Ascential plc

Unaudited Interim Financial Statements
For the 3 month period ended 31 March 2024

Registered Number: 09934451

Ascential plc
Profit and Loss Account
For the period ended 31 March 2024

(£ million)	3 months ended 31 March 2024
Income from shares in Group undertakings	758.4
Administrative expenses	(1.7)
Interest receivable and similar income	0.3
Profit before taxation	**757.0**
Tax	-
Profit for the period	**757.0**

Ascential plc
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2024

(£ million)	31 March 2024	31 December 2023
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Investments	**653.0**	653.0
Deferred tax	**0.6**	0.6
	653.6	653.6
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	**853.0**	95.2
	853.0	95.2
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	**2.6**	3.5
	2.6	3.5
Net assets	**1,504.0**	745.3
Equity		
Called-up share capital	**4.4**	4.4
Share premium	**155.1**	154.1
Group restructure reserve	**157.9**	157.9
Reserves	**1,186.6**	428.9
Total equity	**1,504.0**	745.3

The interim financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 3 May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

P Thomas
Director

M Gradden
Director

Ascential plc
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the period ended 31 March 2024

			Reserves			
(£ million)	Share capital	Share premium	Group restructure reserve	Own shares	Retained earnings	Total equity
At 1 January 2023	**4.4**	**153.6**	**157.9**	**(1.1)**	**430.5**	**745.3**
Loss for the year	-	-	-	-	(16.6)	**(16.6)**
Issue of new shares	-	0.5	-	-	-	**0.5**
Share purchases	-	-	-	(6.7)	-	**(6.7)**
Shares issued to employees	-	-	-	6.5	(6.5)	**-**
Share-based payments	-	-	-	-	22.8	**22.8**
At 31 December 2023	**4.4**	**154.1**	**157.9**	**(1.3)**	**430.2**	**745.3**
Profit for the period	-	-	-	-	757.0	**757.0**
Issue of new shares	-	1.0	-	-	-	**1.0**
Share purchases	-	-	-	(1.6)	-	**(1.6)**
Shares issued to employees	-	-	-	2.4	(2.4)	**-**
Share-based payments	-	-	-	-	2.3	**2.3**
At 31 March 2024	**4.4**	**155.1**	**157.9**	**(0.5)**	**1,187.1**	**1,504.0**

Ascential plc
Notes to the Interim Financial Statements
For the period ended 31 March 2024

1. Basis of preparation

Ascential plc (the "Company") is a company incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and listed on the London Stock Exchange. The registered office is located at 2nd Floor 81-87 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6DF, England. The registered company number is 09934451. Ascential plc is the parent company of the Ascential Group (the "Group") and its principal activity is to act as the ultimate holding company of the Group.

The Company is undertaking a Return of Value to shareholders comprising:

- a tender offer to acquire up to £300 million of shares in the Company;
- a special dividend of at least £450 million; and
- on-market share buyback programmes to acquire £100 million of Ascential Shares.

These interim accounts have been prepared, under sections 836 and 838 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act"), for the purposes of confirming that the Company has sufficient distributable reserves to support the Return of Value detailed above.

These financial statements contain information about Ascential plc solely as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information for the Group. The accounts are abridged and unaudited but are otherwise prepared on a consistent basis and following the same accounting policies as the Company's financial statements included within the Ascential plc Annual Report 2023. These interim accounts do not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of s434(3) of the Act. Statutory accounts for the year to 31 December 2023 are included in the Ascential plc Annual Report 2023 circulated to shareholders on 9 April 2024 and to be filed with the Registrar of Companies on or before 9 May 2024. No statutory accounts have been delivered to the Registrar in respect of the period covered by these interim accounts.

The interim accounts have been prepared in accordance with s838 of the Act, subject only to those departures, under s838(3), which the directors have considered are not material for determining whether the proposed Return of Value is permitted by s830 and s831 of the Act. The directors have chosen not to present comparative figures for the period and the note disclosures that would normally form part of a set of complete financial statements.

2. Retained earnings

The Company's profits being used for the Return of Value arose from the receipt on 20 March 2024 of £758.4m of dividend income from Ascential Financing Limited, a subsidiary company, arising from the proceeds of the sale of the Group's Digital Commerce and WGSN businesses.

The Company has considered the profits available for the Return of Value to shareholders. At 31 March 2024, the Company had retained earnings of £1,187.1m, of which £1,183.7m is available for the distribution.