comprise of overseas deposits which are lodged as a condition of conducting underwriting business in certain countries.

16 Deferred acquisition costs

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Balance at 1 January 2023	23.1	16.1
Change in deferred acquisition costs	(5.0)	5.3
Effect of movement in exchange rates	(0.9)	1.7
Balance at 31 December 2023	17.2	23.1

17 Creditors arising out of direct insurance operations

	2023	2022
	£'m	£'m
Due to intermediaries within one year	1.4	0.4
Total	1.4	0.4

18 Other debtors and creditors

Included within other debtors is an amount due within one year from other Brit entities amounting to £0.2m. Other debtors after one year include amounts due from members of £0.1m. (2022: £0.9m).

Other creditors include derivative liabilities of £0.4m (2022: £0.8).

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

19 Related parties

a. Brit Syndicates Limited (BSL or the Managing Agent)

The Managing Agent is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Brit Insurance Holdings Limited, which in turn is a subsidiary of Brit Limited. During the year, the Syndicate paid £9.1m (2022: £12.1m) to BSL in respect of management fees and a further £2.2m (2022: £2.1m) in managing agency fees. As at 31 December 2023, there were amounts outstanding of £1.7m (2022: £3.5m). The Syndicate also participates on various Lloyd's consortia managed by BSL. During the year, the Syndicate incurred consortia management fees of £nil (2022: £nil) and no technical advisor fees or profit commission to BSL in respect of the consortia agreements (2022: £nil).

19 Related parties (continued)

b. Brit Insurance Services USA, LLC

Brit Insurance Services USA LLC was a Service Company within the Brit Limited Group until it was included within the sale of Brit's former MGA, Ambridge, to Amynta Group on 10 May 2023.

During the year, the Syndicate paid commissions to Brit Insurance Services USA, LLC, a service company within the Brit Limited group. The amounts in the Income Statement relating to trading with Brit Insurance Services USA, LLC for the year included commission for introducing insurance business of £nil (2022: £nil). As at 31 December 2023, no amounts of commission were outstanding (2022: £nil). As at 31 December 2023, Brit Insurance Services USA, LLC owed £nil (2022: £nil) of premiums to the Syndicate.

c. Syndicate 2987

BSL also manages Syndicate 2987, a wholly-aligned syndicate of the Brit Limited group. During the year, the Syndicate paid commissions to Syndicate 2987 in relation to inter-syndicate quota share agreements. The amounts on the income statement relating to trading with Syndicate 2987 included commissions for transferring insurance risk of £2.9m (2022: £3.2m). As at 31 December 2023, no amounts of commission were outstanding (2022: £nil). As at 31 December 2023, Syndicate 2987 owed £38.7m (2022: £44.6m) of premiums to the Syndicate.

d. Directors of Brit Syndicates Limited

For information relating to the remuneration of the directors of Brit Syndicates Limited, refer to note 7. There are no related party director disclosures to note for the year ended 31 December 2023.

e. Ambridge Partners LLC

Ambridge Partners LLC is a managing general underwriter of transactional insurance products, writing business on behalf of a range of insurers including entities within the Brit Limited group. On 10 May 2023 Ambridge was sold to Amynta Group, which included Ambridge Partners LLC.

The amounts in the Income Statement relating to trading with Ambridge Partners LLC includes commission for introducing insurance business of £0.4m (2022: £0.7m) for the calendar year. As at 31 December 2023, no amounts of commission were outstanding (2022: £nil). As at 31 December 2023, Ambridge Partners LLC owed £0.8m (2022: £1.6m) of premiums to the Syndicate.

The underwriting relationship between Ambridge Partners LLC and the Syndicate continued post sale.

The Syndicate also participates on various Lloyd's consortia managed by Ambridge. During the year, the Syndicate incurred consortia management fees of £nil (2022: £nil) and no technical advisor fees or profit commission to BSL in respect of the consortia agreements (2022: £nil).

The underwriting relationship between Ambridge Partners LLC and the Syndicate continued post sale.

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2023

19 Related parties (continued)

f. Sutton Specialty Risk Inc.

On 2 January 2019, Brit Insurance Holdings Limited, acquired 49% of the issued shares of Sutton Specialty Risk Inc. (Sutton) for a total purchase consideration of CAD\$17.2m and entered into a forward contract to purchase the remaining 51% in 2024. Sutton is a Canadian MGU, specialising in Accident and Health business.

Trading with Sutton is undertaken on an arm's length basis and is settled in cash. The amounts in the income statement relating to trading with Sutton for the year from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 included commission for introducing insurance business of £0.5m (2022: £0.5m). As at 31 December 2023, Sutton owed £1.1m (2022: £1.1m) of premiums to the Syndicate.

g. Camargue Underwriting Managers Proprietary Limited

On 30 August 2016, the Group acquired 50% of the share capital of the South African company, Camargue Underwriting Managers Proprietary Limited (Camargue) and also entered into a call and a put option to purchase the remaining 50% in 2022. On 4 October 2022, Camargue became a 100% subsidiary of the Group and ceased to be an associated undertaking. Camargue is a leading managing general underwriter of a range of specialised insurance products and specialist liability solutions in South Africa and is an important trading partner for Brit. Trading with Camargue is undertaken on an arm's-length basis and is settled in cash.

The amounts in the income statement relating to trading with Camargue for the year ended 31 December 2023 included commission for introducing insurance business of £0.1m (2022: £0.1m). As at 31 December 2023, Camargue owed £0.1m (2022: £0.1m) of premiums to the Syndicate.

h. Brit UW Limited

Brit UW Limited, a subsidiary of the Group provided £90.3m (2022: £118.7m) of capacity in respect of the 2023 year of account of the Syndicate. Refer to note 20 for further information on how capacity is funded by the member.

20 Funds at Lloyd's

Every member is required to provide capital at Lloyd's which is held in trust and known as funds at Lloyd's (FAL). These funds are intended primarily to cover circumstances where Syndicate assets prove insufficient to meet participating members' underwriting liabilities.

The level of FAL that Lloyd's requires a member to maintain is determined by Lloyd's based on the UK Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) requirements and resource criteria. FAL has regard to a number of factors including but not limited to the nature and amount of risk to be underwritten by the members and the assessment of the reserving risk in respect of business that has been underwritten. Since FAL is not under the control of the Managing Agent, no amount has been shown in these financial statements by way of such capital resources. However, the Managing Agent is able to make a call on the members' FAL to meet liquidity requirements or to settle losses.

21 Ultimate holding company

The Managing Agent is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Brit Insurance Holdings Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. The intermediate holding company, in which the Managing Agent's result is consolidated, is Brit Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. Copies of Brit Limited's consolidated accounts can be obtained by writing to The Leadenhall Building, 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4AB, or from the website www.britinsurance.com.

The ultimate parent undertaking is Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (Fairfax), a company registered in Toronto. Copies of Fairfax consolidated accounts can be obtained by writing to 95 Wellington Street West, Suite 800, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5J 2N7 or from the website www.fairfax.ca.

Directors of the Managing Agent

Executive

Martin George Thompson
Gavin Leslie Wilkinson
Mark Andrew Allan (resigned 3 November 2023)
Christiern Robert James Dart (resigned 30 October 2023)
Jonathan Michael Howson Sullivan (appointed 31 October 2023)

Non-Executive

Simon Philip Guy Lee
Caroline Frances Ramsay
Andrea Caroline Natascha Welsch
Pinar Yetgin

Secretary

Tim James Harmer

Active Underwriter

Simon Bird

Registered Office

The Leadenhall Building
122 Leadenhall Street
London
EC3V 4AB

Independent Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
7 More London, Riverside
London
SE1 2RT

Brit Syndicates Limited

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www.britinsurance.com

writing the future

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