



Annual Report 2013



PERFORMANCE & GROWTH

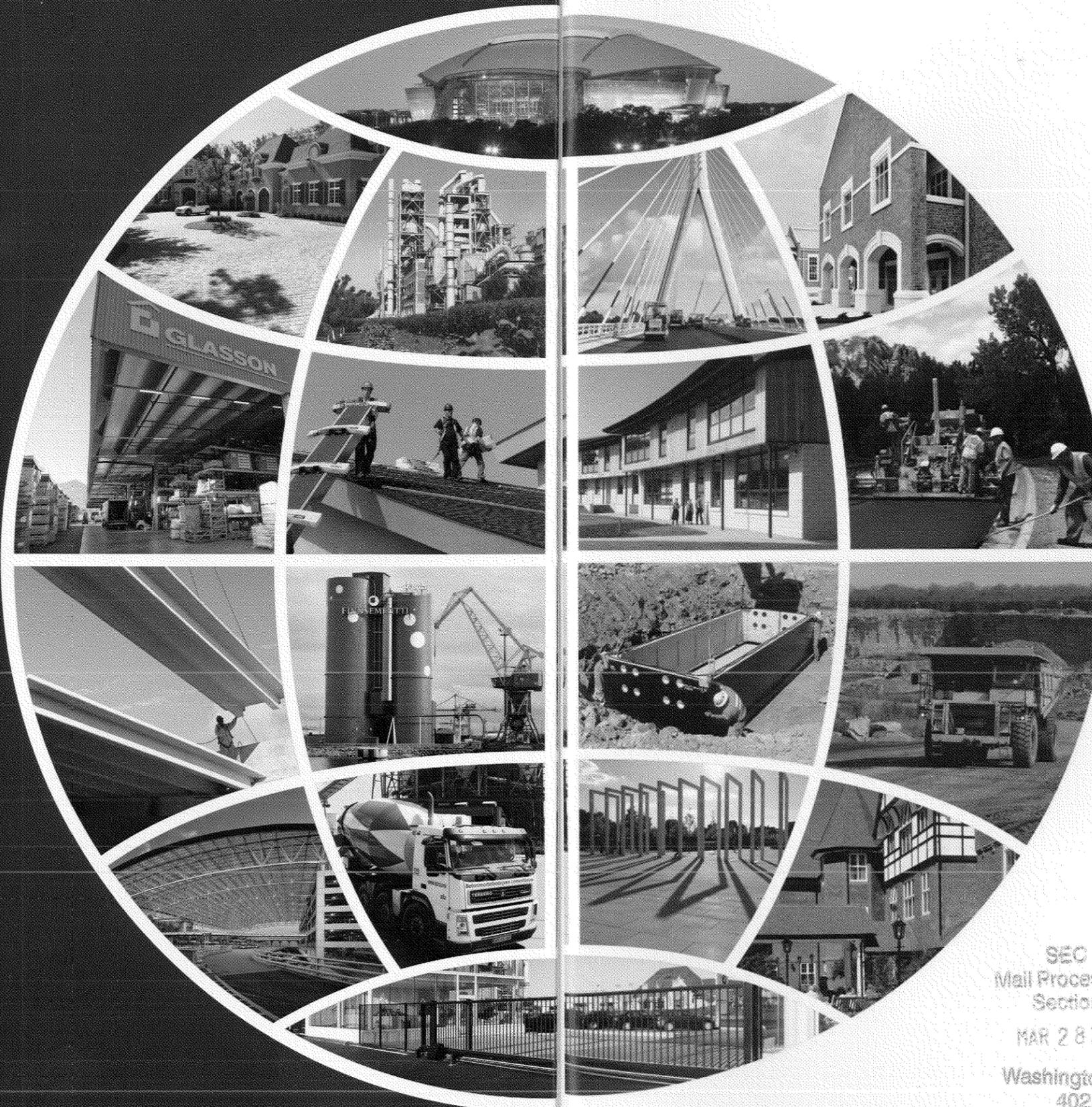


CRH a FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 company, is a diversified international building materials group headquartered in Ireland. CRH manufactures and distributes a diverse range of products servicing the breadth of construction needs. From the fundamentals of heavy materials and elements to construct the frame, through value-added exterior products that complete the building envelope, to distribution channels which service construction fit-out and renewal. CRH products are used for both new-build and repair & maintenance construction needs in the residential, non-residential and infrastructure sectors.

CRH is a leading international player in its industry, with operations in 35 countries worldwide. It is the largest building materials company in North America, a regional leader in Europe and has a growing presence in the Asian economies of India and China. In 2013, CRH subsidiary companies employed approximately 76,000 people at over 3,400 operating locations, and generated sales of €18 billion.

CRH's strategic vision is to be a responsible international leader in building materials delivering superior and sustained shareholder returns. Sustainability and corporate social responsibility concepts are integral components of the Group's performance and growth strategy, and CRH has been ranked among sector leaders by leading Socially Responsible Investment agencies for its sustainability and corporate social responsibility performance.

CRH is a constituent member of the FTSE 100, ISEQ 20, Euro Stoxx 50, Euro Stoxx Select Dividend 30 equity indices and its shares are listed on the London and Dublin stock exchanges, and on the New York stock exchange in the form of American Depositary Shares.



Received SEC
MAR 28 2014
Washington, DC 20549

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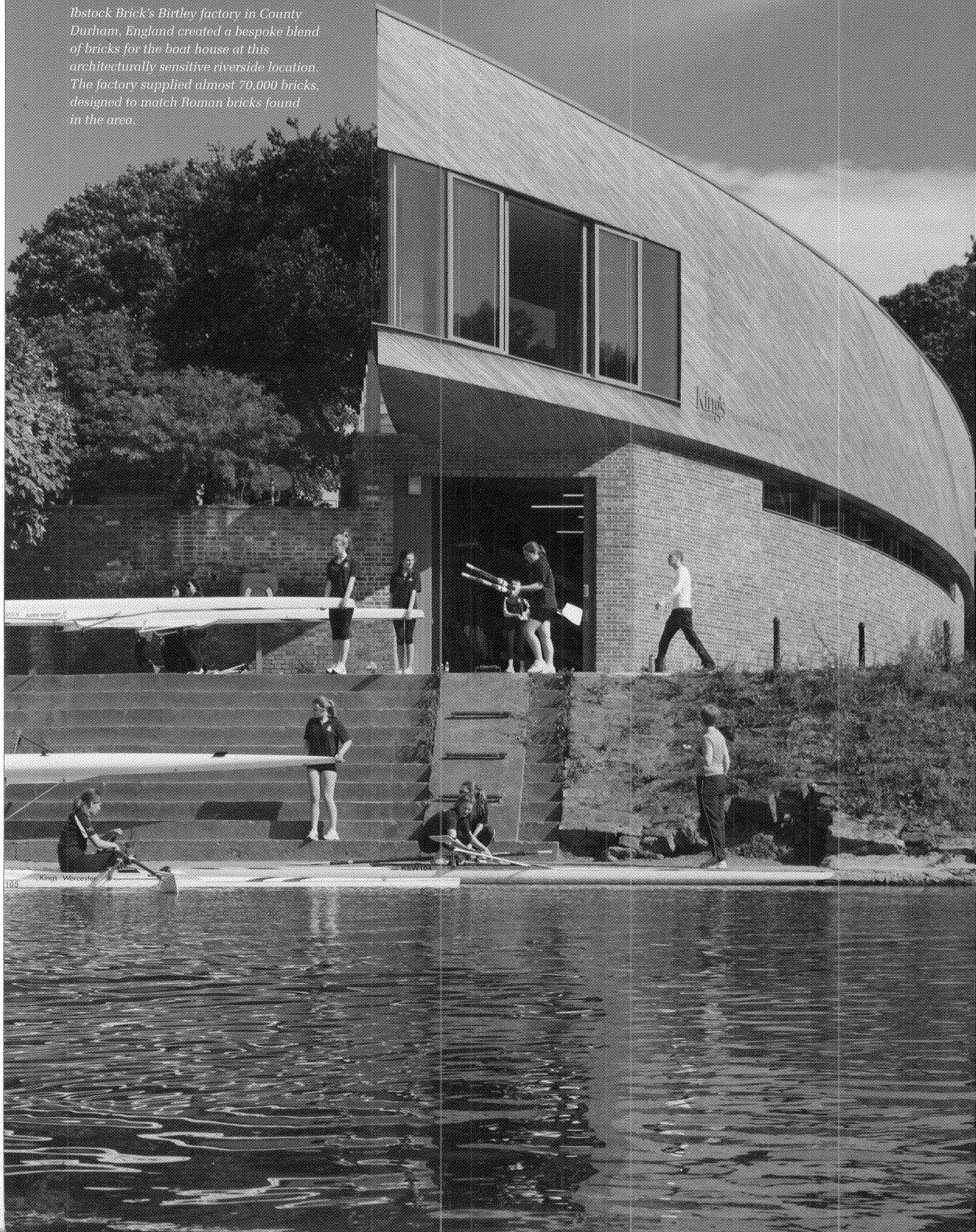
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Ibstock Brick's Birtley factory in County Durham, England created a bespoke blend of bricks for the boat house at this architecturally sensitive riverside location. The factory supplied almost 70,000 bricks, designed to match Roman bricks found in the area.



CRH plc Registered Office
The International Building 42 Fitzwilliam Square
Materials Group Dublin 2
Ireland

TELEPHONE
+353-1-634 4340
FAX
+353-1-676 5013
E-MAIL
crh42@crh.com
WEBSITE
www.crh.com

27th March 2013

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Securities and Exchange Commission,
100 F Street, N.E.,
Washington D.C. 20549,
U.S.A.

**Re: CRH plc Report on Form 6-K
1934 Act File No. 001-32846.**

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed herewith pursuant to Rule 13a-16 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are eight copies of the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2013.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Colgan', written over a horizontal line.

Neil Colgan
Company Secretary

Encls.

Registered in Dublin
No. 12965

DIRECTORS:
N. Hartery Chairman
A. Manifold Chief Executive
E.J. Bärtschi (Swiss)
M. Carton
W.P. Egan (USA)
U-H. Felcht (German)
J.M. de Jong (Dutch)
J.W. Kennedy
D.A. McGovern, Jr. (USA)
H.A. McSharry
D.N. O'Connor
H.Th. Rottinghuis (Dutch)
M.S. Towe (USA)

Secretary N. Colgan

Chairman's Introduction

Dear Shareholders,



As you will see from the key financial figures on page 6, 2013 was another challenging year for CRH. A delayed recovery in our European markets, together with the portfolio review commenced by the Board towards the end of 2013 which has identified a total of 45 business units for divestment, has resulted in a significant non-cash impairment charge. The aim of the portfolio review is to re-set CRH for growth and, as we look into 2014 and beyond, improving returns is a key strategic priority for the Group.

In respect of 2013, the Board is recommending a final dividend of 44c per share. If approved by shareholders at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, this will maintain the full-year dividend at 62.5c per share. The Board's decision to maintain the dividend took into account the increased operating cash flow before dividends of €736 million, and also the levels of capital expenditure, development activity and portfolio rationalisation during 2013. The net after-tax loss of €295 million for 2013 reflects the total non-cash impairment charges of €755 million, primarily arising from the ongoing portfolio review. Excluding impairments and the related tax impact, adjusted earnings per share for the year were 59.5c, representing a cover of 0.95 times the proposed dividend for 2013.

Myles Lee retired as Chief Executive and from the Board on 31 December 2013, after an outstanding 32-year career with the Group, five years of which were spent as Finance Director prior to his taking up the Chief Executive role. I would like to thank Myles sincerely on behalf of the Board for his leadership of the Company over the past five years, a tenure which coincided with a period of remarkable uncertainty and crisis across the globe. During this very challenging period, Myles led the implementation of strategies and initiatives which have reduced CRH's cost base by almost €2.4 billion, and managed the portfolio by investing €2.9 billion in value-adding acquisitions in attractive markets, while at the same time generating proceeds of approximately €1.9 billion from divestments and asset disposals. Myles leaves the Group in a strong financial condition, with one of the strongest balance sheets in the sector and well-positioned to avail of opportunities as CRH now looks forward to the next phase of its development.

Details of the process to appoint Myles' successor, which took place over four months and concluded with the appointment of Albert Manifold as Chief Executive Designate in July 2013, are set out in the Corporate Governance report on page 53. We are very fortunate to have a replacement of Albert's calibre, experience and skills within the Group.

After the 2014 Annual General Meeting, Jan Maarten de Jong will retire from the Board. He became a Director in 2004 and, between May 2007 and August 2013, was Chairman of CRH's Audit Committee. Jan Maarten has been an exemplary non-executive Director and I thank him for his commitment and energy during his time on our Board.

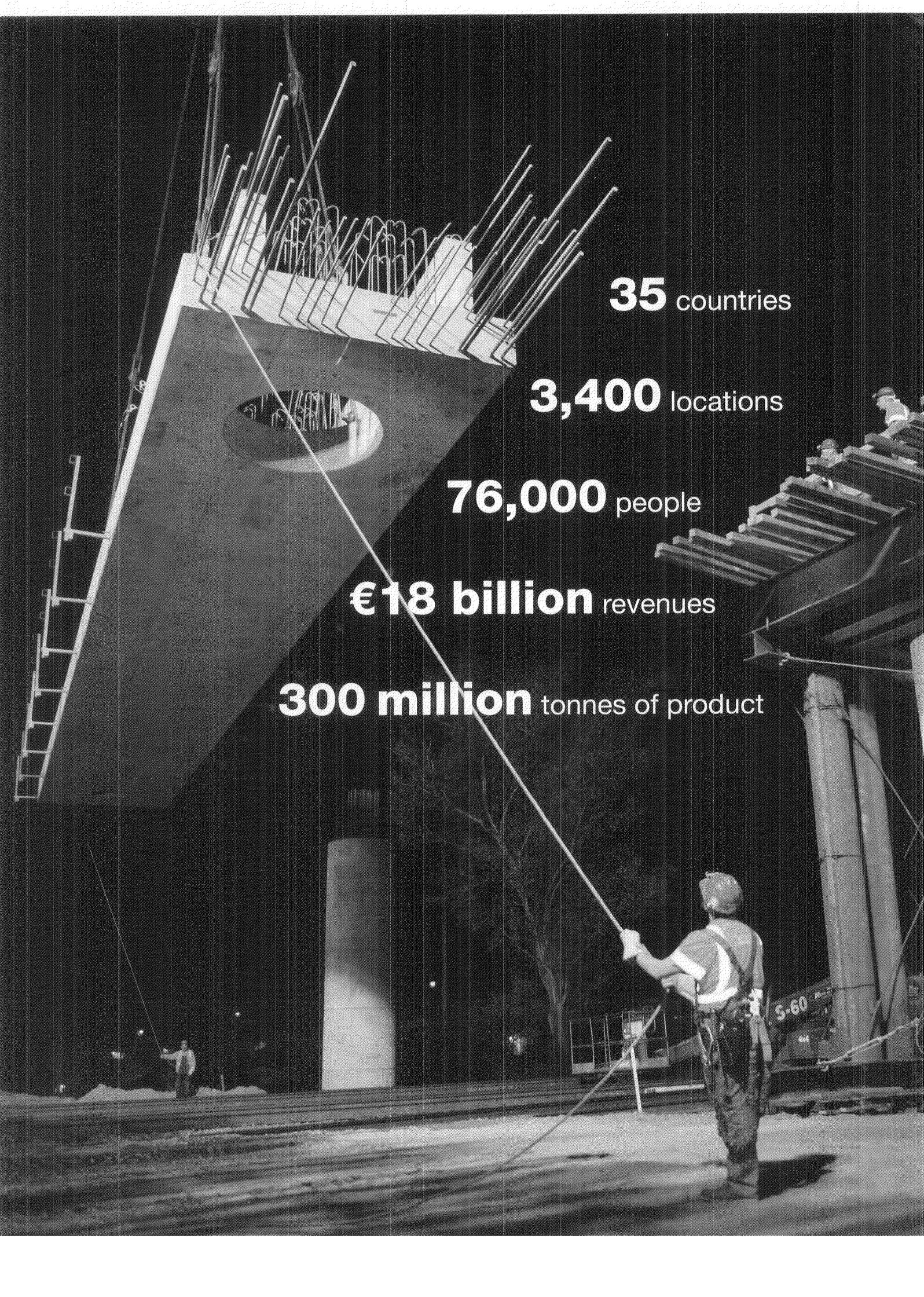
Since the 2013 Annual General Meeting, we have appointed Don McGovern and Henk Rottinghuis as non-executive Directors. I welcome them to the Board and look forward to working with them in the years to come. The Corporate Governance report details the appointment process for new Directors and also covers our approach to important matters such as diversity on the CRH Board and shareholder engagement.

Each Director will retire at the Annual General Meeting on 7 May 2014, with those eligible offering themselves for re-election. Their biographies are set out on pages 37 to 39. I have conducted a formal evaluation of the performance of individual Directors, which included training needs where appropriate. I can confirm that each of the Directors continues to perform effectively and to demonstrate strong commitment to the role. I strongly recommend that shareholders vote in favour of each of the individuals putting themselves forward for re-election.

I would like to thank management for the significant contributions made by them in 2013, and in recent years, in very challenging circumstances. I have no doubt that we have the team, under Albert's leadership, to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities that the future holds for CRH.

Nicky Hartery *Chairman*

February 2014



35 countries

3,400 locations

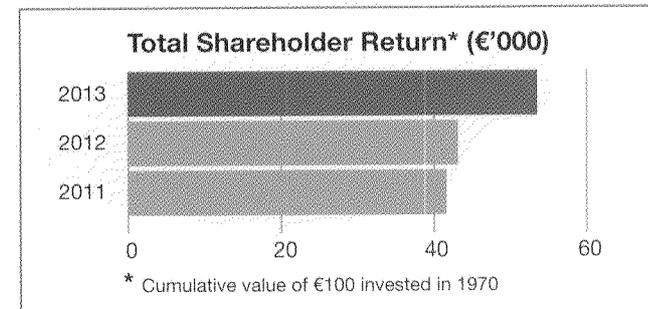
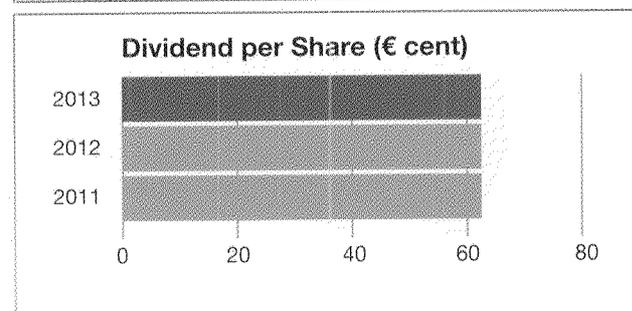
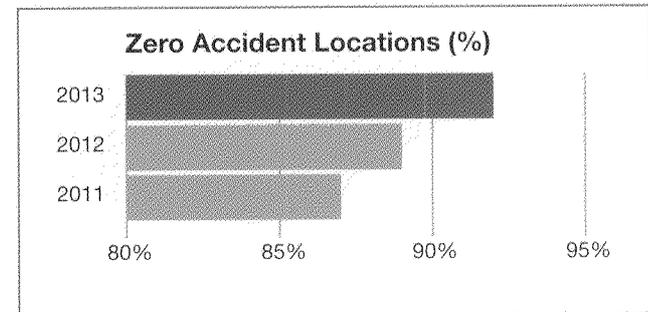
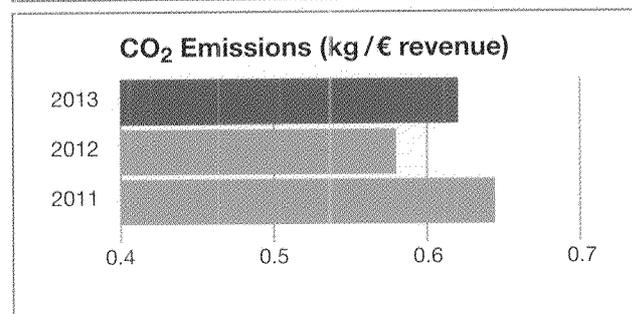
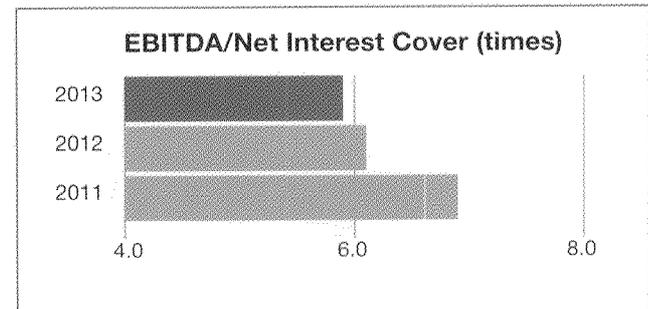
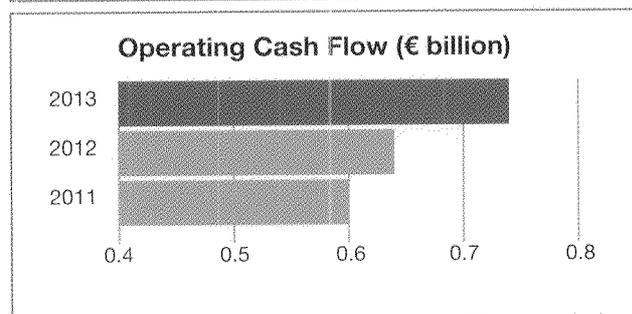
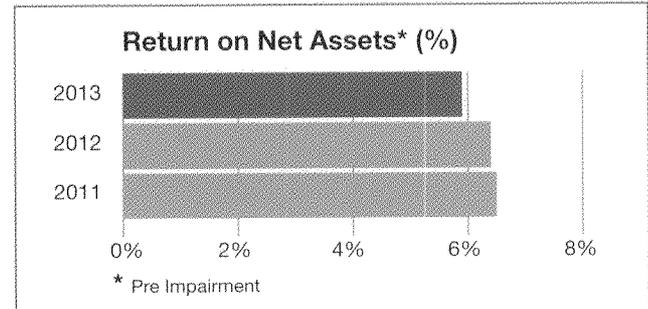
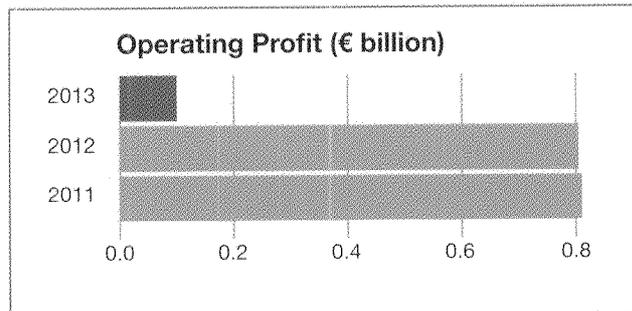
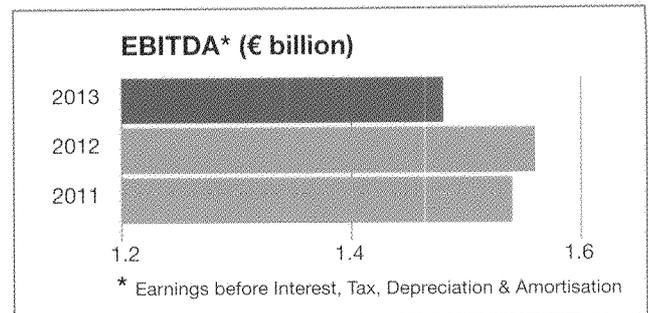
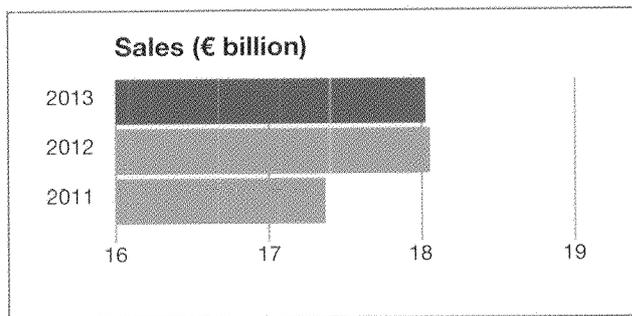
76,000 people

€18 billion revenues

300 million tonnes of product

2013 Snapshot

A resilient performance in what was yet another challenging year for the building materials sector.



Oldcastle Precast supplied concrete structures ranging from 2.5 metres to 16 metres long used in the Colton Crossing Rail project, California. The project included a 2.3 kilometre overpass that raised the Union Pacific Railroad's east-west tracks 13 metres over the BNSF north-south tracks.

2013 Key Financial Figures

€ million

Sales **18,031**

EBITDA **1,475**

Operating profit **100**

Loss before tax **(215)**

cent

Loss per share **(40.6)**

Cash earnings per share **162.4**

Dividend per share **62.5**



Albert Manifold with Myles Lee

Strategy Review

Chief Executive's Introduction



2013 Performance

During the first six months of 2013, the severe and prolonged winter conditions which delayed the start of the construction season in our major markets, together with weaker trading in Europe, had a negative impact on our results. As the year progressed we saw markets beginning to stabilise in Europe, while the pick-up in economic activity in the US provided positive momentum for our Americas businesses.

Following a first-half decline of 6%, like-for-like sales were ahead by 2% in the second half, reducing the full-year decline to 2%. With the translation impact of the weaker US Dollar more than offset by contributions from acquisitions, sales of €18 billion for the year were in line with 2012. EBITDA for the year amounted to €1.48 billion, slightly ahead of guidance.

Against this backdrop, we continued to focus on improving our cost base, particularly in Europe, scaling our capacity and managing our costs to match shifting demand patterns across our businesses. Incremental savings of €195 million were delivered in the year. Our cumulative cost savings since the programme began in 2007 now amount to almost €2.4 billion.

We continued to generate strong cash flows from our operations, which, together with proceeds from divestments and asset disposals, resulted in net debt remaining in line with year-end 2012. This was after a spend on acquisitions and capital expenditure of approximately €1.2 billion and dividend payments of €0.46 billion.

For a closer look at the numbers, please refer to our Business Performance Review on pages 18 to 35, as introduced by our Finance Director.

Development Activity

During 2013 we remained active on the development front completing 28 transactions, at a total cost of €0.7 billion, which met our criteria of establishing and developing leading positions in attractive markets. We strengthened our cement positions in high-growth markets in Ukraine, India and China. We added to our aggregates positions in a number of key markets in the United States, extended our concrete products business in the attractive western Canada market and added to our Distribution network in both Europe and the United States.

In October, we opened a regional headquarters in Singapore, from which we will manage our developing Asian business. From a small start six years ago, we are now invested in companies employing 15,000 people in Asia.

Portfolio Review

With economic indicators now pointing to an improving outlook for the global economy, we are reshaping our portfolio for the future. There has been significant economic and financial change since 2007 and CRH responded proactively and decisively to that change. We are now focussed on positioning the Group for future growth as we enter the coming cycle.

In November 2013 we embarked on a comprehensive review to identify and focus on the businesses in our portfolio which offer the most attractive future returns and growth in the coming cycle. We have completed the initial phase of the review and have identified a total of 45 business units which will not meet our future returns objectives. An orderly disposal process is underway to dispose of these operations, which accounted for c.10% of the Group's net assets at year-end 2013. With the next phase of the review underway, we have identified a further group of businesses, representing c.20% of our net assets, which require more detailed assessment; however, in the light of current conditions and outlook, we do not anticipate further impairment charges to arise should a decision be made to exit any of these businesses.

Over the years, we have built up a strong network of core businesses, which represent the majority of our net assets. By prioritising the allocation and reallocation of capital across these core businesses, our target is to restore margins and returns to peak levels in the coming cycle.

To facilitate this process, we are reorganising our European business by integrating our products and materials businesses into one organisation. This will better enable CRH to leverage the benefits of our operating plant network in both western and eastern European markets, which is complementary to our Distribution business in core European markets.

Focus for 2014

Dynamic allocation and reallocation of resources to optimise our portfolio, together with our traditional tight cost-control and capital discipline and our relentless focus on returns, will be key to driving growth and to rebuilding returns and margins in the coming years. We believe that 2013 represents the trough in our profits, and that 2014 will be a year of profit growth. We are encouraged by second half activity levels in 2013 and by the fact that, while it is still early in the season, trading so far in 2014 has been ahead of last year.

CRH Vision and Strategy

CRH is one of the world's leading building materials companies, with a business that spans 35 countries and which serves all segments of construction industry demand. CRH supplies raw materials and finished products for residential, non-residential and infrastructure construction applications. It also has distribution businesses that supply products to the professional building contractor and to the home-owner.

CRH's vision is to be a responsible international leader in building materials, delivering superior and sustained shareholder returns.

The sections that follow outline CRH's strategy, how CRH puts that strategy into action through its business model, how it measures progress and how it ensures that CRH delivers on its strategic priorities in a sustainable and ethical way.

Strategy in Action

CRH's strategy is to sustain and grow a geographically diversified business with exposure to a broad range of segments of construction demand, enabling CRH to achieve its vision of delivering industry-leading returns.

CRH delivers on its strategy by growing and developing its portfolio of core businesses in building materials, seeking balanced exposure to multiple demand drivers, building leadership positions in regional markets, investing in and continuously improving its operations, acquiring and growing well-run value-creating businesses, while seeking exposure to new development opportunities and creating platforms for future growth.

CRH actively positions the Group to take advantage of varying economic cycles and applies its strategy in both developed economies, where there is a requirement for continual renewal of the built environment, and also in developing economies where industrialisation and population growth drive construction and economic activity. In doing so, the Group has established businesses in some of the biggest regional markets in the world and has achieved the position of market leader in many of these markets. Further detail of CRH's business footprint is provided in the Business Performance Review on pages 18 to 35.

Developed Economies

In Western Europe and North America, CRH has built a balanced portfolio across the spectrum of building materials which leaves the business uniquely positioned to provide a broad product offering to the construction industry. While CRH's heavyside building materials operations support the Group's exposure to new-build and also infrastructure repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) construction, its lightside product range enables CRH to participate in the growing residential and non-residential RMI markets, typical of mature economies.

CRH's strategic focus in these markets is to continue to reinvest in its established platforms and to develop these businesses further through bolt-on acquisitions which achieve vertical integration, add to reserves, and fill out regional and product-level positions.

Vision

To be a responsible international leader in building materials delivering superior and sustained shareholder returns

Strategy

To sustain and grow a geographically diversified business with exposure to a broad range of segments of construction demand

- Building leadership positions in regional markets
- Continuously improving operations
- Investing in efficient capacity
- Acquiring and growing value-creating businesses
- Developing new products and markets
- Creating platforms for future growth

Developing Economies

In developing economies, CRH's strategy is to target premium assets as an initial footprint. These entry platforms tend to be in cement and are often in partnership with strong, locally established businesses. Desirable entry points are those with well-located quality operations and good regional market positions. In addition, CRH targets businesses that have the potential to develop further downstream into integrated building materials businesses, as construction markets become more sophisticated over time.

In the mid-1990s, CRH applied this approach to its entry into the Polish market and today the Group is the leading integrated building materials company in Poland. CRH is now focussed on replicating this approach with its platforms in Ukraine, India and China.

Strategic Priorities

In looking to position the Group optimally for the future, CRH is currently conducting a detailed portfolio review, to identify those businesses and markets which offer the best potential for profit growth and returns in the cycle ahead.

A key strategic priority is to restore returns to levels seen during the course of the previous peak. Achievement of this will require the active management of CRH's portfolio through the dynamic allocation and

reallocation of capital, the ongoing pursuit of excellence in operational performance, process and product innovation to promote differentiation and better serve customers' needs, and successful integration of targeted acquisitions.

The Group has a track record of maintaining strong financial liquidity and capital resources. A key component of this success is CRH's unwavering focus on cash generation and the retention of a strong capital base, both of which are essential to funding organic and acquisitive growth, and to CRH's ability to fund dividend payments to shareholders.

CRH also recognises that excellence in sustainability, compliance, risk management and governance is key to achieving superior performance. The Group has policies and guidelines in place to support management in these important areas, which together enhance CRH's reputation and underpin CRH's ability to do business.

We continue to recruit and develop the best talent, as it is with exceptional management and operational teams that CRH implements its strategy, through its business model, in pursuit of superior and sustained returns and growth.

Strategic Priorities

In the context of the risks and opportunities that face the Group, our priorities are:

- To deliver superior shareholder returns through the cycle
- To drive returns through excellence in operational performance, innovation and acquisition integration
- To generate strong cash flows to fund organic and acquisitive growth
- To maintain financial liquidity and capital resources
- To promote excellence in compliance, risk management and governance
- To achieve the highest standards of environmental management and proactively address the challenges of climate change
- To develop our people and ensure the safety of everyone in the workplace

Strategic Focus

Returns and Growth

CRH Business Model

CRH subsidiary companies employ approximately 76,000 people at over 3,400 locations around the world. The Group's major businesses are in the developed markets of Europe and North America, and it has growing positions in certain developing economies in Asia.

A Balanced Portfolio

The portfolio is well balanced across products, geographies and sector end-uses and this concept lies at the core of CRH strategy.

CRH's geographic balance means that it is able to take advantage of differing regional demand cycles. In 2013, Western Europe and North America contributed about 85% of earnings from Group operations (subsidiaries plus share of equity accounted investments), while operations in the developing economies in Central and Eastern Europe, South America and Asia contributed about 15%.

Sectoral and end-use balance reduces the effects of varying demand patterns across building and construction activity. Exposure in 2013 was broadly split 35% residential, 30% non-residential and 35% infrastructure, while the balance of new-build to RMI was 50:50.

Our Product Range

CRH's business comprises Materials, Products and Distribution activities, which enable the Group to supply construction materials from initial site work, through the building phase, to fit-out and renewal of the built environment over time. In 2013, Materials activities generated 56% of Group EBITDA, while the Products segment delivered 25% and Distribution 19%.

CRH's primary **Materials** businesses are vertically-integrated aggregates, cement, asphalt and readymixed concrete operations, which are backed by strategically-located, long-term reserves and used extensively in infrastructure applications.

The Group's **Products** businesses make a range of materials for use primarily in residential and non-residential construction. They include a broad range of architectural and structural products, and also accessories to assist in the construction process.

CRH **distributes** building materials to general building contractors, specialist Sanitary, Heating and Plumbing (SHAP) contractors and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) customers in Europe, and to professional roofing/siding and interior products contractors in the United States. These businesses are well-positioned to service growing RMI demand in mature markets.

Further information on the scale, footprint and strategy for these businesses can be found in the Business Performance Review on pages 18 to 35.

How our Business Operates

CRH continuously improves its operations, develops its people and builds regional market leadership positions across an actively managed portfolio. CRH leverages the benefits of local market knowledge and experience with global scale and resources.

CRH expects strong management commitment to both the local operating company and to the CRH Group. Managers are supported from a Group centre which provides guidance, support and functional expertise in the areas of performance measurement, financial reporting, cash

Business Model

A portfolio that is balanced by geography, product and end-use across residential, non-residential and infrastructure sectors, with a good equilibrium between new-build and RMI segments

Materials

Vertically-integrated primary materials businesses with strategically-located long-term reserves

Products

Range of architectural and structural products for use primarily in residential and non-residential applications

Distribution

Supply of building materials to general, specialist and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) customers in Europe and the US

management, strategic planning, business development, talent management, governance, risk management and sustainability. This approach has attracted and retained exceptional management in the past and the Group has been strengthened by personnel with a range of skills including operational management, highly qualified business professionals and owner-entrepreneurs.

How we Manage our Finances

One of CRH's guiding principles is a strong focus on cash generation, which gives it significant financial firepower for value-creating acquisitions and dividend payout. Strict capital discipline is a key characteristic of the Group, alongside good operational control and strong financial liquidity. The Group is committed to maintaining an investment grade credit rating. During 2013 CRH raised €1.5 billion in the eurobond market at record low coupons.

How we Generate Value

CRH's approach to business has delivered industry-leading returns in the past and it is the Group's intention to restore those returns and margins through the coming cycle.

At the core of CRH's success is the pursuit of continuous improvement. The Group constantly challenges its businesses to do better and management recognises that continuous improvement requires a focus on measured performance, firm financial control, product and process innovation, and a rigorous approach to capital allocation.

CRH continues to invest and reinvest in its assets to improve the capacity, quality and efficiency of its operations. In addition, in a fragmented

industry, CRH has the opportunity to grow by acquiring small to mid-sized companies which complement the existing network. From time to time, it completes larger deals where it sees compelling value.

This strategic approach and sustainable business model for value creation has enabled CRH to deliver superior performance and growth through previous cycles. Following the current portfolio review, it is CRH's intention to accelerate the dynamic allocation and reallocation of resources within the Group, so that the businesses with the most potential in the next cycle will receive the most investment in the future.

Measuring Performance

CRH believes that measurement fosters positive behaviour and performance. In keeping with our focus on measured performance across all our businesses, CRH continues to refine and develop appropriate financial and non-financial measures to communicate leading-practice benchmarks across the organisation.

In the following tables on pages 12 to 15, as part of CRH's commitment to enhanced narrative reporting, the Board has set out the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are used to measure the Group's performance against its strategy. The KPIs are closely aligned to the strategic priorities set out on page 9. They are quantifiable measurements, which the Group has been working to for many years, although this is the first time they have been included in this form in the Annual Report. It is CRH's intention to reproduce this table in subsequent reports, to enable investors to build up a longer-term view of how Group strategy is being successfully implemented.

Lean Centre

Providing guidance, support, functional expertise and control in the areas of performance measurement, financial reporting, cash management, strategic planning, business development, talent management, governance and compliance, risk management, health & safety and environment

Local Know-How

Experienced operational management with extensive local market knowledge responsible for delivering returns from our operations

Global Scale

The shared resources and strengths of an international Group of over €13 billion market capitalisation

Returns

A focus on measured performance and operational excellence

A rigorous approach to capital allocation

Growth

Value-creating acquisitions sourced, evaluated and integrated by experienced operational management

Investments to improve capacity, quality and efficiency of our operations

Measuring Performance

Financial KPIs

Strategic Priority	KPI	Definition	Why Important
To deliver superior shareholder returns through the cycle	Total Shareholder Return (TSR)	<p>TSR represents the total accumulated value delivered to shareholders (via gross dividends reinvested and share appreciation).</p> <p>It can be expressed as the total rolled-up value of €100 originally invested in 1970 or as the annual % change in this value.</p>	<p>TSR is a full measure of monetary value created and delivered to the owners of the Group.</p> <p>Performance metrics for the CEO and share plans include challenging TSR goals.</p>
To drive returns through excellence in operational performance	Return on Net Assets (RONA)	<p>RONA is defined as subsidiary operating profit expressed as a percentage of subsidiary average net assets.</p> <p>Operating profit is adjusted to exclude non-cash impairments. Net assets exclude cash & cash equivalents, tax assets and liabilities, and other non-operating balance sheet items.</p>	<p>RONA is a key internal pre-tax measure of operating performance used throughout the Group.</p> <p>It measures management's success in (i) generating profit from its asset base and (ii) in optimising the assets under its control.</p>
To generate strong cash flows to fund organic and acquisitive growth	Operating Cash Flow (OCF)	<p>OCF measures the amount of cash generated from normal business activities.</p> <p>It is defined as cash profits less tax payments and capital expenditure and is adjusted for working capital movements.</p>	<p>OCF is the primary funding source for dividend payments and acquisition spend.</p>
To maintain financial liquidity and capital resources	EBITDA/Net Interest Cover	<p>EBITDA/Net Interest Cover is calculated by dividing EBITDA (as defined in Note 2 on page 111) by net interest costs (finance costs less finance income as shown in the Consolidated Income Statement) for the 12 month period to the reporting date.</p>	<p>Strong EBITDA/Net Interest Cover is evidence of ability to service interest payments and debt maturities and thus underpins the maintenance of investment grade credit ratings and the Group's ability to access finance.</p>

2013 Performance	2014 Focus	Links to other Disclosures
<p>2013: 24.1% 2012: 3.7%</p> <p>In 2013 TSR was made up of a 4% dividend yield and 20% share price appreciation.</p> <p>CRH has delivered a compound annual TSR of 15.7% since the formation of the Group in 1970.</p>	<p>Delivering superior returns on invested capital and on maintaining strong cash flows to support the continued development of the Group and dividend payment.</p>	<p>Directors' Remuneration Report pages 59 to 90</p>
<p>2013: 5.9% 2012: 6.4%</p> <p>The decrease in RONA in 2013 is a reflection of the continued tough trading conditions in some geographic regions and also the severe weather in the first half of the year which had a significant impact on the start of the operating season.</p>	<p>Delivering improved RONA through effective margin management, continued enhancement of operating efficiencies and tight working capital management.</p>	<p>Business Performance Review pages 18 to 35</p> <p>Directors' Remuneration Report pages 59 to 90</p>
<p>2013: €736 million 2012: €640 million</p> <p>Through prudent working capital management and tight capital expenditure control, CRH increased OCF to €736 million in 2013.</p>	<p>Continuing to generate strong operating cash flows in 2014.</p>	<p>Summarised Cash Flow page 20</p> <p>Directors' Remuneration Report pages 59 to 90</p>
<p>2013: 5.9x 2012: 6.1x</p> <p>Cover was lower in 2013 due to the lower level of EBITDA reflecting the challenging trading environment.</p> <p>During 2013 CRH's credit ratings remained BBB+/Baa2 from S&P/Moody's rating agencies.</p>	<p>Maintaining financial discipline to ensure that EBITDA/Net Interest Cover remains strong and should usually be no lower than 6x.</p>	<p>Finance Director's Introduction pages 18 to 20</p> <p>Note 24 Interest-bearing Loans and Borrowings page 131</p>

Measuring Performance

Non-Financial KPIs

Strategic Priority	KPI	Definition	Why Important
<p>To ensure the safety of everyone in the workplace</p>	<p>% Zero Accident Locations</p>	<p>The number of accident-free locations expressed as a percentage of total operating locations.</p>	<p>Safety is a priority for CRH and we constantly strive to improve our performance through a continuous focus on safety management.</p> <p>The continuing development of a strong safety culture throughout the Group is a key element of our business strategy.</p>
<p>To achieve the highest standards of environmental management and proactively address the challenges of climate change</p>	<p>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</p>	<p>CO₂ is the only GHG emission relevant for CRH.</p> <p>A Group-level measure is provided and defined as CO₂ emissions (kg) expressed per unit of Sales Revenue (€).</p> <p>As our cement activities account for the greater proportion of Group emissions, a cement-plant (specific) measure is also provided. This is defined as CO₂ emissions (tonnes) per tonne of cementitious product.</p>	<p>Climate change creates both challenges and opportunities for business.</p> <p>In all activities, energy efficiency and carbon reduction are twin imperatives. Lower-carbon products and those that can assist in climate change mitigation and adaptation are also a focus for our businesses.</p>
<p>To develop our people and create an inclusive workplace</p>	<p>Gender Diversity</p>	<p>Number of female employees expressed as a percentage of total employees.</p>	<p>All recruitment, selection and promotion decisions are made on individual merit and in line with the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination.</p>

2013 Performance	2014 Focus	Links to other Disclosures									
<p>2013: 92% 2012: 89%</p> <p>Encouragingly we achieved 92% zero-accident locations in 2013.</p>	<p>We are committed to maintaining and enhancing a strong culture of safety across CRH with the ultimate aim of achieving zero accident status at every location.</p> <p>In addition to our ongoing Fatality Elimination Plan, key focus areas include safety in emerging regions, contractor safety and transport safety.</p>	<p>CRH Sustainability Report published mid-summer 2014</p>									
<p>CO₂ Emissions (million tonnes)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="65 898 411 999"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Scope 1</th> <th>Scope 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>9.8</td> <td>1.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>9.2</td> <td>1.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Group Measure (kg CO₂ /unit revenue) 2013: 0.62 2012: 0.58</p> <p>Cement Plant Measure (tonnes CO₂ /tonne cementitious product) 2013: 0.62 2012: 0.62</p> <p>While total CO₂ emissions in 2013 increased due to increased activity in some areas, ongoing strategic programmes continue to focus on reducing specific net CO₂ emissions.</p>		Scope 1	Scope 2	2013	9.8	1.3	2012	9.2	1.2	<p>Having achieved our initial CO₂ reduction commitment 3 years ahead of target in 2012, we have now pledged to a 25% reduction in specific net CO₂ cement plant emissions by 2020, compared to 1990 levels.</p> <p>In addition, throughout the Group, programmes to optimise energy and resource efficiency, reduce emissions and promote environmentally-driven product and process innovation are ongoing.</p>	<p>CRH Sustainability Report published mid-summer 2014</p> <p><i>Note 1:</i> Some CO₂ emissions are subject to final verification under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). Verified figures will be published in the Sustainability Report.</p> <p><i>Note 2:</i> Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions from sources that are controlled or owned by a company, eg emissions from decarbonation of raw materials and combustion in kilns, furnaces, boilers, vehicles etc. Scope 2: GHG emissions from generation of purchased electricity consumed by a company.</p> <p>(www.ghgprotocol.org/standards)</p>
	Scope 1	Scope 2									
2013	9.8	1.3									
2012	9.2	1.2									
<p>2013: 18% 2012: 18%</p> <p>In 2013, 11% of operational staff and 41% of clerical and administrative staff were female.</p> <p>At Board level, 15% of our Directors are female and 4% of our senior managers are female.</p>	<p>The building materials industry traditionally attracts a higher than average proportion of male employees and CRH's data reflects this trend.</p> <p>We continue to encourage all CRH employees to develop their careers and would welcome a greater representation of female talent at senior management level.</p>	<p>Corporate Governance Report pages 40 to 58</p> <p>Senior Management Listing pages 152 and 153</p> <p>CRH Sustainability Report published mid-summer 2014</p>									

Sustainability and Governance

CRH has placed sustainability at the heart of its strategy and business model. In every area of business, CRH seeks to create long-term value for all stakeholders including investors (debt and equity); customers, partners, employees, suppliers, neighbours and local communities.

The Group is committed to safeguarding its employees, enhancing the environment, ensuring strong governance and risk management, and supporting and benefitting the communities in which it operates. In doing so, CRH can continue to extend its positive influence across the value chain, while building a strong and resilient business that is capable of delivering shareholder returns for the future.

Working Safely

With approximately 76,000 employees worldwide, keeping people safe is a priority. Close to €140 million has been invested in initiatives aimed at enhancing health and safety performance in the last five years. These efforts have resulted in an average 15% per annum reduction in the Group's accident frequency rate over the decade, and encouragingly 92% of our active locations were accident free in 2013.

CRH:

Sustainable, Responsible, Ethical

Committed to doing business in a sustainable and responsible manner, placing strong governance, risk management and ethics at the forefront of all our business activities

However, despite the focus on safety, CRH deeply regrets the loss of nine lives (two employees and seven contractors) at its operations during 2013. With the assistance of independent specialists, the circumstances surrounding each of these individual tragedies have been examined in detail, the lessons learned communicated and changes implemented immediately. The elimination of fatalities is a fundamental objective of the Group.

Enhancing the Environment

As a global leader in building materials, CRH can play an important role in improving the sustainability of the built environment. In addition to our progress on CO₂ reduction detailed below, CRH works with customers and the wider building materials industry to develop sustainable and innovative products and solutions.

Demand for lower carbon products such as warm-mix asphalt is increasing and this product now accounts for over 30% of CRH's US

asphalt sales. In Europe, an increasing proportion of CRH's cement production is now of lower-carbon cements and 35% of CRH's cement plant fuel requirements are met by alternative fuels. We recycled 17 million tonnes of externally-sourced alternative materials into new products, including recycled asphalt pavement and shingles which provides a fifth of asphalt requirements in our US operations.

Throughout the Group, extensive programmes are in place to improve energy and resource efficiency, achieve targeted air emission reductions, enhance biodiversity, and restore worked-out quarries.

Working with People and Communities

CRH operates in many communities and continued business success depends on the relationships it forms with all stakeholders. CRH actively supports social and community activities local to its operations and in 2013 held close to 700 stakeholder engagement days.

Our businesses know that developing our people is critical to sustaining competitive advantage and to achieving corporate growth over the long term. We believe in recruiting the best people and giving them a variety of development opportunities through which they can advance their careers, develop specialised expertise and grow professionally.

CRH is determined to create an inclusive workplace, with all recruitment, selection and promotion decisions made on individual merit. Achieving gender diversity is difficult in an industry which traditionally attracts more male employees and CRH's current make-up reflects this. In 2013, 18% of employees were female. Of those, 11% of operational staff and 41% of clerical and administrative staff were female. At Board level, CRH has two female directors, including the Finance Director.

Protecting Human Rights

CRH is fully committed to human and labour rights and supports the principles set out in the articles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organisation's Core Labour Principles. Group companies are required to comply with the Group's position on human rights when dealing with employees, contractors, customers and suppliers, as set out in the Code of Business Conduct and supporting policies.

In addition, CRH has launched an Ethical Procurement Code and a Supplier Code of Conduct, both of which outline processes and procedures to ensure compliance. A recent example of these procedures in practice was the temporary suspension of a supplier for failure to comply fully with our requirements; this necessitated alternative supply arrangements at a significant cost to CRH, until the issue was resolved and the supplier re-engaged.

Monitoring Performance

CRH is committed to reporting on the breadth of its sustainability performance in a comprehensive and transparent manner and to publishing performance indicators on key identified sustainability areas. The Group's annual Sustainability Report is published mid-year following external independent verification and can be read at www.crh.com.

Managing Risk

CRH has a formal Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework, which takes account of the perspectives of CRH's diverse stakeholder interests, and is used to assess the rewards and mitigate the risks associated with day-to-day activities and strategic actions.

Through this framework, CRH seeks to minimise adverse outcomes by exercising control across all aspects of the Group's operations and by evaluating carefully the risks of strategic decision-making prior to implementation. The tone is set from the top and is underpinned by CRH's commitment to ethical principles, independent good faith reporting channels, a tolerance of challenge to the status quo and the rewarding of appropriate risk-taking. In line with leading practice, a "three lines of defence" model, incorporating (i) local management, (ii) divisional and head office oversight, and (iii) our internal audit function, has been in place for many years and is subject to ongoing refinement and development.

The combination of a high level of risk awareness and risk maturity and a well-developed and effective assurance framework, underline the integrity of CRH's risk management systems as a whole and hence the Group's capacity to assume risk.

The principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Group are summarised on pages 92 and 93 of the Directors' Report and are reported to the Audit Committee on a six-monthly basis.

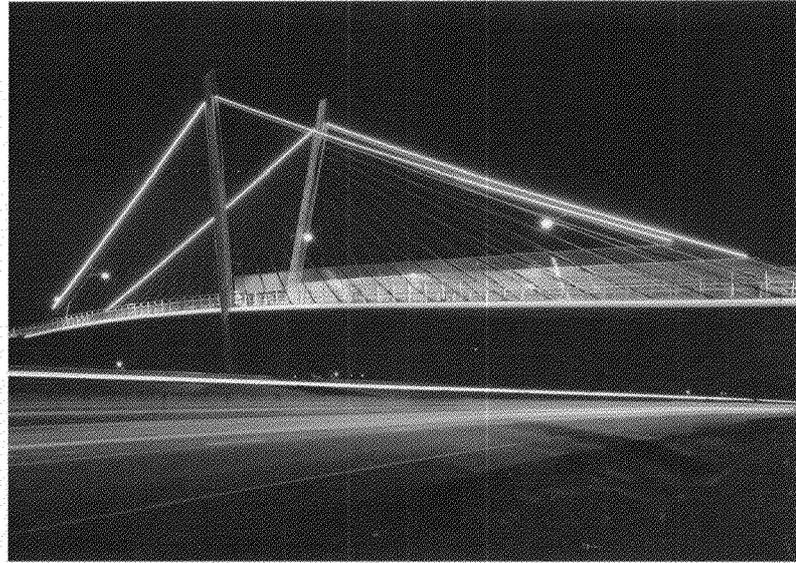
Ensuring Excellence in Governance

Our governance procedures are rooted in a Group-wide commitment to core values which include integrity, honesty and respect for the law, and we expect unwavering compliance with the highest standards of business ethics. These principles underpin our strategy and reputation, as we develop and grow a diverse and global footprint in an increasingly demanding regulatory environment.

Our Compliance & Ethics team works closely with our business managers to implement all aspects of our compliance programme, which is designed to ensure that employees at all levels in the organisation understand that at CRH "there is never a good business reason to do the wrong thing". In practice, this is achieved via a comprehensive Code of Business Conduct, with supporting policies, guidelines and training, effective monitoring and review, and an open and transparent culture where employees are encouraged and empowered to "speak up".

In the past two years, over 30,000 employees have participated in Code of Business Conduct training and a further 10,000 have also undertaken advanced instruction on competition law, anti-bribery awareness and steps to counter the potential for corruption and fraud.

Further information is provided in the Corporate Governance section of this report on pages 40 to 58.



Top: Oldcastle Materials' Eugene Sand & Gravel company received a 2013 Oregon Excellence in Concrete Award, for concrete materials supplied to the Delta Ponds pedestrian bridge; a single-tower, cable-stayed bridge, with an innovative, V-shaped support tower design.

Centre: Zoontjens supplied over 3,000m² of customised light-weight tiles from its Dreen® Combiplus range, for a unique architect designed rooftop square at the Erasmus University in the Netherlands.

Bottom: Allied Building Products, with over 190 outlets in the United States, provided materials for the renovation of the Lake Worth Casino, Florida. Pictured here are team members unloading materials, focussed always on safety when handling job-site deliveries.

€ million

EBITDA **1,475**

Capital Expenditure **497**

Working Capital Inflow **118**

Operating Cash Flow **736**

Non-cash Impairment **755**

Net Debt (€ billion) **2.97**

Net Debt/EBITDA (times) **2.0**

EBITDA/Net Interest (times) **5.9**



Maeve Carton
Finance Director

Business Performance Review

Finance Director's Introduction

Trading conditions in 2013 proved challenging, especially in the first half of the year, and the Group continued to focus on cash generation finishing the year in a strong and flexible financial position. With increased cash inflows from operations, and proceeds of almost €0.3 billion from disposals, net debt at year-end 2013 remained broadly in line with 2012 despite a total spend of €1.2 billion on acquisitions, investments and capital expenditure, and dividend payments which at €0.46 billion were similar to last year.

While reported sales for 2013 were similar to 2012, organic sales from underlying operations fell by 2%, reflecting difficult market conditions in Europe and poor weather across the Group in the first half.

In Europe the decline in like-for-like sales moderated to less than 1% in the second half, a significant improvement on the weather-impacted decline of 10% in the first half. This results in a full-year reduction of 5% in underlying European sales, which was partly offset by contributions from acquisitions to give a 3% overall decline. Lower sales impacted EBITDA margin, which despite intense management focus and internal actions, fell in all European segments in response to competitive market pressures.

Against an improving backdrop as the year progressed, like-for-like sales in the Americas

were up 5% in the second half, compared with a first half which saw organic volumes down by 1%. In our Materials business, which was impacted by unfavourable weather patterns in the early part of the year, like-for-like sales were 3% lower than last year; however, with good contributions from acquisitions overall US Dollar sales revenue was in line with last year. Our Products and Distribution businesses continued to benefit from improving demand, particularly from new residential construction, and like-for-like sales were 8% ahead of 2012. With higher sales and good cost control, EBITDA margins improved in all three Americas segments.

Operating profit fell significantly from 2012, due principally to the non-cash impairment charge of €650 million taken largely as a result of the comprehensive portfolio review referred to in the Chief Executive's introduction on page 7 (see also note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements). The initial phase of this review has identified business units that will not meet our returns criteria, and an orderly disposal process is underway; the next phase will focus on allocating resources to those businesses that are central to restoring CRH returns to previous peak levels. Almost two-thirds of this impairment charge relates to our Products businesses, with the Europe segment accounting for the majority of the write-down. The portfolio review also

identified further impairments of €105 million in respect of equity accounted investments. While the portfolio review is ongoing, in the light of current conditions and outlook, we do not anticipate any further impairment to arise as we complete the exercise during 2014.

During 2013 the euro strengthened by more than 3% against the US Dollar, resulting in an adverse translation impact on the Group's results; this is the principal factor behind the exchange effects shown in the table below.

We continued to advance the significant cost-reduction initiatives which have been progressively implemented since 2007 and which by year-end had generated cumulative annualised savings of almost €2.4 billion. Total restructuring costs associated with these initiatives (which generated savings of €195 million in 2013) amounted to €71 million in 2013 (2012: €60 million) and were once again heavily focussed in our European Divisions.

Throughout 2013 the Group continued to keep a very sharp focus on cash management, targeting in particular working capital and capital expenditure. Year-end working capital of €2.0 billion represented just 11.2% of sales, an improvement compared with year-end 2012 (11.5%). This performance delivered net inflows for the year of €118 million (2012: €5 million). CRH believes that its current working capital

Key Components of 2013 Performance

€ million	Revenue	EBITDA	Operating profit	Profit on disposals	Finance costs (net)	Equity accounted investments*	Pre-tax profit/(loss)
2012 as restated	18,084	1,563	805	230	(305)	(84)	646
Exchange effects	(404)	(36)	(19)	(1)	5	(2)	(17)
2012 at 2013 exchange rates	17,680	1,527	786	229	(300)	(86)	629
<i>Incremental impact in 2013 of:</i>							
- 2013 and 2012 acquisitions	672	73	43	-	(3)	3	43
- 2013 and 2012 divestments	(42)	-	2	(191)	(2)	4	(187)
- Restructuring costs	-	(11)	(11)	-	-	-	(11)
- Pension/CO ₂ gains	-	(29)	(29)	-	-	-	(29)
- Impairment charges	-	-	(622)	-	-	41	(581)
Ongoing operations	(279)	(85)	(69)	(12)	8	(6)	(79)
2013	18,031	1,475	100	26	(297)	(44)	(215)

* CRH's share of after-tax results of joint ventures and associated undertakings

is sufficient for the Group's present requirements. Strong control of spending on property, plant and equipment resulted in lower cash outflows of €497 million (2012: €544 million), with spend in 2013 representing 74% of depreciation (2012: 79%). As a result operating cash flow increased to €736 million (2012: €640 million).

Other major movements in net debt during the year comprised acquisition spend of €720 million on 28 transactions, including €144 million in respect of the asset exchange in Spain which is also included in the total proceeds from disposals and investments of €283 million.

Dividend payments of €455 million (before scrip) and proceeds of €101 million from share issues (including scrip and net of own shares purchased) were very similar to last year.

The weaker US Dollar (1.3791 versus the euro compared with 1.3194 at year-end 2012) was the main factor in the positive translation and mark-to-market impact of €87 million on net debt. At year-end 2013, net debt of €2.97 billion was just €64 million higher than year-end 2012.

The Group is in a strong financial position. It is well funded and basic interest cover (EBITDA/Net Interest) of 5.9 times is

significantly higher than the minimum requirements in the Group covenant agreements – further details are set out in note 24 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

We successfully completed two eurobond issues during 2013: in April €750 million of 10-year bonds was issued with a coupon of 3.125% and in October, a further €750 million of 7-year bonds was issued with a coupon of 2.75%. These were the lowest-ever coupons obtained by the Group and reflect CRH's commitment to managing debt and maintaining an investment grade credit rating.

The Group also has considerable financial flexibility: the average maturity of the Group's gross debt of €5.5 billion is 4.8 years and cash resources at year end amounted to more than €2.5 billion. Together with the availability of committed and undrawn facilities (amounting to a further €1.95 billion), the Group believes that it has sufficient resources to meet its debt obligations and capital and other expenditure requirements in 2014.

CRH's share price increased by 20% in 2013 to €18.30 at year end; combined with the maintained dividend of 62.5c, shareholder returns were 24% in 2013 and resulted in net debt as a % of market capitalisation decreasing to 22% (2012: 26%).

Business Performance Review

The sections that follow outline the scale of CRH's business in 2013, and provide a more detailed review of performance in each of CRH's six reporting segments.

Top right: Sree Jayajothi Cements Limited was acquired in 2013 by My Home Industries (MHIL), CRH's JV partner in India. With an annual cement capacity of 3.2 million tonnes, Sree Jayajothi makes MHIL market leader in Andhra Pradesh, South India.

Centre right: Expocrete, acquired in 2013, is a leader in manufacturing and distributing specialised, high-quality concrete hardscape and masonry products in western Canada. Expocrete manufactured the c400m² of Allan Block Classic retaining wall used to create terraces at this residence on Skaha Lake in Penticton, BC, Canada.

Bottom right: BauKing, CRH's leading distribution brand in Germany, reopened this DIY store in Menden, after a major renovation in October 2013. The store reopened as a multi-channel location and BauKing customers can now also order products online.

Summarised Cash Flow

	2013	2012
	€m	€m
Inflows		
(Loss)/profit before tax	(215)	646
Depreciation/amortisation (including impairment of subsidiaries)	1,375	758
Working capital inflow (i)	118	5
	1,278	1,409
Outflows		
Tax payments	(110)	(124)
Capital expenditure	(497)	(544)
Other (ii)	65	(101)
	(542)	(769)
Operating cash flow	736	640
Pension payments	(96)	(152)
Acquisitions and investments (iii)	(720)	(548)
Proceeds from disposals (iv)	283	784
Share issues (v)	101	104
Dividends (before scrip dividends)	(455)	(450)
Translation and mark-to-market adjustment	87	48
(Increase)/decrease in net debt	(64)	426

(i) Working capital inflow includes the difference between net finance costs (included in profit before tax) and interest paid and received.

(ii) Primarily non-cash items included in profit before tax, comprising primarily profits on disposals/divestments of €26 million (2012: €230 million), share-based payments expense of €15 million (2012: €14 million) and share of losses of equity accounted investments of €44 million (2012: €84 million).

(iii) Acquisitions and investments spend comprises consideration for acquisition of subsidiaries (including debt acquired and asset exchanges), deferred and contingent consideration paid, other investments and advances and acquisition of non-controlling interests.

(iv) Proceeds from disposals includes asset exchanges (see note 5 to the Consolidated Financial Statements).

(v) Proceeds from share issues includes scrip dividends of €88 million (2012: €88 million) and are net of own shares purchased of €6 million (2012: nil).

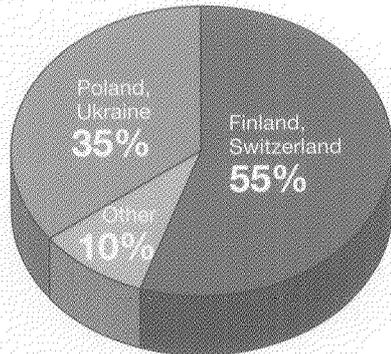


CRH Operational Snapshot (sector exposure and end-use based on 2013 EBITDA)

Europe Materials

	€ million	% of Group
Sales	2,266	13%
EBITDA	278	19%
Net Assets*	2,529	20%

Geography



Sector Exposure

Residential	30%
Non-residential	30%
Infrastructure	40%

End-use

New	80%
RMI	20%

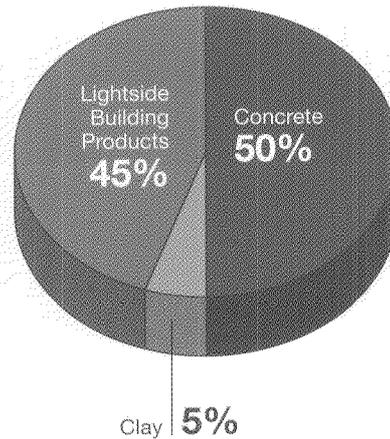
Annualised Production Volumes

Cement – 8.6m tonnes (18.9m tonnes)**
 Aggregates – 45.1m tonnes (46.3m tonnes)**
 Asphalt – 2.2m tonnes
 Readymixed concrete – 6.9m m³ (8.5m m³)**
 Lime – 1.0m tonnes
 Concrete Products – 3.7m tonnes

Europe Products

	€ million	% of Group
Sales	2,376	13%
EBITDA	119	8%
Net Assets*	1,236	10%

Products



Sector Exposure

Residential	50%
Non-residential	30%
Infrastructure	20%

End-use

New	65%
RMI	35%

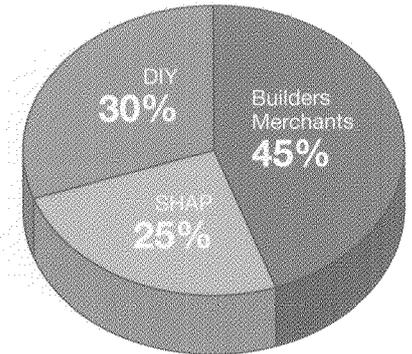
Annualised Production Volumes

Architectural concrete – 4.8m tonnes
 Precast concrete – 5.0m tonnes
 Clay – 2.0m tonnes
 Fencing & security – 3.0m lineal metres

Europe Distribution

	€ million	% of Group
Sales	3,936	22%
EBITDA	186	12%
Net Assets*	1,675	13%

Activities



Sector Exposure

Residential	80%
Non-residential	20%
Infrastructure	0%

End-use

New	30%
RMI	70%

Outlets

Builders Merchants – 349 (417)**
 DIY – 196 (234)**
 SHAP – 126

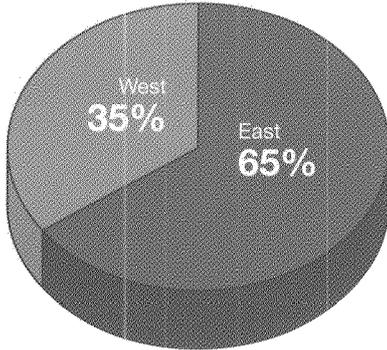
* Net assets at 31 December 2013 comprise segment assets less segment liabilities as disclosed in Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

** Including equity accounted investments.

Americas Materials

	€ million	% of Group
Sales	4,721	26%
EBITDA	557	38%
Net Assets*	4,738	38%

Geography



Sector Exposure

Residential	10%
Non-residential	25%
Infrastructure	65%

End-use

New	35%
RMI	65%

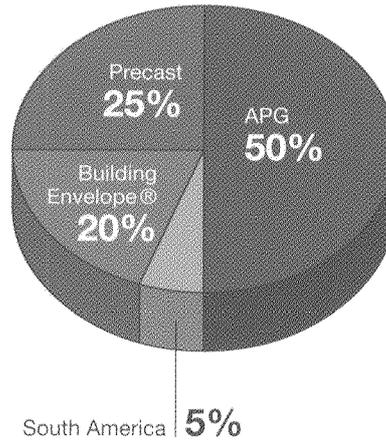
Annualised Production Volumes

Aggregates – 122.6m tonnes (124.1m tonnes)**
 Asphalt – 37.4m tonnes (38.4m tonnes)**
 Readymixed concrete – 5.7m m³ (5.8m m³)**

Americas Products

	€ million	% of Group
Sales	3,068	17%
EBITDA	246	17%
Net Assets*	1,704	14%

Products



Sector Exposure

Residential	45%
Non-residential	45%
Infrastructure	10%

End-use

New	60%
RMI	40%

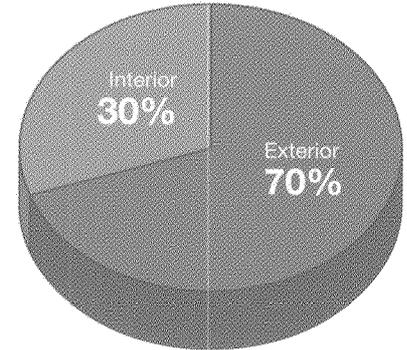
Annualised Production Volumes

Concrete masonry, patio products, pavers and roof tiles – 9.9m tonnes
 Pre-packaged cement mixes – 2.6m tonnes
 Clay bricks, pavers, and tiles – 0.9m tonnes
 Pre-packaged lawn & garden products – 3.6m tonnes
 Precast concrete products – 1.1m tonnes
 Pipe and pre-stressed concrete – 0.4m tonnes
 Building envelope products – 9.8m square metres
 Fencing products – 11.4m lineal metres

Americas Distribution

	€ million	% of Group
Sales	1,664	9%
EBITDA	89	6%
Net Assets*	598	5%

Activities



Sector Exposure

Residential	50%
Non-residential	50%
Infrastructure	0%

End-use

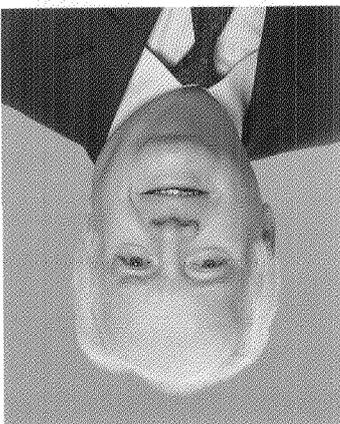
New	45%
RMI	55%

Outlets

Exterior products – 139
 Interior products – 54

Europe Materials' strategy is to build strong vertically-integrated regional positions. Operating in 17 countries, the business is founded in resource-backed cement and aggregates assets which support the manufacture and supply of cement, aggregates, concrete and asphalt products. Extending reserves in an ongoing process and a key focus for Materials businesses. With a network of well-invested facilities, Europe Materials focuses on operational excellence, initiatives which include production efficiencies, greater use of alternative fuels and manufacture of low carbon cements, while the scale of our operations provides economies in purchasing and logistics management. Early in 2014 the Group began a process of reorganising its European business by integrating its Products and Materials businesses into one European

organisation. This will enable CRH to leverage the benefits of its operating plant network in both western and eastern European markets. Development focus is centred on bolt-on acquisitions for synergies, reserves and further vertical integration in addition to opportunities in contiguous regions to extend and strengthen regional positions. Europe Materials has championed CRH's entry into developing markets that offer long-term growth potential, with entry via cement and aggregates assets and the potential to roll out its operational excellence programmes and vertical integration approach over time. In total Europe Materials, excluding equity accounted investments, employs approximately 9,400 people at close to 600 locations.



Henry Morris

Market leadership positions

Cement

- Top 10 Western Europe
- No.1 Finland, Ireland, Ukraine
- No.2 Switzerland
- No.3 Poland
- No.1 Basque Region, Spain

Aggregates

- No.1 Finland, Ireland

Asphalt

- No.1 Ireland

Readymixed concrete

- No.1 Finland, Ireland
- No.2 Switzerland

Agricultural & chemical lime

- No.1 Ireland
- No.2 Poland

Concrete products

- No.1 Blocks & roof tiles, Ireland
- No.1 Pavers, Poland

Reserves

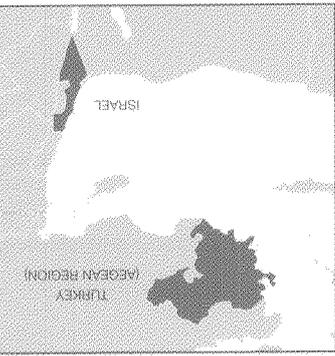
Physical location	Proven & Period to probable depletion	million tonnes	years
Ireland	128	83	
Ireland	47	11	
Poland	27	21	
Switzerland	162	44	
Ukraine	13	87	

Cement

Aggregates	Cement
Finland	174
Ireland	892
Poland	209
Spain	84
Other	204
Ireland/Poland	47
Ireland/Poland	47

Eastern Mediterranean & Asia - Equity Accounted Investments

In the Eastern Mediterranean region, CRH has a 50% joint venture shareholding in Denizli Cemento, the leading cement producer in the Aegean Region of Turkey, and a 25% shareholding in Mashav in Israel. These businesses have cement capacity of 2 million tonnes and 6 million tonnes respectively. CRH entered Asian markets in 2007 and has now established a leading regional presence in both China and India. CRH has a 26% share of Yatai Building Materials, the leader in China's northeastern provinces (Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning) with cement capacity of 32 million tonnes. In India, CRH has a 50% joint venture shareholding in My Home Industries, the leader in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, with cement capacity of 8 million tonnes.

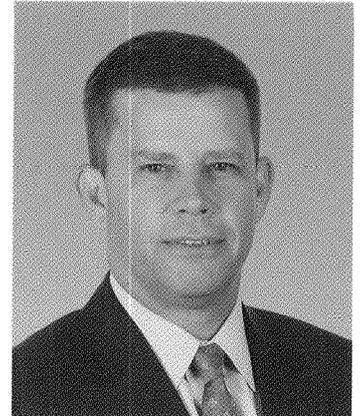


Americas Materials

Americas Materials' strategy is to build strong regional leadership positions underpinned by well-located, long-term reserves. Operating in 44 states with over 13 billion tonnes of permitted aggregates reserves of which c.80% are owned, this business is vertically integrated from primary resource quarries into aggregates, asphalt and readymixed concrete products. With 65% exposure to infrastructure, the business is further integrated into asphalt paving services, through which it is a principal supplier for highway repair and maintenance.

Our national network of operations and deep local market knowledge drive local performance and national synergies in procurement, cost management and operational excellence.

In a largely unconsolidated sector, where the top ten industry participants account for just 30% of aggregates production, 25% of asphalt production and 20% of readymixed concrete production, CRH is structured and positioned to participate as the industry consolidates further. Americas Materials, excluding equity accounted investments, employs approximately 18,200 people at close to 1,200 operating locations.



Randy Lake

Market leadership positions

Aggregates

No.3 National producer

Asphalt

No.1 National producer

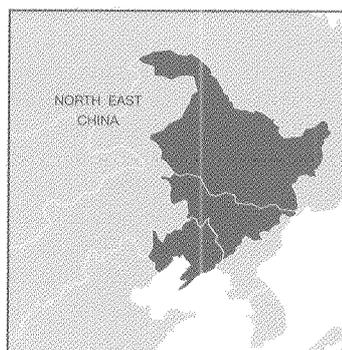
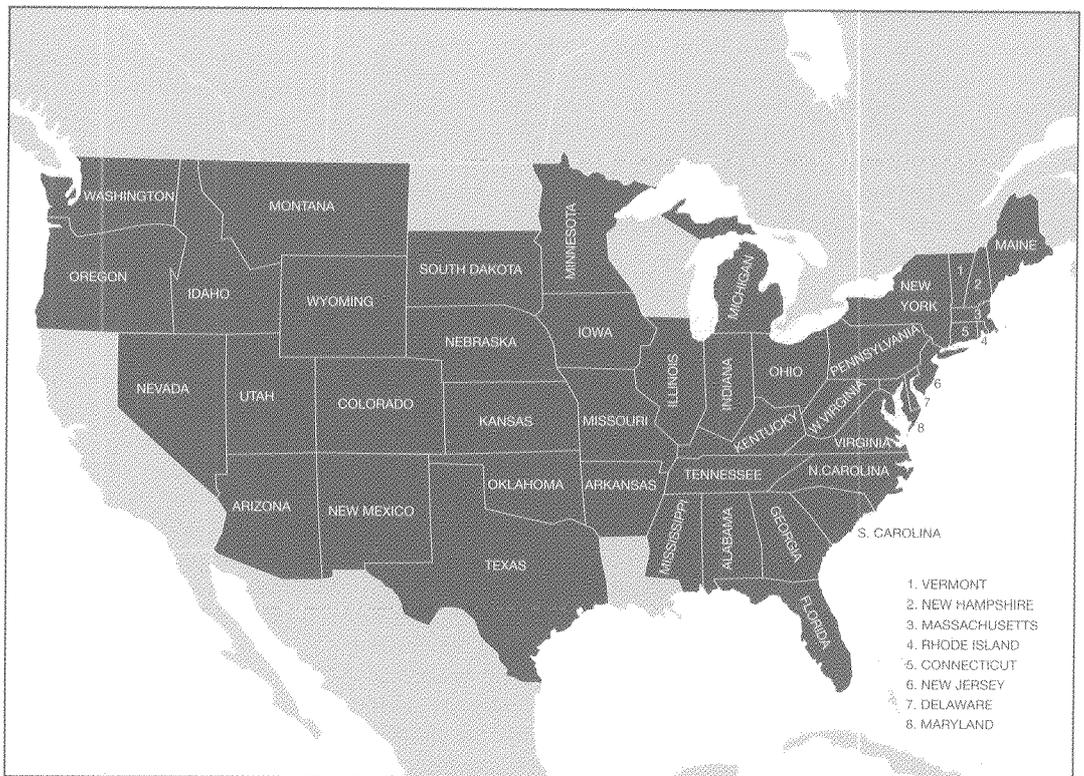
Readymixed concrete

No.2 National producer

Reserves

Physical location	Proven & probable million tonnes	Period to depletion years
Aggregates		
East	9,188	130
West	4,207	83
Aggregates*	136	118
Cement*	9	31

* CRH share of Equity Accounted Investments



Market Leadership Positions

Cement

- No.1 Aegean Region, Turkey (50%)
- No.1 Andhra Pradesh, India (50%)
- No.1 North East China (26%)

Reserves (CRH share)

Physical location	Proven & probable million tonnes	Period to depletion years
Cement		
Turkey (50%)	155	78
India (50%)	105	32
Aggregates		
Turkey (50%)	47	112

Europe Materials

A pick-up in second-half construction activity in Poland was insufficient to offset the weather-impacted first half; national construction output fell by an estimated 11% in 2013 and cement volumes fell 9%. The residential sector remained sluggish throughout 2013 with new starts down over 11%. Infrastructure activity picked up as the year progressed and the second half saw the restart of a number of stalled projects. Mild weather

Poland and Ukraine (35% of EBITDA)

Switzerland and is expected to remain solid in 2014 with continuing strong activity in residential and infrastructure. In Finland, with continuing pressure in the residential segment, construction spend is expected to be relatively flat in 2014, with some pick-up in the second half of the year. The improved activity in Poland during the second half of 2013 is expected to continue into 2014 with construction growth led by improving infrastructure activity. The outlook for Ukraine has become uncertain in recent weeks due to the political environment, and for now focus is to continue with margin improvement through cost efficiencies. The outlook for Benelux is for flat construction activity, with the benefits of cost efficiencies, we expect to improve margins in 2014. The 2014 outlook for Ireland is for modest growth in overall construction activity which, together with cost efficiencies, increased use of alternative fuels and increased export volumes, is expected to result in improved margins. In Spain, the outlook remains challenging with further volume declines expected in 2014; however, ongoing capacity reduction and cost efficiencies should help our businesses to improve margins.

Outlook

Our businesses in the Netherlands and Belgium were impacted by falling construction activity in 2013. Lower volumes, together with pricing pressure in very competitive markets, resulted in lower overall operating profit in the Benelux in spite of the benefits from ongoing cost reduction programmes. The decline in construction activity in Ireland moderated in 2013 and cement volumes were similar to 2012 levels. With a lower cost base, operating losses declined. In Spain, while construction activity fell by a further 23% with declines across all sectors, our like-for-like results were in line with 2012 due to the benefit of previously-implemented cost reduction programmes. Trading in our newly-acquired cement business Cementsos Lemaona was in line with expectations.

Benelux, Ireland and Spain (10% of EBITDA)

late in the year enabled construction to continue until year-end. Against the improving backdrop our second-half cement volumes increased by 8% compared with 2012, reducing the decline in our full-year volumes to 11%. Our aggregates and ready-mixed concrete volumes also declined year-on-year. Prices for all products remained under pressure in very competitive markets, and overall operating profit in Poland was lower than 2012. In Ukraine, while the first half was negatively impacted by the prolonged winter conditions, demand was much stronger in the second half and national cement volumes for the year were down 3% compared with 2012. Our like-for-like volumes were 13% ahead of 2012 in the second half, bringing our full-year volumes almost in line with last year (down 1%) and overall operating profit in Ukraine was broadly similar to 2012.

Construction spend in Switzerland increased again in 2013 with the residential market remaining one of the major drivers of activity and infrastructure spend continuing at good levels. With the benefit of mild weather in the fourth quarter, construction remained strong to the end of the year. Our cement volumes were 12% higher than 2012 benefiting both from increased infrastructure projects and large individual projects. Aggregates and ready-mixed concrete volumes continued the slightly upward trend of recent years. Sales prices, particularly cement, saw some slippage in 2013 due to the continued strong Swiss Franc. Operating profit was ahead of 2012. In Finland, construction spend was down mainly due to reduced residential activity. The government introduced two stimulus packages related mainly to the residential and RMI sectors, but execution was slow. With increasing levels of public debt, spending on infrastructure was reduced and progress on a number of large projects was delayed. While our businesses delivered modest price increases in cement, aggregates and ready-mixed concrete, cement and aggregates volumes were lower and overall operating profit was below 2012.

Switzerland and Finland (55% of EBITDA)

On the development front during 2013, we concluded an asset swap in February in which we acquired Cementsos Lemaona in the Basque region in Spain in exchange for our 26% stake in Ukraine through the acquisition of Mykolaj Cement. We completed two smaller transactions strengthening our presence in Northern Ireland and expanding our network of cement import facilities in Britain.

After a weather-impacted first half which saw like-for-like sales decline by 16%, activity and profits in the second half of 2013 were almost in line with the second half of 2012. Like-for-like sales for the year overall decreased by 8% reflecting weak volumes in Poland and Benelux, in particular, combined with further, albeit more modest, declines in construction activity in Ireland. The benefit from our continued cost reduction and efficiency measures partly offset the impact of the lower volumes and overall EBITDA margin excluding pensions/CO₂ gains was 11.5% compared with 12.2% in 2012.

commentary that follows.

EBITDA above includes pension restructuring gains and gains from CO₂ trading. Operating profit is also stated after impairment charges; the net €83 million adverse impact of these items has been excluded from the

Results		Analysis of change	
€ million	% Change	2013	2012R
Sales revenue	-5%	2,266	2,383
EBITDA	-21%	278	352
EBITDA/sales	12.3%	14.8%	
Operating profit	-82%	39	217
EBITDA and operating profit exclude profit on disposals			
Pension restructuring gains amounted to €10 million (2012: €30 million)			
Gains from CO ₂ trading were €8 million (2012: €31 million)			
Restructuring/ Pension/ Organic Acquisitions	+111	-188	-40
CO ₂ gains	-	-	-
Impairment	+6	-43	-5
Exchange	-	-	-32
Restructuring costs amounted to €7 million (2012: €13 million)			
Impairment charges of €101 million were incurred (2012: nil)			

Americas Materials

Results					Analysis of change				
€ million	% Change	2013	2012R	Total Change	Organic	Acquisitions	Divestments	Restructuring/ Impairment	Exchange
Sales revenue	-3%	4,721	4,886	-165	-147	+141	-	-	-159
EBITDA	-	557	555	+2	-15	+33	-	+2	-18
EBITDA/sales		11.8%	11.4%						
Operating profit	-19%	226	279	-53	-12	+26	-	-58	-9

EBITDA and operating profit exclude profit on disposals

*Restructuring costs amounted to €12 million (2012: €14 million)
Impairment charges of €60 million were incurred (2012: nil)*

The commentary below excludes the adverse impact of impairment charges on operating profit.

Adverse weather conditions, which had resulted in a 25% decline in first-half US\$ EBITDA, continued to impact operations in July and in the early weeks of August. Trading conditions proved much more favourable thereafter through to November and second-half US\$ EBITDA was ahead of the corresponding period in 2012. Positive first-half trends in pricing continued into the second half. Though overall like-for-like sales revenue was 3% lower than last year, contributions from acquisitions resulted in overall US\$ EBITDA for the year being 4% ahead of 2012.

A total of 10 acquisitions were completed in 2013 at a cost of €77 million, adding 457 million tonnes of reserves, 13 operating quarries, 5 strategic reserves locations, 6 asphalt plants and 7 readymixed concrete plants with annual production of 2.0 million tonnes of aggregates, 0.4 million tonnes of asphalt and 0.1 million cubic metres of readymixed concrete.

Energy and related costs: The price of bitumen, a key component of asphalt mix, declined by 4% in 2013 following a 7% increase in 2012. Prices for diesel and gasoline, important inputs to aggregates, readymixed concrete and paving operations, decreased by 2% and 3% respectively. The price of energy used at our asphalt plants, consisting of fuel oil, recycled oil, electricity and natural gas, fell by 1%. Recycled asphalt and shingles accounted for approximately 20% of total asphalt requirements in 2013. Wider use of warm-mix asphalt continues to deliver cost and customer benefits. With the positive effects of lower bitumen costs and further increased use of recycled asphalt, unit costs reduced by 2%.

Aggregates: Like-for-like volumes were slightly ahead of 2012 while total volumes including acquisitions increased 7%. Average prices increased by 3% on a like-for-like basis and 2% overall compared with 2012. Price increases together with efficient cost control resulted in an improved margin for this business.

Asphalt: Impacted by poor weather and a later start to paving projects, like-for-like volumes were down 7% with total volumes including acquisitions down 3%. While the average like-for-like sales price fell 1% and overall average price fell 2%, with the benefit of the 4% reduction in bitumen costs, margin per unit was maintained.

Readymixed Concrete: Like-for-like volumes decreased 2% while total volumes including acquisitions were up 2% compared with 2012. With average prices 4% higher on a like-for-like basis and up 5% overall, margins improved.

Paving and Construction Services: The poor first-half weather also contributed to a later start on paving projects, resulting in 5% lower sales revenue in total, and a reduction of 6% on a like-for-like basis. Pricing remained under pressure in a competitive bidding environment; however, efficiency improvements enabled an improvement in overall margin.

Regional Performance

East (65% of EBITDA)

The East region comprises operations in 22 states, the most important of which are Ohio, New York, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The adverse weather conditions in the first half had the greatest impact on the Mid-Atlantic division, which reported lower results than in 2012. In the Northeast division, 2013 results benefited from the inclusion of acquisitions completed at the end of 2012, and operating results improved. The Central division profits were broadly consistent with 2012 with lower volumes offset by improved prices. The residential market in Florida continued its upward trend contributing to strong volumes, better prices and margin growth, and positively impacting performance in the Southeast division. Overall operating profit for the East region was higher than 2012 with volumes 8%, 4% and 9% ahead of 2012 for aggregates, asphalt and readymixed concrete respectively.

West (35% of EBITDA)

The West region also has operations in 22 states, the most important of which are Utah, Texas, Washington, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Mississippi. Poor weather conditions that persisted through to mid-August affected results in both the Central West and Mountain West divisions, with a reduction in large infrastructure contracts in Utah further contributing to the lower outcome in Mountain West compared with 2012. More positively, the Northwest division saw substantial improvement over 2012's record lows. With overall declines in asphalt and readymixed concrete volumes of 14% and 3% respectively, only partly offset by increases in aggregates volumes of 4%, operating profit was lower than in 2012.

Outlook

We expect that GDP growth in 2014 will be similar to 2013 and that residential construction will continue to advance. With the increase in housing, non-residential construction should also see an improvement. While Federal funding for infrastructure is expected to be in line with 2013; state fiscal conditions continue to improve with more states introducing additional infrastructure funding measures. The increase in the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) funding should also give states greater opportunities and options to benefit from private sector involvement in highway projects; we expect the impact of these investments to be more medium to long-term.

Overall, we expect 2014 like-for-like volumes for aggregates and asphalt to be broadly similar to 2013 with readymixed concrete volumes expanding slightly due to an improving residential market. Targeted price increases in all product lines, combined with efficiency improvements and stability in the energy markets, are expected to lead to another year of margin expansion in 2014.

Europe Products

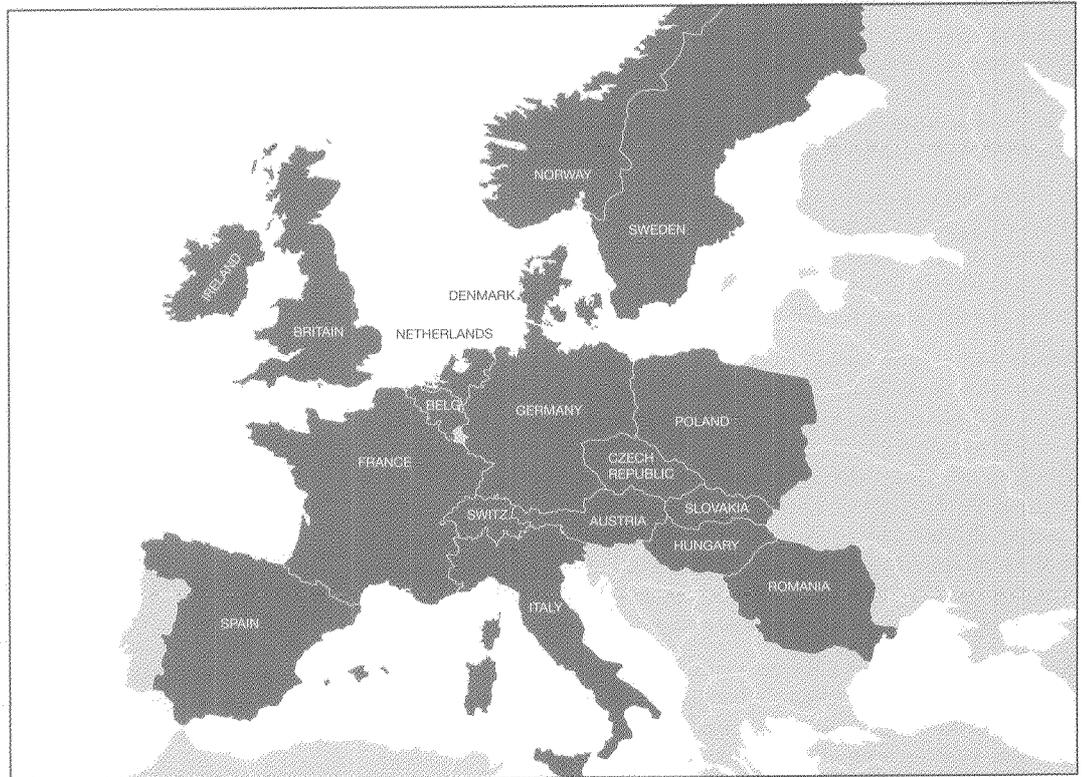
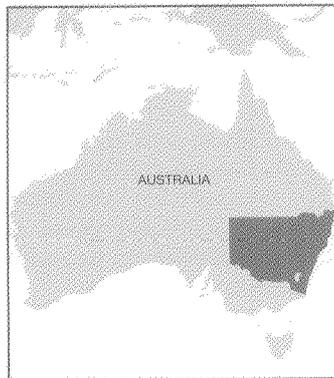
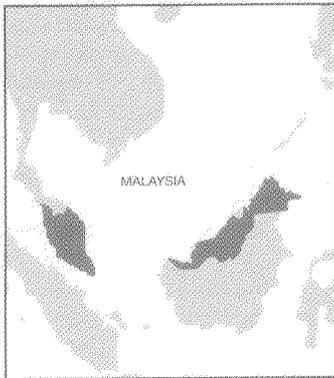
Europe Products' strategy has been to build and grow scalable businesses in the large European construction markets by increasing the penetration of CRH products, developing positions to benefit from scale and best practice, creating competitive advantage through product, process and end-use innovation, while maintaining a balanced exposure to demand drivers. Early in 2014 the Group began a process of reorganising its European business by integrating its Products and Materials businesses into one European organisation. This will enable CRH to leverage the benefits of its operating plant network in both western and eastern European markets.

Operating in 21 countries, this business is a regional leader in concrete products, concrete landscaping, clay products, construction accessories and outdoor

security. Leveraging the benefits of our regional platforms, we realise operational and procurement synergies across the network. A focus on product development provides construction solutions which increase efficiencies on site, creating more design freedom for architects while enhancing the built environment and reducing energy consumption of buildings. Europe Products' development strategy is to continue to penetrate the growing RMI markets of developed Europe and to broaden the product range in developing regions as construction markets in those regions become more sophisticated. This segment employs approximately 15,600 people at close to 360 operating locations.



Francisco Irazusta



Market leadership positions

Architectural concrete

- No.1 paving products: Benelux, France, Slovakia
- No.1 paving/landscape walling: Germany
- No.1 architectural masonry: UK
- No.2 paving products: Denmark

Structural concrete products

- No.1 precast flooring: Benelux
- No.1 precast architectural concrete: Denmark
- No.1 utility precast: France
- No.1 precast structural elements: Hungary, Switzerland
- No.1 concrete fencing and lintels: UK

Clay products

- No.1 facing bricks: UK
- No.3 facing bricks & blocks: Poland

Construction accessories

- No.1 Western Europe

Lightside building products

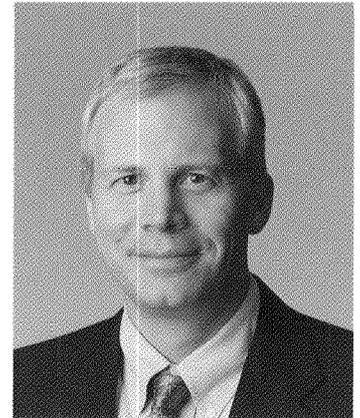
- No.1 security fencing and perimeter protection: Europe
- No.1 Shutters & Awnings: Netherlands, Germany

Americas Products

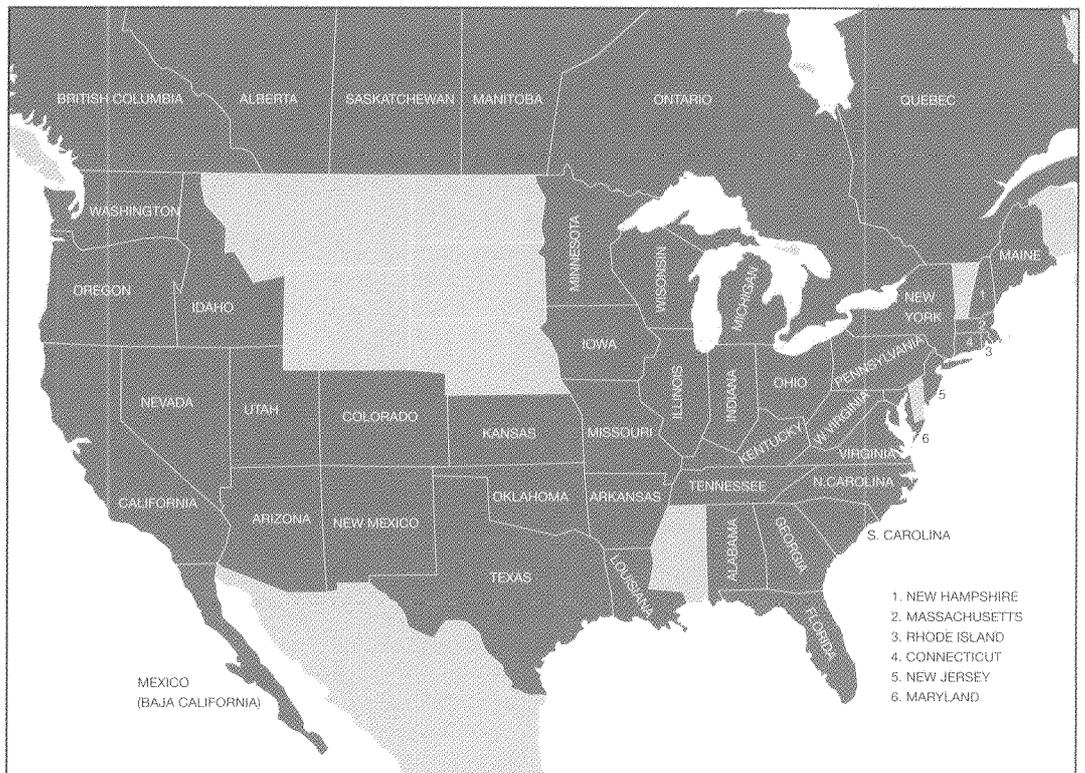
Americas Products' strategy is to build an optimised portfolio of businesses which have leading positions across a balanced range of products, markets and end-use segments. Our activities are organised into three product groups under the Oldcastle name: Architectural Products (concrete masonry and hardscapes, clay brick, packaged lawn and garden products, packaged cement mixes, fencing), Precast (utility, drainage and structural precast, construction accessories) and BuildingEnvelope® (glass and aluminium glazing systems). A coordinated approach at both a national and regional level achieves economies of scale and facilitates sharing of best practices which drive operational and commercial improvement. Through Oldcastle's North American research and development centres, a pipeline of

innovative value-added products and design solutions is maintained.

Operating in 40 US states and 6 Canadian provinces, CRH has the breadth of product range and national footprint to provide a national service to customers with the personal touch of a local supplier. Focussing on strategic and national accounts, the Oldcastle Building Solutions initiative provides an additional platform for growth as it is uniquely positioned in the industry to offer solutions to customers across all phases of building construction. Employees total approximately 17,300 at over 400 locations.



Keith Haas



Market leadership positions

Concrete masonry, patio products, pavers and rooftiles

No.1 paving & patio: North America
No.1 masonry: United States

Packaged cement mixes

No. 2 United States

Clay bricks, pavers and tiles

No.1 brick producer: northeast and midwest United States
No.1 rooftiles: Argentina
No. 2 floor and wall tiles: Argentina

Packaged lawn & garden products

No. 2 United States

Precast concrete products

No.1 precast concrete utility products: United States

Building envelope solutions

No.1 North America

Construction accessories

No. 2 United States

Fencing products

No. 2 fencing distributor and manufacturer: United States

Europe Products

Results					Analysis of change					
€ million	% Change	2013	2012R	Total Change	Organic	Acquisitions	Divestments	Restructuring/ Impairment	Pension gains	Exchange
Sales revenue	-4%	2,376	2,477	-101	-100	+47	-28	-	-	-20
EBITDA	-22%	119	152	-33	-28	+4	-1	-9	+3	-2
EBITDA/sales		5.0%	6.1%							
Operating profit	n/m	-406	19	-425	-28	+1	-1	-399	+3	-1

EBITDA and operating profit exclude profit on disposals
Pension restructuring gains amounted to €3 million (2012: nil)

Restructuring costs amounted to €36 million (2012: €27 million)
Impairment charges of €414 million were incurred (2012: €24 million)

EBITDA above includes pension restructuring gains and operating profit is also stated after impairment charges; the net €411 million adverse impact of these items has been excluded from the commentary that follows.

Our Products business in Europe is located primarily in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the UK and France. Construction activity in most of these markets was severely impacted by the prolonged winter conditions in the early months of 2013. With improved trading conditions from May onwards, sales and EBITDA in the second half of the year were slightly ahead of 2012. Overall full-year like-for-like sales declined by 4% versus 2012. Our markets remained weak in the Netherlands where new-build activity continued to deteriorate, while Belgium and France were somewhat more resilient. The UK was the only major market showing growth, benefiting from strong residential markets. Despite a sharp focus on continued cost discipline, significant overcapacity in very competitive markets led to margin erosion, impacting negatively on overall profitability. In response to these challenging markets, as in prior years, we continued to engage in a number of restructuring measures to help realign our cost base to lower volumes.

During 2013 we acquired a manufacturer of pre-stressed hollow core elements in Belgium, expanding and strengthening our position as market leader in Belgium's pre-stressed hollow core flooring segment.

Concrete Products (50% of EBITDA)

The adverse weather conditions across Europe negatively impacted on trading in the first half of the year. The decline moderated somewhat in the second half although trading conditions overall remained weak. Ongoing fragile consumer confidence contributed to poor residential demand, particularly in the Netherlands, while fiscal consolidation measures across Europe also impacted non-residential construction. Our concrete operations in the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and France all saw weaker activity levels. Overall like-for-like sales declined by 7%.

Our *Architectural* operations (tiles, pavers, blocks) were impacted by weaker consumer confidence and lower government and municipal spending. Despite an improved performance in the UK, driven by stronger residential markets, overall Architectural revenues were lower than 2012 mainly due to lower volumes in our German landscaping business. Our *Structural* operations (floors, walls and beams) also reported lower sales due to weaker Dutch and Danish markets. Additional restructuring measures were undertaken in the Netherlands in the second half of the year to further reduce our cost base. Profitability in our Structural Concrete business in Belgium was in line with 2012 with lower organic results offset by the contribution from the acquisition during the year.

Clay Products (5% of EBITDA)

New residential markets in the UK experienced significant growth due to the government's "Help to Buy" scheme and industry brick volumes finished 9% ahead of 2012. Selling price increases were also achieved and, despite higher natural gas costs, operating profit was ahead of 2012. Our clay businesses in the Netherlands and Poland were impacted by weaker residential demand in very competitive markets, with volumes and prices under pressure. We decided to close part of our clay business in the Netherlands, contributing to the overall increase in restructuring charges compared with 2012. Operating results for our Clay business overall were broadly in line with 2012.

Lightside Building Products (45% of EBITDA)

With greater exposure to the repairs sector, activity in our lightside products business was less impacted than in our concrete business. While trading levels in the second half of the year were broadly in line with 2012, weaker trading in key markets in the first half led to a reduction in overall operating profit. With lower construction activity in its major markets, operating profit for *Construction Accessories* was behind 2012 due to lower volumes and continuing margin pressure. The *Outdoor Security and Fencing* businesses also experienced difficult markets and volumes were behind 2012; however, due to cost reduction measures, operating profit was ahead of last year. Our *Shutters & Awnings* business, which is concentrated in Germany and the Netherlands, benefited from stable demand and the contribution from 2012 acquisitions and operating profit was ahead of prior year.

Outlook

Management expect that results in 2014 will show improvement primarily driven by continued strong private housing demand in the UK and a recovery in our German Landscaping and Danish Structural Concrete businesses. Markets in the Netherlands are expected to decline again, especially in new-build construction, and further rationalisation programmes are being implemented to help counteract the negative impact on results. France is expected to remain challenging in 2014. The outlook for Construction Accessories and for Shutters & Awnings is more favourable. Overall sales for Europe Products are anticipated to increase slightly in 2014 and, combined with commercial and operational excellence programmes and the impact of previous restructuring and cost savings initiatives, should contribute to an improvement in operating profit.

Americas Products

Results					Analysis of change				
€ million	% Change	2013	2012R	Total Change	Organic	Acquisitions	Divestments	Restructuring/ Impairment	Exchange
Sales revenue	+9%	3,068	2,806	+262	+219	+166	-6	-	-117
EBITDA	+21%	246	204	+42	+37	+21	-	-9	-7
EBITDA/sales		8.0%	7.3%						
Operating profit	-21%	68	86	-18	+49	+12	-	-76	-3

EBITDA and operating profit exclude profit on disposals

*Restructuring costs amounted to €11 million (2012: €2 million)
Impairment charges of €71 million were incurred (2012: €4 million)*

The commentary below excludes the adverse impact of impairment charges on operating profit.

A recovery in residential construction in the United States and an ongoing pick-up in overall economic activity helped Americas Products improve its results in 2013. Like-for-like sales were 8% ahead of last year. The impact of input cost pressures was more than offset by a continued tight focus on operational efficiency and targeted pricing improvements. As a result, with the benefit of organic growth, modest pricing benefits, cost reduction initiatives and contributions from acquisitions, the segment achieved a significant increase in operating profit and margin.

Four acquisitions were completed in 2013 at a total spend of €123 million. Of particular note was the acquisition by our Architectural Products Group (APG) of hardscape and masonry operations both in Western Canada (seven facilities) and the Carolinas (14 plants), extending our footprints of core product categories into new markets. The Canadian acquisition establishes APG as the only coast-to-coast manufacturer of masonry and hardscape products.

Architectural Products (50% of EBITDA)

APG is a leading supplier of masonry and hardscape products, packaged lawn and garden products, clay brick and fencing solutions. In addition to contractor-based new construction, the DIY and professional RMI segments are significant end-users. After a slow start, the business benefited from improving new residential construction, increasing RMI spend and favourable weather in the second half of the year. However, overall growth was dampened somewhat by weak recovery in the non-residential segment. Generally activity was more robust in the West and South while remaining more challenged in the Northeast, Midwest and Eastern Canada. The improving housing market, together with product innovation and commercial initiatives, drove gains across most businesses while further cost reduction measures and selected price improvements offset the impact of higher input costs. Overall, APG recorded a higher operating profit for the year, reflecting a 3% increase in like-for-like sales, margin improvement and a solid contribution from recent acquisitions.

Precast (25% of EBITDA)

The Precast group manufactures a broad range of value-added concrete and polymer-based products primarily for utility infrastructure applications. The business saw an improved market environment in 2013 and registered solid gains as growth initiatives continued to deliver. Improvements were seen in most regions with particular progress in the Great Plains, northern California and Mid-Atlantic regions.

Commercial and infrastructure markets remained generally subdued but residential demand, as well as energy and environment-related markets, continued to show positive trends.

In our traditional utility and structural precast products businesses, volumes increased 5% over 2012 and higher input costs were recovered through price increases. Overall like-for-like sales increased by 6% and operating profit advanced significantly.

BuildingEnvelope® (20% of EBITDA)

The BuildingEnvelope® group is North America's leading supplier of architectural glass and aluminium glazing systems to close the building envelope. New non-residential building activity, a key market segment for this business, was largely flat in 2013 resulting in challenging market conditions. Despite this backdrop, ongoing initiatives to gain market share and differentiate the business through innovative product and technology offerings drove solid top-line growth. Organic sales rose 14%, outpacing the overall market. The Architectural Glass and Storefront division benefited from an improved pricing environment, resilient non-residential RMI activity and a generally more favourable product mix. Our Engineered Glazing Systems division enjoyed increased activity as major project work progressed. With a tight focus on cost control, product quality and improved processes, the business delivered operating profit improvement.

South America (5% of EBITDA)

Results for our operations in Argentina improved compared with 2012: production and sales mix changes contributed to an increase in volumes, prices and marginal contribution in the floor and wall tile segments. Results from our businesses in Chile were down on 2012 with modest gains in specialised construction products offset by lower prices in our glass products due to increased competition. Overall sales and operating profit for our South American operations were higher than in 2012.

Outlook

With the backdrop of improving residential activity and some positive indicators for non-residential construction demand, we expect further organic sales growth in 2014. Combined with the impact of 2012 and 2013 acquisitions and the benefits of internal cost and process initiatives, we expect to record improved operating margin and profit in 2014.

Europe Distribution

Europe Distribution's strategy is to increase its network density in the largely unconsolidated core European markets while also investing in other attractive segments of building materials distribution. Organizational initiatives leverage expertise between DIY and Builders Merchants and use best-in-class IT to deliver operational excellence, optimize the supply chain and provide superior customer service. From an established base in the Netherlands, CRH has expanded its leading Builders Merchants positions in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and France, in addition to growing its DIY "Gamma" format in the Benelux. Substantial opportunities remain to expand our existing network in core European markets and to establish new platforms aimed at increasing our

John J. C. ...

Market leadership positions

Builders Merchants

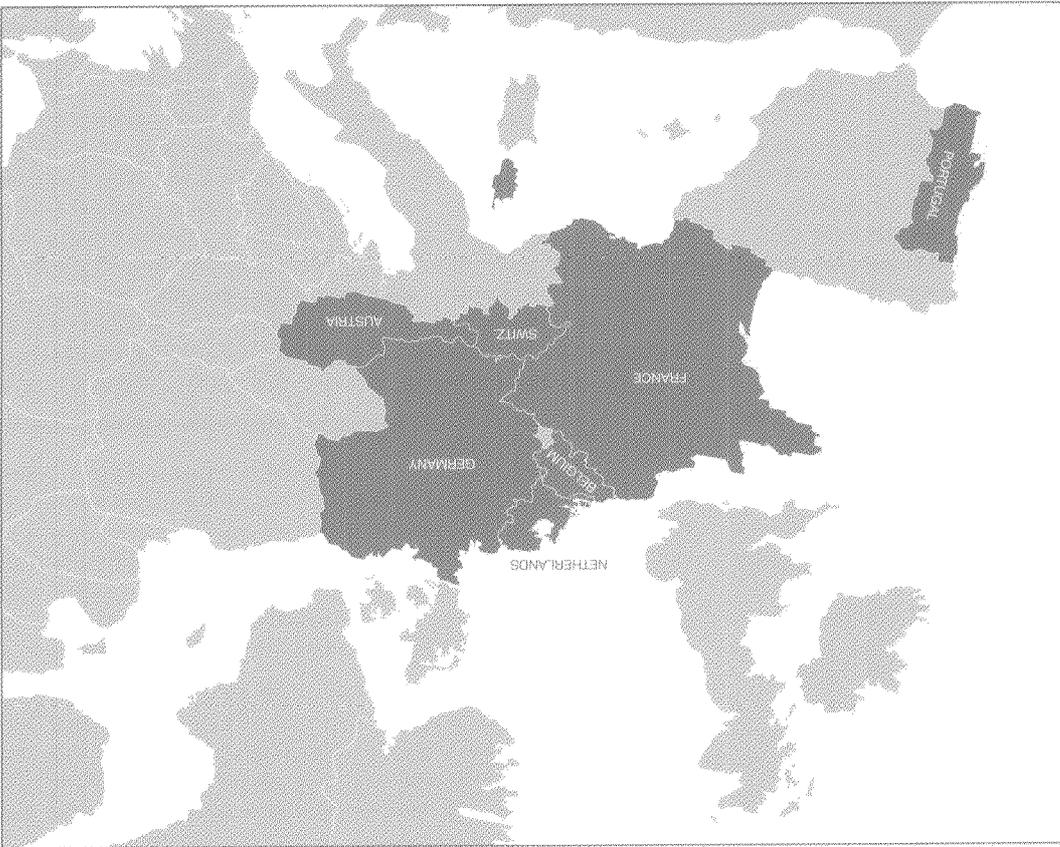
- No.1 Austria
- No.1 Netherlands
- No.1 Switzerland
- No.1 North Germany
- No.1 France; Burgundy, Franche-Comté and Rhône-Alps
- No.2 Ile-de-France

DIY Stores

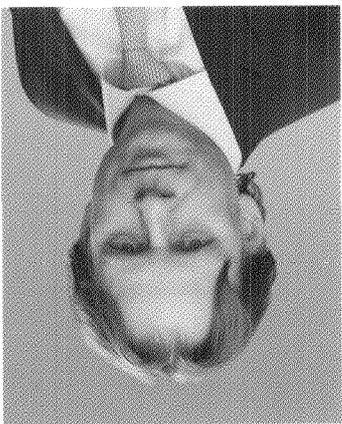
- No.1 Netherlands*
- No.3 Belgium**
- No.5 Germany**
- No.2 (joint) Portugal (50%)
- * Member of Gamma franchise
- ** Member of Hegebau franchise

SHAP

- No.2 Switzerland
- No.2 Belgium
- No.3 Northern Germany



Marc St. Nicolaas



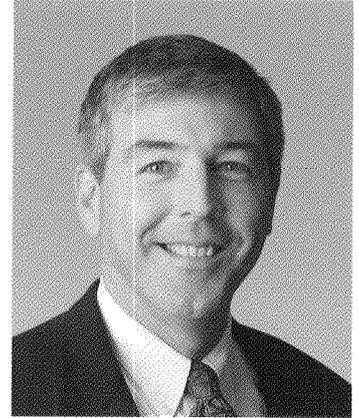
exposure to growing RMI market demand. An example is CRH's entry into the developing Sanitary, Heating and Plumbing ("SHAP") distribution market through the acquisition of a Swiss provider of high-end sanitary ware, since replicated in contiguous markets in Germany and Belgium. Europe Distribution, excluding equity accounted investments, employs approximately 11,300 people at over 670 locations.

Marc St. Nicolaas

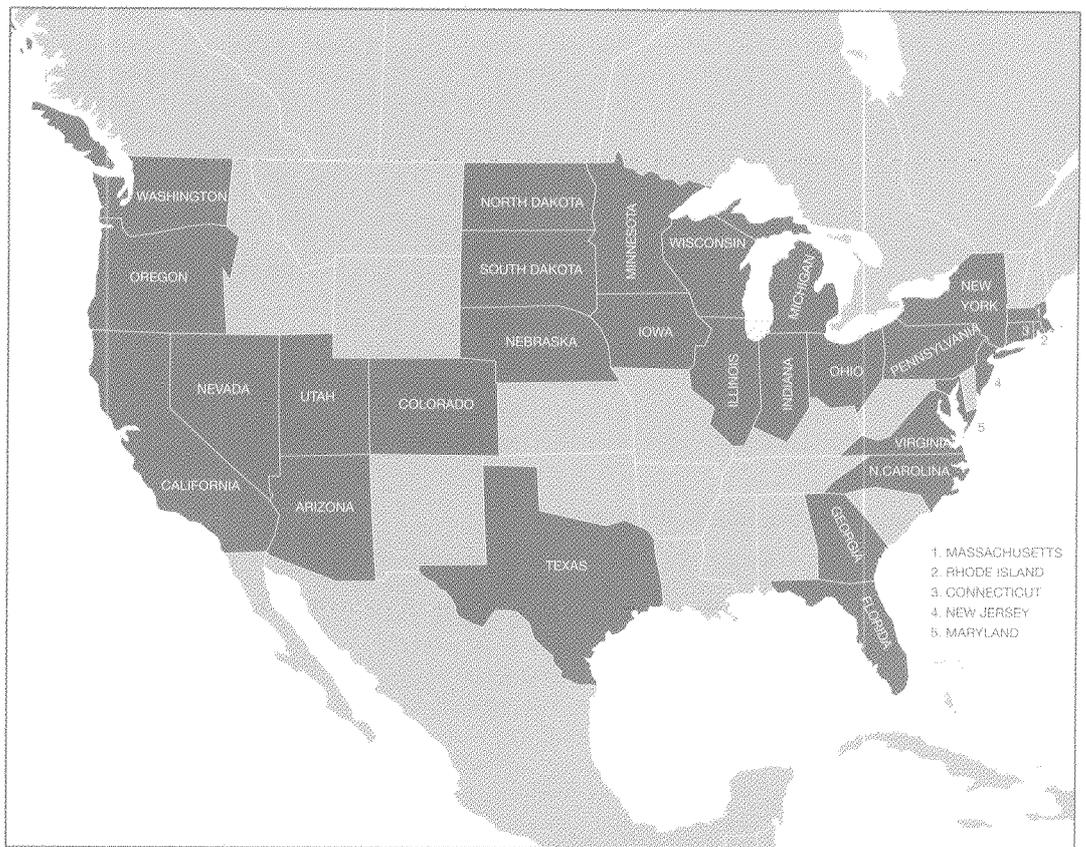
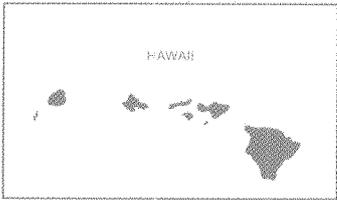
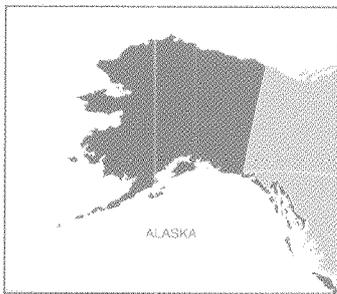
Americas Distribution

Americas Distribution's strategy is focussed on being the supplier of choice to the professional roofing and siding contractor and on applying this successful distribution model to the Interior Products segment. Demand in the Exterior Products business is largely influenced by residential and commercial replacement activity with the key products having an average life span of 25 years. The Interior Products division has less exposure to replacement activity as demand is largely driven by the new residential and commercial construction market. State-of-the-art IT, disciplined and focussed cash management, and well-established procurement and commercial systems support supply chain optimisation and enable CRH to provide superior customer service.

Operating in 31 states, growth opportunities include investment in new and existing markets, in complementary private label and energy-saving product offerings, and in other attractive building materials distribution segments that service professional dealer networks. Employees total approximately 3,700 at over 190 locations.



Robert Feury Jr.



Market leadership positions

Exterior Products

No.3 roofing/siding distributor:
United States

Interior Products

No.3 interior products distributor:
United States

Europe Distribution

Results					Analysis of change				
€ million	% Change	2013	2012R	Total Change	Organic	Acquisitions	Restructuring/ Impairment	Pension gains	Exchange
Sales revenue	-1%	3,936	3,956	-20	-175	+180	-	-	-25
EBITDA	-14%	186	217	-31	-47	+7	-1	+11	-1
EBITDA/sales		4.7%	5.5%						
Operating profit	-27%	106	145	-39	-48	+4	-5	+11	-1

EBITDA and operating profit exclude profit on disposals
Pension restructuring gains amounted to €11 million (2012: nil)

Restructuring costs amounted to €4 million (2012: €3 million)
Impairment charges of €4 million were incurred (2012: nil)

EBITDA above includes pension restructuring gains and operating profit is also stated after impairment charges; the net €7 million impact of these items has been excluded from the commentary that follows.

The Distribution business was also impacted by the adverse first-half weather conditions. This together with weak construction activity and low consumer confidence, particularly in the Netherlands (which accounts for almost 30% of Distribution sales), contributed to a 4% reduction in like-for-like sales in 2013, the impact of which was largely offset by the incremental impact of acquisitions completed in 2012 and 2013. Following sharp profit reductions in the first half, the second half saw a moderation in the rate of decline which, combined with previous restructuring efforts and cost saving initiatives and certain pension curtailment benefits, limited the overall decline in full-year EBITDA to 14%.

Our professional builders merchants network was strengthened by three acquisitions during 2013. In the Benelux, we acquired a well-established seven-branch builders merchant, which complements our existing Dutch business, and a two-branch Belgian operator. We also acquired four branches in northern France increasing our Normandy network to 19 locations.

Professional Builders Merchants (45% of EBITDA)

Overall results for our wholly-owned professional builders merchants business, which operates 349 branches in six countries, were lower than in 2012. The incremental contribution from acquisitions more than offset the shortfall in like-for-like sales in the Benelux where weak markets, especially in Dutch residential and new-build, continued to impact performance. Despite strong cost control and economies of scale from acquisitions, operating profit was behind prior year. Sales levels in France were slightly lower for the year overall but operating profit improved due to the continued focus on pricing, purchasing and cost control. In Switzerland, the strength of the Swiss Franc continued to affect competitiveness contributing to a decline in sales and, despite the ongoing roll-out of various excellence programmes, both operating margin and profit were also lower. Sales levels in Austria were severely impacted by the bad weather in the first quarter and operational challenges due to a system implementation, resulting in operating profit that was significantly behind 2012. Despite the severe impact of the bad weather in early 2013, our builders merchants activities in Germany saw improved trading from April onwards and, together with better margins and good cost control, resulted in operating profit for the year that was in line with 2012.

DIY (30% of EBITDA)

Our wholly-owned DIY business operates 196 stores in the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium. Operating profit was lower than in 2012. In the Netherlands, the combination of the very severe weather during the first quarter and the continued weakness in consumer confidence resulted in sales levels in our Dutch DIY business that were significantly lower than last year and operating profit declined despite restructuring and cost-saving measures. In Belgium, our DIY activities proved more resilient and reported similar sales and operating profit to those achieved in 2012. In a challenging environment for the German DIY sector, sales in our German DIY business were also impacted by the adverse weather and, despite continued cost focus, operating profit and margin were lower.

Sanitary, Heating and Plumbing ("SHAP") (25% of EBITDA)

Sales for our SHAP business, which operates 126 branches, were ahead of 2012 due to an organic improvement in our German and Belgian businesses together with the incremental impact of the two Belgian acquisitions completed in the second half of 2012. Due to the challenging market conditions in Switzerland, results were lower compared with 2012. Overall operating profit for our SHAP activities was ahead of 2012 assisted by the contribution from acquisitions.

Outlook

While underlying indicators for the Dutch economy are showing first signs of a slight recovery, we expect construction activity to remain subdued. The German market outlook is broadly positive and we expect Switzerland to remain stable, while results from our Austrian business are expected to improve. We also expect to make further progress in France. Overall 2014 is likely to be another challenging year, but we expect improved operating profit mainly due to further initiatives in commercial and operational excellence programmes and our continued focus on costs.

Americas Distribution

Results					Analysis of change				
€ million	% Change	2013	2012R	Total Change	Organic	Acquisitions	Divestments	Restructuring/ Impairment	Exchange
Sales revenue	+6%	1,664	1,576	+88	+112	+27	-	-	-51
EBITDA	+7%	89	83	+6	+8	+1	-	-	-3
EBITDA/sales		5.3%	5.3%						
Operating profit	+14%	67	59	+8	+10	-	-	-	-2
<i>EBITDA and operating profit exclude profit on disposals</i>					<i>Restructuring costs amounted to €1 million (2012: €1 million)</i>				

Americas Distribution, trading as Allied Building Products ("Allied"), experienced solid performance across its activities in 2013 and reported good overall results. Both business divisions continued to advance and sales and operating profit were ahead of 2012. Performance in our Exterior Products business was led by a strong Northeast and the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Sandy. The Interior Products business continued to show growth as both volumes and pricing improved throughout the year.

In 2013, Allied management maintained its focus on streamlining administrative procedures and eliminating redundant processes through a significant internal initiative. This simplification of business processes, along with the ongoing evolution of our organisational structure, is aimed at improving acquisition integration and enhancing operating synergies and should allow for greater economies of scale as our business, and the overall markets, grow.

We completed three small transactions in 2013. A three-branch Interior Products company based in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. market was acquired in April and a four-branch Interior Products business based in northern Florida was added in October. Certain assets of a small distressed business in Houston were also acquired to provide a platform for an Exterior Products strategy in Texas.

Progress continued to be made in 2013 to increase brand awareness of TriBuilt, Allied's proprietary private label brand, as both sales and product offerings grew. Additionally, Allied implemented a new greenfield and service centre strategy in order to help drive growth in existing markets. The new service centre model will enable us to improve customer service, consolidate fixed costs and more efficiently leverage branch assets. This new customer service platform, together with our process and procedure streamlining efforts and our commitment to employee development, continue to further help differentiate Allied in the marketplace.

Exterior Products (70% of EBITDA)

Exterior Products are largely comprised of roofing and siding products, the demand for which is greatly influenced by residential and commercial replacement activity (75% of sales volume is RMI-related) with key products having an average life span of 25 years. Allied continues to maintain its position as one of the top three roofing and siding distributors in the United States. Strong growth was experienced in the Northeast driven by the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Sandy. However, competitive pressures across the industry continued as the overall market contracted from 2012 leading to price pressure in all regions. A regional restructuring was completed with the focus on reducing costs and improving customer service, which allowed us to maintain operating margin at a level consistent with 2012. Overall the Exterior Products division reported sales and operating profit ahead of 2012.

Interior Products (30% of EBITDA)

The Interior Products business sells wallboard, steel studs and acoustical ceiling systems to specialised contractors and is heavily dependent on the new residential and commercial construction market, having low exposure to weather-driven replacement activity. Allied is the third-largest Interior Products distributor in the United States. Performance in this business was strong in all markets with increased volumes and prices of our core products contributing to higher sales and improved operating margin, which further benefited from the lower cost base resulting from the cost savings initiatives undertaken in recent years.

Outlook

The overall outlook for 2014 is encouraging as commercial and residential construction is expected to grow. While the increased repair and renovation activity as a result of Hurricane Sandy was largely completed in 2013, our expanded Exterior Products network together with expected market growth should provide momentum in 2014. Another year of growth is expected in the Interior Products business as wallboard volumes and pricing are expected to increase. Overall, the benefit of our consolidation and streamlining measures combined with a positive market outlook should provide for a further year of operating profit improvement in 2014.

This state-of-the-art energy efficient asphalt plant at Tilcon's Mount Hope Quarry, Wharton, New Jersey is one of the largest in the State, and can produce 550 tonnes per hour and store 2,400 tonnes of material in hot storage silos.



Board of Directors

Nicky Hartery

Chairman

Appointed to the Board: June 2004

Nationality: Irish

Age: 62

Committee membership: Acquisitions Committee; Finance Committee; Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee; Remuneration Committee



Skills and experience: Nicky was Vice President of Manufacturing and Business Operations for Dell Inc.'s Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) operations from 2000 to 2008. Prior to joining Dell, he was Executive Vice President at Eastman Kodak and previously held the position of President and Chief Executive Officer at Verbatim Corporation, based in the United States. *Qualifications: C.Eng, FIEI, MBA.*

External appointments: Chief Executive of Prodigium, a consulting company which provides business advisory services; non-executive director of Musgrave Group plc, a privately-owned international food retailer, and of Eircom Limited, a telecommunications services provider in Ireland.

Albert Manifold

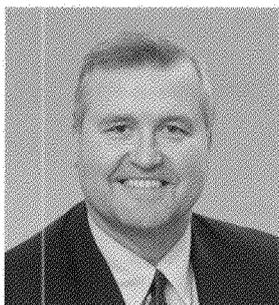
Chief Executive

Appointed to the Board: January 2009

Nationality: Irish

Age: 51

Committee membership: Acquisitions Committee; Finance Committee



Skills and experience: Albert joined CRH in 1998. Prior to this he was Chief Operating Officer with a private equity group. He was appointed Chief Operating Officer and to the CRH Board in January 2009, and as Group Chief Executive with effect from 1 January 2014. Prior to his appointment to the CRH Board, Albert held a variety of senior positions, including Finance Director, and subsequently Managing Director, of the Europe Materials Division and Group Development Director of CRH. He has extensive experience of the buildings materials industry and CRH's international expansion. *Qualifications: FCPA, MBA, MBS.*

Maeve Carton

Finance Director

Appointed to the Board: May 2010

Nationality: Irish

Age: 55

Committee membership: Acquisitions Committee; Finance Committee



Skills and experience: Since joining CRH in 1988, Maeve has held a number of roles in the Group Finance area and was appointed Group Controller in 2001, Head of Group Finance in January 2009 and to the position of Finance Director in May 2010. She has broad-ranging experience of CRH's reporting, control, budgetary and capital expenditure processes and has been extensively involved in CRH's evaluation of acquisitions. Prior to joining CRH, she worked for a number of years as a chartered accountant in an international accountancy practice. *Qualifications: MA, FCA.*

External appointments: Director of The British Irish Chamber of Commerce, a business and employers organisation.

Mark Towe

Chief Executive Officer Oldcastle, Inc.

Appointed to the Board: July 2008

Nationality: United States

Age: 64

Committee membership: Not Applicable



Skills and experience: Mark joined CRH in 1997. In 2000, he was appointed President of Oldcastle Materials, Inc. and became the Chief Executive Officer of this Division in 2006. He was appointed to his current position of Chief Executive Officer of Oldcastle, Inc. (the holding company for CRH's operations in the Americas) in July 2008. With more than 40 years of experience in the building materials industry, he has overall responsibility for the Group's operations in the Americas.

Board of Directors continued overleaf

Ernst Bärtschi

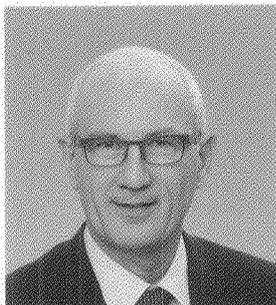
Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: October 2011

Nationality: Swiss

Age: 61

Committee membership: Audit Committee
(Financial expert)



Skills and experience: Ernst was Chief Executive of Sika AG, a manufacturer of speciality chemicals for construction and general industry, until 31 December 2011. Prior to joining Sika, he worked for the Schindler Group and was Chief Finance Officer between 1997 and 2001. Over the course of his career he has gained extensive experience in India, China and the Far East generally. *Qualifications:* LIC.OEC.HSG

External appointments: Member of the board of Bucher Industries AG, a mechanical and vehicle engineering company based in Switzerland; member of the advisory board of China Renaissance Capital Investment Inc., a private equity investment company in Hong Kong, China.

William (Bill) Egan

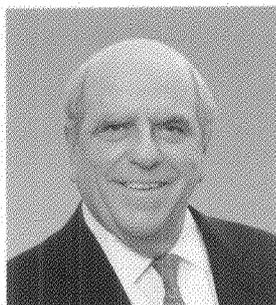
Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: January 2007

Nationality: United States

Age: 68

Committee membership: Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee; Remuneration Committee



Skills and experience: Bill is founder and General Partner of Alta Communications and Marion Equity Partners LLC, Massachusetts-based venture capital firms. He is past Chairman of Cephalon Inc., and past President and Chairman of the National Venture Capital Association. *Qualifications:* BA, MBA.

External appointments: Director of the Irish venture capital company Delta Partners Limited; serves on the boards of several communications, cable and information technology companies.

Utz-Hellmuth Felcht

Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: July 2007

Nationality: German

Age: 66

Committee membership: Acquisitions Committee; Finance Committee



Skills and experience: Utz-Hellmuth was, until May 2011, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Süd-Chemie Aktiengesellschaft. He was also Chief Executive of Degussa AG, Germany's third largest chemical company, until May 2006.

External appointments: Partner in the private equity group One Equity Partners Europe GmbH; Chairman of the Supervisory board of German rail company Deutsche Bahn AG; director of Jungbunzlauer Holding AG.

Jan Maarten de Jong

Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: January 2004

Nationality: Dutch

Age: 68

Committee membership: Acquisitions Committee; Finance Committee



Skills and experience: Jan Maarten is a member of the Supervisory Board of Heineken N.V. He is a former member of the Managing Board of ABN Amro Bank N.V. and following his retirement he continued to be a Special Advisor to the board of that company until April 2006.

External appointments: Director of a number of European banking, insurance and industrial holding companies, including AON Groep Nederland B.V. and Nutreco N.V.

John Kennedy

Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: June 2009

Nationality: Irish

Age: 63

Committee membership: Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee; Remuneration Committee



Skills and experience: John is past Chairman of Wellstream Holdings plc. In a 40-year career, he has served as Executive Vice President of Halliburton Company, President of Dresser Enterprises and Chief Operations Officer of Brown and Root Services. He is a past director of the UK Atomic Energy Authority and Integra Group. *Qualifications:* M.Sc, BE, C.Eng, FIEE.

External appointments: Non-executive Chairman of Lamprell plc; director of Maxwell Drummond International Limited, Hydrasun Holdings Limited, Welltec A/S and BiFold Group Limited.

Don McGovern

Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: July 2013

Nationality: United States

Age: 62

Committee membership: Audit Committee
(*Financial expert*)



Skills and experience: Don was Vice Chairman, Global Assurance at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), from 2008 until June 2013. He retired from PwC in June 2013 following a 39 year career with the firm, during which time he directed the US firm's services for a number of large public company clients. He has held various leadership roles in PwC and was, from July 2001 to June 2008, a member of, and past lead director for, the Board of Partners and Principals of the US firm as well as a member of PwC's Global Board. *Qualifications: CPA, MBA.*

Heather Ann McSharry

Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: February 2012

Nationality: Irish

Age: 52

Committee membership: Audit Committee



Skills and experience: Heather Ann is a former Managing Director Ireland of Reckitt Benckiser and Boots Healthcare and was previously a non-executive director of Bank of Ireland plc. *Qualifications: BComm, MBS.*

External appointments: Non-executive director of Greencore Group plc and Jazz Pharmaceuticals plc; Chairman of the Bank of Ireland Pension Fund Trustees Board; director of Ergonomics Solutions International, IDA Ireland and the Institute of Directors.

Dan O'Connor

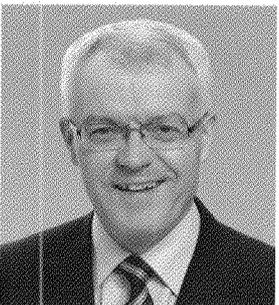
*Non-executive Director**

Appointed to the Board: June 2006

Nationality: Irish

Age: 54

Committee membership: Audit Committee
(*Financial expert*); Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee; Remuneration Committee



Skills and experience: Dan is a former President and Chief Executive Officer of GE Consumer Finance - Europe and a former Senior Vice-President of GE. He was Executive Chairman of Allied Irish Banks, plc until October 2010. *Qualifications: BComm, FCA.*

* Dan O'Connor is Senior Independent Director

Henk Rottinghuis

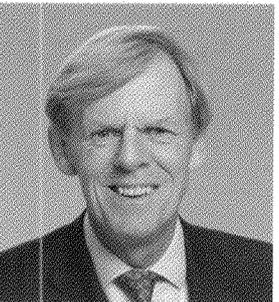
Non-executive Director

Appointed to the Board: February 2014

Nationality: Dutch

Age: 58

Committee membership: Not applicable



Skills and experience: Henk has a background in distribution, wholesale and logistics. He was until 2010, Chief Executive Officer at Pon Holdings B.V., a large, privately-held international company which is focussed on the supply and distribution of passenger cars and trucks, and equipment for the construction and marine sectors. *Qualifications: Master's degree in Dutch Law.*

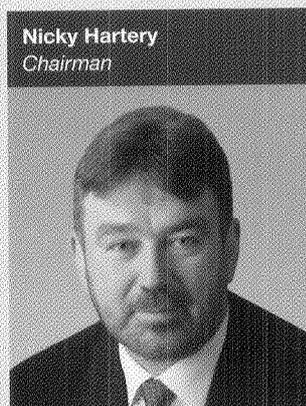
External appointments: Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Stork Technical Services; member of the Supervisory Boards of the Royal Bank of Scotland N.V., and the retail groups Blokker Holding B.V. and Detailresult Groep.

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CRH plc has a secondary listing on The Irish Stock Exchange. For this reason, CRH plc is not subject to the same ongoing listing requirements as would apply to an Irish company with a primary listing on the Irish Stock Exchange. For further information, shareholders should consult their own financial adviser. Further details on the Group's listing arrangements, including its primary listing on the London Stock Exchange, are set out on page 42.

Chairman's Introduction



The following report outlines our approach to corporate governance and how we implement the 2012 UK Corporate Governance Code (the Code). We complied in full with the provisions of the Code in 2013. We also have procedures in place for compliance with our obligations under the applicable rules and regulations issued by the Securities & Exchange Commission.

Shareholder Engagement and Communications

The CRH Board is committed to very high standards of corporate governance and to ensuring that CRH is at the forefront of best practice in this area. Integral to this is shareholder engagement, and we devote considerable time and resources to this area each year. We operate an extensive investor relations programme. During 2013, members of the senior management team spent a combined total of 63 days meeting with investors. These meetings covered over 50% of our shareholder base and focussed principally on operational matters, including the Group's performance and strategy. To ensure that shareholders also had an opportunity to discuss governance matters, prior to the 2013 Annual General Meeting, I invited the Group's major shareholders to meet with me. Dan O'Connor, Senior Independent Director and Chairman of the *Remuneration Committee*, and Neil Colgan, Company Secretary, also participated in the meetings. No issues of concern were raised during these meetings. I will again invite our major shareholders to discuss governance matters in advance of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

As outlined in the *Remuneration Committee* Chairman's statement on pages 59 to 61, we also consulted extensively with the Group's major shareholders, various shareholder organisations and proxy voting agencies on the Group's proposed new remuneration structures.

Amongst the new provisions introduced to the Code in September 2012, which were effective for CRH from 1 January 2013, was a requirement that the Directors include a statement in the Annual Report "*that they consider the report and accounts, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's performance, business model and strategy*". I believe that, in relation to the Group's shareholder communications and news releases, this is a standard against which CRH has always measured itself. Indeed, a consistent area of feedback from shareholders we meet through our investor relations programme is an appreciation for our straight-forward communication style. Nevertheless, we took the opportunity of this new provision of the Code to review with management the procedures for drafting and finalising the Annual Report. This review focussed on ensuring that the Annual Report would be fair and balanced in representing CRH's strategy and performance, while also making sure that the Annual Report would be readily understandable by our stakeholders. As referred to in my introductory comments to this year's Annual Report on page 3, the Company is in the process of a wide-ranging

portfolio review which will impact on the future shape of the Group. The outcome of the review will no doubt have an impact, over time, on the way in which we communicate the objectives, strategy and performance of the Group. In respect of the 2013 Annual Report, the "*fair, balanced and understandable*" statement is included in the Directors' Report on page 95.

Board Renewal and Diversity

Following the announcement in February 2013 of Myles Lee's intention to retire as Chief Executive and from the Board at the end of 2013, a major focus during 2013 was the succession process for the role of Chief Executive. We announced in July 2013 that Albert Manifold would succeed Myles with effect from 1 January 2014. The process for the appointment of the Chief Executive is set out in the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* Report on page 53. In the last 12 months we have also welcomed two new non-executive Directors to the Board, Don McGovern, a US citizen and former senior partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Henk Rottinghuis, a Dutch citizen and former Chief Executive Officer of Pon Holdings B.V., a large, privately held international company focussed on the supply and distribution of passenger cars and trucks, and equipment for the construction and marine sectors.

Ensuring that there is an appropriate balance of skills, knowledge and experience on the Board and that it is suitably diverse in terms of culture and gender is a key focus for me as

Chairman. Our Board has for a long time been diverse from an international and business perspective and one of the core elements of our Board renewal policy is gender diversity. Currently the Board has two female Directors, who following the 2014 Annual General Meeting will represent 17% of the Board. We are focussed on increasing this percentage as part of our ongoing Board renewal process. In doing this, we need to continue to ensure that we appoint the right people with the right experience to fit the needs of the Company. On the recommendation of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee*, the Board has expanded its policy for the recruitment of non-executive Directors by setting itself the goal of increasing the number of female Directors to circa 25% by the end of 2015. Our Board renewal policy is set out on pages 42 and 43.

Conclusion

I am satisfied that CRH's governance structures are appropriate for a Group of our size and complexity. Nevertheless, it is vital that these structures evolve in line with best practice and your Board, through the work of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee*, keeps developments in this area under review.

Nicky Hartery
Chairman

February 2014

Listings and Corporate Governance Codes

CRH, which is incorporated in Ireland and subject to Irish company law, has a premium listing on the London Stock Exchange, a secondary listing on the Irish Stock Exchange and its American Depositary Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

This Report describes CRH's governance principles and practice and the Group's risk management and internal control systems. The Report also sets out how CRH applies the main and supporting principles of the 2012 UK Corporate Governance Code (the Code). CRH also takes into account the disclosure requirements set out in the corporate governance annex to the listing rules of the Irish Stock Exchange.

A copy of the Code can be obtained from the Financial Reporting Council's website, www.frc.org.uk.

Board of Directors

What are the responsibilities of the Board?

The Board is responsible for the leadership, oversight, control, development and long-term success of the Group. It is also responsible for instilling the appropriate culture, values and behaviour throughout the organisation.

There is a formal schedule of matters reserved to the Board for consideration and decision. This includes appointment of Directors, approval of the Annual Report, the Interim Results, the annual budget, major acquisitions, the issuance of guarantees, significant capital expenditure and the strategic plans for the Group. The Group's strategy, which is regularly reviewed by the Board, and its business model are summarised in the Strategy Review on pages 7 to 17.

The Board has delegated some of its responsibilities to Committees of the Board. The work of each Committee is set out on pages 47 to 55 of this Report. While responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Group's risk management and internal control systems has been delegated to the *Audit Committee**, the Board retains ultimate responsibility for determining the Group's "risk tolerance" and annually considers a report in relation to the monitoring, controlling and reporting of identified risks and uncertainties. In addition, the Board receives regular reports from the Chairman of the *Audit Committee* in relation to the work of that Committee in the area of risk management.

Individual Directors may seek independent professional advice, at the expense of the Company, in the furtherance of their duties as a Director.

The Group has a Directors' and Officers' Liability insurance policy in place.

How do the roles of the Chairman and Chief Executive differ?

It has been CRH's practice since the formation of the Group in the 1970s that the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive are not combined.

The Board has delegated responsibility for the management of the Group, through the Chief Executive, to executive management. There is a clear division of responsibilities between the roles of the Chairman and the Chief Executive which is set out in writing and has been approved by the Board. A summary of the respective roles is set out in the table to the right.

What is the membership structure of the Board?

It is CRH's practice that a majority of the Board comprises non-executive Directors.

At present, there are three executive and ten non-executive Directors. Biographical details are set out on pages 37 to 39. Non-executive Directors are expected to challenge management proposals constructively and to examine and review management performance in meeting agreed objectives and targets. In addition, they are expected to draw on their experience and knowledge in respect of any challenges facing the Group and in relation to the development of proposals on strategy.

We consider the current size and composition of the Board to be within a range which is appropriate. We also believe that the current size of the Board is sufficiently large to enable its Committees to operate without undue reliance on individual non-executive Directors, while being dynamic and responsive to the needs of the Group. The spread of nationalities of the Directors reflects the geographical reach of the Group and we consider that the Board as a whole has the appropriate blend of skills, knowledge and experience, from a wide range of industries, regions and backgrounds, necessary to lead the Group.

None of the executive Directors is a non-executive director of another listed company.

Responsibilities of Chairman and Chief Executive

Chairman is responsible for

The efficient and effective working of the Board

Ensuring that Board agendas cover the key strategic issues confronting the Group, that the Board reviews and approves management's plans for the Group and that the Directors receive accurate, timely, clear and relevant information

Making certain that the Board applies sufficient challenge to management proposals and examines and reviews management performance in meeting agreed objectives and targets

Overseeing the search for new Board members

Chief Executive is responsible for

Full day-to-day operational and profit performance of the Group and is accountable to the Board for all authority delegated to executive management

Executing strategy agreed with the Board and reporting regularly on the progress and performance of the Group

Co-ordinating and overseeing the profitable growth of the Group's diverse portfolio of international businesses

Maximising the contribution of senior management to business planning, operational control and profit performance

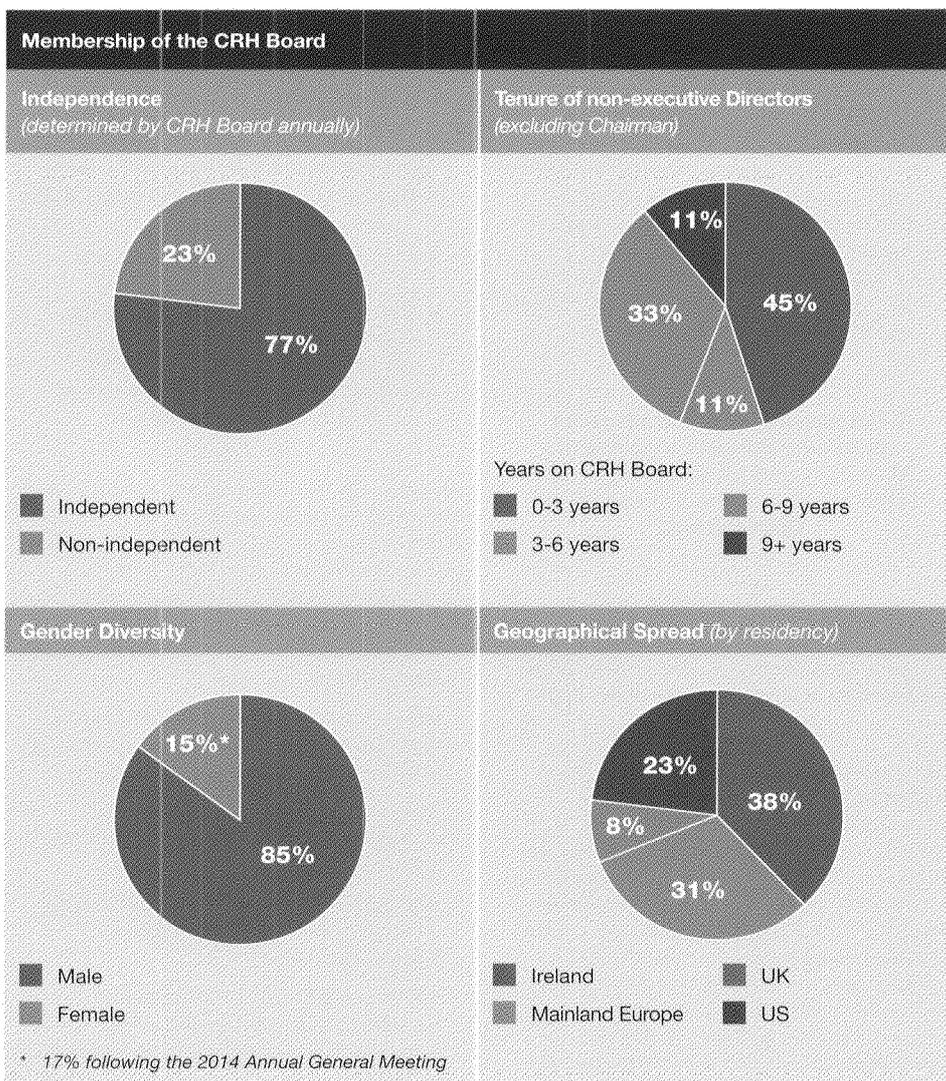
The current membership structure of the board set out in the table on page 43.

How does the Board plan for succession and what is its policy on diversity?

The Board plans for its own succession with the assistance of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee*.

For non-executive appointments, independent consultants are engaged to search for suitable candidates. The process to identify, evaluate and appoint a non-executive Director with the suitable experience, skills and time commitment takes into account both the needs of CRH and the tenure and skills of existing Board members. As a result, the renewal and

* In accordance with Regulation 91(6)(b) of the European Communities (Statutory Audits) (Directive 2006/43) Regulations 2010.



What criteria are used to determine the independence of non-executive Directors?

The Board considers the principles relating to independence contained in the Code, together with the guidance provided by a number of shareholder voting agencies, and takes into account a Director's character, objectivity and integrity.

The independence of non-executive Board members is considered annually. The Board is assisted in this by the annual review carried out by the Senior Independent Director which addresses the independence of the individual members of the Board (see Performance appraisal and Board evaluation section on page 44), and by the work of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee*, which annually reviews each Board member's directorships, and considers any relevant business relationships between Board members. We have concluded that all of the non-executive Directors bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources, key appointments and standards, and have determined that each of the non-executive Directors is independent.

When was the Chairman appointed and does he have non-CRH commitments?

There have been no changes in the non-CRH commitments of Nicky Hartery since his appointment as Chairman.

refreshment of non-executive Directors is a continuous process.

The non-executive Directors meet regularly with the Chief Executive to discuss senior management succession planning to ensure appropriate talent management structures are in place to provide a pool of potential candidates for key executive Director appointments. External consultants are engaged for executive Director recruitment if, and when, required. In line with evolving best practice, during 2013 independent consultants were engaged to identify potential external candidates for consideration during the process to appoint a successor to Myles Lee as Chief Executive (see page 53 for more details on the Chief Executive succession process).

We are committed to ensuring that the Board is sufficiently diverse and appropriately balanced. In its work in the area of Board

renewal, the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* looks at the following four criteria when considering non-executive Director candidates:

- international business experience, particularly in the regions in which the Group operates or in which it intends to expand;
- skills, knowledge and expertise in areas relevant to the operation of the Board;
- diversity, including nationality and gender; and
- the need for an appropriately sized Board.

During the ongoing process of Board renewal, each, or a combination, of these factors can take priority. However, the Board has set itself the target of increasing the percentage of female Board members to circa 25% by the end of 2015.

Nicky Hartery was appointed Chairman of the Group in 2012. On his appointment as Chairman, he met the independence criteria set out in the Code. Although he holds a number of other directorships (see details on page 37), the Board considers that these do not interfere with the discharge of his duties to CRH.

Who is the Senior Independent Director?

The Senior Independent Director is available to shareholders who have concerns that cannot be addressed through the Chairman, Chief Executive or Finance Director.

Dan O'Connor was appointed as Senior Independent Director in 2012.

Who is the Company Secretary?

All Directors have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary, Neil Colgan, who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that Board procedures are complied with.

Neil was appointed Company Secretary in June 2009. The appointment and removal of the Company Secretary is a matter for the Board.

For what period are non-executive Directors appointed?

Non-executive Directors are typically expected to serve two three-year terms, although they may be invited to serve for further periods.

The standard terms of the letter of appointment for non-executive Directors, which states that they are generally expected to serve two terms of three years, are available for inspection at the Company's registered office and at the Annual General Meeting. A non-executive Director's term of office is subject to his annual re-election by shareholders and their letter of appointment does not provide for any compensation for loss of office.

How are the induction, training and development needs of Directors catered for?

The Chairman agrees a tailored and comprehensive induction programme with each new Director.

New Directors are provided with extensive briefing materials on the Group and its operations, the procedures relating to the Board and its Committees and their duties and responsibilities as Directors under legislation and regulations that apply to the Company.

A typical induction programme, which generally takes place over the first year of a Director's appointment, would cover the topics set out in the upper table on page 45.

Sessions are held periodically with the Chairman at which progress is reviewed and feedback is sought.

For newly-appointed members of the Audit Committee, training arrangements include the topics set out in the lower table on page 45.

Members of the *Audit Committee* receive periodic updates on accounting developments.

Directors can also avail of opportunities to hear the views of, and meet with, the Group's shareholders. Directors regularly receive copies of research and analysis conducted on CRH and the building materials sector. The Board receives regular updates from the external auditors in relation to regulatory and accounting developments. Updates in relation to other relevant matters, for example, changes in company law, are provided from time to time.

What processes are in place for appraising the performance of Directors and for evaluating the effectiveness of the Board and its Committees?

An annual review of individual Directors' performance is conducted by the Chairman and each Director is provided with feedback gathered from other members of the Board.

The performance of individual Directors is assessed against a number of measures, including the ability of the Director to contribute to the development of strategy, to understand the major risks affecting the Group, to contribute to the cohesion of the Board, to commit the time required to fulfil the role and to listen to and respect the views of other Directors and the management team. As part of that review process the Chairman discusses with each individual their training and development needs and, where appropriate, agrees suitable arrangements to be put in place to address those needs.

Each year, the Senior Independent Director conducts an annual review of corporate governance, the balance of skills, experience, independence and knowledge of the Company on the Board, the operation and performance of the Board and its Committees and the effectiveness of Board communications. This is achieved through discussion in one-to-one sessions with each Director, aided by the completion by each Director of a questionnaire in advance. The meetings, which cover specific topics and allow for free-ranging discussion, provide a forum for an open and frank discourse. The Senior Independent Director circulates a written report to the Board each year, which summarises the outcome of the review and sets out any recommendations from Board members in relation to areas where improvements can be made. Consideration of the Senior Independent Director's report is a formal agenda item at a scheduled Board meeting each year.

Led by the Senior Independent Director, the non-executive Directors meet at least annually in the absence of the Chairman to review his performance.

When was the last external Board evaluation completed and what was the outcome?

The 2012 review was facilitated by ICSA Board Evaluation, which has an extensive record in facilitating evaluations in large listed companies both in Ireland and the UK.

An externally facilitated Board evaluation was carried out by an independent third party, ICSA Board Evaluation ("ICSA") in 2012. The Board's performance was rated as "very good" on a six-point scale, ranging from poor to excellent. ICSA made eight recommendations to further improve the effectiveness of the Board, relating to the following:

- enhancing the existing processes in place regarding strategy reviews, outcome tracking, Board renewal and Director development;
- providing for an increased number of non-executive Director meetings without executives present;
- taking fuller advantage of the opportunities afforded by Board visits for employee engagement; and
- rationalising Board documentation and updating Board protocols to take account of advances in technology and communications.

All of the recommendations arising from the 2012 external review have been implemented. The next external evaluation will be conducted in 2015.

What are the requirements regarding the retirement and re-election of Directors?

All Directors retire at each Annual General Meeting and, unless they are stepping down from the Board, submit themselves to shareholders for re-election.

Re-appointment of Directors retiring at Annual General Meetings is not automatic. Directors who are seeking re-election are subject to a satisfactory performance appraisal. All Directors are subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company (a summary of provisions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association relating to the Directors is set out on page 58).

Induction Programme	
Board Members	
Topic	Sessions with
<p>Group strategy and finance:</p> <p>Group strategy, the current challenges facing the Group and the trading backdrop</p> <p>Financial reporting, trading results, acquisition models, funding sources/debt maturity, group treasury and credit rating metrics</p>	<p>Chief Executive, Finance Director, Head of Group Financial Operations, Group Treasurer</p>
<p>Divisional strategy and structure:</p> <p>Divisional strategy and organisational structure</p> <p>Development priorities</p> <p>IT strategy</p>	<p>Chief Executive, Heads of Divisions, Senior Operational Management</p>
<p>Senior management team:</p> <p>Succession planning</p> <p>Leadership development programmes</p> <p>Remuneration trends</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>
<p>Directors' legal duties and responsibilities:</p> <p>Legal duties and responsibilities</p> <p>Management of inside information</p> <p>Dealings in CRH securities</p> <p>Listing rule requirements</p>	<p>Finance Director, Company Secretary and the Group's legal advisers</p>
<p>Compliance & ethics, health & safety, risk management, investor relations and remuneration:</p> <p>Compliance & ethics policies and the structures in place to ensure ongoing compliance</p> <p>Health & safety programme, including the fatality elimination programme, and the Group's Corporate Social Responsibility policies</p> <p>Investor Relations programme and the views of the Group's major investors</p> <p>Enterprise Risk Management, insurance arrangements and captive insurance programme</p>	<p>Finance Director, Head of Compliance & Ethics, Head of Investor Relations, Group Sustainability Manager, Group Strategic Financial Risk Manager, the Group's stockbrokers and the <i>Remuneration Committee's</i> remuneration advisers</p>

Audit Committee	
Topic	Sessions with
<p>External Audit</p> <p>Audit planning</p> <p>Auditors' responsibilities</p>	<p>Finance Director, Senior Finance Executives,</p>
<p>Internal Audit</p> <p>Strategy and workplan</p> <p>IT audit</p>	<p>Head of Internal Audit and external auditors</p>

How often does the Board meet?

Details of the number of Board and Committee meetings during 2013, and of Directors' attendance at those meetings, is set out in the table on page 54.

There were eight full meetings of the Board during 2013.

Each year, additional meetings, to consider specific matters, are held when and if required. Prior to their appointment, potential non-executive Directors are made aware of the calendar of meetings and are asked to confirm that they are able to allocate sufficient time to meet the expectations of their role. The agreement of the Chairman is required before a non-executive Director accepts additional commitments that might impact adversely on the time he or she is able to devote to CRH.

The Board typically makes two visits each year to Board operations; one in Europe and one in North America. Each visit lasts between three and five days and incorporates a scheduled Board meeting. In 2013, these visits were to Ukraine, and to Georgia in the United States.

How are Board agendas determined?

The Chairman sets the agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Chief Executive and Company Secretary.

In setting the agendas, the Chairman ensures that sufficient time is allocated to strategy setting and review, performance monitoring, portfolio management, including acquisitions and divestments, succession planning and talent management. Board agendas typically cover items set out in the table above.

The non-executive Directors generally meet before or after each Board meeting without executives being present.

The papers for meetings are generally circulated electronically in the week prior to the meeting.

Typical Board Agenda Items

Recurring items on each agenda:

- Minutes
- Board matters (including Board Committee updates)
- Trading results and cost saving initiatives
- Acquisitions/Disposals/Capital Expenditure Projects

Periodic agenda items during the year:

- Full-year/interim financial results and reports
- Investor interaction and feedback
- Group budget
- Group strategy and Divisional strategy updates
- Performance review of acquisitions against the original Board proposal following three years of Group ownership
- Funding proposals
- Human resources and succession planning
- Risk management & internal controls
- Compliance & Ethics
- Health & Safety review, with a particular focus on the Group's fatality elimination programme
- Environmental review

dealing in CRH securities during designated prohibited periods and at any time at which the individual is in possession of inside information (as defined in the Market Abuse (Directive 2003/6/EC) Regulations 2005). The policy adopts the terms of the Model Code, as set out in the Listing Rules published by the UK Listing Authority subject to amendments in relation to Irish company law and taxation references.

What are the Committees of the Board?

The Board has established five permanent Committees to assist in the execution of its responsibilities.

The current permanent Committees of the Board are the *Acquisitions Committee*, the *Audit Committee*, the *Finance Committee*, the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* and the *Remuneration Committee*. In addition, ad-hoc committees are formed from time to time to deal with specific matters. Each of the permanent Committees has Terms of Reference, under which authority is delegated to them by the Board. The Chairman of each Committee reports to the Board on its deliberations and minutes of all Committee meetings are circulated to all Directors.

The current membership of each Committee and each member's length of service is set out in the relevant sections in the remainder of this report. Attendance at meetings held in 2013 is set out in a table on page 54.

Chairmen of the Committees attend the Annual General Meeting and are available to answer questions from shareholders.

Are the Directors subject to securities dealing policies or codes?

Directors are required to obtain clearance from the Chairman and Chief Executive before dealing in CRH securities.

Details of the CRH shares held by Directors are set out on page 74. CRH has a policy on dealings in securities that applies to all Directors and senior management. Directors and senior management are prohibited from

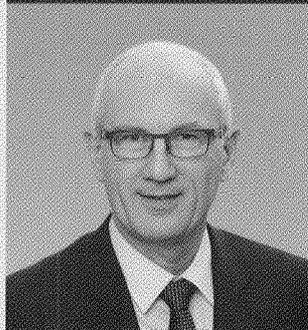
The *Audit Committee* consists of four non-executive Directors. The biographical details of each member are set out on pages 38 and 39.

The primary responsibilities of the Committee are to:

- monitor the financial reporting process, the integrity of the financial statements, including the Annual and Interim Reports, preliminary results announcements, interim management statements and any other formal announcement relating to the financial performance of the Company, and to review significant financial reporting issues and judgements exercised in the preparation thereof;
- monitor the audit of the financial statements;
- keep under review the effectiveness of the Company's internal financial controls and the internal control and risk management systems and review and approve statements to be included in the Annual Report regarding internal control and risk management;
- review the Company's arrangements for its employees to raise concerns, in confidence, about possible wrongdoing in financial reporting or other matters and review the Company's procedures and systems for detecting fraud and preventing bribery;
- keep under review the adequacy of the Group's Compliance & Ethics function;
- monitor and review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function;
- review the effectiveness of the audit process and the independence and objectivity of the external auditors;
- develop and monitor the policy on non-audit services to be provided by the external auditors;
- approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditors;
- make recommendations to the Board in relation to the appointment or removal of the external auditor.

The responsibilities of the *Audit Committee* are set out in full in its Terms of Reference, which are available on the CRH website, www.crh.com.

Ernst Bärtschi
Chairman of Audit Committee
Audit Committee Financial Expert



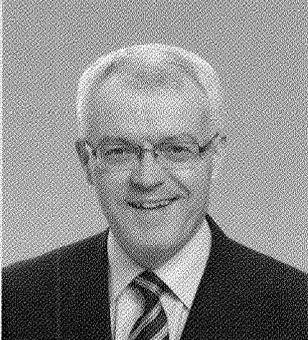
Donald A. McGovern, Jr.
Audit Committee Financial Expert



Heather Ann McSharry



Dan O'Connor
Audit Committee Financial Expert



Audit Committee

Chairman's overview

I succeeded Jan Maarten de Jong as Chairman of the Committee in September 2013. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express my appreciation to Jan Maarten for his significant contribution to the work of the Committee, both as a member since 2004 and as Chairman between May 2007 and August 2013.

On a number of occasions during 2013, beginning in July, the Committee met with Ernst & Young to agree and monitor the progress of the 2013 audit. The following risks were identified as being a key focus:

- Impairment of goodwill;
- Impairment of property, plant and equipment, and financial assets;
- Accounting for acquisitions and disposals; and
- Contract revenue recognition.

The potential for impairment was highlighted in the 2013 Interim Results announcement in August due to the continuing difficulties in the Group's European markets. Subsequently, as announced in the November Interim Management Statement, a Group-wide portfolio review was initiated by the Board to identify those businesses which offer the most attractive future returns and to prioritise capital allocation. The Statement indicated that the review would likely result in the disposal of some non-core businesses which, coupled with the continuing difficult environment in Europe, could give rise to impairment charges in 2013. This issue, therefore, became a key area of focus for the Committee in its discussions with management and Ernst & Young on the 2013 Consolidated Financial Statements and the related audit.

Impairment

As outlined in note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, a total non-cash impairment charge of €755 million was recorded in the financial statements in respect of the year ended 31 December 2013, of which €373 million related to goodwill. While the continuing economic difficulties in Europe gave

rise to some impairment, the main driver of the charge in 2013 was the outcome of the initial phase of the Group's portfolio review, which identified a number of non-core businesses which no longer meet CRH's long-term returns criteria and which are now candidates for disposal. An orderly disposal process is underway.

For the purposes of its annual impairment testing process, the Group assesses the recoverable amount of each of CRH's cash-generating units (CGUs – see details in note 15 to the Consolidated Financial Statements), based on a value-in-use computation. In addition, the Group annually assesses the need for impairment of other non-current assets (property, plant and equipment and financial assets).

The Committee met on a number of occasions in late 2013 and early 2014 and considered a number of issues, including:

- the impact the changing economic circumstances had on the assumptions used in the impairment models used by management; and
- the processes used by management to ascertain the value of non-core businesses that management believed the Board should consider exiting and the levels of impairment where that value was less than the carrying value of these businesses.

In 2013, the annual impairment review resulted in total impairment charges of €72 million in respect of businesses which have been identified as core businesses for the Group going forward. Of this total, €58 million related to our Benelux CGU in Europe Materials, which has experienced a difficult trading environment and has formed part of the Group's goodwill sensitivity disclosures for a number of years. The continuing

difficult environment, coupled with the impact of strong competition and the expectation of a slower than previously anticipated sales recovery, resulted in a significant reduction in the recoverable amount of this CGU at year-end 2013 compared with prior years.

The portfolio review which I referred to above resulted in the identification of 45 non-core business units which are in line for divestment. For each of these businesses, a valuation was prepared based on the estimated fair value less costs of disposal. The valuations were then compared to the carrying value of each business, resulting in an additional total impairment charge of €683 million. Although the review is ongoing, the impairment exercise is complete and, in the light of current conditions and outlook, management does not anticipate further impairment to arise as the review continues.

Following its deliberations, the Committee was satisfied that the assumptions and models used by management were appropriate.

Accounting for Acquisitions and Disposals

Total acquisition consideration in 2013 for the Group amounted to €720 million while the gross proceeds of disposals amounted to €283 million. The Committee discussed with management and Ernst & Young the accounting treatment for newly acquired businesses and recently disposed entities and was satisfied that the treatment in 2013 was appropriate.

Contract Revenue Recognition

IAS 11 requires revenue and expenses to be recognised on uncompleted contracts, with the underlying principle that, once the outcome of a long-term construction contract can be reliably estimated, revenue and expenses associated with

that contract should be recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity at the balance sheet date. If it is anticipated that the contract will be loss-making, the expected loss must be recognised immediately. Following discussions with management and Ernst & Young, the Committee was satisfied that contract revenue recognition was not a material issue for the Group in 2013 as the majority of contracts were completed within the financial year.

In addition to the above significant issues, the Committee also gave particular emphasis to the following matters in its work during 2013:

Group Pension Liabilities

During 2013, the Committee continued to review, with the help of external pensions experts, the plans and initiatives in place to mitigate the Group's pension scheme liabilities.

Cyber Security

During the year, the Committee received and considered reports from management and Ernst & Young in relation to the Group's readiness in terms of cyber security.

IT Implementation Projects

The Committee reviewed with management the status of a number of ongoing IT implementation projects in Europe.

Assessment of Ernst & Young

The Committee's primary means of assessing the effectiveness of the external audit process is by monitoring performance against the agreed audit plan. In addition, each year the Committee considers (i) the experience and knowledge of the Ernst & Young audit team; (ii) the results of post-audit interviews with management and the *Audit Committee* Chairman; (iii) the transparency reports issued under EU

regulations by Ernst & Young Ireland; and (iv) where applicable, relevant reports by regulatory bodies on the performance of Ernst & Young.

Management also undertakes periodic reviews of the effectiveness of the external auditors (the last such review was conducted in 2009).

Audit Tendering/Rotation

Ernst & Young have been the Group's auditors since 1988. In last year's *Audit Committee* Report, Jan Maarten de Jong outlined new requirements of the Code regarding audit tendering and the transitional arrangements put forward by the Financial Reporting Council in terms of the timing of any audit tender. In summary, implementing the Code provisions and following the transitional arrangements would mean that the Company would need to put the CRH audit out to tender by the end of the 2015 audit. In the interests of fairness and competition, we believe it would not be appropriate to exclude Ernst & Young from any tender process. Since the publication of last year's Annual Report, provisional agreement has been reached on draft EU regulations (the "Regulations") on the reform of the audit sector. The Regulations, which are expected to be finalised during the first half of 2014, include a requirement for mandatory auditor rotation. In other words, the Regulations, in their current form, would prevent Ernst & Young from participating in an audit tender process. If implemented, the Regulations would also effectively override the requirements of the Code. The Committee has, therefore, concluded that a decision on the timeframe for putting the audit to tender should be deferred until the Regulations are finalised.

There are no contractual obligations which act to restrict the Committee's

choice of external auditor. The Committee has considered the risk of withdrawal by Ernst & Young from the market and the potential impact on the Group, were that eventuality to materialise.

Advisory Vote at the 2014 Annual General Meeting on the continuance of Ernst & Young as external auditors

Under Irish company law, the incumbent auditor is automatically re-appointed at a company's annual general meeting unless he has indicated his unwillingness to continue in office or a resolution is passed appointing someone else or expressly providing that he shall not be re-appointed. In this respect, Irish company law differs from the requirements that apply in other jurisdictions, for example in the UK, where auditors must be re-appointed annually by shareholders. Notwithstanding the provisions of Irish company law, the Committee recommended to the Board that shareholders should be provided with an opportunity to have a say on the continuance in office of Ernst & Young. Accordingly, in addition to the usual resolution to authorise the Directors to set the remuneration of the auditors required under Irish company law, the agenda for the 2014 Annual General Meeting will contain a non-binding vote on the continuance of Ernst & Young in office as auditors.

Further details in relation to the external auditors, including information on how auditor objectivity and independence are maintained, are included on page 50.

Ernst Bäertschi

Audit Committee Chairman

February 2014

Audit Committee Members

The biographies of the members of the *Audit Committee* are set out on pages 38 and 39.

The tenure of each Committee member is as follows:

E.J. Bärtschi, Chairman	2.0 years
H.A. McSharry	2.0 years
D.A. McGovern, Jr.	0.5 years
D.N. O'Connor	0.5 years

Mr. O'Connor previously served on the Committee between June 2006 and May 2012.

Mr. Bärtschi, Mr. McGovern and Mr. O'Connor have been designated by the Board as the Committee's Financial Experts.

Work of Committee in period between February 2013 and February 2014

Between February 2013 and February 2014 the *Audit Committee* met 12 times. The chart opposite sets out how the *Audit Committee* allocated its time in the last 12 months. A typical calendar of meetings, which includes a general outline of the main agenda items, is also set out on page 51. The Finance Director and the Head of Internal Audit generally attend Committee meetings. The external auditors, Ernst & Young, attend the majority of meetings and have direct access to the Chairman of the Committee at all times. Other attendees are noted against the relevant agenda item. During 2013, the Committee met with the Head of Internal Audit, and separately with the external auditors, in the absence of management.

The Chairman of the Committee formally reported to the Board in February 2014 on how the Committee discharged its responsibilities in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2013.

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference in December 2013 and proposed some minor updating amendments, which the Board approved.

Internal Audit

The Head of Internal Audit attends the majority of the meetings of the *Audit Committee*. The Committee agrees the Internal Audit strategy, its charter and the annual workplan, which is developed on a risk-based approach. The Head of Internal Audit reports to the *Audit Committee* on the findings of internal audit reviews and related follow-ups and the outcome of control testing in connection with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the resources allocated to IT Audit. The Committee meets regularly with the

senior IT Audit Manager to discuss IT Audit strategy, the key areas of focus and agrees the annual IT Audit workplan.

Assessments of the Internal Audit function are carried out periodically by management and validated by an independent third party assessor. The next assessment of the Internal Audit function is scheduled to take place during 2014. The last assessment was conducted in late-2009.

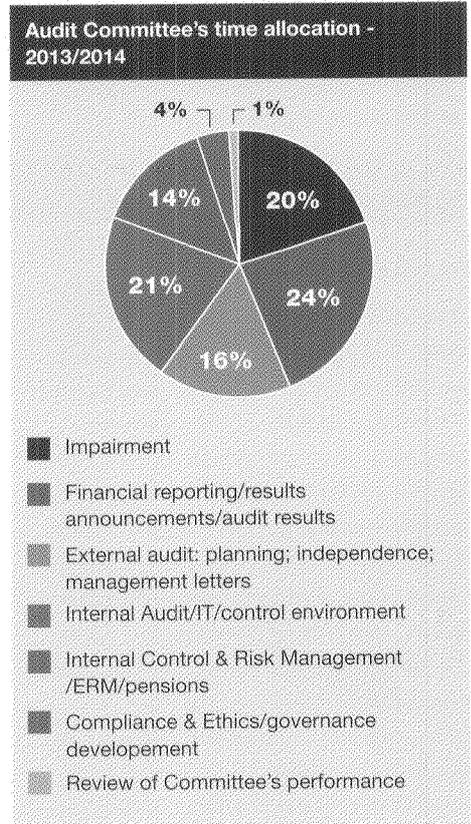
Risk Management and Internal Control

The Board has delegated responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Group's risk management and internal control systems to the *Audit Committee*. Further details in relation to the Committee's work in this area are set out in the section on Risk Management and Internal Control on page 55.

Independence of External Auditors

The *Audit Committee* has put in place safeguards to ensure that the independence of the audit is not compromised. Such safeguards include:

- seeking confirmation from the external auditors that they are, in their professional judgement, independent from the Group;
- obtaining from the external auditors an account of all relationships between the auditors and the Group;
- monitoring the Group's policy prohibiting the employment of former staff of the external auditors, who were part of the CRH audit team, in senior management positions until two years have elapsed since the completion of the audit;
- monitoring the number of former employees of the external auditors currently employed in senior positions in the Group and assessing whether those appointments impair, or appear to impair, the auditors' judgement or independence;
- considering whether, taken as a whole, the various relationships between the Group and the external auditors impair, or appear to impair, the auditors' judgement or independence;
- reviewing the economic importance of the

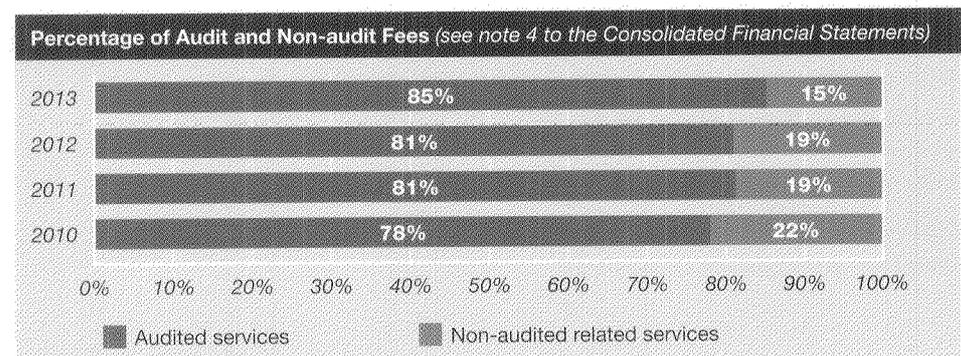


Group to the external auditors and assessing whether that importance impairs, or appears to impair, the external auditors' judgement or independence.

The Group external audit engagement partner is replaced every five years and other senior audit staff are rotated every seven years.

The Group has a policy governing the conduct of non-audit work by the auditors. The policy, which was updated in 2012, is available on the CRH website. Under the policy, the external auditors are prohibited from performing services where they:

- may be required to audit their own work;
- participate in activities that would normally be undertaken by management;



- are remunerated through a 'success fee' structure; or
- act in an advocacy role for the Group.

Other than the above, the Group does not impose an automatic ban on the external auditors undertaking non-audit work. The external auditors are permitted to provide non-audit services that are not, or are not perceived to be, in conflict with auditor independence, provided they have the skill and competence to carry out the work and are considered by the Committee to be the most appropriate party to undertake such work in the best interests of the Group.

The engagement of the external auditors to provide any non-audit services must be pre-approved by the *Audit Committee* or entered into pursuant to pre-approval policies and procedures established by the Committee. The pre-approval policy specifies the services that are prohibited and the services which have general pre-approval. The Committee has delegated to the Finance Director responsibility for confirming whether a service, which has general pre-approval, can be provided by Ernst & Young. In addition, Internal Audit reviews the pre-approval process to ensure that it is robust in addressing the requirements of the PCAOB and does not impinge on Ernst & Young's independence. The Finance Director reports regularly to the Committee on services which have been approved.

In 2013, the external auditors provided a number of audit-related services, including Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 attestation, and non-audit services, including due diligence services associated with proposed acquisitions and disposals. Ernst & Young were also engaged during 2013 in a number of jurisdictions in which the Group operates to provide help with local tax compliance, advice on taxation laws and other related matters; assignments which typically involve relatively small fees. The *Audit Committee* is satisfied that the external auditors' knowledge of the Group was an important factor in choosing them to provide these services. The Committee is also satisfied that the fees paid to Ernst & Young for non-audit work, which amounted to 15% of the total fee in 2013, did not compromise their independence or integrity. Details of the amounts paid to the external auditors during the year for audit and other services are set out in note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements on page 114.

Typical Audit Committee Calendar

Meeting	Activity	Attendees by invitation (in addition to the Finance Director and the Head of Internal Audit)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration of the financial statements (including report from the external auditors on Integrated Audit Results and Communications) - Approval of external audit fee - Internal Audit review of savings announced under the Group's cost-reduction programme - Annual assessment of risk management and internal control systems - Approval of Internal Audit workplan - Review of reports on the operation of the CRH Code of Business Conduct, the Competition/Anti-trust Compliance Code and the arrangements in place to enable employees to raise concerns, in confidence, in relation to possible wrongdoing in financial reporting or other matters 	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Group Strategic Financial Risk Manager</p> <p>Head of Compliance & Ethics</p>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Annual Report on Form 20-F 	Senior finance personnel
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of interim management statement ¹ 	Group Chairman, Chief Executive
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary consideration of interim results - Approval of the external audit plan - Updates on accounting and auditing developments - Update on Internal Audit work/activities - Enterprise Risk Management review 	Chief Executive
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of interim results announcement 	Group Strategic Financial Risk Manager
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with senior finance personnel from the Americas Divisions - Preliminary review of goodwill impairment and sensitivity analysis 	Group Chairman, Chief Executive
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with senior finance personnel from the European Divisions - Preliminary review of interim management statement 	Senior finance personnel
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of interim management statement¹ 	Senior finance personnel
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of outcome of goodwill impairment and sensitivity analysis - Update on Internal Audit work/activities - Approval of non-audit fees provided by external auditors - Review of the Committee's performance and Terms of Reference - Enterprise Risk Management review 	Group Chairman, Chief Executive
		Group Strategic Financial Risk Manager

¹ A Committee of the Group Chairman, Audit Committee Chairman, Chief Executive and Finance Director is authorised from time to time to review and approve the release of interim management statements

The *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* consists of four non-executive Directors.

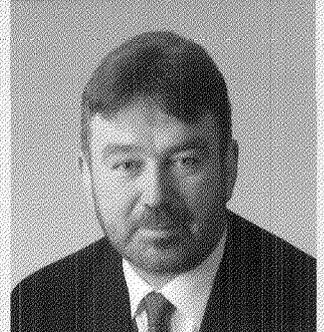
The primary responsibilities of the Committee are:

- regularly reviewing the size, structure and composition (including skills, knowledge, experience and diversity) of the Board and making recommendations to the Board regarding any changes;
- giving consideration to succession planning for Directors and senior executives;
- identifying and recommending candidates to fill Board vacancies;
- in respect of the appointment of a chairman, preparing a job specification including the time commitment expected;
- keeping under review the leadership needs of the organisation;
- approving the Terms of Reference for external board evaluations;
- keeping under review corporate governance developments with the aim of ensuring that CRH's governance policies and practices continue to be in line with best practice;
- ensuring that the principles and provisions set out in the Code (and any other governance code that applies to the Company) are observed; and
- reviewing the disclosures and statements made in the Corporate Governance Report to shareholders.

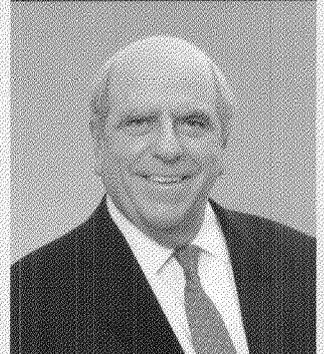
The responsibilities of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* are set out in full in its Terms of Reference, which are available on the CRH website, www.crh.com.

Nicky Hartery

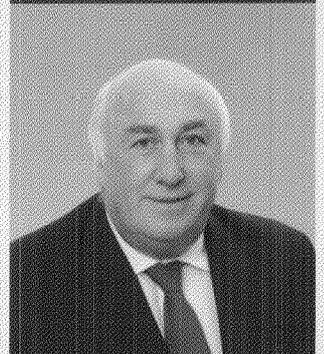
Chairman of Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee



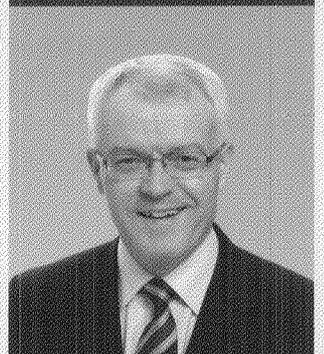
Bill Egan



John Kennedy



Dan O'Connor



Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee

Chairman's overview

During 2013, the members of the Committee, together with Jan Maarten de Jong (then Chairman of the *Audit Committee*), were appointed by the Board as the *Succession Committee* to co-ordinate the process for the appointment of the successor to Myles Lee. Myles informed the Board in February 2013 of his intention to retire from the Board and as Chief Executive with effect from 31 December 2013. In line with evolving best practice, the *Succession Committee* decided that external and internal candidates should be considered. Accordingly, the Committee engaged the services of Egon Zehnder, London, to identify suitable candidates with the skills and experience to warrant consideration for the role. Following a comprehensive process, which took place over a number of months, the *Succession Committee* recommended to the Board that Albert Manifold, the Group's Chief Operating Officer, be appointed as successor to Myles.

During 2013, and to-date in 2014, the Committee identified and recommended to the Board that the following individuals be appointed as non-executive Directors:

- Don McGovern, appointed with effect from 1 July 2013; and
- Henk Rottinghuis, appointed on 18 February 2014.

Biographies for Don and Henk are included on page 39. The Committee worked with the following recruitment agencies in relation to these appointments:

- Board Works Limited; and
- Spencer Stuart.

Neither of these agencies has any other connection with the Company.

As set out in my introduction to the Corporate Governance Report, on the recommendation of the Committee, the Board has expanded the Board renewal policy by setting itself the goal of increasing the number of female Directors to circa 25% by the end of 2015.

Utz-Hellmuth Felcht was appointed to the Board in 2007 and completed his second three-year term in 2013. Following a comprehensive performance review, on the recommendation of the Committee, the Board has asked Utz to continue on the Board for a third three-year term.

Audit Committee Chairman

Following the completion of Jan Maarten de Jong's maximum tenure of nine years on the *Audit Committee*, the Committee recommended to the Board that he be succeeded by Ernst Bärtschi as Chairman of the *Audit Committee*. Ernst brings considerable experience to the *Audit*

Committee and has been designated as one of the Committee's financial experts since his appointment to the *Audit Committee* in March 2012.

Corporate Governance Developments

During 2013, the Committee also considered developments in the area of corporate governance, including the recent introduction in the UK of the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 and the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (together, the "Regulations"). While CRH, as an Irish incorporated and domiciled company, is not subject to the Regulations, we recommended to the Board that CRH should seek to apply the provisions of the Regulations to the extent possible under Irish company law.

Nicky Hartery

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee Chairman

February 2014

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee Members

The biographies of the members of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* are set out on pages 37 to 39.

The tenure of each Committee member is as follows:

N. Hartery, Chairman	9.5 years
W.P. Egan	6.5 years
J.W. Kennedy	4.5 years
D.N. O'Connor	1.5 years

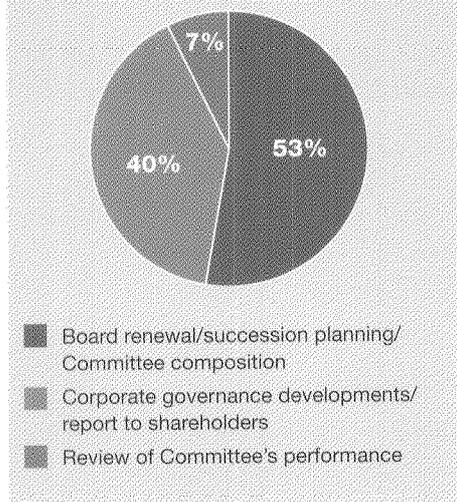
Normally, the maximum tenure for Committee membership is three terms of three years. During the year, the Board amended the Terms of Reference of the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* to make it clear that the Group Chairman's tenure on the Committee is not limited to three terms of three years.

Work of Committee in period between February 2013 and February 2014

Between February 2013 and February 2014 the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* met seven times. The chart above sets out how the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* allocated its time in the last 12 months.

The factors taken into account by the *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* in considering the composition of the Board are set out in the policy for Board renewal which is detailed on pages 42 and 43.

Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee's time allocation 2013/2014



The Committee establishes processes for the identification of suitable candidates for appointment to the Board and oversees succession planning for the Board and senior management.

As referred to in the section dealing with the independence of non-executive Directors on page 43, each year the Committee reviews details of the non-CRH directorships of each Director, including any relationship between those companies and the Group. The Committee also reviews any business

relationships between individual Board members.

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference in December 2013 and proposed minor updating amendments, which the Board approved.

Remuneration Committee

The Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 59 to 90 contains an overview of the responsibilities and activities of the *Remuneration Committee* during 2013.

Under its Terms of Reference, the *Remuneration Committee* must be made up of at least three members, all of whom must be independent non-executive Directors. Members of the Committee can serve for up to a maximum of three terms of three years. The Group Chairman may be a member of the Committee provided he was independent on appointment as Chairman and the Board continues to consider him to be independent. Only members of the Committee have the right to attend Committee meetings. However, other individuals such as the Group Chairman, if not a member of the Committee, the Chief Executive and external advisers may be invited to attend for all or part of any meeting as and when appropriate. The Chief Executive is fully consulted about remuneration proposals.

Remuneration Committee Members

The biographies of the members of the *Remuneration Committee* are set out on pages 37 to 39.

Attendance at Board and Board Committee meetings during the year ended 31 December 2013

	Board		Acquisitions		Audit		Finance		Nomination		Remuneration	
	No. of Meetings Total	Attended										
E. Bartschi	8	8			8	8						
M. Carton	8	8	5	5			5	5				
W.P. Egan	8	8							6	6	9	9
U-H. Felcht	8	7	5	5			5	5				
N. Hartery	8	8	5	5			5	5	6	6	9	9
J.M. de Jong	8	8	3	2	5	5	1	0				
J.W. Kennedy	8	8							6	6	9	9
M. Lee*	8	8	5	5			5	5				
H.A. McSharry	8	8			8	8						
A. Manifold	8	8	5	5								
D.A. McGovern, Jr.**	4	4			3	3						
D.N. O'Connor	8	8	2	2	3	3	4	4	6	6	9	9
M. Towe	8	8										

* Retired December 2013

** Appointed to Board July 2013

The tenure of each Committee member is as follows:

D.N. O'Connor, Chairman	1.5 years
W.P. Egan	6.5 years
N. Hartery	9.5 years
J.W. Kennedy	4.5 years

During the year, the Board amended the Terms of Reference of the *Remuneration Committee* to make it clear that the Group Chairman's tenure on the Committee was not limited to three terms of three years.

In addition, the Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference in December 2013 and proposed minor updating amendments, which the Board approved.

Acquisitions Committee

Acquisitions Committee Members

The biographies of the members of the *Acquisitions Committee* are set out on pages 37 and 38.

The tenure of each Committee member is as follows:

N. Hartery, Chairman	1.5 years
M. Carton	3.5 years
U-H. Felcht	2.0 years
J.M. de Jong	0.5 years
A. Manifold	5.0 years

The attendance at Acquisitions Committee meetings is set out in the table on page 54.

Role and Responsibilities

The *Acquisitions Committee* has been delegated authority by the Board to approve acquisitions and disposals and large capital expenditure projects up to agreed limits.

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Members

The biographies of the members of the *Finance Committee* are set out on pages 37 and 38.

The tenure of each Committee member is as follows:

N. Hartery, Chairman	1.5 years
M. Carton	3.5 years
U-H. Felcht	6.5 years
J.M. de Jong	0.5 years
A. Manifold	0.2 years

The attendance at *Finance Committee* meetings is set out in the table on page 54.

Role and Responsibilities

The *Finance Committee* is responsible for:

- advising the Board on the financial requirements of the Group and on appropriate funding arrangements;
- considering and making recommendations to the Board in relation to the issue and buy-back of shares and debt instruments and to the Group's financing arrangements;
- considering and making recommendations to the Board in relation to dividend levels on the Ordinary Shares;
- keeping the Board advised of the financial implications of Board decisions in relation to acquisitions;
- assisting management, at their request, in considering any financial or taxation aspect of the Group's affairs; and
- reviewing the Group's insurance arrangements.

Risk Management and Internal Control

The Board has delegated responsibility for the monitoring of the effectiveness of the Group's risk management and internal control systems to the *Audit Committee*¹. Such systems are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and, in the case of internal control systems, can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared subject to oversight and control of the Finance Director, ensuring correct data is captured from Group locations and all required information for disclosure in the Consolidated Financial Statements is provided. An appropriate control framework has been put in place around the recording of appropriate eliminating journals and other adjustments. The Consolidated Financial Statements are reviewed by the CRH Financial Reporting and Disclosure Group prior to being reviewed by the *Audit Committee* and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Directors confirm that the Group's ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing its principal risks and uncertainties (as outlined in the Directors' Report on pages 92 and 93) is in accordance with the updated Turnbull guidance (Internal Control: Revised Guidance for Directors on the Combined Code) published in October 2005. The process has been in place throughout the accounting period and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements.

Group management has responsibility for major strategic development and financing decisions. Responsibility for operational issues is devolved, subject to limits of authority, to product group and operating company management. Management at all levels is responsible for internal control over the business functions that have been delegated. This embedding of the system of internal control throughout the Group's operations ensures that the organisation is capable of responding quickly to evolving business risks, and that significant internal control issues, should they arise, are reported promptly to appropriate levels of management.

During the year, the Board and *Audit Committee* received, on a regular basis, reports from management on the key risks to the business and the steps being taken to manage such risks. They also considered whether the significant risks faced by the Group were being identified, evaluated and appropriately managed, having regard to the balance of risk, cost and opportunity. In addition, the *Audit Committee* met with internal auditors on a regular basis and satisfied itself as to the adequacy of the Group's internal control system; met with the Chairman of the *Remuneration Committee* to ensure that the Group's remuneration policies and structures were appropriate and in line with the Group's risk tolerance; and reviewed the principal risks and uncertainties outlined in the Directors' Report. The *Audit Committee* also met with, and received reports from, the external auditors. The Chairman of the *Audit Committee* reported regularly to the Board on all significant issues considered by the Committee and the minutes of its meetings were circulated to all Directors.

The Directors confirm that, in addition to the monitoring carried out by the *Audit Committee* under its Terms of Reference, they have reviewed the effectiveness of the Group's risk management and internal control systems up to and including the date of approval of the Consolidated Financial Statements. This had regard to all material controls, including financial, operational and compliance controls that could affect the Group's business.

Compliance & Ethics

The Group Compliance & Ethics (C&E) programme continues to develop in scope and reach. The structure of the C&E organisation was strengthened considerably in recent years with a dedicated Country Compliance network available to support our operating management to achieve our compliance objectives in all locations.

¹ In accordance with Regulation 91(6)(b) of the European Communities (Statutory Audits) (Directive 2006/43) Regulations 2010.

Substantial Holdings

As at 31 December 2013, the Company had received notification of the following interests in its Ordinary share capital, which were equal to, or in excess of, 3%:

Name	31 December 2013		31 December 2012		31 December 2011	
	Holding/Voting Rights	% at year end	Holding/Voting Rights	% at year end	Holding/Voting Rights	% at year end
BlackRock, Inc.*	43,857,751	5.98%	28,961,677	3.98%	28,961,677	4.02%
The Capital Group Companies, Inc. ("CGC")**	-	-	35,763,581	4.92%	-	-
Capital Research & Management Company ("CRMC")**	-	-	-	-	69,367,916	9.64%
Harbor International Fund	21,999,275	3.00%	21,999,275	3.02%	21,999,275	3.05%
JP Morgan Chase & Co.	42,379,112	5.77%	-	-	-	-
Legal & General Group Plc	-	-	22,496,003	3.09%	-	-
Norges Bank (The Central Bank of Norway)	-	-	21,543,277	2.96%	21,543,277	2.99%
Templeton Global Advisors Limited	21,503,171	2.93%	21,503,171	2.96%	21,503,171	2.99%
UBS AG	26,380,604	3.59%	26,380,604	3.63%	26,380,604	3.66%

* BlackRock, Inc. has advised that its interests in CRH shares arise by reason of discretionary investment management arrangements entered into by it or its subsidiaries.

** In 2012, CGC advised the Company that, with effect from 1 September 2012, the holdings of CRMC and Capital Group International, Inc. ("CGII"), which were previously reported separately, would be reported in aggregate by CGC, the parent of both CRMC and CGII.

CRH's Code of Business Conduct (COBC) and related policies were updated and approved by the Board in February 2012 and the C&E team's primary focus since then has been to ensure all relevant employees receive appropriate training. Over the past two years over 30,000 employees have participated in Code of Business Conduct training and a further 10,000 have also undertaken advanced instruction on competition law, anti-bribery awareness and steps to counter the potential for corruption and fraud.

In addition, our development teams and procurement teams have received appropriate instruction on both our C&E Mergers, Acquisitions and Joint Venture Due Diligence Programme and our Ethical Procurement Code. We also developed a Supplier Code of Conduct in 2013, to communicate our minimum Corporate Social Responsibility requirements to existing and new suppliers to the Group and to outline how we ensure compliance with these requirements. Similar procedures have been developed for any engagements with business partners. Further guidelines developed during the year include:

- the CRH Leading with Integrity Manual (A Handbook for Managers and Directors) to assist operating company management in setting the tone from the top and fostering a culture of integrity; and

- Gifts & Hospitality Guidelines, to provide more guidance in this area.

In February 2014, the COBC was further revised and presented to the Board for approval. The new Code has scored an "A" rating by New York Stock Exchange Governance Services and incorporates some welcome new features, including learning aids, an ethical decision-making guide and a clear focus on the core values of the Group: Honesty, Integrity and Respect. It will be translated and distributed during 2014 and related training will be migrated to an on-line module. A robust communication plan is in place to complement the training programme. A multi-lingual "hotline" facility is also available to employees as a secure channel to report ethical issues that concern them or suspected violations of our Codes. All hotline reports received are fully reviewed and investigated by appropriately qualified personnel.

The C&E programme has been integrated into standard Internal Audit procedures and forms part of an annual management certification process. Its effectiveness is also regularly reviewed by the C&E function with appropriate oversight from senior management and the Audit Committee. The collective goal is to ensure the message is clearly understood that at CRH "there is never a good business reason to do the wrong thing".

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) concepts are embedded in all CRH operations and activities. Excellence in the areas of health & safety, environment and climate change, governance and people and community is a daily key priority of line management. The Group's policies and implementation systems are summarised on pages 16 and 17 and are described in detail in the annual Sustainability Report, which is typically published mid-year in respect of the previous calendar year, and is available on the Group's website. During 2013, CRH was again recognised by several leading socially responsible investment (SRI) agencies as being among the leaders in its sector in these important areas.

Substantial Holdings

The Company is not owned or controlled directly or indirectly by any government or by any corporation or by any other natural or legal person severally or jointly. The major shareholders do not have any special voting rights.

Details of the substantial holdings as at 31 December 2013 are provided in the table above. The Company has not been advised of any changes in the holdings since 31 December 2013.

Communications with Shareholders

Communications with shareholders are given high priority and the Group devotes considerable time and resources each year to shareholder engagement. We recognise the importance of effective dialogue as an integral element of good corporate governance. The Investor Relations team, together with the Chief Executive, Finance Director and other senior executives, meet regularly with institutional shareholders (each year covering over 50% of shareholder base). Detailed reports on the issues covered in those meetings and the views of shareholders are circulated to the Board after each group of meetings.

During 2013, the Chairman, Senior Independent Director and Company Secretary participated in a number of conference calls with some of the Group's major shareholders in advance of the 2013 Annual General Meeting. The meetings were organised to provide those shareholders with an opportunity to discuss the resolutions on the 2013 Annual General Meeting agenda and corporate governance matters generally. Also, as outlined in the Directors' Remuneration Report on page 60, the Senior Independent Director and Company Secretary met with the Group's major shareholders, various shareholder and proxy voting agencies to discuss the Company's proposed new remuneration structures.

Investor Relations Activities

Formal Announcements: including the release of the annual and interim results and the issuance of interim management statements. These announcements are typically accompanied by presentations and webcasts or conference calls.

Investor Roadshows: typically held following the release of formal announcements, provide an opportunity for the management team to meet existing and/or potential investors in a concentrated set of meetings.

Industry Conferences: attendance at key sector and investor conferences affords members of the senior management team the opportunity to engage with key investors and analysts.

Investor Briefings: every 18-24 months, the Company holds capital market days, which include presentations on various aspects of CRH's operations and strategy and provide an opportunity for investors and analysts to meet with CRH's wider management team.

Media Briefings: each year, the Company provides media briefings on numerous issues.

In addition to the activities set out in the above table, major acquisitions are notified to the Stock Exchanges in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules and development updates, giving details of other acquisitions completed and major capital expenditure projects, are usually issued in January and July each year.

We respond throughout the year to correspondence from shareholders on a wide range of issues.

The Chief Executive made a presentation to shareholders at the 2013 Annual General Meeting on CRH's businesses and how management approach conducting the Group's affairs across its wide geographical footprint.

General Meetings

The Company's Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is held in Ireland, affords individual shareholders the opportunity to question the Chairman and the Board. All Directors attended the 2013 AGM. The Notice of the AGM, which specifies the time, date, place and the business to be transacted, is sent to shareholders at least 20 working days before the meeting. At the meeting, resolutions are voted on by way of a poll using an electronic voting system. The votes of shareholders present at the meeting are added to the proxy votes received in advance and the total number of votes for, against and withheld for each resolution are announced. This information is made available on the Company's website following the meeting.

All other general meetings are called Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs). An EGM called for the passing of a special resolution must be called by at least 21 clear days' notice.

A quorum for a general meeting of the Company is constituted by five or more shareholders present in person and entitled to vote. The passing of resolutions at a meeting of the Company, other than special resolutions, requires a simple majority. To be passed, a special resolution requires a majority of at least 75% of the votes cast.

Shareholders have the right to attend, speak, ask questions and vote at general meetings. In accordance with Irish company law, the Company specifies record dates for general meetings, by which date shareholders must be registered in the Register of Members of the Company to be entitled to attend. Record

The following are available on the CRH website, www.crh.com:

Corporate Governance section:

- Terms of Reference of *Acquisitions Committee* (amended December 2010)
- Terms of Reference of *Audit Committee* (amended December 2013)
- Terms of Reference of *Finance Committee* (amended February 2004)
- Terms of Reference of *Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee* (amended December 2013)
- Terms of Reference of *Remuneration Committee* (amended December 2013)
- The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company
- Pre-approval policy for non-audit services provided by the auditors
- Compliance & Ethics statement, Code of Business Conduct and Hotline contact numbers

Investors section:

- Annual and Interim Reports, the Annual Report on Form 20-F, the Sustainability Report, Interim Management Statements and copies of presentations to analysts and investors
- News releases
- Presentations and video recordings of executive presentations at capital markets days in London and New York in November 2012
- Webcast recordings of key investor briefings
- General Meeting dates, notices, shareholder circulars, presentations and poll results
- Answers to Frequently Asked Questions, including questions regarding dividends and shareholder rights in respect of general meetings

dates are specified in the notes to the Notice of a general meeting. Shareholders may exercise their right to vote by appointing, by electronic means or in writing, a proxy/proxies to vote some or all of their shares. The requirements for the receipt of valid proxy forms are set out in the notes to the Notice convening the meeting and in the notes on the proxy form. A shareholder, or a group of shareholders, holding at least 5% of the issued share capital of the Company, has the right to requisition a general meeting. A shareholder, or a group of shareholders, holding at least 3% of the issued share capital of the Company, has the right to put an item on the agenda of an AGM or to table a draft resolution for inclusion in the agenda of a general meeting, subject to any contrary provision in Irish company law.

Memorandum and Articles of Association

The Company's Memorandum of Association sets out the objects and powers of the Company. The Articles of Association detail the rights attaching to each share class; the method by which the Company's shares can be purchased or re-issued and the provisions which apply to the holding of and voting at general meetings. Details of transactions in the Company's own shares are included on page 94 of the Directors' Report.

The Articles of Association also set out the rules relating to Directors, including their appointment, retirement, re-election, duties and powers. The Articles provide that no person other than a Director retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors, be eligible for election to the office of Director at any General Meeting, unless not less than seven nor more than 21 days before the day appointed for the meeting there shall have been left at the registered office notice in writing, signed by a member duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given, of his intention to propose such person for election and also

notice in writing signed by that person of his willingness to be elected. The Articles also require that the qualification of a Director shall be the holding alone and not jointly with any other person of 1,000 Ordinary Shares in the capital of the Company. A Director may act before acquiring his qualification but must acquire the shares within two months of his/her appointment or election.

Going Concern

The Company's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out in the Strategy section and in the Directors' Report on pages 8 and 9 and pages 91 to 95. The financial position of the Company, its cash flows, liquidity position and borrowing facilities are described in the Business Performance Review on pages 18 to 35. In addition, notes 21 to 25 to the Consolidated Financial Statements include the Company's objectives, policies and processes for managing its capital; its financial risk management objectives; details of its financial instruments and hedging activities; and its exposures to credit, currency and liquidity risks.

The Company has considerable financial resources and a large number of customers and suppliers across different geographic areas and industries. In addition, the local nature of building materials means that the Group's products are not usually shipped cross-border.

Having assessed the relevant business risks, the Directors believe that the Company is well placed to manage these risks successfully, and they have a reasonable expectation that the Company, and the Group as a whole, have 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 Consolidated Financial Statements.

Directors' Remuneration Report

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Directors' Remuneration Report	
59	Statement from Committee Chairman
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62	– proposed implementation of remuneration policy in 2014
66	– implementation of remuneration policy in 2013 ¹
76	– other disclosures
79	Directors' Remuneration Policy Report

¹ Tables 8, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 37 have been audited

The *Remuneration Committee* consists of four non-executive Directors considered by the Board to be independent. They bring the range of experience of large organisations and public companies, including experience in the area of senior executive remuneration, to enable the Committee to fulfil its role. Their biographical details are set out on pages 37 to 39.

The main focus of the Committee is to:

- determine and agree with the Board the Group's policy on executive remuneration;
- seek shareholder approval for the policy at least every three years;
- ensure that CRH's remuneration structures are fair and responsible;
- consider and approve salaries and other terms of the remuneration packages for the executive Directors and the Chairman.

In addition, the Committee:

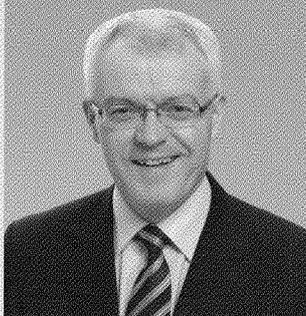
- recommends and monitors the level and structure of remuneration for senior management; and
- oversees the preparation of this Directors' Remuneration Report.

In considering remuneration levels for executive Directors particularly, the Committee takes into account remuneration trends across the CRH Group, which has a diverse range of operations in 35 countries, in geographic regions which are often at different stages in the economic cycle.

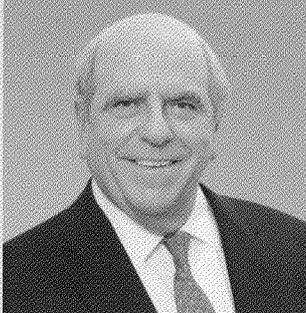
Additional details in relation to the Committee, its role and responsibilities and how it operates are included in the *Remuneration Committee* section of the Corporate Governance report on page 54.

The Chief Executive attends meetings except when his own remuneration is being discussed.

Dan O'Connor
Chairman of Remuneration Committee and Senior Independent Director



Bill Egan



Nicky Hartery



John Kennedy



Introduction

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to introduce the Directors' Remuneration Report for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Format and content of Directors' Remuneration Report and 2014 Annual General Meeting

Best practice and regulatory requirements in the area of remuneration in the UK have been evolving over recent years. In 2013, significant new legislative requirements were brought into force in the UK in relation to executive remuneration by the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations (the "2013 UK Regulations"). While as an Irish incorporated company, CRH is not subject to those UK regulatory requirements, the Group has sought to apply the new requirements on a voluntary basis to the extent possible under Irish law. We are continuing this approach in respect of the 2013 UK Regulations.

As a result, at the 2014 Annual General Meeting there will be two separate advisory shareholder votes on:

- the Group's remuneration policy for Directors (the "Policy Report") (see pages 79 to 90); and
- the Group's pay to executive Directors in 2013 and the proposed implementation of the Group's remuneration policy for 2014 (the "Annual Statement on Remuneration") (see pages 62 to 78).

Under the 2013 UK Regulations, shareholder votes on policy reports are binding. However, as an Irish incorporated company, CRH cannot rely on the statutory provisions applicable to UK companies under the 2013 UK Regulations which, in certain circumstances, can resolve any inconsistency between a remuneration policy and any contractual or other right of a Director. Therefore, the Policy Report is being submitted to shareholders as an advisory resolution.

Nevertheless, the *Remuneration Committee's* intention is to operate within this policy as if it were binding.

The vote on the Annual Statement on Remuneration is broadly equivalent to the existing "Say on Pay" vote on the way in which remuneration issues have been dealt with by the Committee.

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting there will also be a resolution to approve a new Performance Share Plan.

Remuneration Review

Notwithstanding the high level of support for CRH's approach to remuneration in recent years, following the Annual General Meeting held in May 2013, the Committee carried out an extensive review of the Group's remuneration policy and arrangements. A number of factors drove the timing for the review:

- the last major review was conducted in 2009, since when there have been a number of developments in the area of recommended remuneration practice;
- a desire to ensure that CRH's remuneration structures remain appropriate as the Group's strategy evolves, continues to be at the forefront of best practice and reflect shareholder expectations for FTSE100 companies;
- the transition to a new Chief Executive with effect from 1 January 2014.

At the commencement of the process the *Remuneration Committee* set out a number of guiding principles for the review. These are set out in table 1.

Against this background, the Committee decided to make the following changes to CRH's remuneration arrangements:

- the long-term incentive framework will be simplified with executive Directors participating in a single Performance

Share Plan going forward. Performance share award levels will be 250% of base salary for the Chief Executive and 200% for other executive Directors. To ensure management is incentivised to drive shareholder value creation, awards will vest subject to a combination of relative Total Shareholder Return (TSR) compared to peers and cumulative cash flow targets over a three-year period;

- the package will be adjusted to provide a better balance between driving short-term performance and rewarding long-term success, and to reflect typical market practice. The annual bonus opportunity will be set at 150% of base salary for all executive Directors. There will be no changes to the performance measures for the annual bonus as these were considered to remain appropriate; and
- the annual bonus framework will be re-calibrated to increase the alignment between the expectations of shareholders and bonus awards. The level of bonus payout for target levels of performance will be reduced to 50% and the deferral structure will be simplified and made more consistent, with 25% of any bonus being deferred.

These changes give rise to a moderate increase in the overall incentive opportunity. The *Remuneration Committee* considers this appropriate as total remuneration remains within a market competitive range.

A number of best practice features have been introduced. Malus provisions have been included in the Deferred Share Plan and the Performance Share Plan. A two-year post-vesting holding period has also been introduced into the Performance Share Plan.

During the review, the Committee considered the remuneration structure compared with other companies of similar size and complexity. It also considered general market best practice, guidance issued by shareholder organisations and correspondence received from shareholders setting out their policies on remuneration.

Shareholder Consultation

On behalf of the Committee, I sent a summary of the proposed remuneration structure to the Group's major shareholders and shareholder organisations, including the Association of British Insurers, the Irish Association of Investment Managers, the UK National Association of Pension Funds and to various proxy voting agencies. I subsequently engaged with a number of those shareholders and organisations to hear their views on the proposals.

The dialogue with shareholders was consultative in nature. We set out proposals for the areas where we felt the structures needed to change. We sought the views of shareholders in each of those areas. There was a general appreciation for the approach adopted by the Committee, for the general structure of the policy and for the provisions to improve shareholder alignment. There were some common themes in the responses to some of the proposals and, I think it is fair to say, occasional responses that were representative of the philosophy of individual institutions. The Committee considered the feedback from each shareholder or organisation in finalising the incentive framework.

Further details on the outcome of the review and the way in which the remuneration policy will be implemented in 2014 are set out in detail in the Annual Statement on Remuneration on pages 62 to 78.

2013 Annual Bonus Awards

Turning now to 2013, the bonus awards for 2013 were 29.7% of maximum (35.6% of salary) for Irish Directors and 71% of maximum (95% of salary) for Mark Towe, Chief Executive, Oldcastle, Inc., the holding company for CRH's Americas operations. As 2013 bonus levels for the Irish Directors were less than target performance, the payment is entirely

Guiding Principles for Review of Remuneration Framework		Table 1
Continued alignment with strategy; our remuneration policy should incentivise executives to deliver on long-term strategic goals	Increased shareholder alignment by extending reward horizons	
Simplification of CRH's remuneration framework to improve the line of sight for participants and to increase clarity for shareholders	Reflect best practice requirements while being flexible and responsive to evolving business needs throughout the economic cycle	

in cash. The percentage of Mark Towe's bonus in excess of target will be deferred for three years.

As can be seen from the key financial figures on page 6, 2013 turned out to be a much more challenging year than anticipated in our European operations. However there was strong discipline in relation to cash management, which resulted in net debt remaining broadly in line with 2012 despite a total spend of €1.2 billion on acquisitions, investments and capital expenditure. This resulted in a payout under the cash flow component.

The award made to Mark Towe reflected the improvements in the performance of the Group's operations in the United States, which saw like-for-like sales up 5% in the second half of the year and improved EBITDA* margins in all three Americas segments (Materials, Products and Distribution).

There was also a payout for each Director under the personal component of the plan, reflecting achievements in a range of areas relevant to the individuals.

Further details in relation to the annual bonus plan for 2013 are set out on pages 66 to 68.

Vesting of Long-Term Incentives

2011 Performance Share Plan Award

In respect of the award made in 2011 under the 2006 Performance Share Plan, which was subject to relative TSR performance in the three year period to 31 December 2013, the *Remuneration Committee* determined in February 2014 that 49% of the award had vested. The Company's TSR performance over the period was between median and upper quartile when assessed against both the Eurofirst 300 Index and the building materials sector (as set out in table 15 on page 69).

2011 Share Option Award

The grant of options in 2011 under the 2010 Scheme did not meet the three year Earnings Per Share (EPS) performance criteria and, accordingly, the options will lapse in April 2014.

2009 Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan

The payout level under Myles Lee's five year Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "2009 CEO LTIP") was €778,127, which represents

33.7% of the potential opportunity of €2.3 million under the 2009 CEO LTIP. This payout reflects above-median TSR performance against our peers and strong progress against strategic objectives, in particular, cost reduction, cash generation and portfolio development. Details of the components of the 2009 CEO LTIP and the payout level are set out on pages 69 to 71.

Goodwill Impairment/Long-Term Incentives

As indicated in the 2013 November Interim Management Statement (the "IMS"), a detailed assessment of the Group's portfolio was commenced in the latter part of 2013 to identify and focus on the businesses which offer the most attractive future returns for our shareholders. The purpose of the review was to look at how CRH can drive returns and growth in the coming years. The IMS advised that the review was likely to result in the decision to make disposals of non-core businesses which, together with the impact of the continuing difficult environment in Europe, could give rise to a non-cash impairment charge in our 2013 Consolidated Financial Statements. Having taken into account these disclosures in the IMS, and following discussion with the Group's external advisors, the Committee determined that it was reasonable to conclude that the long-term incentives with a TSR performance period ending in December 2013 should vest.

Executive Directors' Salaries

As part of the remuneration review, the *Remuneration Committee* also considered CRH's executive Director salary levels. The Committee concluded that the salary for Maeve Carton, Finance Director, is currently positioned below the market level given her experience and ability in the role and, therefore, an increase to €675,000 to reflect her experience and performance was appropriate (with the increase to be implemented over two years, subject to continued individual and business performance).

The salary for the new Chief Executive, Albert Manifold, has been set at €1,200,000. The Committee believed it was appropriate for Albert to be appointed on broadly the same salary as the outgoing Chief Executive, rather than phasing the salary in over a number of

years, given that the former Chief Executive had received minor salary increases since 2009 and that there is no current intention to appoint a replacement as Chief Operating Officer.

Conclusion

I believe that the *Remuneration Committee* has implemented the Group's existing policies in 2013 in an appropriate manner and has revised the remuneration structures for the Group, for 2014 onwards, in a progressive way using clear principles and introducing new best practice measures.

Our shareholders and other organisations involved in the remuneration consultation process invested a considerable amount of time and resources in reviewing the proposals and providing feedback to us. On behalf of the *Remuneration Committee*, I would like to thank them for their valuable contribution.

Overall, in finalising the revised remuneration structures and policies I believe we have responded in a fair and balanced way to the feedback we received and I would encourage all shareholders to vote in favour of each of the three remuneration-related resolutions to be put to the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

Dan O'Connor

Remuneration Committee Chairman

February 2014

* EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortisation, asset impairment charges, profit on disposals and the Group's share of equity accounted investments' result after tax.

Annual Statement on Remuneration

The following sets out details of how CRH's remuneration policy will operate for 2014, remuneration paid in respect of 2013, details of how the *Remuneration Committee* works and other areas of disclosure.

Remuneration Review

As referred to in the Committee Chairman's Statement, a remuneration review was carried out during 2013 to ensure that remuneration arrangements remain aligned with strategy and shareholder value creation while reflecting best practice for companies with a primary listing on the London Stock Exchange. The key principles of the review and how the proposed changes align with these principles are summarised in table 2.

Based on the review, the *Remuneration Committee* drafted a revised remuneration structure for the Group. The Committee Chairman subsequently met with major shareholders, shareholder representative bodies and proxy agents to discuss the proposals. The feedback received during the meetings was taken into account during the process to finalise the revised incentive framework.

Final Incentive Framework

The final remuneration framework approved by the Committee and the changes from the existing policy are set out in table 4 on page 63.

Implementation of Remuneration Policy in 2014

The Group's remuneration policy is set out in the Remuneration Policy Report on pages 79 to 90. Shareholders will be requested to approve the policy at the 2014 Annual General Meeting and it is intended that the policy will be

Annual Bonus Plan	Principles	Long-Term Incentive Plan
The metrics for the annual bonus plan remain appropriate, robust and challenging.	Alignment with strategy	Long-term incentive structures should be simplified by providing for one single incentive plan.
The payout for target performance should be reduced; while the opportunity for significantly exceeding target should be increased.	Simplicity	The change will result in a moderate increase in the expected value of the incentive opportunity. Total compensation will remain within the competitive market range.
The award level structure should be simplified so that all executive Directors are treated on the same basis.	Shareholder alignment	To increase alignment with shareholders, vested awards should be held for an additional two years. Awards vest based on the achievement of TSR and cash flow targets.
The deferral structure should be simplified, while malus* provisions should be introduced.	Best practice	Formal rules for malus* provisions should be introduced.

* *Malus: A mechanism whereby the Remuneration Committee may decide not to release deferred share or performance share plan awards if an unusual event such as a material financial misstatement occurred, significant losses were incurred or the Company suffered significant reputational damage*

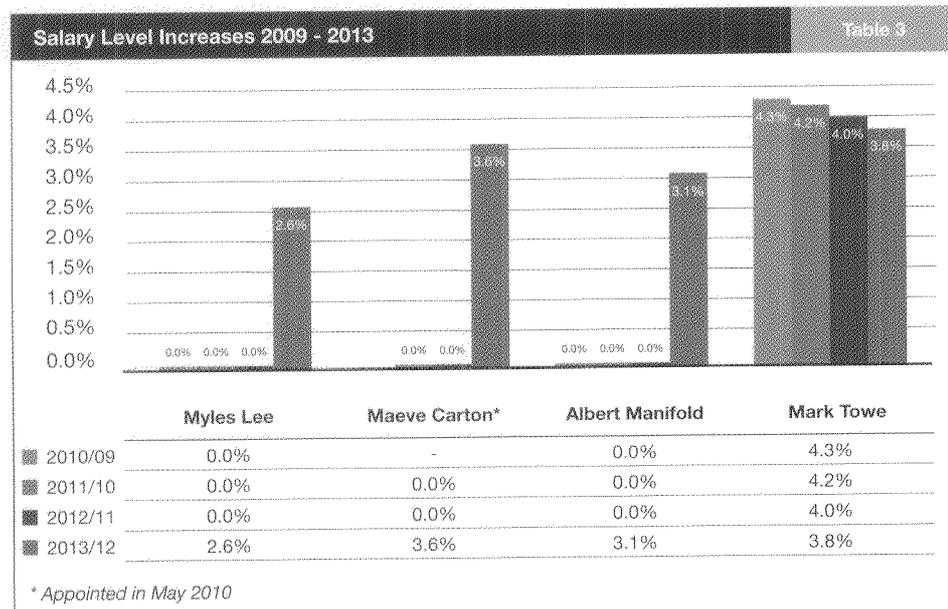
effective from that date. The following sections summarise how the *Remuneration Committee* intends to apply the remuneration policy for executive Directors in 2014.

2014 Salaries

Executive Directors salaries for 2014 will be as follows:

- Chief Executive, Albert Manifold - €1,200,000;
- Finance Director, Maeve Carton - €625,000, representing an increase of 9.7% (2013: €570,000); and
- Chief Executive, Oldcastle, Inc., Mark Towe - US\$1,377,000, representing an increase of 2% (2013: US\$1,350,000).

The Committee believed it was appropriate for the salary for the new Chief Executive, Albert Manifold, to be at broadly the same salary as the outgoing Chief Executive, rather than phasing the salary in over a number of years. The rationale for this is that there is no current intention to appoint a replacement as Chief Operating Officer. In addition, since 2009, salary increases for his predecessor had been very limited (see table 3 for details of salary increases since 2009). The salary level is within the market competitive range for the breadth and complexity of the role and the Committee considers that this positioning is appropriate.



	Framework 2009-2013	Final Framework	Comments	Table 4
Annual Bonus	80% of award based on financial performance (profit, EPS growth, cash flow, return on net assets)	No changes proposed	The Committee considered that metrics for the annual bonus plan remain appropriate, robust and challenging	
	20% based on individual personal, safety and strategic goals	The <i>Remuneration Committee</i> has committed to increase the level of disclosure in relation to bonus payments in the Directors' Remuneration Report	Table 12 on page 68 summarises the bonuses paid between 2009 and 2013	
	Two-thirds of maximum bonus awarded for delivering target performance	50% of maximum bonus awarded for delivering target performance	The payout level for target performance is being reduced to better reflect typical market norms	
	Maximum award size of: Irish-based Directors: 120% of salary US-based Director: 135% of salary	Maximum award size of 150% of salary for all executive Directors	The total remuneration opportunity is being re-balanced to better reflect typical market practice and to provide an increased incentive for significantly outperforming key annual targets	
	Any bonus award greater than target performance deferred for three years	25% of all bonus awards deferred for three years	This provides a simpler and more consistent approach to bonus deferral The <i>Remuneration Committee</i> will look at increasing the level of deferral over time	
	No malus provisions	Malus provisions for deferred share awards to provide the ability to scale back awards prior to vesting in the event of material misstatement, serious reputational damage or the Company suffering serious losses	Best practice provision	
Performance Share Plan	Vesting based on relative TSR performance against a sector peer group (50% of award) and the Eurofirst 300, a cross-sector index (50% of award). (2006 <i>Performance Share Plan</i>)	Vesting based: – 75% on TSR performance against sector peers; and – 25% on cumulative cash flow target. (2014 <i>Performance Share Plan</i>)	TSR incentivises management to outperform key peers Cumulative cash flow supports dividend delivery and business development activity	
	3-year performance period No post-vesting holding period	3-year performance period Vested awards will be required to be held for a further 2 years post-vesting	The 2-year post-vesting holding period was introduced to increase shareholder alignment	
	Annual award size of up to 150% of salary, with awards also being granted under the Share Option Plan (up to 150% of salary) and the CEO LTIP (see below)	Annual award size of: – CEO: 250% of salary; – Other executive Directors: 200% of salary; and – Awards in exceptional circumstances will be limited to 350% of base salary.	Award levels reflect the fact that no further awards will be granted under the Share Option Plan and the CEO LTIP	
	No formal rules for operation of malus provisions	Malus provisions for unvested share awards (see above annual bonus section for circumstances in which it may operate)	Best practice provision	
Share Option Scheme	Vesting based on performance against EPS growth targets	No further awards Award opportunity incorporated into the 2014 Performance Share Plan	The Committee decided to discontinue the use of the Share Option Scheme to simplify the reward structure	
	3-year performance period Annual award size of 150% of salary			
CEO Long-Term Incentive Plan	5-year cash LTIP	No further awards	The Committee decided to discontinue the use of the CEO LTIP to simplify the reward structure	
	Awards based on relative TSR, EPS growth and strategic development of the Group Maximum award of 40% of cumulative salary over the period	Award opportunity incorporated into the 2014 Performance Share Plan		

As part of the remuneration review the Committee considered the positioning of base salary of the other executive Directors and concluded that the base salary for the Finance Director is currently at the lower end of market practice. Mäeve Carton was appointed to the role of Finance Director in May 2010 and since this time has performed very strongly. The Committee considers that the positioning of her salary does not reflect the scope and responsibilities of her role and her performance. The Committee, therefore, intends to rectify this by awarding her a salary increase to be spread over two years, with the second increment subject to continued individual and business performance.

The Committee has decided that Ms. Carton's salary should be increased to €675,000 as follows:

2014	increase to €625,000 (+9.7%)
2015	increase to €675,000 (+8%)

2014 Benefits

Employment-related benefits include the use of a company car, medical/life assurance (which in the case of the Chief Executive extends to his spouse and dependent children) and the reimbursement of legal fees incurred by the Chief Executive in connection with his service agreement, and the payment of related income tax.

2014 Annual Bonus Plan

The 2014 Annual Bonus Plan will be operated in line with the revised remuneration structure outlined in table 4. In terms of the relative weighting of the components of the plan, the Committee will increase the focus on return on net assets, which will lead to a corresponding reduction in the percentage of the plan which is linked to EPS. This reflects the Group's focus for 2014, and the period ahead, which is on building returns and margins. The targets themselves are considered by the Board to be commercially sensitive.

2014 Performance Share Plan Award

If approved by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7 May 2014, awards will be made under the 2014 Performance Share Plan (the "2014 PSP") on the basis set out below. 75% of each award will be subject to a Total Shareholder Return (TSR) performance measure, with performance being measured against sector peers (see table 5). The vesting schedule is shown in table 6. The Committee believes that, for a cyclical business such as CRH, TSR is the most appropriate performance measure at present and is a key measure of the value generated for shareholders.

The TSR performance measure will be subject to a financial underpin. When determining vesting under the 2014 PSP the Committee will review whether the TSR performance has been

impacted by unusual events and whether it is, therefore, an appropriate reflection of underlying performance. In addition, the Committee will consider EPS performance in the period to ensure that TSR performance was consistent with the objectives of the performance criteria and had not been distorted by extraneous factors.

The remaining 25% of each award will be subject to a cumulative cash flow metric. This Group financial measure supports dividend delivery, development activity and, in the context of the portfolio review announced in November 2013, provides an emphasis on asset/business disposals. The cash flow target will be based on a cumulative adjusted cash flow figure over three financial years (2014 – 2016). The definition of cash flow will be adjusted to exclude:

- dividends to shareholders;
- acquisition/investment expenditure;
- share issues (scrip dividend, share options, other);
- financing cash flows (new loans/ repayments);
- back funding pension payments; and
- foreign exchange translation.

The *Remuneration Committee* considers that it is appropriate to make these adjustments in order to remove items that do not reflect the quality of management's operational performance, or are largely outside of management control. This will ensure that management remains incentivised to make decisions which are in the best long-term interests of the business and shareholders.

The cumulative adjusted cash flow target for awards made in 2014 will be as shown on table 7.

The adjusted cash flow target is set taking into account the Company's five year plan and market expectations. The *Remuneration Committee* considers the cash flow targets to be demanding with significant stretch ensuring that only exceptional performance will result in a maximum payout.

A detailed summary of the provisions of the 2014 PSP will be included in a circular to be sent to shareholders with the Notice of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

Pensions

There is no change to the pension arrangements for 2014. Mäeve Carton and Albert Manifold are participants in a contributory defined benefit plan which is based on an accrual rate of 1/60th of pensionable salary¹ for each year of pensionable service and is designed to provide two-thirds of career average salary² at retirement for full service. There is provision

for Ms. Carton and Mr. Manifold to retire at 60 years of age. If either Ms. Carton or Mr. Manifold leave service prior to Normal Retirement Age they will become entitled to a deferred pension, payable from Normal Retirement Age, based on the pension they have accrued to their date of leaving.

The Finance Act 2006 established a cap on pension provision by introducing a penalty tax charge on pension assets in excess of the higher of €5 million (in the Finance Act 2011, this threshold was reduced to €2.3 million and reduced further to €2 million by the Finance (No. 2) Act 2013) or the value of individual accrued pension entitlements as at 7 December 2005. As a result of these legislative changes, the *Remuneration Committee* decided that executive Directors should have the option of continuing to accrue pension benefits as previously, or of choosing an alternative arrangement, by accepting pension benefits limited by the cap, with a similar overall cost to the Group. Ms. Carton and Mr. Manifold chose to opt for the alternative arrangement which involved capping their pensions in line with the provisions of the Finance Act 2006 and receiving a supplementary taxable non-pensionable cash allowance in lieu of pension benefits foregone. These allowances are similar in value to the reduction in the Company's liability represented by the pension benefits foregone. They are calculated based on actuarial advice as the equivalent of the reduction in the Company's liability to each individual and spread over the term to retirement as annual compensation allowances. Based on his salary with effect from 1 January 2014, the Group's actuaries have estimated that the payment to Mr. Manifold will be in the range of 45% to 50% of his base salary.

The defined benefit scheme in which executive Directors participate is closed to new entrants.

Mr. Towe participates in a defined contribution retirement plan in respect of basic salary; and in addition he participates in an unfunded defined contribution Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP), also in respect of basic salary, to which contributions are made at an agreed rate (20%), offset by contributions made to the other retirement plan.

¹ Pensionable salary is defined as basic annual salary and excludes any fluctuating emoluments.

² With effect from 1 January 2012.

Directors' Remuneration Report | continued

Peer Group for TSR Performance Metric for 2014	Performance Share Plan Award	Table 5
Boral	Italcementi	Titan Cement
Buzzi Unicem	Kingspan Group	Travis Perkins
Cemex	Lafarge	Vulcan Materials
Grafton Group	Martin Marietta Materials	Weinerberger
Heidelberg Cernent	Saint Gobain	Wolseley
Holcim		

2014 Performance Share Plan Metrics (75% of Award)	Table 6
3-year TSR* performance compared to peer group	Vesting level
Equal to or greater than 75 th percentile	100%
Between 50 th and 75 th percentile	Straight line between 25% and 100%
Equal to 50 th percentile	25%
Below 50 th percentile	0%

* The methodology for calculating TSR assumes all dividends are reinvested on the ex-dividend date at the closing share price on that day; the open and close price is based on the three-month average closing price on the last day before the start of the performance period and the final day of the performance period respectively.

Cumulative Cash Flow in 2014 - 2016 (25% of award)	Vesting Level	Table 7
Equal to or greater than €3.5bn	100%	
Between €2.9bn and €3.5bn	Straight line between 25% and 100%	
Equal to €2.9bn	25%	
Below €2.9bn	0%	

Remuneration received by executive Directors in respect of 2013

Details of Directors' remuneration charged against profit in the year are given in table 37 in the Other Disclosures section. Details of individual remuneration for executive Directors for the year ended 31 December 2013, including explanatory notes, are given in table 8.

The Remuneration Committee reviewed salary levels in early 2013 and determined that salary increases for executive Directors in the range of 2.6% to 3.8% were appropriate. The increases, which were effective from 1 January 2013, were in line with general trends in CRH operations around the world.

Employment-related benefits include the use of company cars and medical/life assurance. In 2013, the monetary value of benefits ranged from €13,000 to €59,000.

The structure of CRH's Annual Bonus Plan, which applied between 2009 and 2013 inclusive, is set out in table 9.

Table 10 sets out the bonus levels for 2013 in terms of each of the components of the plan. As the 2013 bonus levels were less than target performance for Mr. Lee, Mr. Manifold and Ms. Carton, the payments are entirely in cash. The amount in excess of target for Mr. Towe (5.3% of salary being €53,874) will be deferred into shares to be held for three years.

The background against which the Remuneration Committee set the targets for 2013, was the Board's expectation for ongoing improvements in our businesses in the Americas and a stabilisation in the trading backdrop in our European operations, enabling the Group to achieve progress in 2013. As can be seen from the EPS outcome (before non-cash impairments) which reduced to 59.5c per share (-40%), 2013 turned out to be a much more challenging year than anticipated in our European operations. As a result, there was a 0% payout under the EPS

Individual Remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2013 (Audited)

	Basic salary and fees		Benefits		Cash element		Deferred shares		Long-Term Incentives		Retirement benefits expense		Total	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€ 000		€ 000		€ 000		€ 000		€ 000		€ 000		€ 000	
M. Carton	570	550	13	13	203	183	-	-	373	-	187	175	1,346	921
M. Lee	1,180	1,150	23	23	421	383	-	-	1,559	-	980	980	4,163	2,536
A. Manifold	825	800	31	31	294	266	-	-	551	-	290	288	1,991	1,385
M. Towe	1,016	1,012	59	61	915	708	54	54	604	-	203	202	2,851	1,983
Executive Directors	3,591	3,512	126	128	1,833	1,540	54	-	3,087	-	1,660	1,645	10,351	6,825

(a) **Basic Salary and Fees:** Salary levels for executive Directors increased by between 2.6% and 3.8% in 2013, the first increases since 2009 for Irish-based Directors. The increases were in line with general trends in CRH operations around the world.

(b) **Benefits:** For executive Directors these relate principally to the use of company cars and medical/life assurance.

(c) **Annual Bonus Plan:** Under the executive Directors' annual bonus plan for 2013, a bonus is payable for meeting clearly defined and stretch targets and strategic goals. The structure of the 2013 plan is set out on pages 66 and 67.

(d) **Long-Term Incentives:** Amounts in the Long-Term Incentive column reflect the value of performance share awards made in 2011, which will vest on 26 February 2014; the vesting level is 49%. For the purposes of this table the value of the vesting has been estimated using a share price of €18.08, being the three month average share price to 31 December 2013. The structure of the 2006 Performance Share Plan is set out on page 68. For Mr. Lee the amount also reflects the outcome of the 2009 Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan (€778,127), the structure of which is set out on page 71. The share options granted in 2011 will lapse.

(e) **Retirement Benefits Expense:** The Irish Finance Act 2006 effectively established a cap on pension provision by introducing a penalty tax charge on pension assets in excess of the higher of €5 million or the value of individual prospective pension entitlements as at 7 December 2005. This cap was further reduced by the Irish Finance Act 2011 to €2.3 million and, by the Finance (No. 2) Act 2013, to €2 million. As a result of these legislative changes, the Remuneration Committee has decided that executive Directors who are members of Irish pension schemes should have the option of continuing to accrue pension benefits as previously, or of choosing an alternative arrangement, by accepting pension benefits limited by the cap, with a similar overall cost to the Group. Maevé Carton, Myles Lee and Albert Manifold chose to opt for the alternative arrangement which involved capping their pensions in line with the provisions of the Finance Acts and receiving a supplementary taxable non-pensionable cash allowance, in lieu of prospective pension benefits foregone. These allowances are similar in value to the equivalent of the reduction in the Company's liability represented by the pension benefit foregone. They are calculated based on actuarial advice as the reduction in the Company's liability represented by the pension benefit foregone. They are calculated based on actuarial advice as the equivalent of the reduction in the Company's liability to each individual and spread over the term to retirement as annual compensation allowances. For 2013 the compensation allowances amount to €980,000 (2012: €980,000) for Myles Lee; €290,190 (2012: €288,117) for Albert Manifold and €187,141 (2012: €174,931) for Maevé Carton.

(f) Long-term incentive awards, with a performance period which ended in 2012, lapsed.

metric. Also, Group RONA performance reduced to under 6% and, therefore, was below a level which would have resulted in a payout.

The cash flow outcome reflected strong discipline in relation to cash management, which resulted in net debt remaining broadly in line with 2012 despite a total spend of €1.2 billion on acquisitions, investments and capital expenditure. The payout level was 52% of maximum for the cash flow element.

There was a higher level of cash flow payout for Mr. Towe, who also received a payment in relation to Oldcastle's profit level for the year, where the outcome was 70% of maximum. Mr. Towe's other targets were based on performance in the Americas Divisions. Overall, Mr. Towe's bonus payout reflected the improvements in the performance of the Group's operations in the Americas which represent 60.5% of Group EBITDA and which saw like-for-like sales up 5% in the second half of the year and improved EBITDA margins in all three Americas segments (Materials, Products and Distribution).

The payouts in relation to the personal components reflect achievements in a range of areas such as shown in table 11.

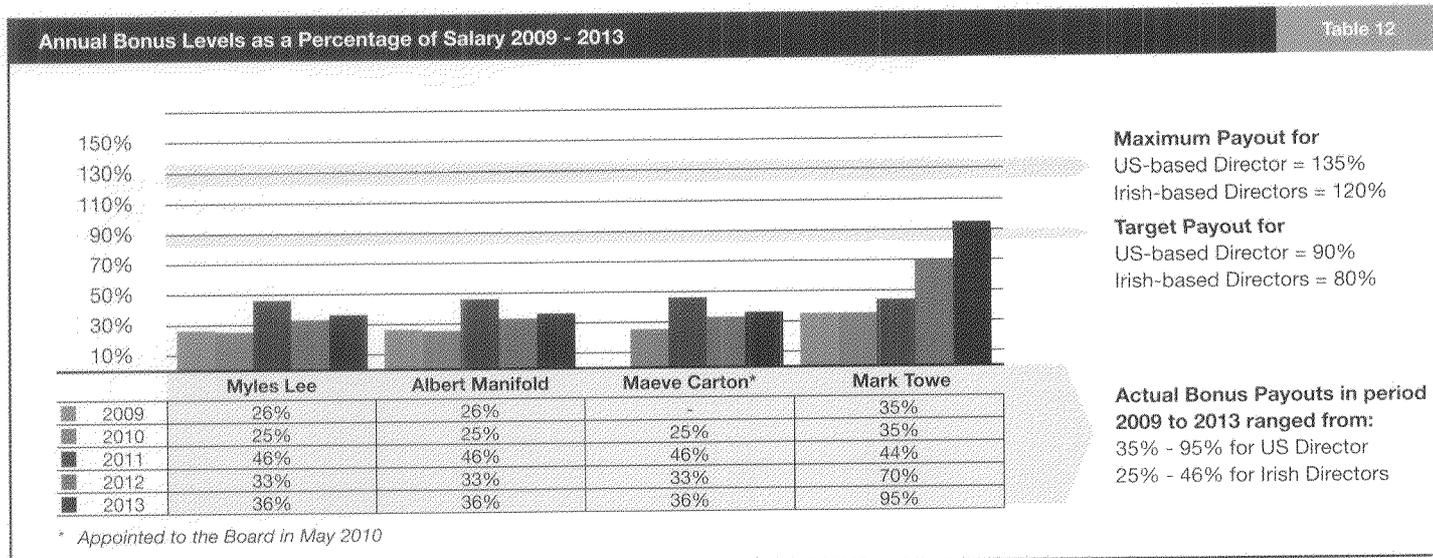
Payout levels under the Annual Bonus Plan between 2009 and 2013 are shown in table 12.

Structure of Annual Bonus Plan 2009 - 2013		Table 9
Components:	Approx. weighting	The performance-related incentive plan is based on achieving clearly defined and stretch annual targets and strategic goals
(i) Personal, safety and strategic goals	20% individual	
(ii) Profit and EPS growth targets	80% profits, cash flow and returns	
(iii) Cash flow generation targets		
(iv) Return on net assets targets (RONA)		
Target Performance:		A maximum payout of 1.5 times these levels (i.e. 120%/135%) is payable for a level of performance well in excess of target
- Europe-based executive Directors 80% of basic salary		
- US-based executive Directors 90% of basic salary		
Deferral Element:		
Any portion of the annual bonus that exceeds Target Performance is deferred into CRH shares for 3 years (i.e. up to 1/3 of the annual bonus). Depending on the circumstances, leavers may forfeit deferred shares.		

2013 Annual Bonus Components and Payout Levels											Table 10		
Component	M. Lee % of Salary			A. Manifold % of Salary			M. Carton % of Salary			M. Towe % of Salary			
	Target	Max	Payout	Target	Max	Payout	Target	Max	Payout	Target	Max	Payout	
CRH EPS	35.0	52.5	-	35.0	52.5	-	35.0	52.5	-	20.0	30.0	-	
CRH Cash Flow	20.0	30.0	15.6	20.0	30.0	15.6	20.0	30.0	15.6	-	-	-	
CRH RONA	10.0	15.0	-	10.0	15.0	-	10.0	15.0	-	-	-	-	
Oldcastle* Group PBIT**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.0	37.5	35.0	
Oldcastle* Cash Flow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.0	30.0	27.8	
Oldcastle* RONA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10.0	15.0	14.0	
Personal/Strategic	15.0	22.5	20.0	15.0	22.5	20.0	15.0	22.5	20.0	15.0	22.5	18.5	
	80.0	120.0	35.6	80.0	120.0	35.6	80.0	120.0	35.6	90.0	135.0	95.3	

* Oldcastle is the holding company for the Group's operations in the Americas
 ** PBIT is defined as earnings before interest and taxes

Directors	Strong delivery in relation to:	Table 11
M. Lee/A. Manifold	Senior executive team performance and succession; fundamental re-evaluation of the Group's development strategy; ongoing progress in relation to cost reduction and capital expenditure management; effective, clear and consistent investor engagement and communications; and ongoing progress in relation to operational excellence, health & safety initiatives and personal development objectives.	
M. Carton	Restructuring of Finance organisation; co-ordination of debt and equity investor programmes; successful completion of two bond issues in 2013 at the lowest ever coupons obtained by the Group; continued progress in the programme to mitigate the Group's defined benefit pension liabilities; review of the organisation of the Group's IT infrastructure.	
M. Towe	Significant input into the Group's talent management process; leadership and direction for operational excellence and health & safety initiatives in the Americas; continued delivery in relation to acquisitions and the flow of development opportunities.	



2006 Performance Share Plan

The Performance Share Plan (the "2006 PSP"), which was approved by shareholders in May 2006, is tied to Total Shareholder Return (TSR) over a three-year performance period. Half of the award is assessed against TSR for a group of global building materials companies and the other half against TSR for the constituents of the Eurofirst 300 Index as summarised in table 15.

The performance criteria for the 2006 PSP are set out in table 16. Participants are not entitled to any dividends (or other distributions made) and have no right to vote in respect of the shares subject to the award, until the shares vest.

The rules of the 2006 PSP provide that no award, or portion of an award, which has satisfied the TSR performance criteria should be released unless the Remuneration Committee has confirmed the validity of the TSR performance and reviewed EPS performance to assess its consistency with the objectives of the assessment.

In respect of the award made in 2011, in February 2014, the Remuneration Committee determined that 49% of the award had vested. The Company's TSR performance, which was reviewed by the Remuneration Committee's remuneration consultants, was between the 50th and the 75th percentiles when assessed against both the Eurofirst 300 Index and the building materials sector. Prior to making its vesting determination in each case, the Remuneration Committee satisfied itself that the TSR outcome was valid and had not been significantly affected by unusual events or extraneous factors.

For the purpose of the remuneration single figure calculation (see total column in table 8), awards have been valued based on the three-month average share price to 31 December 2013 of €18.08.

During 2013, the Remuneration Committee determined that 0% of the award made under the 2006 PSP in 2010 had vested. Accordingly, the award lapsed in full.

Details of outstanding awards to Directors under the 2006 PSP are provided in table 25. Outstanding awards are subject to the performance conditions outlined in table 16. The 2006 PSP currently has 166 active participants.

2010 Share Option Scheme

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting, shareholders approved the introduction of the current Earnings Per Share (EPS) based share option scheme (the "2010 Scheme"). Options were granted at the market price of the Company's shares at the time of grant. The vesting period for options is three years, with vesting only occurring once an initial EPS performance target has been reached. Awards under the 2010 Scheme were limited to 150% of salary.

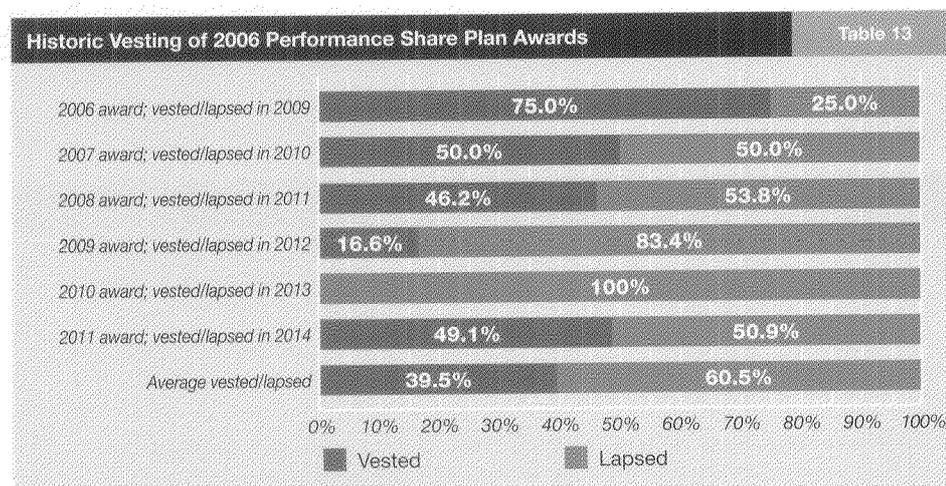
The performance criteria for the 2010 Scheme were agreed with the Irish Association of Investment Managers (the "IAIM") and are set out in table 17. The performance targets were designed to provide for proportionately more vesting for higher levels of EPS growth.

Vesting levels are subject to any reduction which the Remuneration Committee deems appropriate in the context of the overall results of the Group.

The initial grant of options under the 2010 Scheme made in 2010 did not meet the EPS performance criteria set out in table 17 and, accordingly, the options lapsed on the third anniversary of the date of grant. Similarly, the grant made in 2011 will lapse in full in April 2014.

Details of awards to Directors under the 2010 Scheme are provided in tables 26 and 27.

The Remuneration Committee has discretionary powers regarding the implementation of the rules of the 2010 Scheme. These powers have not been exercised since the adoption of the 2010 Scheme.



Peer Group used to assess TSR performance for the 2006 PSP Award made in 2011			Table 14
Boral	Home Depot	Titan Cement	
Buzzi Unicem	Italcementi	Travis Perkins	
Cemex	Kingspan Group	Vulcan Materials	
Grafton Group	Lafarge	Wienerberger	
Heidelberg Cement	Martin Marietta Materials	Wolseley	
Holcim	Saint Gobain		

The above peer group also applied to the award made in 2010, which had a 0% vesting

TSR Performance Test for the 2006 PSP Award made in 2011		Table 15
Peer Group Test (below)	Eurofirst 300 Index Test	Total to Vest/Lapse in 2014
TSR performance 2011-2013: Between 50 th and 75 th percentile	TSR performance 2011-2013: Between 50 th and 75 th percentile	
- 32.87% vested	- 16.24% vested	Vested: 49.11%
- 17.13% lapsed	- 33.76% lapsed	Lapsed: 50.89%

2006 Performance Share Plan Metrics		Table 16
3-year TSR* performance compared to peer group/Eurofirst 300 index	Vesting level	
Equal to or greater than 75 th percentile	100%	
Between 50 th and 75 th percentile	Straight line between 30% and 100%	
Equal to 50 th percentile	30%	
Below 50 th percentile	0%	

* The methodology for calculating TSR assumes all dividends are reinvested on the ex-dividend date at the closing share price on that day; the open and close price is based on the closing price on the last day before the start of the performance period and the final day of the performance period respectively.

2010 Share Option Scheme Metrics			Table 17
Compound EPS* Growth Performance over three years			
Awarded in 2010 & 2011	Awarded in 2012 & 2013	Vesting Level	
Equal to or greater than 27.5% p.a.	Equal to or greater than 20% p.a.	100%	
Between 17.5% and 27.5% p.a.	Between 13% and 20% p.a.	Straight line between 40% and 100%	
Between 12.5% and 17.5% p.a.	Between 10% and 13% p.a.	Straight line between 20% and 40%	
Equal to 12.5% p.a.	Equal to 10% p.a.	20%	
Less than 12.5% p.a.	Less than 10% p.a.	0%	

* The EPS figure used for the purposes of the 2010 Scheme is the basic consolidated earnings per share of the Company for the accounting period concerned as shown in the annual report issued by the Company for that accounting period.

2000 Share Option Scheme

At the Annual General Meeting held in 2000, shareholders approved the introduction of a share option scheme (the 2000 Scheme). This scheme was superceded by the 2010 Scheme referred to above. No awards have been made under the 2000 Scheme since 2009. The performance criteria for the 2000 Scheme are set out in the notes to table 27.

Retirement Benefit Expense

Mr. Lee, Mr. Manifold and Ms. Carton participate in a defined benefit pension scheme

up to the pension cap. There was, therefore, no additional accrual in the year. They received a cash pension supplement, which is detailed in table 8. Mr. Towe received a contribution of 20% of base salary into this pension.

Details regarding pension entitlements for the executive Directors are set out in tables 18 and 19.

Former Chief Executive

Myles Lee retired as Chief Executive, and from the Board, on 31 December 2013. The

treatment of his long-term incentive awards are dealt with below. Mr. Lee received a bonus in respect of performance to the end of 2013 as outlined above. He did not receive any payment in lieu of notice.

Outstanding Share Incentive Awards

Mr. Lee's outstanding awards under the 2006 PSP, the 2010 Scheme and the 2000 Scheme are set out in tables 25 and 26 on pages 72 and 73. The Remuneration Committee has determined that the arrangements outlined in table 20 should apply in relation to those awards.

Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan

Mr. Lee also participated in a long-term incentive plan (the "2009 CEO LTIP"), a cash award incorporating targets set for the five-year period 2009-2013.

The 2009 CEO LTIP, the structure of which was the same as for LTIPs put in place for previous CRH Chief Executives, and which incorporated challenging goals in respect of TSR by comparison with a peer group, growth in EPS and the strategic development of the Group is summarised in table 21.

The EPS target for the 2009 CEO LTIP was set at a time when it was difficult to foresee the full extent of the impact that the 2008 financial crisis would have on the Group's markets. In this context, the Committee has determined that the EPS component had a 0% vesting, reflecting EPS performance in the period since 2009.

TSR performance was above the median compared to the sector peer group (listed in table 22) and, therefore, 17.7% of the awards vested.

As with the EPS targets, the strategic/ qualitative goals were set in early 2009 before the extent of the economic environment which prevailed throughout the period of the 2009 CEO LTIP was fully clear. The Group Chairman undertook a detailed review of the performance and achievements of the Chief Executive during the period in the context of those goals and the factors which had impacted the Group over the past five years, including:

- the cost reduction measures to defend profitability (€2.4 billion), which resulted in significant organisational change over the past five years at regional and national level;
- the strong focus on cash generation and dividend maintenance;
- the initiation of the portfolio review process which laid much of the ground work for the review currently being carried out by the new Chief Executive;
- the focussed and selective approach to development activity involving a cumulative spend since 2009 of €2.9 billion;
- significant progress in building up CRH's

Pension Entitlements - Defined Benefit (Audited)			Table 18
	Increase in accrued personal pension during 2013	Transfer value of increase in dependents' pension	Total accrued personal pension at year-end
	(i)	(i)	(ii)
	€ 000	€ 000	€ 000
Executive Directors			
M. Lee	-	-	267
A. Manifold	-	46	273
M. Carton	-	19	266

(i) As noted on page 66, the pensions of Myles Lee, Albert Manifold and Maeve Carton have been capped in line with the provisions of the Irish Finance Acts. However, dependents' pensions continue to accrue resulting in Greenbury transfer values which have been calculated on the basis of actuarial advice. These amounts do not represent sums paid out or due, but are the amounts that the pension scheme would transfer to another pension scheme in relation to benefits accrued in 2013 in the event of these Directors leaving service.

(ii) The accrued pensions shown are those which would be payable annually from normal retirement date, except in the case of Myles Lee whose pension is payable from 31 December 2013. Myles Lee reached his normal retirement age date on 3 May 2013 and opted to commute in part his pension for a lump sum of €575,000. He deferred payment of his pension until 31 December 2013.

Pension Entitlements - Defined Contribution (Audited)					Table 19
The accumulated liabilities related to the unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans for Mark Towe are as follows:					
	As at 31 December 2012	2013 Contribution	2013 Notional interest	Translation adjustment	As at 31 December 2013
	€ 000	€ 000	€ 000	€ 000	€ 000
(iii)					
Executive Director					
M. Towe	1,731	191	85	(84)	1,923

(iii) Notional interest, which is calculated based on the average bid yields of United States Treasury fixed-coupon securities with remaining terms to maturity of approximately 20 years, plus 1.5%, is credited to the above plans.

Outstanding Share Incentive Awards - Former Chief Executive		Table 20
Treatment of Outstanding Awards		
2010 Share Option Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 award lapses in full (see commentary above) 2012 award subject to performance in respect of period 2012 – 2014 to be measured at the normal time; award will be pro-rated for time No award granted in 2013 	
2006 Performance Share Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 award will vest based on performance to 31 December 2013; determined to be at 49% of maximum (see commentary above) 2012 award subject to performance in respect of period 2012 – 2014 to be measured at the normal time; award will be pro-rated for time No award granted in 2013 	
2000 Share Option Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vested awards must be exercised within 12 months of retirement, i.e. by 31 December 2014, or the expiry date of the option if earlier Unvested awards will remain subject to performance and may be exercised for 12 months from vesting 	

organisation structure in China and India and the establishment of CRH's Asia headquarters in Singapore;

- the upgrading of the Group's talent management structures; and
- mentoring, guiding and supporting executives who have transitioned to the most senior roles in the organisation.

The Remuneration Committee considered the report and determined that the appropriate payout for the strategic component was 16% out of a maximum of 20%.

This results in an overall payout level of 33.7% and earnings under the 2009 CEO LTIP of €778,127.

The payment under the 2009 CEO LTIP, which will be made in 2014, will be made in cash and is not pensionable.

Consultancy Agreement

At the request of the current Chief Executive, the outgoing Chief Executive, Myles Lee, has entered into an agreement to provide consultancy services to the Group, for a maximum of 40 days per year at a rate of €2,500 per day. As a result, the Group will retain access to Mr. Lee's significant knowledge of the industry and he will, when required, provide support to the Chief Executive.

Directors' Interests in Shares and Share Scheme Awards

Share Scheme Awards

A summary of share scheme awards made to executive Directors in 2013 are set out in table 24. Details of outstanding performance share awards and share options held by executive Directors are shown in tables 25 and 26.

Shareholding Guidelines for Executive Directors

The Remuneration Committee adopted a policy in 2013 whereby executive Directors are required to build up (and maintain), within five years of appointment, a minimum holding in CRH shares which is equivalent to one times basic salary. For existing executive Directors this level must be achieved by 31 December 2015, unless the executive Director has a significant change in role which results in a step change in salary, in which case the one times salary level must be achieved within five years of the change.

Mr. Manifold's shareholding as at 31 December 2013 was 0.85 times his salary as Chief Operating Officer. As Chief Executive, based on his new salary, his holding fell to 0.6 times his salary on 1 January 2014. Mr. Manifold will be required to meet the shareholding guideline by 31 December 2017.

The current shareholdings of executive Directors as a multiple of 2014 salary is shown in table 23.

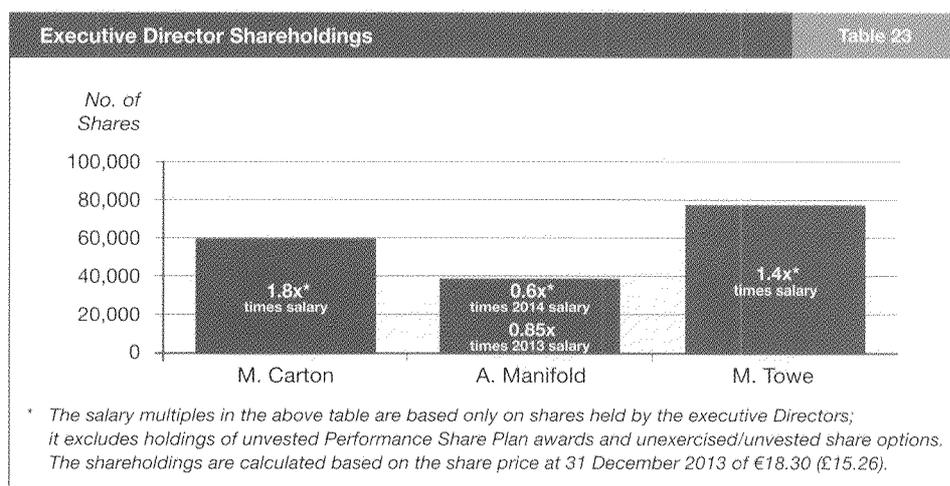
2009 Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan			Table 21
Components:	Weighting:	Maximum earning potential:	
(i) Earnings Per Share target	40%	40% of aggregate basic salary	
(ii) Total Shareholder Return	40%	Potential of	
(iii) Strategic / Qualitative goals	20%	€2,312,000	
Targets		Potential vesting level:	Vesting level at 31 Dec 2013
(i) Aggregate EPS 2009 - 2013	- Maximum payout at 960 cent - Between threshold and maximum - Threshold at 750 cent	100% Straight line between 0% and 100% 0%	0%
(ii) TSR versus peer group*	- Equal to/greater than 75 th percentile - Between 50 th and 75 th percentile - Equal to 50 th percentile - Below 50 th percentile	100% Straight line between 25% and 100% 25% 0%	17.7% (44% of 40%)
(iii) Strategic/Qualitative	- Maintaining appropriate balance for CRH in prevailing circumstances - Development of future growth platforms - Developing the appropriate organisation structure for CRH's businesses - Ensuring orderly succession at senior management levels		16% Total: 33.7%

* Peer Group used to assess TSR Performance for 2009 CEO LTIP			Table 22
Cemex	Italcementi	Titan Cement	
Ciments Français	Lafarge	Vulcan Materials	
Eagle Materials	Martin Marietta Materials	Wienerberger	
Holcim	Saint Gobain	Wolseley	

As part of the remuneration review carried out in 2013, the Remuneration Committee considered whether the shareholding level should be increased, particularly in relation to the Chief Executive role. The Remuneration Committee concluded that, as the guidelines were only recently introduced, it was not appropriate to increase the requirement at this time. However, the Committee will look to increase shareholding guidelines in the future as the Chief Executive builds on his existing holding.

Shareholdings of Directors and Company Secretary as at 31 December 2013

Shareholdings of the Directors and Company Secretary as at 31 December 2013 are shown in table 28.



Summary of Scheme Interests Granted in 2013							Table 24
Directors	Scheme	Basis of award (% of salary)	Number of shares	Face value	Exercise price	Percentage vesting at threshold performance (% of maximum)	Performance period end date
A. Manifold	2006 PSP (conditional shares)	141%	72,000	€1,165,680	n/a	30%	31-Dec-15
	2010 Share Option Plan (market value options)	132%	67,500	€1,092,825	€16.19	20%	31-Dec-15
M. Carton	2006 PSP (conditional shares)	142%	50,000	€809,500	n/a	30%	31-Dec-15
	2010 Share Option Plan (market value options)	133%	47,000	€760,930	€16.19	20%	31-Dec-15
M. Towe	2006 PSP (conditional shares)	143%	90,000	€1,457,100	n/a	30%	31-Dec-15
	2010 Share Option Plan (market value options)	135%	85,000	€1,376,150	€16.19	20%	31-Dec-15

Directors' Awards under the 2006 Performance Share Plan (i) (Audited)							Table 25	
	31 December 2012	Granted in 2013	Released in 2013 (ii)	Lapsed in 2013 (ii)	31 December 2013	Performance Period	Release Date	Market Price in euro on award
M. Carton	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	01/01/10 - 31/12/12		18.51
	42,000	-	-	-	42,000	01/01/11 - 31/12/13	February 2014	16.52
	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	01/01/12 - 31/12/14	February 2015	15.19
	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	01/01/13 - 31/12/15	February 2016	16.19
	102,000	50,000	-	10,000	142,000			
M. Lee	75,000	-	-	75,000	-	01/01/10 - 31/12/12		18.51
	88,000	-	-	-	88,000	01/01/11 - 31/12/13	February 2014	16.52
	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	01/01/12 - 31/12/14	February 2015	15.19
	263,000	-	-	75,000	188,000			
A. Manifold	55,000	-	-	55,000	-	01/01/10 - 31/12/12		18.51
	62,000	-	-	-	62,000	01/01/11 - 31/12/13	February 2014	16.52
	70,000	-	-	-	70,000	01/01/12 - 31/12/14	February 2015	15.19
	-	72,000	-	-	72,000	01/01/13 - 31/12/15	February 2016	16.19
	187,000	72,000	-	55,000	204,000			
M. Towe	60,000	-	-	60,000	-	01/01/10 - 31/12/12		18.51
	68,000	-	-	-	68,000	01/01/11 - 31/12/13	February 2014	16.52
	90,000	-	-	-	90,000	01/01/12 - 31/12/14	February 2015	15.19
	-	90,000	-	-	90,000	01/01/13 - 31/12/15	February 2016	16.19
	218,000	90,000	-	60,000	248,000			

(i) **Performance Share Plan:** This is a long-term share incentive plan under which share awards are granted in the form of a provisional allocation of shares for which no exercise price is payable. The shares scheduled for release in February 2014, February 2015 and February 2016 will be allocated to the extent that the relative TSR performance conditions are achieved. The structure of the Performance Share Plan is set out on page 68.

(ii) In 2013, the Remuneration Committee determined that none of the 2010 award had vested and accordingly the awards lapsed.

Directors' Share Options (Audited)							Table 26			
Details of movements on outstanding options and those exercised during the year are set out in the table below										
	31 December 2012	Granted in 2013	Lapsed in 2013	Exercised in 2013	31 December 2013	Weighted average option price at 31 December 2013	Options exercised during 2013			
							Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average market price at date of exercise		
						€	€	€		
M. Carton	55,831	-	-	-	55,831	(a)	25.75	-	-	-
	24,398	-	-	11,090	13,308	(b)	15.07	11.86	17.08	-
	127,500	47,000	35,000	-	139,500	(c)	15.89	-	-	-
	1,752	-	1,752	-	-	(d)	-	-	-	-
M. Lee	308,435	-	-	23,270	285,165	(a)	20.19	11.86	16.62	-
	83,175	-	-	44,360	38,815	(b)	15.07	11.86	16.62	-
	275,000	-	85,000	-	190,000	(c)	15.75	-	-	-
	1,752	-	1,752	-	-	(d)	-	-	-	-
A. Manifold	166,445	-	-	-	166,445	(a)	21.97	-	-	-
	33,270	-	-	16,635	16,635	(b)	15.07	11.86	16.62	-
	192,500	67,500	60,000	-	200,000	(c)	15.90	-	-	-
	2,236	-	-	-	2,236	(e)	13.64	-	-	-
M. Towe	160,806	-	-	5,381	155,425	(a)	23.05	15.09	17.43	-
	49,905	-	-	-	49,905	(b)	15.09	-	-	-
	230,000	85,000	70,000	-	245,000	(c)	15.88	-	-	-
	1,713,005	199,500	253,504	100,736	1,558,265					

Options by Price (Audited)							Table 27	
€	31 December 2012	Granted in 2013	Lapsed in 2013	Exercised in 2013	31 December 2013		Earliest exercise date	Expiry date
11.8573	23,270	-	-	23,270	-	(a)		
11.8573	72,085	-	-	72,085	-	(b)		
15.0674	38,815	-	-	-	38,815	(a)	February 2014	April 2014
15.0674	68,758	-	-	-	68,758	(b)		April 2014
15.0854	27,725	-	-	5,381	22,344	(a)	February 2014	April 2014
15.0854	49,905	-	-	-	49,905	(b)		April 2014
18.7463	72,085	-	-	-	72,085	(a)	February 2014	April 2015
18.8545	27,725	-	-	-	27,725	(a)	February 2014	April 2015
26.1493	105,355	-	-	-	105,355	(a)		April 2016
29.4855	86,502	-	-	-	86,502	(a)		April 2017
29.8643	36,043	-	-	-	36,043	(a)		April 2017
21.5235	143,997	-	-	-	143,997	(a)		April 2018
16.58	130,000	-	-	-	130,000	(a)		April 2019
18.39	250,000	-	250,000	-	-	(c)		
16.38	265,000	-	-	-	265,000	(c)		April 2021
15.19	310,000	-	-	-	310,000	(c)		April 2022
16.19	-	199,500	-	-	199,500	(c)		April 2023
18.3946	3,504	-	3,504	-	-	(d)		
13.64	2,236	-	-	-	2,236	(e)	August 2017	January 2018
	1,713,005	199,500	253,504	100,736	1,558,265			

The market price of the Company's shares at 31 December 2013 was €18.30 and the range during 2013 was €14.68 to €19.30.

(a) Granted under the 2000 Share Option Scheme, these options are only exercisable when EPS growth exceeds the growth of the Irish Consumer Price Index by 5% compounded over a period of at least three years subsequent to the granting of the options.

(b) Granted under the 2000 Share Option Scheme, these options are only exercisable if, over a period of at least five years subsequent to the granting of the options, the growth in EPS exceeds the growth of the Irish Consumer Price Index by 10% compounded and places the

Company in the top 25% of EPS performance of a peer group of international building materials and other manufacturing companies. If below the 75th percentile, these options are not exercisable.

(c) Granted under the 2010 Share Option Scheme. Vesting will only occur once an initial performance target has been reached and, thereafter, will be dependent on performance. The performance criteria are set out in table 17 on page 69.

(d) Granted under the 2000 Savings-related Share Option Scheme.

(e) Granted under the 2010 Savings-related Share Option Scheme.

Directors' Interests in Share Capital at 31 December 2013 (Audited)

Table 28

The interests of the Directors and Company Secretary in the shares of the Company, which are beneficial unless otherwise indicated, are shown below. The Directors and Company Secretary have no beneficial interests in any of the Group's subsidiary, joint venture or associated undertakings.

Ordinary Shares	31 December 2013	31 December 2012
Directors		
E.J. Bärtschi	7,200	2,000
M. Carton	60,100	45,654
W.P. Egan	16,112	16,112
- Non-beneficial	12,000	12,000
U-H. Felcht	1,285	1,285
N. Hartery	1,430	1,389
J.M. de Jong	15,868	15,268
J.W. Kennedy	1,049	1,009
D.A. McGovern, Jr.	4,000	4,000*
H.A. McSharry	3,789	3,676
A. Manifold	38,981	34,934
D.N. O'Connor	16,915	16,416
M. Towe	77,117	69,628**
Secretary		
N. Colgan	10,836	10,747
	266,682	234,138

There were no transactions in the above Directors' and Secretary's interests between 31 December 2013 and 24 February 2014. Of the above holdings, the following are held in the form of American Depository Receipts:

	31 December 2013	31 December 2012
W.P. Egan	15,000	15,000
- Non-beneficial	12,000	12,000
D.A. McGovern, Jr.	4,000	4,000*

Mr. H. Rottinghuis became a Director on 18 February 2014. He did not have a holding of CRH shares on appointment and there were no transactions between 18 February and 24 February 2014.

* Holding as at date of appointment.

** Prior year balance adjusted to exclude 3,397 American Depository Shares held in a 401(K)(pension) plan as those shares constitute an asset of the pension plan and do not form part of Mr. Towe's interests in CRH.

Directors' Remuneration Report | continued

Non-executive Directors

Remuneration Policy for 2014

The remuneration of non-executive Directors is determined by the Board of Directors as a whole. In determining the remuneration, the Board receives recommendations from a committee of the Chairman and the executive Directors. The *Remuneration Committee* determines the remuneration of the Chairman within the framework or broad policy agreed with the Board.

Fees for the non-executive Directors and the Chairman were reviewed during 2013. It was concluded that CRH's fees are competitively positioned at present and should remain unchanged in 2014.

Fees for 2014 are set out in table 29.

Remuneration Paid in 2013

Remuneration paid to non-executive Directors in 2013 is set out in table 30.

Non-executive Director Fee Structure		Table 29
Role		Amount
Group Chairman (including non-executive Director salary and fees for committee work)		€450,000
Non-executive Director (basic salary and fees for committee work)		€90,000
<i>Additional fees:</i>		
Senior Independent Director/Remuneration Committee Chairman*		€34,000
Audit Committee Chairman		€34,000
Fee for Europe-based non-executive Directors		€15,000
Fee for US-based non-executive Directors		€30,000

* If the roles of Senior Independent Director and Remuneration Committee Chair are not combined, fees of €25,000 and €15,000 apply respectively

Individual Remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2013 (Audited)								Table 30	
	Basic salary and fees (a)		Benefits (b)		Other remuneration (c)		Total		
	€ 000		€ 000		€ 000		€ 000		
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	
Non-executive Directors									
E.J. Bärtschi	68	68	-	-	48	37	116	105	
W.P. Egan	68	68	-	-	52	52	120	120	
U.H. Felcht	68	68	-	-	37	37	105	105	
N. Hartery (d)	68	68	23	-	382	237	473	305	
J.M. de Jong	68	68	-	-	60	71	128	139	
J.W. Kennedy	68	68	-	-	37	37	105	105	
D.A. McGovern Jr. (e)	34	-	-	-	26	-	60	-	
K. McGowan (d)	-	23	-	-	-	122	-	145	
H.A. McSharry (f)	68	58	-	-	22	19	90	77	
D.N. O'Connor	68	68	-	-	56	44	124	112	
	578	557	23	-	720	656	1,321	1,213	

(a) Fee levels for non-executive Directors were unchanged in 2013.

(b) Benefits: In the case of Nicky Hartery the amount reflects the reimbursement of travel expenses from his residence to his Chairman's office in Dublin, which have been grossed up for Irish tax purposes.

(c) Other Remuneration: Includes remuneration for Chairman, Board Committee work and allowances for non-executive Directors based outside of Ireland.

(d) Nicky Hartery became Chairman on 9 May 2012 succeeding Kieran McGowan who retired as a non-executive Director on the same date.

(e) Don McGovern became a Director on 1 July 2013.

(f) Heather Ann McSharry became a Director on 22 February 2012.

Other Disclosures

Fees Paid to Former Directors

No payments have been made to former Directors in excess of the de minimis threshold of €20,000 per annum agreed by the Committee.

Executives' External Appointments

Maevé Carton is a non-executive Director of the British and Irish Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Carton does not receive fees for carrying out this role.

Total Shareholder Return

The value at 31 December 2013 of €100 invested in 2003 and 2008 respectively, compared with the value of €100 invested in the Eurofirst 300 Index and the FTSE100 Index (which CRH joined in December 2011) is shown in the graphs in tables 35 and 36.

Compound TSR growth since the formation of the Group in 1970 (assuming the reinvestment of dividends) is 15.7%.

Remuneration Paid to Chief Executive in past five years

Table 32 shows the total remuneration paid to the Chief Executive in the period 2009 to 2013 inclusive and shows bonuses and vested long-term incentive awards as a percentage of the maximum bonus and award that could have been received in each year.

The percentage increase in the Chief Executive's salary in the period 2009 to 2013 is set out in table 3 on page 62.

The percentage change in the Chief Executive's salary, benefits and bonus between 2012 and 2013 was as follows:

Salary	+2.6%
Benefits	0%
Bonus	+9.9%

The combined percentage change was +4.4%.

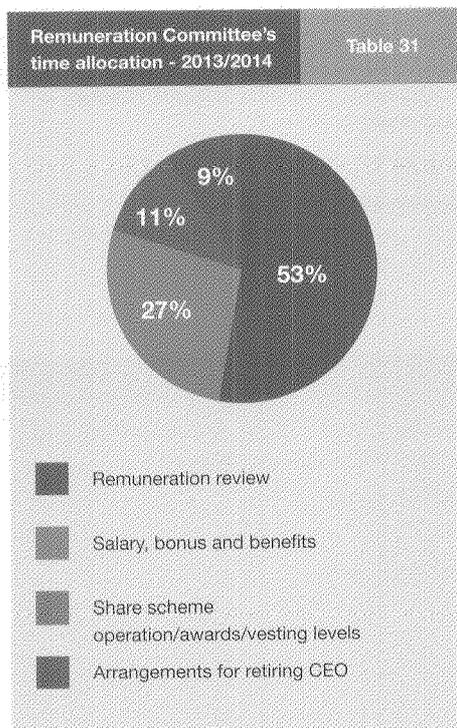
There was no change in the total average employment costs in respect of employees in the Group as a whole between 2012 and 2013.

Relative Importance of Spend on Pay

Table 33 sets out the amount paid by the Group in remuneration to employees compared to dividend distributions made to shareholders in 2012 and 2013. The average number of employees is set out in note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements on page 115.

The Remuneration Committee and Advisors

The non-executive Directors who were members of the *Remuneration Committee* during 2013 are identified on page 59. There have been no changes in the membership of the *Remuneration Committee* to date in 2014. The attendance record at Committee meetings is set out on page 54.



Work of Committee in period between February 2013 and February 2014

Between February 2013 and February 2014 the *Remuneration Committee* has met nine times. Table 31 sets out how the *Remuneration Committee* allocated its time in the last 12 months. An overview of the remuneration review process, which was a significant focus for the Committee during this period, and the outcome of the review, is set out in the Remuneration Review section in the Committee Chairman's statement on page 60.

Risk Policies and Systems

During 2013, the Chairman of the *Remuneration Committee* reviewed with the *Audit Committee* the proposed changes to the Group's remuneration structures, outlined in the Committee Chairman's statement, from a risk perspective.

Remuneration Consultants

Prior to commencing work on the remuneration review, the Committee invited a number of leading experts to tender for the role of its remuneration advisor. Deloitte LLP was appointed. Deloitte are signatories to the Voluntary Code of Conduct in relation to executive remuneration consulting in the UK. The Committee is comfortable that the advice provided by Deloitte is robust and independent and that the Deloitte engagement partner and team that provide remuneration advice to the Committee do not have connections with CRH plc that may impair their independence.

During 2013 and to date in 2014, Deloitte provided the following remuneration services:

- analysis of CRH's existing remuneration structures;
- research and advice regarding remuneration trends, best practice and remuneration levels for executive and non-executive Directors in companies of similar size and complexity;
- guidance and advice in relation to the development of revised remuneration proposals and support services in relation to the shareholder consultation process;
- preparation of rules of share incentive plans for executive Directors and below-Board executives, and the rules of the bonus deferral plan;
- analysis of TSR workings in respect of vesting tests for the 2009 Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan and awards under the 2006 Performance Share Plan;
- advice in relation to remuneration matters generally; and
- attendance at Committee meetings, when required.

Deloitte also provide other consultancy services to the Company in relation to support for Internal Audit, when required, and in respect of talent management and human resources, taxation and sustainability.

In respect of work carried out by Deloitte on behalf of the *Remuneration Committee* in 2013, fees in the amount of €177,200 were incurred. Work in respect of the remuneration review was charged on the basis of fees agreed during the tender process. Additional work was based on time taken and expenses incurred.

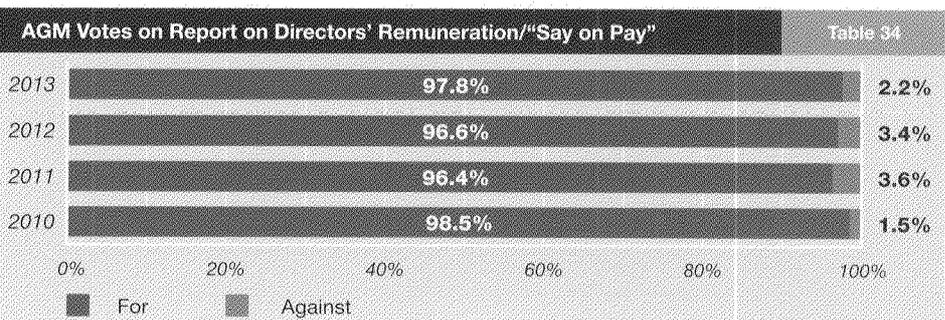
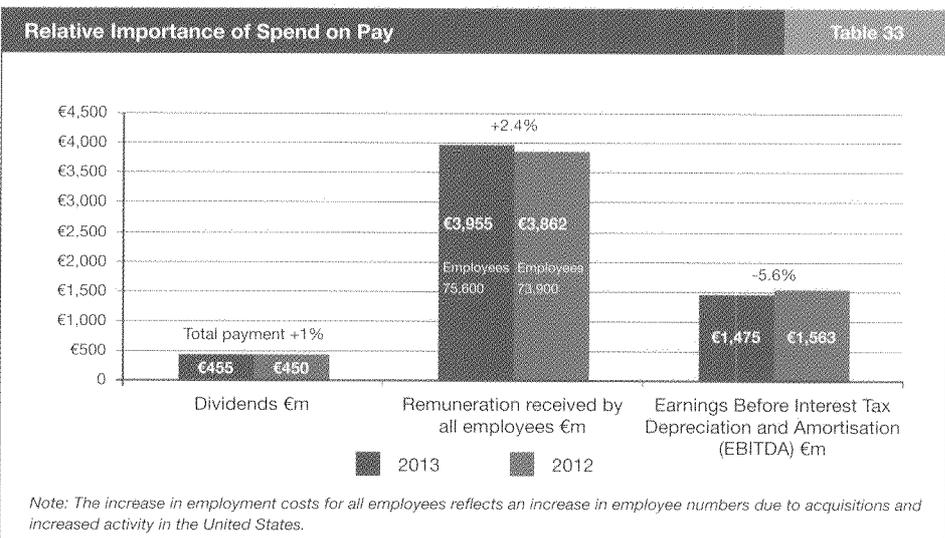
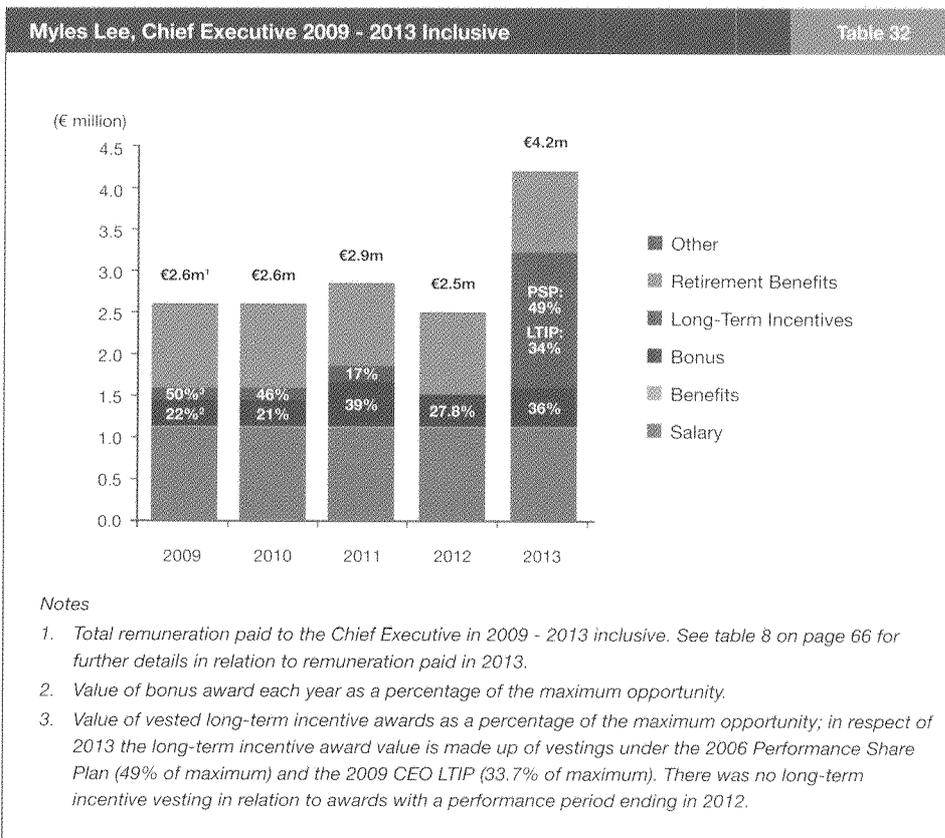
Prior to the appointment of Deloitte, the *Remuneration Committee's* advisor was Mercer.

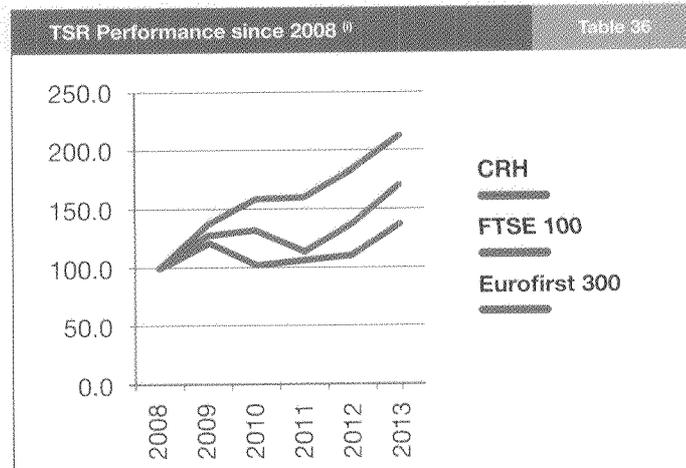
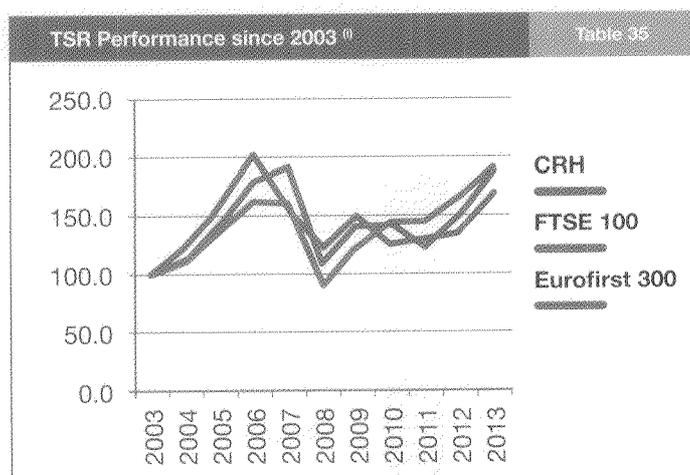
2013 Annual General Meeting "Say on Pay" Vote
The voting outcome in respect of CRH's "Say on Pay" resolutions since the introduction of the vote at the Annual General Meeting in 2010 is set out in table 34. The percentage of votes in favour at the 2013 Annual General Meeting was 97.8%, while the percentage of votes cast against the resolution was 2.2%. The number of votes withheld was 1,602,077 (0.2% of issued share capital). The total of votes in favour, against and withheld in respect of the 2013 "Say on Pay" resolution was 510,517,534 (70% of the shares in issue, excluding Treasury Shares).

As referred to in the Chairman's introduction to the Corporate Governance Report on page 40, the Chairman and the *Remuneration Committee* Chairman met with a number of the Group's major shareholders in advance of the 2013 Annual General Meeting. No issues of concern in relation to remuneration arose. As the voting was overwhelmingly in favour of the

"Say on Pay" resolution, following the meeting the Committee determined that there were no concerns with the Group's remuneration structures that required investigation.

The factors which led to the remuneration review carried out following the 2013 Annual General Meeting are set out in the Committee Chairman's statement on page 60.





(i) For the purposes of comparability, the FTSE100 Index has been converted to euro using the closing exchange rate at each year end.

Details of remuneration charged against profit in 2013

Directors' Remuneration ¹ (Audited)	2013 € 000	2012 € 000
Notes		
Executive Directors		
Basic salary	3,591	3,512
Performance-related incentive plan		
- cash element	1,833	1,540
- deferred shares element	54	-
Retirement benefits expense	1,660	1,645
Benefits	126	128
	7,264	6,825
Provision for Chief Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan ²	(1,062)	460
Total executive Directors' remuneration	6,202	7,285
Average number of executive Directors	4.00	4.00
Non-executive Directors		
Fees	578	557
Other remuneration	720	656
Benefits	23	-
Total non-executive Directors' remuneration	1,321	1,213
Average number of non-executive Directors	8.50	8.20
Payments to former Directors ³	23	29
Total Directors' remuneration	7,546	8,527

Notes to Directors' remuneration

¹ See analysis of 2013 remuneration by individual in tables 8 and 30.

² As set out on page 69, former Chief Executive Myles Lee had a special long-term incentive plan tied to the achievement of exceptional growth and key strategic goals for the five-year period 2009 to 2013 with a total maximum earnings potential of 40% of aggregate basic salary, amounting to a potential €2,312,000. As detailed on page 70, the actual earnings under this plan amount to €778,127, payment of which will be made in 2014. Annual provisions of 40% of basic salary were made in respect of this plan for the years 2009 through 2012 amounting in total to €1,840,000. The difference between the total provided for and the sum paid, which amounts to €1,061,873, is reflected as a reduction in the amount of total Directors' remuneration for 2013.

³ Consulting and other fees paid to a number of former Directors.

Remuneration Policy Report

The following sets out the Group's Directors' Remuneration Policy (the "Policy"). As an Irish-incorporated company, CRH is not required to comply with section 439A of the UK Companies Act 2006 which requires UK companies to submit their remuneration policy to a binding shareholder vote. However, maintaining high levels of corporate governance is important to CRH and, therefore, the Company intends to submit this Policy to an advisory shareholder vote at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. The Committee's intention is to operate within this Policy unless it is not practical to do so in exceptional circumstances. As an Irish-incorporated company, CRH cannot rely on the statutory provisions applicable to UK companies under the 2013 UK Regulations which, in certain circumstances, can resolve any inconsistency between a remuneration policy and any contractual or other right of a Director. In the event there were to be such an inconsistency the Company may be obliged to honour any such right, notwithstanding it may be inconsistent with the Policy. This Policy will apply to payments made from the date of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

The *Remuneration Committee's* aim is to make sure that CRH's pay structures are fair, responsible and competitive, in order that CRH can attract and retain staff of the calibre necessary for it to compete in all of its markets.

The Group's remuneration structures are designed to drive performance and link rewards to responsibility and the individual contribution of executives. It is policy to grant participation in the Group's performance-related plans to key management to encourage identification with shareholders' interests and to create a community of interest among different regions and nationalities.

The Policy, which is derived from the overall Group policy, is designed to:

- help attract and retain Directors of the highest calibre who can bring their experience and independent views to the policy, strategic decisions and governance of CRH;
- properly reward and motivate executive Directors to perform in the long-term interest of the shareholders;
- provide an appropriate blend of fixed and variable remuneration and short and long-term incentives for executive Directors;
- complement CRH's strategy of fostering entrepreneurship in its regional companies by rewarding the creation of shareholder value through organic and acquisitive growth;

- reflect the spread of the Group's operations so that remuneration packages in each geographical area are appropriate and competitive for that area; and
- reflect the risk policies of the Group.

In setting remuneration levels, the *Remuneration Committee* takes into consideration the remuneration practices of other international companies of similar size and scope and trends in executive remuneration generally, in each of the regions in which the Company operates. The *Remuneration Committee* also takes into account the EU Commission's recommendations on remuneration in listed companies.

Policy table		
Further details regarding the operation of the Policy for the 2014 financial year can be found on pages 62 to 65 of the Annual Statement on Remuneration		
Element	Fixed	
	Base salary	Pension
Purpose and link to strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive salaries help to attract and retain staff with the experience and knowledge required to enable the Group to compete in its markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pension arrangements provide competitive and appropriate retirement plans. Given the long-term nature of the business, pension is an important part of the remuneration package to support creation of value and succession planning.
Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base salaries are set by the Committee taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the size and scope of the executive Director's role and responsibilities; the individual's skills, experience and performance; salary levels at FTSE listed companies of a similar size and complexity to CRH and other international construction and building materials companies; and pay and conditions elsewhere in the Group. Base salary is normally reviewed annually with changes generally effective on 1 January, although the Committee may make an out-of-cycle increase if it considers it to be appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish-based executive Directors participate in a contributory defined benefit scheme. The US-based executive Director participates in a defined contribution scheme and in an unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP). The defined benefit scheme which the Directors participate in is closed to new entrants. For new appointments to the Board, the Committee may determine that alternative pension provisions will operate (for example a defined contribution scheme or cash contribution). When determining pension arrangements for new appointments, the Committee will give regard to existing entitlements, the cost of the arrangements, market practice and the pension arrangements received elsewhere in the Group.
Maximum opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base salaries are set at a level which the Committee considers to be appropriate taking into consideration the factors outlined in the "operation" section. While there is no maximum base salary, normally increases will be in line with the typical level of increase awarded to other employees in the Group but may be higher in certain circumstances. These circumstances may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> where a new executive Director has been appointed at a lower salary, higher increases may be awarded over an initial period as the executive Director gains in experience and the salary is moved to what the Committee considers is an appropriate positioning; where there has been a significant increase in the scope or responsibility of an executive Director's role or where an individual has been internally promoted, higher salary increases may be awarded; and where a larger increase is considered necessary to reflect significant changes in market practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The defined benefit pension is provided through an Irish Revenue approved retirement benefit scheme up until the pension cap established in the Finance Act 2006 (see details on page 64). Accrued benefits for service to 31 December 2011 are based on pensionable salary and years of service as at that date (annual accrual of 1/60th), with this tranche being revalued annually at the Consumer Price Index subject to a 5% ceiling. For service subsequent to that date, a career-average revalued earnings system was introduced with each year of service being subject to annual revaluation on the same basis as outlined above. Irish-based executive Directors receive a supplementary taxable non-pensionable cash allowance in lieu of pension benefits foregone as a result of the pension cap. These allowances are similar in value to the reduction in the Company's liability represented by the pension benefit foregone. Whilst there is no absolute maximum to the quantum of these payments they are calculated based on actuarial advice as the equivalent of the reduction in the Company's liability to each individual and spread over the term to retirement as annual compensation allowances. The US-based executive Director participates in a defined contribution retirement plan in respect of basic salary; and in addition he participates in an unfunded defined contribution SERP also in respect of basic salary, to which contributions are made at an agreed rate (20%), offset by contributions made to the other retirement plan.
Performance measures	n/a	n/a

Benefits

- To provide a market-competitive level of benefits for executive Directors.

- The Committee's policy is to set benefit provision at an appropriate market competitive level taking into account market practice, the level of benefits provided for other employees in the Group, the individual's home jurisdiction and the jurisdiction in which the individual is based.
- Employment-related benefits include the use of company cars (or a car allowance), medical insurance for the Director and his/her family/life assurance.
- In the event that the Chief Executive falls ill or is injured in such a way as which would constitute ill-health or disablement so that the Chief Executive could not work for a period of more than six months, in lieu of the early ill-health retirement provisions in the pension scheme which would otherwise operate in such cases, he shall be entitled to receive a disability salary of €1,000,000 per annum. Such payment would cease when the Chief Executive reaches age 60, returns to work or if the service agreement is terminated.
- The Chief Executive, Oldcastle, Inc. also receives benefits in relation to club membership and short-term disability insurance.
- Benefits may also be provided in respect of legal fees incurred in respect of agreeing service contracts, or similar agreements (for which the Company may settle any tax incurred by the executive Director) and a gift on retirement.
- The Committee may remove benefits that executive Directors receive or introduce other benefits if it is considered appropriate to do so. The Company may also pay the tax due on benefits if it considers that it is appropriate to do so.
- **All-employee share schemes** – executive Directors are eligible to participate in the Company's all-employee share schemes on the same terms as other employees.
- **Relocation policy** – Where executive Directors are required to relocate to take up their role, the Committee may determine that they should receive appropriate relocation and ongoing expatriate benefits. The level of such benefits would be determined based on individual circumstances taking into account typical market practice.

- The level of benefit provided will depend on the cost of providing individual items and the individual's circumstances, and therefore the Committee has not set a maximum level of benefits.

n/a

Policy table continued	
Performance-related pay	
Element	Annual Bonus Plan
Purpose and link to strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan is designed to reward the creation of shareholder value through operational excellence and organic and acquisitive growth. The Plan incentivises executive Directors to deliver Group and individual goals that support long-term value creation. A Deferred Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan element links the value of executive Directors' reward with the long-term performance of the CRH share price and aligns the interests of executive Directors with shareholders' interests. A 'malus' provision enables the Company to mitigate risk.
Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan rewards executive Directors for meeting Company performance goals over a financial year of the Company. Targets are set annually by the Committee. The annual bonus is paid in a mix of cash and shares (structured as a deferred share award). For 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 75% of the bonus will be paid in cash; and – 25% will be paid in shares. In future years, the Committee may determine that a different balance between cash and shares is appropriate and adjust the relevant payments accordingly. When assessing performance and determining bonus payouts the Committee also considers the underlying financial performance of the business to ensure it is consistent with the overall award level. The deferred element of the bonus will be structured as a conditional share award or nil-cost option and will normally vest after three years from grant (or a different period determined by the Committee). Deferred share awards may be settled in cash. Dividend equivalents may be paid on deferred share awards in respect of dividends paid during the vesting period. These payments may be made in cash or shares and may assume the reinvestment of dividends on a cumulative basis. For deferred awards granted from 2014, malus provisions apply (see below). Cash bonus payments may be subject to clawback of the net amount paid for a period of three years from payment.
Maximum opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum annual opportunity of 150% of base salary.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan is based on achieving clearly defined and stretching annual targets and strategic goals set by the Committee each year based on key business priorities. The performance metrics used are a mix of financial targets including return goals and personal/strategic objectives generally including safety. Currently 80% of the bonus is based on financial performance measures. The Committee may vary the weightings of measures but no less than 50% shall be based on financial performance measures. A portion of the bonus metrics for any Director may be linked to his/her specific area of responsibility. Up to 50% of the maximum bonus will be paid for achieving target levels of performance.

2014 Performance Share Plan (PSP)

- The role of the PSP is to align the interest of key management across different regions and nationalities with those of shareholders through an interest in CRH shares and by incentivising the achievement of long-term performance goals.

- Awards (in the form of conditional share awards or nil-cost options) normally vest based on performance over a period of not less than three years. Awards may also be settled in cash.
- Awards are normally subject to an additional holding period ending on the fifth anniversary of the grant date (or another date determined by the Committee).
- Dividend equivalents may be paid on PSP awards that vest in respect of dividends paid during the vesting period until the end of the holding period. These payments may be made in cash or shares and may assume reinvestment on a cumulative basis.
- For 2014 awards onwards, malus provisions (as set out in the rules of the PSP) will apply to awards (see below).

- The normal maximum award is 250% of salary per annum. In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may grant awards of up to 350% of base salary.
- For 2014 the intended award levels are:
 - Chief Executive – 250% of base salary
 - Other executive Directors – 200% of base salary
- Awards to be granted in 2014 will vest based on a relative TSR compared to key peers and cumulative cash flow performance.
- For threshold levels of performance 25% of the award vests with straight-line vesting to maximum.
- When determining vesting under the PSP the Committee will review whether the TSR performance has been impacted by unusual events and whether it, therefore, reflects the underlying performance of the business. In addition, the Committee will consider financial performance (including EPS) in the period to ensure that TSR performance is consistent with the objectives of the performance criteria and was not distorted by extraneous factors.
- The Committee may amend the performance conditions if an event occurs that causes it to consider that an amended performance condition would be more appropriate and would not be materially less difficult to satisfy.

Plan Rules

The Deferred Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan, the Performance Share Plans and the Share Option Schemes shall be operated in accordance with the relevant plan rules. The rules for the 2014 Performance Share Plan (the "2014 PSP") will be put forward for shareholder approval at the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Awards may be (a) adjusted in accordance with the rules in the event of a variation of the Company's share capital, merger, de-merger, special dividend or other event that, in the opinion of the Committee, materially affects the price of shares and (b) amended in accordance with the 2014 PSP rules.

Clawback/Malus

For Deferred Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan awards and Performance Share Plan awards granted from 2014 onwards, the Committee has the discretion to reduce or impose further conditions on awards prior to vesting in certain circumstances, including:

- a material misstatement of the Company's audited financial results;
- a material failure of risk management; or
- serious reputational damage to the Company or one of its businesses as a result of a participant's misconduct or otherwise.

Cash bonus payments may be subject to clawback of the net amount paid for a period of three years from payment in the circumstances outlined above.

Other elements of remuneration are not subject to clawback or malus provisions.

Minor Amendments

The Committee may make minor changes to this Policy for regulatory, exchange control, tax or administrative purposes or to take account of a change in legislation without seeking shareholder approval for that amendment.

Legacy Awards

Prior to the implementation of the 2014 PSP, awards were granted under the 2006 Performance Share Plan (the "2006 PSP"), which was approved at the 2006 Annual General Meeting. Awards under this plan may continue to vest under this Policy. It is not intended that further awards will be granted under the 2006 PSP.

Awards under the 2006 PSP were granted in the form of conditional shares and vest subject to meeting relative TSR performance conditions over a three-year performance period. 50% of awards are based on TSR compared to the constituents of the Eurofirst 300 Index with 50% of awards being based on TSR compared to a bespoke group of peer companies (details of which are set out in table 14 in the Annual Statement on

Remuneration). 30% vests for median performance with 100% vesting for upper quartile performance (straight-line vesting in-between). Awards will only vest if the Committee is satisfied that the Company's TSR performance has not been significantly affected by unusual events and the Company's EPS growth is consistent with the objectives of the performance assessment. Whilst the current intention of the Committee is to settle the awards in shares, it may also satisfy awards in cash.

There are no clawback or malus provisions in the 2006 PSP.

Executive Directors also have outstanding awards under the 2010 Share Option Scheme, which was approved by shareholders at the 2010 Annual General Meeting. This Scheme is no longer in use. Awards were granted in the form of market value options and vest subject to EPS growth performance over a three-year performance period. At vesting the Committee has the discretion to adjust the level of vesting of awards in the event that the Committee considers that this is appropriate (in exceptional circumstances such as changes to accounting policies or unforeseen developments) or to reduce the vesting level where appropriate to reflect factors such as the participant's contribution to the Group. The Committee may also vary, substitute or waive the performance conditions applicable to an award if it considers that they are no longer appropriate and the varied or substituted condition would be a fairer measure and neither more or less difficult to satisfy.

There are also market value options outstanding for executive Directors under the 2000 Share Option Scheme (approved by shareholders at the 2000 Annual General Meeting). Awards vest based on meeting EPS performance goals over three consecutive years during the life of the option. No further options may be granted under this Scheme. Details of the outstanding 2006 PSP awards and the options granted under the 2000 and 2010 Option Schemes are set out in tables 25 and 26 of the Annual Statement on Remuneration.

General

In addition to any payments required to be made pursuant to any applicable employment laws, the *Remuneration Committee* reserves the right to make any remuneration payments and payments for loss of office (including exercising any discretions available to it in connection with such payments) notwithstanding that they are not in line with the Policy set out in this report where the terms of the payment were agreed (i) before the policy came into effect or (ii) at a time when the relevant individual was not a Director of the Company and, in the opinion of the Committee, the payment was not in consideration for the

individual becoming a Director of the Company. For these purposes "payments" includes the Committee satisfying awards of variable remuneration and an award over shares is "agreed" at the time the award is granted.

Information Supporting the Policy Table

Selection of Performance Measures

(i) Annual Bonus

Annual incentive plan targets are selected each year to incentivise executive Directors to achieve annual financial, operational, strategic and personal goals across a range of metrics which are considered important for delivering long-term performance excellence.

(ii) Performance Share Plan

The ultimate goal of our strategy is to provide long-term sustainable value for all of our shareholders. Performance measures for PSP awards to be granted in 2014 are, therefore, focussed on achieving relative outperformance of TSR against our key peers and generating cash in the business to support further investment and dividend payments to shareholders.

Targets for the Annual Bonus and PSP are set each year by the Committee taking into account internal plans and external expectations. Targets are calibrated to be stretching but motivational to management and to be aligned with the long-term creation of shareholder value.

Remuneration Arrangements throughout the Group

CRH employs approximately 76,000 people at over 3,400 locations around the world. Remuneration arrangements throughout the organisation therefore differ depending on the specific role being undertaken, the level of seniority and responsibilities, the location of the role and local market practice. However, remuneration arrangements are designed based on the principle that reward should be set at a level which is appropriate to retain and motivate individuals of the necessary calibre to fulfil the roles without paying more than is considered necessary to achieve this. The reward framework is designed to incentivise employees to deliver the requirements of their roles and add value for shareholders.

The Group operates Share Participation Plans and Savings-related Share Option Schemes for eligible employees in all regions where the regulations permit the operation of such plans. In total there are approximately 6,500 employees of all categories who are shareholders in the Group.

Remuneration Policy for non-executive Directors			Table 39
Approach to setting fees	Basis of fees	Other Items	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remuneration of non-executive Directors is determined by a Board committee of the Chairman and the executive Directors. The <i>Remuneration Committee</i> determines the remuneration of the Chairman within the framework or broad policy agreed with the Board. Remuneration is set at a level which will attract individuals with the necessary experience and ability to make a substantial contribution to the Company's affairs and reflect the time and travel demands of Board duties. Fees are set taking into account typical practice at other companies of a similar size and complexity to CRH. Fees are reviewed at appropriate intervals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees are paid in cash. Non-executive Director fees policy is to pay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a basic fee for membership of the Board; an additional fee for chairing a Committee; an additional fee for the role of Senior Independent Director (SID) (if the SID is not the Chairman of the <i>Remuneration Committee</i>); an additional fee to reflect committee work (combined fee for all committee roles); and an additional fee based on the location of the Director to reflect time spent travelling to Board meetings. Other fees may also be paid to reflect other Board roles or responsibilities. In accordance with the Articles of Association, shareholders set the maximum aggregate amount of the fees payable to non-executive Directors. The current limit of €750,000 was set by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held in 2005. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The non-executive Directors do not participate in any of the Company's performance-related incentive plans or share schemes. Non-executive Directors do not receive pensions. The Group Chairman is reimbursed for expenses incurred in travelling from his residence to his CRH office. The Company settles any tax incurred on this on his behalf. Non-executive Directors do not currently receive any benefits. However, benefits may be provided in the future if, in the view of the Board (for non-executive Directors or for the Chairman), this was considered appropriate. The Company may settle any tax due on benefits. 	

Remuneration Policy for New Hires

CRH has a strong history of succession planning and developing internal executive talent.

The Committee's key principle when determining appropriate remuneration arrangements for a new executive Director (appointed from within the organisation or externally) is that arrangements are in the best interests of both CRH and its shareholders without paying more than is considered necessary by the Committee to recruit an executive of the required calibre to develop and deliver the business strategy.

The Committee would generally seek to align the remuneration package offered with our remuneration policy outlined in table 38. Although in exceptional circumstances, the Committee may make remuneration proposals on hiring a new executive Director which are outside the standard policy to facilitate the hiring of someone of the calibre required to deliver the Group's strategy. When determining appropriate remuneration arrangements the Committee will take into account all relevant factors including (among others) the level of opportunity, the type of remuneration opportunity being forfeited and the jurisdiction the candidate was recruited from. Any remuneration offered would be within the limit on variable pay outlined below.

Variable remuneration in respect of an executive Director's appointment shall be limited to 500% of base salary measured at the time of award. This limit is in line with the Plan maximum outlined in table 38. This limit excludes any awards made to compensate the Director for awards forfeited from his or her previous employer.

The Committee may make awards on appointing an executive Director to buy-out remuneration terms forfeited on leaving a previous employer. In doing so, the Committee will take account of relevant factors including any performance conditions attached to these awards, the form in which they were granted (e.g. cash or shares) and the time over which they would have vested. The Committee's key principle is that buy-out awards will generally be made on a comparable basis to those forfeited.

To facilitate awards outlined above, the Committee may grant awards under Company incentive schemes or under Listing Rule 9.4.2 which allows for the granting of awards, to facilitate, in unusual circumstances, the recruitment of an executive Director, without seeking prior shareholder approval or under other relevant company incentive plans. The use of Listing Rule 9.4.2 shall be limited to buy-out awards.

In the event that an internal candidate is promoted to the Board, legacy terms and conditions will normally be honoured, including pension entitlements and any outstanding incentive awards.

In the event of the appointment of a new Chairman or non-executive Director, remuneration arrangements will normally reflect the policy outlined above for the Chairman and non-executive Directors. Other remuneration arrangements may be provided to a new Chairman or non-executive Director if these arrangements are considered appropriate in accordance with the principles set out above.

Remuneration Outcomes in Different Performance Scenarios

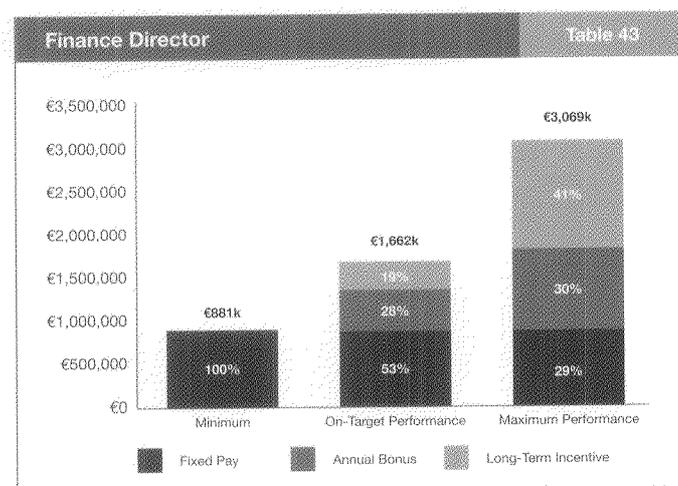
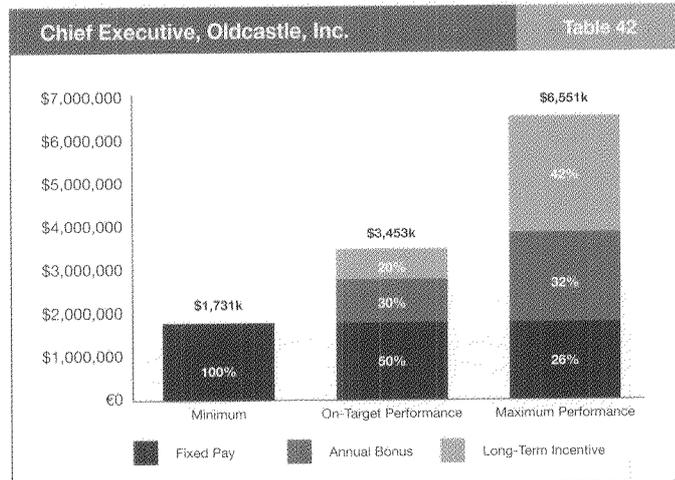
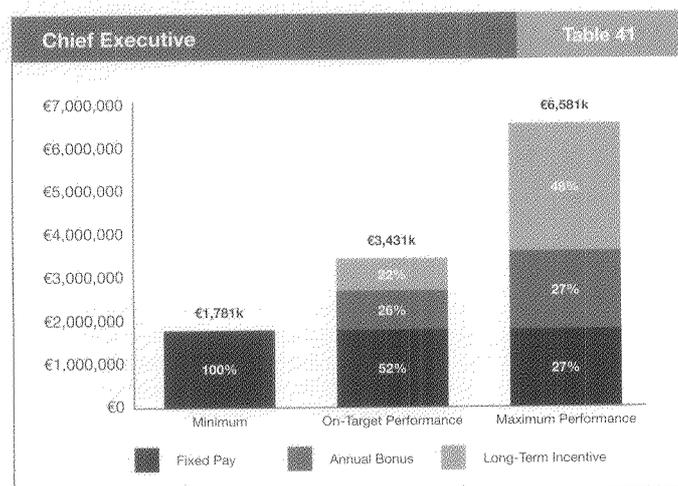
Remuneration at CRH consists of fixed pay (salary, pension and benefits), short-term variable pay and long-term variable pay. A significant portion of executive Directors'

remuneration is linked to the delivery of key business goals over the short and long-term and the creation of shareholder value.

Tables 41 to 43 show hypothetical values of the remuneration package for executive Directors under three assumed performance scenarios.

No share price growth or the payment of dividend equivalents has been assumed in these scenarios. Potential benefits under all employee share schemes have not been included.

Performance Scenario	Payout Level	Table 40
Minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No bonus payout No vesting under the Performance Share Plan 	
On-Target Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% annual bonus payout (75% of salary) 25% vesting under the Performance Share Plan (62.5% of salary for the Chief Executive and 50% for other Directors) 	
Maximum Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% annual bonus payout (150% of salary) 100% Performance Share Plan vesting (250% of salary for the Chief Executive and 200% for other Directors) 	



Fixed Pay Table 44

	Salary with effect from 1 January 2014	Benefits paid in 2013	Pension	Total Fixed Pay
Chief Executive (Albert Manifold)	€1,200,000	€31,000	€550,000	€1,781,000
Finance Director (Maeve Carton)	€625,000	€13,000	€243,000	€881,000
Chief Executive, Oldcastle, Inc. (Mark Towe)	US\$1,377,000	US\$79,000	US\$275,400 (20%)	US\$1,731,400

Chief Executive Service Contract		Table 45
Notice period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months' notice by the Company or the executive. 	
Expiry date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indefinite duration. Terms of contract will automatically terminate on the executive's 62nd birthday. 	
Termination payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On lawful termination of employment, the Committee may, at its absolute discretion, make a termination payment in lieu of 12 months' notice based on base salary, benefits and pension contribution due during that period. Where the Company terminates the contract lawfully without notice then no payment in lieu of notice shall be due. If, in the event of a change of control, there is a diminution in the role and responsibilities of the Chief Executive, he may terminate the contract; on such termination a payment equal to one year's remuneration (being salary, pension, other benefits and vested incentive awards) will be made to the executive. 	
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event that the Chief Executive falls ill or is injured in such a way as which would constitute ill-health or disablement so that the Chief Executive could not work for a period of more than six months, in lieu of the early ill-health retirement provisions in the pension scheme which would otherwise operate in such cases, he shall be entitled to receive a disability salary of €1,000,000 per annum. Such payment would cease when the Chief Executive reaches age 60, returns to work or if the service agreement is terminated. 	
Other information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Company retains the ability to suspend the executive from employment on full salary and to require the executive to observe a period of "garden leave" of up to 12 months on full salary, contractual benefits and pension contribution. 	

Executive Director Service Contracts and Policy on Payment for Loss of Office

When determining leaving arrangements for an executive Director the Committee takes into account any contractual agreements (including any incentive arrangements) and the performance and conduct of the individual.

Service Contracts

It is intended that the Chief Executive will enter into a service contract during the course of 2014. It is anticipated that the summary in table 45 will represent the key remuneration terms of this contract. However, some minor terms may differ.

The Finance Director (Maevé Carton) and Chief Executive, Oldcastle, Inc. (Mark Towe) do not currently have service contracts. The Committee will therefore determine the amount paid on termination taking into account the circumstances around departure and the prevailing employment law circumstances.

The Committee's policy in this area is that service contracts will be put in place for newly appointed executive Directors and in cases where there is a significant step change in Directors' responsibilities. It is currently anticipated that these terms will be similar to those agreed with the Chief Executive.

Under Irish company law, CRH is not required to make service contracts available for inspection as the notice period is less than 12 months. Service contracts will only be available with the executive Director's consent due to data protection reasons.

Annual Bonus

Executive Directors may, at the discretion of the Committee, remain eligible to receive an Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan award for the financial year in which they leave employment. Such Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan award will be determined by the Committee taking into account time in employment and performance.

Share Plan Rules – Leaver Provisions

The treatment of outstanding share awards in the event that an executive Director leaves is governed by the relevant share plan rules. Table 46 summarises leaver provisions under the executive share plans.

"Good leaver" circumstances are defined in the 2014 PSP and deferred annual performance incentive plans as ill-health, injury, disability, the participants employing company or business being sold out of the Group or any other reason at the Committee's absolute discretion (except where a participant is summarily dismissed).

Where an individual leaves by mutual agreement the Committee has discretion to determine the treatment of outstanding share awards.

Individuals who are dismissed for gross misconduct would not be treated as "good leavers".

Under the 2000 Share Option Scheme, if a participant leaves employment in the event of death, retirement (on age or health grounds), redundancy, or in cases where a subsidiary is

divested, the Committee will determine the extent to which options vest. In cases of death and retirement, options may be exercised within 12 months of cessation of office of employment. In other circumstances, where the Committee uses its discretion to deem an individual a "good leaver" then the exercise window is six months. Where an individual ceases office or employment for other reasons, option awards will normally lapse.

Where an executive ceases employment as a result of summary dismissal they will normally forfeit outstanding share incentive awards.

The Committee may allow awards to vest early at its discretion in the event an executive Director is to be transferred to a jurisdiction where he would suffer a tax disadvantage or he would be subject to restrictions in connection with his award, the underlying shares or the sales proceeds.

Table 46

Share Plans - Leaver Provisions			
	Death	'Good leavers' as determined by the Committee in accordance with the Plan rules	Leavers in other circumstances
Deferred Annual Performance Incentive Plan 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvested awards vest, unless the Committee determines otherwise, to the extent determined by the Committee. Awards in the form of nil-cost options may be exercised for 12 months from death (or another period determined by the Committee). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards shall normally vest in full at the normal vesting date. Alternatively, the Committee may determine that awards should vest in full at cessation of employment. Where awards vesting in such circumstances are granted in the form of nil-cost options participants shall have six months from vesting to exercise their award. Where awards have already vested at cessation of employment, participants shall have six months from cessation of employment to exercise their option. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards will lapse on the individual's cessation of office or employment.
2014 Performance Share Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvested awards shall vest as soon as practicable following death unless the Committee determines otherwise. The number of shares vesting shall be determined by the Committee taking into account the extent to which the performance condition has been met and, if the Committee determines, the length of time that has elapsed since the award was granted until the date of death (or if death occurs during an applicable holding period, to the beginning of the holding period). Awards in the form of nil-cost options may be exercised for 12 months from death (or another period determined by the Committee). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards shall normally vest at the normal vesting date. Alternatively, the Committee may determine that awards should vest at the time the individual leaves. The level of vesting shall be determined by the Committee taking into account the extent to which the performance condition has been met and, unless the Committee determines otherwise, the period of time that has elapsed since the date of grant until the date of cessation (or if cessation occurs during an applicable holding period, to the beginning of the holding period). Awards vesting in such circumstances in the form of nil-cost options may be exercised for six months from vesting (or another period determined by the Committee). Where a nil-cost option was already vested at cessation of employment, participants may exercise such options for six months from cessation (or another period determined by the Committee). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards will lapse on the individual's cessation of office or employment.

Table 46

	Death	'Good leavers' as determined by the Committee in accordance with the plan rules	Leavers in other circumstances
<p>2010 Share Option Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee may determine the extent to which options shall vest. Options shall be exercisable for 12 months from vesting or from death (whichever is later). 	<p><i>Retirement (for age or health reasons)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee may determine the extent to which options may be exercised on the same terms as if the individual had not ceased to hold employment or office having determined the extent to which the performance conditions applicable to the award have been satisfied. Options shall be exercisable for 12 months from vesting or from the participant's cessation (whichever is later). <p><i>Redundancy, early retirement, sale of the individual's employing subsidiary out of the Group or for any other reason determined by the Committee.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee may determine the extent to which the option may be exercised having determined the extent to which the performance conditions applicable to the award have been satisfied. Options shall be exercisable for six months from vesting or cessation of employment (whichever is later). Where a participant has ceased to hold office or employment because of health reasons, redundancy, retirement or sale of his employing subsidiary out of the Group, the Committee may waive any relevant performance conditions, in which case options may be scaled down by reference to the participant's performance and the proportion of the relevant performance period the participant has served. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards will normally lapse.
<p>2006 Performance Share Plan</p> <p>(It is not intended that further awards will be made under this Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards may vest to the extent determined by the Committee. 	<p><i>Ill-health, injury, disability, redundancy, retirement, the sale of the entity or business that employs the individual out of the Group or for any other reason at the Committee's discretion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards may vest to the extent determined by the Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards will normally lapse.

- Change of Control*
- In the event of a change of control of the Company, the Committee will determine the treatment of share awards.
- In the event of a change of control of the Company, the Committee will determine the treatment of share awards.
- In the event of a change of control of the Company, the Committee will determine the treatment of share awards.
- a) awards granted under the 2014 PSP will vest taking into account the extent to which any performance condition has been satisfied and, unless the Committee determines otherwise, the period of time that has elapsed since grant and the relevant event (or if the event occurs during an applicable holding period, to the beginning of the holding period);
- b) awards granted under the 2014 Deferred Annual Performance-related Incentive Plan will vest to the extent the Committee determines; and
- c) awards granted under the 2006 PSP will also vest on a voluntary winding-up, merger or demerger of the Company to the extent determined by the Committee.

Non-executive Director - Letters of Appointment

Non-executive Directors serve under letters of appointment, copies of which are available for inspection at the Company's Registered Office and at the Annual General Meeting.

In line with the UK Corporate Governance Code, all non-executive Directors submit themselves for re-election by shareholders every year at the Annual General Meeting. All non-executive Director appointments can be terminated by either party without notice. There is no payment in lieu of notice provided.

Considering Employee Views

When setting remuneration policy for executive Directors, the *Remuneration Committee* reviews and has regard to the remuneration trends across the Group and considers how executive Director remuneration compares to that for all employees to ensure that the structure and quantum of executive pay remains appropriate in this context.

The Company does not currently consult directly with employees when developing the Directors' remuneration policy and there is no current intention to do so in the future.

Consulting with Shareholders

The Committee believes that it is very important to maintain open dialogue with shareholders on remuneration matters. CRH made significant changes to remuneration arrangements during the year and consulted extensively with shareholders in relation to this. Shareholder views were important in shaping the final proposals.

The Committee will continue to liaise with shareholders regarding remuneration matters more generally and CRH arrangements as appropriate. It is the Committee's intention to consult with major shareholders in advance of making any material changes to remuneration arrangements.

On behalf of the Board

Dan O'Connor
Chairman Remuneration Committee and Senior Independent Director



Directors' Report

The Directors submit their report and the audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Principal Activity, Results for the Year and Review of Business

CRH is a diversified international building materials group which manufactures and distributes a diverse range of products servicing the breadth of construction needs, from the fundamentals of heavy materials and elements to construct the frame, through value-added exterior products that complete the building envelope, to distribution channels which service construction fit-out and renewal. The Group has over 1,000 subsidiary, joint venture and associate undertakings; the principal ones as at 31 December 2013 are listed on pages 154 to 160.

The Group's strategy, business model and development activity are summarised in the **Strategy Review** section on pages 7 to 17 and are deemed to be incorporated in this part of the Directors' Report.

As set out in the Consolidated Income Statement on page 98, the Group reported a loss before tax for the year of €215 million after non-cash impairment charges of €755 million. Comprehensive reviews of the financial and operating performance of the Group during 2013 are set out in the **Business Performance Review** on pages 18 to 35; key financial performance indicators are also set out in this section. The treasury policy and objectives of the Group are set out in detail in note 22 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Dividend

An interim dividend of 18.5c (2012: 18.5c) per share was paid in October 2013. The Board is recommending a final dividend of 44c per share. This gives a total dividend of 62.5c for the year, maintained at last year's level (2012: 62.5c). The net after-tax loss of €295 million for 2013 reflects the total non-cash impairment charges of €755 million, primarily arising from the ongoing portfolio review referred to in the Chief Executive's introduction and described in note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements. Excluding non-cash impairment and the related tax impact, adjusted earnings per share for the year were 59.5c, representing a cover of 0.95 times the proposed dividend for 2013.

It is proposed to pay the final dividend on 12 May 2014 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 7 March 2014. Subject to the approval of resolutions 2 and 12 at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, shareholders are being offered a scrip dividend alternative.

2014 Outlook

In the United States, we expect GDP growth in 2014 to be similar to 2013. While federal funding for infrastructure in 2014 is expected to be in line with 2013, state fiscal conditions continue to improve with more states introducing additional infrastructure funding measures. The increase in the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) funding should also give states greater opportunities and options to benefit from private sector involvement in highway projects; we expect the impact of these investments to be more medium to long-term. We expect that residential construction will continue to advance in 2014, and with the increase in housing, non-residential activity should also see an improvement. Against this backdrop, we expect 2014 to be another year of progress in the Americas.

In Europe we have seen an improving trend in the second half of 2013 with the economic backdrop stabilising as the year progressed. While underlying indicators for the Dutch economy are showing signs of a slight recovery, in the short term, we expect construction activity to remain subdued. Switzerland is expected to remain solid in 2014 with continuing strong activity in residential and infrastructure, while the outlook for Germany is broadly positive. In Finland, with continuing pressure in the residential segment, construction spend is expected to be relatively flat in 2014, with some pick-up in the second half of the year. The 2014 outlook for Ireland is for modest growth in overall construction activity while France and Spain are expected to remain challenging. The outlook for Ukraine has become uncertain in recent weeks due to the political environment, and for now the implications for construction activity in 2014 are unclear. In Poland, the improved activity during the second half of 2013 is expected to continue into 2014 with construction growth led by improving infrastructure activity.

The review of our portfolio aims to re-set the Group for growth. While this has resulted in significant non-cash impairment charges in 2013, we believe that dynamic allocation and reallocation of resources to optimise the portfolio, together with our traditional tight cost control and capital discipline and our relentless focus on returns, will be key to driving growth and to rebuilding returns and margins in the coming years. We believe that 2013 represents the trough in our profits, and that 2014 will be a year of profit growth. We are encouraged by second-half activity levels in 2013 and by the fact that, while it is still early in the season, trading so far in 2014 has been ahead of last year.

Sustainability

As set out in the **Strategy Review** section on pages 7 to 17, the Group is fully committed to operating ethically and responsibly in all aspects of its business relating to employees, customers, neighbours and other stakeholders. Details of CRH's policies and performance relating to the Environment and Climate Change, Health & Safety and Social & Community matters are set out in the separately published and independently verified annual Sustainability Reports which are available on the Group's website at www.crh.com. The 2013 report will be available by mid-2014.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Under Irish Company law (Regulation 5(4)(c) (ii) of the Transparency (Directive 2004/109/EC) Regulations 2007), the Group is required to give a description of the principal risks and uncertainties which it faces. These risks and uncertainties reflect the international scope of the Group's operations and the Group's decentralised structure.

Strategic Risks and Uncertainties

Industry cyclicality: The level of construction activity in local and national markets is inherently cyclical being influenced by a wide variety of factors including global and national economic circumstances, ongoing austerity programmes in the developed world, governments' ability to fund infrastructure projects, consumer sentiment and weather conditions. The Group's financial performance may also be negatively impacted by unfavourable swings in fuel and other commodity/raw material prices. The adequacy and timeliness of management's responses to unfavourable events are of critical importance.

Political and economic uncertainty: As an international business, CRH operates in many countries with differing, and in some cases potentially fast-changing economic, social and political conditions. Changes in these conditions, or in the governmental and regulatory requirements in any of the countries in which CRH operates (with particular reference to developing markets), may, for example, adversely affect CRH's business thus leading to possible impairment of financial performance and/or restrictions on future growth opportunities.

Commodity products and substitution: CRH faces strong volume and price competition

across its product lines. In addition, existing products may be replaced by substitute products which CRH does not produce or distribute. Against this backdrop, if CRH fails to generate competitive advantage through differentiation and innovation across the value chain (for example, through superior product quality, engendering customer loyalty or excellence in logistics), market share, and thus financial performance, may decline.

Acquisition activity: Growth through acquisition is a key element of CRH's strategy. CRH may not be able to continue to grow as contemplated in its business plan if it is unable to identify attractive targets (including potential new platforms for growth), execute full and proper due diligence, raise funds on acceptable terms, complete such acquisition transactions, integrate the operations of the acquired businesses and realise anticipated levels of profitability and cash flows.

Joint ventures and associates: CRH does not have a controlling interest in certain of the businesses (i.e. joint ventures and associates) in which it has invested and may invest; the greater complexity inherent in these arrangements accompanied by the need for proactive relationship management may restrict the Group's ability to generate adequate returns and to develop and grow its business.

Human resources: Existing processes to recruit, develop and retain talented individuals and promote their mobility within a decentralised Group may be inadequate thus giving rise to management attrition and difficulties in succession planning and potentially impeding the continued realisation of the Group's core strategy of performance and growth.

Corporate communications: As a publicly-listed company, CRH undertakes regular communication with its stakeholders. Given that these communications may contain forward-looking statements, which by their nature involve uncertainty, actual results and developments may differ from those communicated due to a variety of external and internal factors giving rise to reputational risk.

Cyber and information technology: As a result of the proliferation of information technology in the world today, CRH is exposed to security threats to its digital infrastructure which might lead to interference with production processes, the theft of private data or misrepresentation of information regarding CRH via digital media. In addition to potential irretrievability or

corruption of critical data, CRH could suffer reputational losses and incur significant financial costs in remediation.

Sustainability: CRH is subject to stringent and evolving laws, regulations, standards and best practices in the area of sustainability (comprising corporate governance, environmental management and climate change (specifically capping of emissions), health & safety management and social performance) which may give rise to increased ongoing remediation and/or other compliance costs and may adversely affect the Group's reported results and financial condition.

Laws and regulations: CRH is subject to many laws and regulations (both local and international), including those relating to competition law, corruption and fraud, throughout the many jurisdictions in which it operates and is thus exposed to changes in those laws and regulations and to the outcome of any investigations conducted by governmental, international and other regulatory authorities, which may result in the imposition of fines and/or sanctions for non-compliance and may damage the Group's reputation.

Financial and Reporting Risks and Uncertainties

The principal financial and reporting risks and uncertainties described below are subject to further disclosure in the notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and the accompanying accounting policies.

Financial instruments: CRH uses financial instruments throughout its businesses giving rise to interest rate, foreign currency, credit/counterparty and liquidity risks. A downgrade of CRH's credit ratings may give rise to increases in funding costs in respect of future debt and may impair the Group's ability to raise funds on acceptable terms. In addition, insolvency of the financial institutions with which CRH conducts business (or a downgrade in their credit ratings) may lead to losses in CRH's derivative assets and cash and cash equivalents balances or render it more difficult either to utilise the Group's existing debt capacity or otherwise obtain financing for the Group's operations.

Defined benefit pension schemes: CRH operates a number of defined benefit pension schemes in certain of its operating jurisdictions. The assets and liabilities of these schemes may exhibit significant period-on-period volatility

Regulatory Information

This table contains information which is required to be provided for regulatory purposes.

2009 Corporate Governance Regulations:

For the purpose of Statutory Instrument 450/2009 European Communities (Directive 2006/46/EC) Regulations 2009, as amended by Statutory Instrument 83/2010 European Communities (Directive 2006/46/EC) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, the Corporate Governance report on pages 40 to 58 is deemed to be incorporated in this part of the Directors' Report. Details of the Company's Employee Share Schemes and capital structure can be found in notes 8 and 29 to the financial statements on pages 116 and 117 and 140 and 141 respectively.

2006 Takeover Regulations:

For the purpose of Regulation 21 of Statutory Instrument 255/2006 European Communities (Takeover Bids (Directive 2004/25/EC)) Regulations 2006, the rules relating to the appointment and replacement of Directors are summarised in the section on Board of Directors in this Report on page 94 and in the following sections of the Corporate Governance Report: Membership of the Board on page 42, Directors' retirement and re-election on page 44 and Memorandum and Articles of Association on page 58. The Chief Executive will enter into a service contract, the principal terms of which are summarised on page 87 of the Directors' Remuneration Report and are deemed to be incorporated in this part of the Directors' Report. The Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, which are available on the CRH website, are also deemed to be incorporated in this part of the Directors' Report. The Group has certain banking facilities and bond issues outstanding which may require repayment in the event that a change in control occurs with respect to the Company. In addition, the Company's share option schemes and Performance Share Plan contain change of control provisions which can allow for the acceleration of the exercisability of share options and the vesting of share awards in the event that a change of control occurs with respect to the Company.

2007 Transparency Regulations:

For the purpose of Statutory Instrument 277/2007 Transparency (Directive 2004/109/EC) Regulations 2007, the Sustainability Report as published on the CRH website is deemed to be incorporated in this part of the Directors' Report, together with the following sections of this annual report: the Chairman's Introduction on page 3, the Strategy Review section on pages 7 to 17, the Business Performance Review on pages 18 to 35, the details of earnings per Ordinary Share in note 13 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, details of derivative financial instruments in note 25, the details of the re-issue of Treasury Shares in note 29 and details of employees in note 6.

attributable primarily to asset valuations, changes in bond yields and longevity. In addition to future service contributions, significant cash contributions may be required to remediate deficits applicable to past service.

Insurance counterparties: In its worldwide insurance programme, the Group carries appropriate levels of insurance for typical business risks (including product liability) with various leading insurance companies. However, in the event of the failure of one or more of its

insurance counterparties, the Group could be impacted by losses where recovery from such counterparties is not possible.

Foreign currency translation: CRH's activities are conducted primarily in the local currency of the country of operation resulting in low levels of foreign currency transactional risk. The principal foreign exchange risks to which the Consolidated Financial Statements are exposed pertain to adverse movements in reported results when translated into euro

(which is the Group's reporting currency) together with declines in the euro value of the Group's net investments which are denominated in a wide basket of currencies other than the euro.

Goodwill impairment: A review of CRH's portfolio of businesses is currently ongoing, and an orderly disposal process is underway for 45 business units which do not meet the Group's future returns objectives; this has given rise to a goodwill impairment charge of €373 million in the 2013 financial year. In the light of current conditions and outlook, the Group does not anticipate further impairment to arise as the portfolio review continues.

Significant under-performance in any of CRH's major cash-generating units or the divestment of businesses in the future may give rise to a further material write-down of goodwill which would have an additional substantial impact on the Group's income and equity.

Inspections by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB"): Our auditors, like other independent registered public accounting firms operating in Ireland and a number of other European countries, are not currently permitted to be subject to inspection by the PCAOB, and as such, investors are deprived of the benefits of PCAOB inspections.

As demonstrated by CRH's record, the Group's management team has substantial and long experience in dealing with the impact of these risks. The mechanisms through which the principal risks and uncertainties are managed are addressed in the "Risk Management and Internal Control" section of the Corporate Governance Report.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Disclosures relating to the Group's greenhouse gas emissions are contained in the **Measuring Performance** and the **Sustainability & Governance** sections on pages 12 to 17.

Directors' Remuneration Report

Resolution 3 to be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting deals with the 2013 Directors' Remuneration Report (excluding the Remuneration Policy), as set out on pages 59 to 78, which the Board has again decided to present to shareholders for the purposes of a non-binding advisory vote. This is in line with international best practice.

Resolution 4 to be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting deals with the Remuneration

Policy for the period 2014 to 2017, as set out on pages 79 to 90, which the Board has also decided to present to shareholders for the purposes of a non-binding advisory vote. The Directors believe that the resolution will provide shareholders with an opportunity to have a say on the framework within which remuneration matters are dealt with.

Board of Directors

Mr. M. Lee retired as Chief Executive and from the Board on 31 December 2013.

Mr. D.A. McGovern, Jr. was appointed to the Board with effect from 1 July 2013. Mr. H.Th. Rottinghuis was appointed to the Board on 18 February 2014.

Mr. J.M. de Jong will retire from the Board at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7 May 2014.

Under the Company's Articles of Association, co-opted Directors are required to submit themselves to shareholders for election at the Annual General Meeting following their appointment and all the Directors are required to submit themselves for re-election at intervals of not more than three years. However, in accordance with the provisions contained in the UK Corporate Governance Code, the Board has decided that all Directors eligible for re-election should retire at each Annual General Meeting and offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors

Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963 provides that the auditor of an Irish company shall be automatically re-appointed at a company's annual general meeting unless the auditor has given notice in writing of his unwillingness to be re-appointed or a resolution has been passed at that meeting appointing someone else or providing expressly that the incumbent auditor shall not be re-appointed. The Auditors, Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants, are willing to continue in office. Notwithstanding the provisions of Irish company law, the Board has decided to provide shareholders with an opportunity to have a say on the continuance in office of Ernst & Young and a non-binding resolution has been included on the agenda for the 2014 Annual General Meeting for this purpose.

As required under Irish law, the Annual General Meeting agenda also includes a resolution authorising the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

Authority to Allot Shares

The Directors require the authority of the shareholders to allot any unissued share capital of the Company. Accordingly, an ordinary resolution will be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting to grant authority for that purpose. The total number of shares which the Directors may issue under this authority will be limited to a number which is equivalent to 33% of the issued share capital of the Company as at 24 February 2014.

No issue of shares will be made which could effectively alter control of the Company without prior approval of the Company in General Meeting. The Directors have no present intention of making any issue of shares. This authority will expire on the earlier of the date of the Annual General Meeting in 2015 or 6 August 2015.

Disapplication of Pre-emption Rights

A special resolution will be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting to renew the Directors' authority to disapply statutory pre-emption rights in relation to allotments of shares for cash. In respect of allotments other than for rights issues to ordinary shareholders and employees' share schemes, the total number of shares which the Directors may issue under this authority will be limited to a number which is equivalent to 5% of the issued share capital of the Company as at 24 February 2014. This authority will expire on the earlier of the date of the Annual General Meeting in 2015 or 6 August 2015.

The Directors intend to follow the Pre-Emption Group's Statement of Principles in that allotments of shares for cash and the re-issue of Treasury Shares on a non pre-emptive basis, other than for rights issues to ordinary shareholders and employees' share schemes, will not exceed 7.5% of the issued Ordinary/Income share capital within a rolling three year period without prior consultation with its shareholders.

Transactions in Own Shares

During 2013, 1,423,602 (2012: 1,317,872) Treasury Shares were re-issued under the Group's Share Schemes. As at 24 February 2014, 5,919,570 shares were held as Treasury Shares, equivalent to 0.81% of the Ordinary Shares in issue (excluding Treasury Shares).

A special resolution will be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting to renew the authority of the Company, or any of its subsidiaries, to purchase up to 10% of the

Company's Ordinary/Income Shares in issue at the date of the Annual General Meeting. If approved, the minimum price which may be paid for shares purchased by the Company shall not be less than the nominal value of the shares and the maximum price will be 105% of the higher of the last independent trade in the Company's shares (or current independent bid, if higher) and the average market price of such shares over the preceding five days. A special resolution will also be proposed for the purpose of setting the maximum and minimum prices at which Treasury Shares (effectively shares purchased and not cancelled) may be re-issued off-market by the Company. If granted, both of these authorities will expire on the earlier of the date of the Annual General Meeting in 2015 or 6 August 2015.

As at 24 February 2014, options to subscribe for a total of 22,798,918 Ordinary/Income Shares are outstanding, representing 3.11% of the issued Ordinary/Income share capital (excluding Treasury Shares). If the authority to purchase Ordinary/Income Shares was used in full, the options would represent 3.45% of the remaining shares in issue.

The Directors do not have any current intention of exercising the power to purchase the Company's own shares and will only do so if they consider it to be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

Authority to Offer Scrip Dividends

An ordinary resolution will be proposed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting to renew the Directors' authority to make scrip dividend offers. This authority will apply to dividends declared or to be paid commencing on 7 May 2014. Unless renewed at the Annual General Meeting in 2015, this authority shall expire at the close of business on 6 August 2015.

Annual General Meeting

A circular to shareholders, which will contain the Notice of Meeting and set out details of the matters to be considered at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, will be posted to shareholders on 27 March 2014.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors, whose names are listed on pages 37 to 39, are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law in the Republic of Ireland requires the Directors to prepare financial

statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position of the Parent Company and of the Group and of the profit or loss of the Group taken as a whole for that period (Consolidated Financial Statements).

In preparing the Consolidated Financial Statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with applicable International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The Directors are required by the Transparency (Directive 2004/109/EC) Regulations 2007 and the Transparency Rules of the Central Bank of Ireland to include a management report containing a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Parent Company and of the Group taken as a whole and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group.

The Directors confirm that to the best of their knowledge they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the 2013 Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements. The considerations set out above for the Group are also required to be addressed by the Directors in preparing the financial statements of the Parent Company (which are set out on pages 145 to 149), in respect of which the applicable accounting standards are those which are generally accepted in the Republic of Ireland.

The Directors have elected to prepare the Parent Company's Financial Statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (Irish GAAP) comprising the financial reporting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, together with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2013.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial

position of the Parent Company and which enable them to ensure that the Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with applicable International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and comply with the provisions of the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2013 and Article 4 of the IAS Regulation.

The Directors have appointed appropriate accounting personnel, including a professionally qualified Finance Director, in order to ensure that those requirements are met. The books and accounting records of the Company are maintained at the principal executive offices located at Belgard Castle, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

The Directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the Directors, whose names are listed on pages 37 to 39, confirms that they consider that the Annual Report and Financial Statements, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy.

On behalf of the Board,
N. Hartery, A. Manifold
Directors

24 February 2014

Independent Auditor's Report

to the members of CRH plc

We have audited the financial statements of CRH plc for the year ended 31 December 2013 which comprise the Consolidated Income Statement, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated and Company Balance Sheets, the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, the Accounting Policies, the related notes 1 to 33 (Group) and the related notes 1 to 12 (Company). The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the Group Financial Statements is Irish law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the Company Financial Statements is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

This Report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this Report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on pages 94 and 95 the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements giving a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group and the Company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our Report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion:

- the Group financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, of the state of the Group's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- the Company Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2013; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 and, as regards the Group financial statements, Article 4 of the IAS Regulation.

Our assessment of risks of material misstatement

We identified the following risks that have had the greatest effect on the overall audit strategy, the allocation of resources in the audit and directing the efforts of the engagement team:

- the assessment of the carrying value of goodwill;
- the assessment of the carrying value of property, plant and equipment and financial assets;
- the accounting and disclosure implications arising from the portfolio review;
- revenue recognition for construction contracts, principally the timing of revenue recognition and the calculations under the percentage-of-completion method;
- the accounting for acquisitions and disposals.

Our application of materiality

We determined materiality for the Group to be €25 million, which is approximately 5% of adjusted pre-tax profit as estimated during the year. We used adjusted pre-tax profit which excludes the impairment of goodwill and the non-recurring impairment of property, plant and equipment and financial assets arising from the portfolio review. This provided a basis for determining the nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures, identifying and assessing the risk of material misstatement and determining the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.

On the basis of our risk assessments, together with our assessment of the Group's overall control environment, our judgement was that overall performance materiality (i.e. our tolerance for misstatement in an individual account or balance) for the group should be 50% of planning materiality, namely €12.5 million. Our objective in adopting this approach was to ensure that total uncorrected and undetected audit differences in all accounts did not exceed our planning materiality level.

We agreed with the Audit Committee that we would report to the Committee all audit differences in excess of €1.25 million, as well as differences below that threshold that in our view warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

An overview of the scope of our audit

The overall scope of our audit has been assessed in line with the principles as described above in 'scope of the audit of the financial statements'. In determining which components in the Group to perform audit procedures at, we utilised size and risk criteria in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Following this assessment of the risk of material misstatement to the Group financial statements, we selected 77 components which represent the principal business units within the Group's six business segments. 33 of these components were subject to a full audit, whilst another 44 were subject to a partial audit where the extent of the audit work was based on our assessment of the risks of material misstatement and of the materiality of the account balances at those components. They were also selected to provide an appropriate basis for undertaking audit work to address the risks of material misstatement identified above. For the remaining components, we performed other procedures to confirm there were no significant risks of material misstatement in the Group financial statements.

The audit work at the 77 components was executed at levels of materiality applicable to each individual entity which were lower than Group materiality.

The Group audit team issued detailed instructions to each component auditor in scope for the Group audit, with specific audit requirements and confirmation requests across key areas. The Group audit team performed site visits at key locations across the Group, including attendance at divisional planning and closing meetings and the component auditors' discussion of the risks of fraud and error.

Our response to the risks identified above was as follows:

- *the assessment of the carrying value of goodwill:*
We considered the determination of the Group's Cash Generating Units ("CGUs"). In conjunction with our valuation specialists, we audited the models and assumptions used by management in performing their goodwill impairment testing, which have been described in note 15 to the Group financial statements. We challenged management's sensitivity analyses and performed our own sensitivity calculations.

We considered the adequacy of management's disclosures in respect of impairment testing and whether the disclosures about the sensitivity of the outcome of the impairment assessment to changes in key assumptions appropriately communicated the underlying sensitivities.

- *the assessment of the carrying value of property, plant and equipment and financial assets:*
We challenged the models and assumptions used by management in performing their impairment testing of property, plant and equipment and financial assets, specifically the reasonableness of the cash flow projections and discount rates used.
- *the accounting and disclosure implications arising from the portfolio review:*
We challenged the identification by management of the 45 business units determined for disposal as part of the portfolio review. As the decision to dispose of these units is a triggering event for an impairment review, we audited the business unit valuation models prepared by management, and in particular challenged the assumptions used in calculating the fair value less cost of disposal. In addition, we considered the adequacy of the disclosures related to the resulting asset impairment including the sensitivity disclosures.
- *revenue recognition for construction contracts, principally the timing of revenue recognition and the calculation under the percentage-of-completion method:*
We identified and tested the processes over construction contracts revenue recognition and challenged the reasonableness of the assumptions made by management in the estimates of costs to complete and overall stage of completion. In addition, we examined contracts and tested revenue recognised in the period ensuring compliance with IAS 11.
- *the accounting for acquisitions and disposals:*
Our procedures focused on the reasonableness of purchase price allocation adjustments, the accounting treatment of deferred consideration, the identification and valuation of acquired intangible assets and the determination of the profit or loss on disposals.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Company.
- The Company Balance Sheet is in agreement with the books of account.

- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements and the description in the Corporate Governance Report of the main features of the internal control and risk management systems in relation to the process for preparing the Group Financial Statements is consistent with the Group Financial Statements.
- The net assets of the Company, as stated in the Company Balance Sheet are more than half of the amount of its called-up share capital and, in our opinion, on that basis there did not exist at 31 December 2013 a financial situation which under Section 40 (1) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1983 would require the convening of an extraordinary general meeting of the Company.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following:

Under the ISAs (UK and Ireland), we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, information in the Annual Report is:

- materially inconsistent with the information in the audited financial statements; or
- apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, our knowledge of the Group acquired in the course of performing our audit; or
- is otherwise misleading.

In particular, we are required to consider whether we have identified any inconsistencies between our knowledge acquired during the audit and the Directors' Statement that they consider the Annual Report is fair, balanced and understandable and whether the Annual Report appropriately discloses those matters that we communicated to the Audit Committee which we consider should have been disclosed.

Under the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Under the Listing Rules we are required to review:

- the Directors' Statement, set out on page 95, in relation to going concern;
- the part of the Corporate Governance Report relating to the Company's compliance with the nine provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code specified for our review; and
- certain elements of the report to shareholders by the Board on Directors' remuneration.

Breffni Maguire
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young
Dublin

24 February 2014

Consolidated Income Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2013

	2013	Restated 2012
	€m	€m
Notes		
2 Revenue	18,031	18,084
3 Cost of sales	(13,314)	(13,161)
Gross profit	4,717	4,923
3 Operating costs	(4,617)	(4,118)
2,4,6,7 Group operating profit	100	805
2,5 Profit on disposals	26	230
Profit before finance costs	126	1,035
9 Finance costs	(262)	(271)
9 Finance income	13	15
9 Other financial expense	(48)	(49)
10 Share of equity accounted investments' loss	(44)	(84)
2 (Loss)/profit before tax	(215)	646
11 Income tax expense	(80)	(106)
Group (loss)/profit for the financial year	(295)	540
(Loss)/profit attributable to:		
Equity holders of the Company	(296)	538
Non-controlling interests	1	2
Group (loss)/profit for the financial year	(295)	540
13 Basic (loss)/earnings per Ordinary Share	(40.6c)	74.6c
13 Diluted (loss)/earnings per Ordinary Share	(40.6c)	74.5c

All of the results relate to continuing operations.

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the financial year ended 31 December 2013

	2013	Restated 2012
	€m	€m
Notes		
Group (loss)/profit for the financial year	(295)	540
Other comprehensive income		
<i>Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent years:</i>		
Currency translation effects	(373)	(51)
25 (Losses)/gains relating to cash flow hedges	(2)	1
	(375)	(50)
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent years:</i>		
28 Remeasurement of retirement benefit obligations	162	(146)
11 Tax on items recognised directly within other comprehensive income	(43)	23
	119	(123)
Total other comprehensive income for the year	(256)	(173)
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	(551)	367
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the Company	(552)	366
Non-controlling interests	1	1
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	(551)	367

N. Hartery, A. Manifold, Directors

Consolidated Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2013

	2013	Restated 2012	Restated as at 1 January 2012
	€m	€m	€m
Notes			
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
14 Property, plant and equipment	7,539	7,971	8,008
15 Intangible assets	3,911	4,267	4,148
16 Investments accounted for using the equity method	1,340	1,422	2,073
16 Other financial assets	23	34	34
18 Other receivables	93	83	60
25 Derivative financial instruments	63	120	163
27 Deferred income tax assets	107	191	274
Total non-current assets	13,076	14,088	14,760
Current assets			
17 Inventories	2,254	2,333	2,179
18 Trade and other receivables	2,516	2,520	2,542
16 Asset held for sale	-	143	-
Current income tax recoverable	26	17	8
25 Derivative financial instruments	17	52	24
23 Cash and cash equivalents	2,540	1,747	1,246
Total current assets	7,353	6,812	5,999
Total assets	20,429	20,900	20,759
EQUITY			
Capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders			
29 Equity share capital	251	249	247
29 Preference share capital	1	1	1
29 Share premium account	4,219	4,133	4,047
29 Treasury Shares and own shares	(118)	(146)	(183)
Other reserves	197	182	168
Foreign currency translation reserve	(542)	(169)	(119)
Retained income	5,654	6,303	6,358
	9,662	10,553	10,519
Non-controlling interests	24	36	41
Total equity	9,686	10,589	10,560
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
24 Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	4,579	4,161	4,300
25 Derivative financial instruments	34	14	-
27 Deferred income tax liabilities	1,166	1,232	1,336
19 Other payables	289	277	184
28 Retirement benefit obligations	410	653	636
26 Provisions for liabilities	231	256	244
Total non-current liabilities	6,709	6,593	6,700
Current liabilities			
19 Trade and other payables	2,754	2,775	2,717
Current income tax liabilities	151	180	193
24 Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	961	647	458
25 Derivative financial instruments	19	6	10
26 Provisions for liabilities	149	110	121
Total current liabilities	4,034	3,718	3,499
Total liabilities	10,743	10,311	10,199
Total equity and liabilities	20,429	20,900	20,759

N. Hartery, A. Manifold, Directors

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

for the financial year ended 31 December 2013

Notes	Attributable to the equity holders of the Company							
	Issued share capital	Share premium account	Treasury Shares/ own shares	Other reserves	Foreign currency translation reserve	Retained income	Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
At 1 January 2013 as reported	250	4,133	(146)	182	(169)	6,287	36	10,573
Change in accounting policy	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	16
At 1 January 2013 restated	250	4,133	(146)	182	(169)	6,303	36	10,589
Group loss for the financial year	-	-	-	-	-	(296)	1	(295)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(373)	117	-	(256)
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(373)	(179)	1	(551)
29 Issue of share capital (net of expenses)	2	86	-	-	-	-	-	88
8 Share-based payment expense								
- share option schemes	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
- Performance Share Plan (PSP)	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	14
29 Treasury/own shares reissued	-	-	34	-	-	(34)	-	-
29 Shares acquired by Employee Benefit Trust (own shares)	-	-	(6)	-	-	-	-	(6)
Share option exercises	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	19
12 Dividends (including shares issued in lieu of dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	(455)	(1)	(456)
31 Non-controlling interests arising on acquisition of subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Acquisition of non-controlling interests	-	-	-	-	-	-	(13)	(13)
At 31 December 2013	252	4,219	(118)	197	(542)	5,654	24	9,686

for the financial year ended 31 December 2012

At 1 January 2012 as reported	248	4,047	(183)	168	(119)	6,348	74	10,583
Change in accounting policy	-	-	-	-	-	10	(33)	(23)
At 1 January 2012 restated	248	4,047	(183)	168	(119)	6,358	41	10,560
Group profit for the financial year	-	-	-	-	-	538	2	540
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(50)	(122)	(1)	(173)
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(50)	416	1	367
29 Issue of share capital (net of expenses)	2	86	-	-	-	-	-	88
8 Share-based payment expense								
- Performance Share Plan (PSP)	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	14
29 Treasury/own shares reissued	-	-	37	-	-	(37)	-	-
Share option exercises	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	16
12 Dividends (including shares issued in lieu of dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	(450)	(4)	(454)
Acquisition of non-controlling interests	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	(2)
At 31 December 2012 restated	250	4,133	(146)	182	(169)	6,303	36	10,589

N. Hartery, A. Manifold, Directors

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2013

	2013	Restated 2012
	€m	€m
Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities		
(Loss)/profit before tax	(215)	646
9 Finance costs (net)	297	305
10 Share of equity accounted investments' result	44	84
5 Profit on disposals	(26)	(230)
Group operating profit	100	805
3 Depreciation charge	671	686
3 Amortisation of intangible assets	54	44
3 Impairment charge	650	28
8 Share-based payment expense	15	14
Other (primarily pension payments)	(96)	(152)
20 Net movement on working capital and provisions	77	(58)
Cash generated from operations	1,471	1,367
Interest paid (including finance leases)	(269)	(258)
Corporation tax paid	(110)	(124)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,092	985
Cash flows from investing activities		
5 Proceeds from disposals (net of cash disposed)	122	782
Interest received	13	16
Dividends received from equity accounted investments	33	35
14 Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(497)	(544)
31 Acquisition of subsidiaries (net of cash acquired)	(336)	(418)
16 Other investments and advances	(78)	(56)
20 Deferred and contingent acquisition consideration paid	(105)	(30)
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(848)	(215)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from exercise of share options	19	16
Acquisition of non-controlling interests	(13)	(2)
Increase in interest-bearing loans, borrowings and finance leases	1,491	487
Net cash flow arising from derivative financial instruments	64	13
29 Treasury/own shares purchased	(6)	-
Repayment of interest-bearing loans, borrowings and finance leases	(586)	(394)
12 Dividends paid to equity holders of the Company	(367)	(362)
12 Dividends paid to non-controlling interests	(1)	(4)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	601	(246)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	845	524
Reconciliation of opening to closing cash and cash equivalents		
21 Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	1,747	1,246
Translation adjustment	(52)	(23)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	845	524
21 Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	2,540	1,747
Reconciliation of opening to closing net debt		
21 Net debt at 1 January	(2,909)	(3,335)
31 Debt in acquired companies	(44)	(42)
5 Debt in disposed companies	17	2
Increase in interest-bearing loans, borrowings and finance leases	(1,491)	(487)
Net cash flow arising from derivative financial instruments	(64)	(13)
Repayment of interest-bearing loans, borrowings and finance leases	586	394
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	845	524
Mark-to-market adjustment	10	9
Translation adjustment	77	39
21 Net debt at 31 December	(2,973)	(2,909)

N. Hartery, A. Manifold, Directors

Accounting Policies

(including key accounting estimates and assumptions)

Statement of Compliance

The Consolidated Financial Statements of CRH plc have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union, which comprise standards and interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). IFRS as adopted by the European Union differ in certain respects from IFRS as issued by the IASB. On 1 January 2013 the Group adopted IFRS 10, 11 and 12, whereas IFRS as issued by the European Union has an effective date for these standards of 1 January 2014. The Group chose to early adopt these standards to ensure consistency with its Annual Report and its form 20-F (which is prepared in compliance with IFRS as issued by the IASB). The Consolidated Financial Statements for the financial years presented would be no different had IFRS as issued by the IASB been applied.

CRH plc, the Parent Company, is a publicly traded limited company incorporated and domiciled in the Republic of Ireland.

Basis of Preparation

The Consolidated Financial Statements, which are presented in euro millions, have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the measurement at fair value of share-based payments, retirement benefit obligations and certain financial assets and liabilities including derivative financial instruments.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently by all the Group's subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates to all periods presented in these Consolidated Financial Statements.

Certain prior year disclosures have been amended to conform to current year presentation.

In accordance with Section 148(8) of the Companies Act, 1963 and Section 71 (A) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, the Company is availing of the exemption from presenting its individual profit and loss account to the Annual General Meeting and from filing it with the Registrar of Companies.

Adoption of IFRS and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) interpretations

(i) *The following standards and amendments have been adopted during the financial year*

- IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* - amendments
- IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* - amendments
- IFRS 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements*
- IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements*, IAS 28 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures*
- IFRS 12 *Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities*
- IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*
- IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* (revised)
- IFRIC 20 *Stripping Costs in the Production Phase of a Surface Mine*
- Improvements to IFRS 2009-2011 cycle

– IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements*

Under IAS 31 *Interests in Joint Ventures*, the Group's net interests in its joint arrangements were classified as joint ventures and the Group's share of assets, liabilities, revenue, income and expenses were proportionately consolidated. Since the adoption of IFRS 11, the Group now accounts for its interests in joint ventures using the equity method of accounting. The change to equity accounting had no impact on the Group's result after tax but impacted each line in the Consolidated Income Statement. The Group's Consolidated Balance Sheet was also impacted on a line by line basis but net assets remained unchanged.

– IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* (revised)

The application of IAS 19 (revised) resulted in a number of amendments to the Group's accounting for retirement benefit obligations. The most

significant change was in how the net interest expense was calculated. Under the revised standard, the Group no longer takes a credit for the expected return on assets and the net interest expense has been calculated by multiplying the discount rate by the net pension liability, both as determined at the start of the annual reporting period, adjusted for contributions and benefit payments in the year.

The Group's Swiss schemes contain a number of risk-sharing features. Under IAS 19 (revised), contributions from employees that are set out in the formal terms of the plan reduce measurements of the net retirement benefit obligation (if they are required to reduce a deficit arising from losses on plan assets or actuarial losses) or reduce current service cost (if they are linked to service). In addition, the defined benefit pension obligations relating to the Group's Swiss schemes have now been completed using generational rather than periodic tables; this change has been applied prospectively from 1 January 2013.

As required by IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates, and Errors* the nature and effect of changes arising as a result of the adoption of IFRS 11 and IAS 19 (revised) on the 2012 reported Consolidated Income Statement, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and Consolidated Balance Sheet are disclosed in note 1 on pages 109 and 110. Under the transitional provisions of IFRS 11 the Group is not required to disclose the impact that the adoption of IFRS 11 has had on the current period. If IAS 19 (revised) had not been applied in the current period the Group's net interest expense would have been lower by approximately €20 million and remeasurement adjustments recognised in other comprehensive income would have been approximately €30 million higher.

The application of the remaining standards and interpretations did not result in material changes to the Group's Consolidated Financial Statements.

(ii) *IFRS and IFRIC interpretations being adopted in subsequent years*

IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* as issued reflects the IASB's work on the replacement of IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* and applies to the classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities as defined in IAS 39 and the application of hedge accounting. The Group will assess the impact of IFRS 9 when the final standard including all phases is issued.

There are no other IFRS or IFRIC interpretations that are effective subsequent to the CRH 2013 financial year-end that would have a material impact on the Group.

Key Accounting Policies which involve Estimates, Assumptions and Judgements

The preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to make certain estimates, assumptions and judgements that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses at the end of the reporting period. Management believes that the estimates, assumptions and judgements upon which it relies are reasonable based on the information available to it at the time that those estimates, assumptions and judgements are made. In some cases, the accounting treatment of a particular transaction is specifically dictated by IFRS and does not require management's judgement in its application.

Management consider that their use of estimates, assumptions and judgements in the application of the Group's accounting policies are inter-related and therefore discuss them together below. The critical accounting policies which involve significant estimates or assumptions or judgements, the actual outcome of which could have a material impact on the Group's results and financial position outlined below, are as follows:

Impairment of long-lived assets and goodwill – Notes 14 and 15

Impairment of property, plant and equipment and goodwill

The carrying values of items of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date and are subject to impairment testing when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying values may not be recoverable. Goodwill is subject to impairment testing on an annual basis and at any time during the year if

an indicator of impairment is considered to exist. A decision to dispose of a business unit represents one such indicator and in these circumstances the recoverable amount is assessed on a fair value less costs of disposal basis. In the year in which a business combination is effected and where some or all of the goodwill allocated to a particular cash-generating unit arose in respect of that combination, the cash-generating unit is tested for impairment prior to the end of the relevant annual period.

Property, plant and equipment assets are reviewed for potential impairment by applying a series of external and internal indicators specific to the assets under consideration; these indicators encompass macroeconomic issues including the inherent cyclicity of the building materials sector, actual obsolescence or physical damage, a deterioration in forecast performance in the internal reporting cycle and restructuring and rationalisation programmes.

Where the carrying value exceeds the estimated recoverable amount (being the greater of fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use), an impairment loss is recognised by writing down the assets to their recoverable amount. In assessing value-in-use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the future cash flow estimates have not been adjusted. The estimates of future cash flows exclude cash inflows or outflows attributable to financing activities and income tax. For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined by reference to the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Impairment losses arising in respect of goodwill are not reversed once recognised.

Goodwill relating to associates and joint ventures is included in the carrying amount of the investment and is neither amortised nor individually tested for impairment. Where indicators of impairment of an investment arise in accordance with the requirements of IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*, the carrying amount is tested for impairment by comparing its recoverable amount with its carrying amount.

The impairment testing process requires management to make significant judgements and estimates regarding the future cash flows expected to be generated by the use of and, if applicable, the eventual disposal of, long-lived assets and goodwill as well as other factors to determine the fair value of the assets. Management periodically evaluates and updates the estimates based on the conditions which influence these variables. A detailed discussion of the impairment methodology applied and key assumptions used by the Group in the context of long-lived assets and goodwill are provided in notes 14 and 15 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

The assumptions and conditions for determining impairments of long-lived assets and goodwill reflect management's best assumptions and estimates, but these items involve inherent uncertainties described above, many of which are not under management's control. As a result, the accounting for such items could result in different estimates or amounts if management used different assumptions or if different conditions occur in future accounting periods.

Retirement benefit obligations – Note 28

Costs arising in respect of the Group's defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the Consolidated Income Statement in the period in which they are incurred. The Group has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions in the event that the fund does not hold sufficient assets to meet its benefit commitments.

The liabilities and costs associated with the Group's defined benefit pension schemes (both funded and unfunded) are assessed on the basis of the projected unit credit method by professionally qualified actuaries and are arrived at using actuarial assumptions based on market expectations at the balance sheet date. The discount rates employed in determining the present value of the schemes' liabilities are determined by reference to market yields at the balance sheet date on high-quality corporate bonds of a currency and term consistent with the currency and term of the associated post-employment benefit obligations.

The net surplus or deficit arising on the Group's defined benefit pension

schemes, together with the liabilities associated with the unfunded schemes, are shown either within non-current assets or non-current liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The deferred tax impact of pension scheme surpluses and deficits is disclosed separately within deferred tax assets or liabilities as appropriate. Remeasurements, comprising actuarial gains and losses and the return on plan assets (excluding net interest), are recognised immediately in the Consolidated Balance Sheet with a corresponding debit or credit to retained earnings through other comprehensive income in the period in which they occur. Remeasurements are not reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods.

The defined benefit pension asset or liability in the Consolidated Balance Sheet comprises the total for each plan of the present value of the defined benefit obligation less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Plan assets are assets that are held by a long-term employee benefit fund or qualifying insurance policies. Fair value is based on market price information and, in the case of published securities, it is the published bid price. The value of any defined benefit asset is limited to the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan and reductions in the future contributions to the plan.

The Group's obligation in respect of post-employment healthcare and life assurance benefits represents the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for service in the current and prior periods. The obligation is computed on the basis of the projected unit credit method and is discounted to present value using a discount rate equating to the market yield at the balance sheet date on high-quality corporate bonds of a currency and term consistent with the currency and estimated term of the post-employment obligations.

Assumptions

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations from which the amounts recognised in the Consolidated Financial Statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans. These assumptions can be affected by (i) for the discount rate, changes in the rates of return on high-quality corporate bonds; (ii) for future compensation levels, future labour market conditions and (iii) for healthcare cost trend rates, the rate of medical cost inflation in the relevant regions. The weighted average actuarial assumptions used and sensitivity analysis in relation to the significant assumptions employed in the determination of pension and other post-retirement liabilities are contained in note 28 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

While management believes that the assumptions used are appropriate, differences in actual experience or changes in assumptions may affect the obligations and expenses recognised in future accounting periods. The assets and liabilities of defined benefit pension schemes may exhibit significant period-on-period volatility attributable primarily to changes in bond yields and longevity. In addition to future service contributions, significant cash contributions may be required to remediate past service deficits.

Provisions for liabilities – Note 26

A provision is recognised when the Group has a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Where the Group anticipates that a provision will be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset only when it is virtually certain that the reimbursement will arise. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the Consolidated Income Statement net of any reimbursement. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as interest expense. Provisions arising on business combination activity are recognised only to the extent that they would have qualified for recognition in the financial statements of the acquiree prior to acquisition. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Rationalisation and redundancy provisions

Provisions for rationalisation and redundancy are established when a detailed restructuring plan has been drawn up, resolved upon by the responsible decision-making level of management and communicated to the employees who are affected by the plan. These provisions are recognised at the present value of future disbursements and cover only expenses that arise directly from restructuring measures and are necessary for restructuring; these provisions exclude costs related to future business operations. Restructuring measures may include the sale or termination of business units, site closures, and relocation of business activities, changes in management structure or a fundamental reorganisation of departments or business units.

Environmental and remediation provisions

The measurement of environmental and remediation provisions is based on an evaluation of currently available facts with respect to each individual site and considers factors such as existing technology, currently enacted laws and regulations and prior experience in remediation of sites. Inherent uncertainties exist in such evaluations primarily due to unknown conditions, changing governmental regulations and legal standards regarding liability, the protracted length of the clean-up periods and evolving technologies. The environmental and remediation liabilities provided for in the Consolidated Financial Statements reflect the information available to management at the time of determination of the liability and are adjusted periodically as remediation efforts progress or as additional technical or legal information becomes available. Due to the inherent uncertainties described above, many of which are not under management's control, the accounting for such items could result in different amounts if management used different assumptions or if different conditions occur in future accounting periods.

Legal contingencies

The status of each significant claim and legal proceeding in which the Group is involved is reviewed by management on a periodic basis and the Group's potential financial exposure is assessed. If the potential loss from any claim or legal proceeding is considered probable, and the amount can be estimated, a liability is recognised for the estimated loss. Because of the uncertainties inherent in such matters, the related provisions are based on the best information available at the time; the issues taken into account by management and factored into the assessment of legal contingencies include, as applicable, the status of settlement negotiations, interpretations of contractual obligations, prior experience with similar contingencies/claims, the availability of insurance to protect against the downside exposure and advice obtained from legal counsel and other third parties. As additional information becomes available on pending claims, the potential liability is reassessed and revisions are made to the amounts accrued where appropriate. Such revisions in the estimates of the potential liabilities could have a material impact on the results of operations and financial position of the Group.

Taxation – current and deferred – Notes 11 and 27

Current tax represents the expected tax payable (or recoverable) on the taxable profit for the year using tax rates enacted for the period. Any interest or penalties arising are included within current tax. Where items are accounted for outside of profit or loss, the related income tax is recognised either in other comprehensive income or directly in equity as appropriate.

Deferred tax is recognised using the liability method on temporary differences arising at the balance sheet date between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the Consolidated Financial Statements. However, deferred tax liabilities are not recognised if they arise from the initial recognition of goodwill; in addition, deferred income tax is not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. For the most part, no provision has been made for temporary differences applicable to investments in subsidiaries and joint ventures as the Group is in a position to control the timing of reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future. However, a temporary difference has been recognised to the extent

that specific assets have been identified for sale or where there is a specific intention to unwind the temporary difference in the foreseeable future. Due to the absence of control in the context of associates (significant influence only), deferred tax liabilities are recognised where appropriate in respect of CRH's investments in these entities on the basis that the exercise of significant influence would not necessarily prevent earnings being remitted by other shareholders in the undertaking.

Deferred tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not subject to discounting.

Deferred tax assets are recognised in respect of all deductible temporary differences, carry-forward of unused tax credits and unused tax losses to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised. The carrying amounts of deferred tax assets are subject to review at each balance sheet date and are reduced to the extent that future taxable profits are considered to be inadequate to allow all or part of any deferred tax asset to be utilised.

The Group's income tax charge is based on reported profit and expected statutory tax rates, which reflect various allowances and reliefs and tax planning opportunities available to the Group in the multiple tax jurisdictions in which it operates. The determination of the Group's provision for income tax requires certain judgements and estimates in relation to matters where the ultimate tax outcome may not be certain. The recognition or non-recognition of deferred tax assets as appropriate also requires judgement as it involves an assessment of the future recoverability of those assets. In addition, the Group is subject to tax audits which can involve complex issues that could require extended periods for resolution. Although management believes that the estimates included in the Consolidated Financial Statements and its tax return positions are reasonable, no assurance can be given that the final outcome of these matters will not be different than that which is reflected in the Group's historical income tax provisions and accruals. Any such differences could have a material impact on the income tax provision and profit for the period in which such a determination is made.

Property, plant and equipment – Note 14

The Group's accounting policy for property, plant and equipment is considered critical because the carrying value of €7,539 million at 31 December 2013 represents a significant portion (37%) of total assets at that date. Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairments except for certain items that had been revalued to fair value prior to the date of transition to IFRS (1 January 2004).

Repair and maintenance expenditure is included in an asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repair and maintenance expenditure is charged to the Consolidated Income Statement during the financial period in which it is incurred.

Borrowing costs incurred in the construction of major assets which take a substantial period of time to complete are capitalised in the financial period in which they are incurred.

In the application of the Group's accounting policy, judgement is exercised by management in the determination of residual values and useful lives. Depreciation and depletion is calculated to write off the book value of each item of property, plant and equipment over its useful economic life on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

Land and buildings: The book value of mineral-bearing land, less an estimate of its residual value, is depleted over the period of the mineral extraction in the proportion which production for the year bears to the latest estimates of mineral reserves. Land other than mineral-bearing land is not depreciated. In general, buildings are depreciated at 2.5% per annum ("p.a.").

Plant and machinery: These are depreciated at rates ranging from 3.3% p.a. to 20% p.a. depending on the type of asset. Plant and machinery includes transport which is, on average, depreciated at 20% p.a.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each financial year-end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for by changing the depreciation period or method as appropriate on a prospective basis. For the Group's accounting policy on impairment of property, plant and equipment please see impairment of long-lived assets and goodwill.

Other Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of consolidation

The Consolidated Financial Statements include the financial statements of the Parent Company and all subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates, drawn up to 31 December each year. The financial year-ends of the Group's subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates are co-terminous.

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases. A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary without a change in control is accounted for as an equity transaction.

Non-controlling interests represent the portion of the equity of a subsidiary not attributable either directly or indirectly to the Parent Company and are presented separately in the Consolidated Income Statement and within equity in the Consolidated Balance Sheet, distinguished from Parent Company shareholders' equity. Acquisitions of non-controlling interests are accounted for as transactions with equity holders in their capacity as equity holders and therefore no goodwill is recognised as a result of such transactions. On an acquisition by acquisition basis, the Group recognises any non-controlling interest in the acquiree either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's net assets.

Investments in associates and joint ventures – Notes 10 and 16

An associate is an entity over which the Group has significant influence. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity, but is not control or joint control over those policies.

A joint venture is a type of joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the joint venture. Joint control is the contractually agreed sharing of control of the arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

The Group's investments in its associates and joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method from the date significant influence/joint control is deemed to arise until the date on which significant influence/joint control ceases to exist.

The Consolidated Income Statement reflects the Group's share of profit after tax of the related associates and joint ventures. Investments in associates and joint ventures are carried in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at cost adjusted in respect of post-acquisition changes in the Group's share of net assets, less any impairment in value. If necessary, impairment losses on the carrying amount of an investment are reported within the Group's share of equity accounted investments results in the Consolidated Income Statement. If the Group's share of losses exceeds the carrying amount of an associate or joint venture, the carrying amount is reduced to nil and recognition of further losses is discontinued except to the extent that the Group has incurred obligations in respect of the associate or joint venture.

Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-group balances and transactions, income and expenses, and any

unrealised gains or losses arising from such transactions, are eliminated in preparing the Consolidated Financial Statements. Unrealised gains arising from transactions with joint ventures and associates are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the entity. Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same manner as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment in the Group's interest in the entity.

Revenue recognition

Revenue represents the value of goods and services supplied and is net of trade discounts and value added tax/sales tax. Other than in the case of construction contracts, revenue is recognised to the extent that revenue and related costs incurred or to be incurred are subject to reliable measurement, that it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Group and that the significant risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the buyer, usually on delivery of the goods.

Construction contracts

The Group engages primarily in the performance of fixed price contracts, as opposed to cost plus contracts, and recognises revenue in accordance with the percentage-of-completion method, with the completion percentage being computed generally by reference to the proportion that contract costs incurred at the balance sheet date bear to the total estimated costs of the contract.

Contract costs are recognised as incurred. When the outcome of a construction contract can be estimated reliably and it is probable that the contract will be profitable, contract revenue is recognised over the period of the contract. When the outcome of a construction contract cannot be estimated reliably, contract revenue is recognised only to the extent of contract costs incurred where it is probable that these costs will be recoverable. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised immediately as an expense. Revenue and/or costs in respect of variations or contracts claims and incentive payments, to the extent that they arise, are recognised when it is probable that the amount, which can be measured reliably, will be recovered from/paid to the customer.

If circumstances arise that may change the original estimates of revenues, costs or extent of progress towards completion, estimates are revised. These revisions may result in increases or decreases in revenue or costs and are reflected in income in the period in which the circumstances that give rise to the revision became known by management.

Segment reporting – Note 2

Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal organisational and management structure and the internal reporting information provided to the Chief Operating Decision-Maker who is responsible for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments.

Share-based payments – Note 8

The Group operates Share Option Schemes, a Performance Share Plan and a Restricted Share Plan. Its policy in relation to the granting of share options and the granting of awards under the Performance Share Plan together with the nature of the underlying market and non-market performance and other vesting conditions are addressed in the Directors' Remuneration Report on page 62. The Group's employee share options and shares awarded under the Performance Share Plan and Restricted Share Plan are equity-settled share-based payments as defined in IFRS 2 *Share-Based Payment*.

Share options

For share option awards, the Group measures the services received and the corresponding increase in equity at fair value at the grant date using the trinomial model (a lattice option-pricing model in accordance with IFRS 2). Fair value is determined on the basis that the services to be rendered by employees as consideration for the granting of share options will be received over the vesting period, which is assessed as at the grant date. The share options granted by the Company are at market value at date of grant and are not subject to market-based vesting conditions within the meaning of IFRS 2.

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The cost is recognised, together with a corresponding increase in equity, over the period in which the performance and/or service conditions are fulfilled. The cumulative expense recognised at each reporting date until the vesting date reflects the extent to which the vesting period has expired and the Group's best estimate of the number of equity instruments that will ultimately vest. The Consolidated Income Statement expense/credit for a period represents the movement in cumulative expense recognised at the beginning and end of that period. The cumulative charge to the Consolidated Income Statement is reversed only where the performance condition is not met or where an employee in receipt of share options leaves service prior to completion of the expected vesting period and those options forfeit in consequence.

No expense is recognised for awards that do not ultimately vest, except for share-based payments where vesting is conditional upon a non-vesting condition which is treated as vesting irrespective of whether or not it is satisfied, provided that all other performance and/or service conditions are satisfied.

Where an award is cancelled, it is treated as if it is vested on the date of cancellation, and any expense not yet recognised for the award is recognised immediately. This includes any award where non-vesting conditions within the control of either the Company or the employee are not met. All cancellations of awards are treated equally.

The proceeds received net of any directly attributable transaction costs are credited to share capital (nominal value) and share premium when the options are exercised.

The dilutive effect of outstanding options is reflected as additional share dilution in the determination of diluted earnings per share.

To the extent that the Group receives a tax deduction relating to the services paid in shares, deferred tax in respect of share options is provided on the basis of the difference between the market price of the underlying equity as at the date of the financial statements and the exercise price of the option; where the amount of any tax deduction (or estimated future tax deduction) exceeds the amount of the related cumulative remuneration expense, the current or deferred tax associated with the excess is recognised directly in equity.

The Group has no exposure in respect of cash-settled share-based payment transactions and share-based payment transactions with cash alternatives.

Awards under the Performance Share Plan

The fair value of shares awarded under the Performance Share Plan is determined using a Monte Carlo simulation technique and is expensed in the Consolidated Income Statement over the vesting period. The Performance Share Plan contains inter alia a total shareholder return-based (and hence market-based) vesting condition; accordingly, the fair value assigned to the related equity instruments at the grant date is adjusted so as to reflect the anticipated likelihood as at the grant date of achieving the market-based vesting condition. Awards are treated as vesting irrespective of whether or not the market condition is satisfied, provided that all other performance and/or service conditions are satisfied.

Awards under the Restricted Share Plan

The fair value of shares granted under the Restricted Share Plan is calculated as the market price of the shares at the date of grant reduced by the present value of dividends expected to be paid over the vesting period.

Business combinations – Note 31

The Group applies the acquisition method in accounting for business combinations. The cost of an acquisition is measured as the aggregate of the consideration transferred (excluding amounts relating to the settlement of pre-existing relationships), the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and, in a business combination achieved in stages, the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer's previously-held equity interest in the acquiree. Transaction costs that the Group incurs in connection with a business combination are expensed as incurred.

To the extent that settlement of all or any part of a business combination is deferred, the fair value of the deferred component is determined through

discounting the amounts payable to their present value at the date of exchange. The discount component is unwound as an interest charge in the Consolidated Income Statement over the life of the obligation. Where a business combination agreement provides for an adjustment to the cost of the combination contingent on future events, the amount of the adjustment is included in the cost at the acquisition date at fair value. The fair value of contingent consideration at acquisition date is arrived at through discounting the expected payment (based on scenario modelling) to present value. In general, in order for contingent consideration to become payable, pre-defined profit and/or profit/net asset ratios must be exceeded. Subsequent changes to the fair value of the contingent consideration will be recognised in profit or loss unless the contingent consideration is classified as equity, in which case it is not remeasured and settlement is accounted for within equity.

The assets and liabilities arising on business combination activity are measured at their acquisition-date fair values. Contingent liabilities assumed in business combination activity are recognised as of the acquisition date, where such contingent liabilities are present obligations arising from past events and their fair value can be measured reliably. In the case of a business combination achieved in stages, the acquisition-date fair value of the acquirer's previously-held equity interest in the acquiree is remeasured to fair value as at the acquisition date through profit or loss. When the initial accounting for a business combination is determined provisionally, any adjustments to the provisional values allocated to the identifiable assets and liabilities (and contingent liabilities, if relevant) are made within the measurement period, a period of no more than one year from the acquisition date.

Goodwill – Note 15

Goodwill arising on a business combination is initially measured at cost being the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the net identifiable assets and liabilities assumed at the date of acquisition and relates to the future economic benefits arising from assets which are not capable of being individually identified and separately recognised. Following initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. If the cost of the acquisition is lower than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary acquired, the identification and measurement of the related assets and liabilities and contingent liabilities are revisited and the cost is reassessed with any remaining balance recognised immediately in the Consolidated Income Statement.

The carrying amount of goodwill in respect of associates and joint ventures is included in investments accounted for using the equity method (i.e. within financial assets) in the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Where a subsidiary is disposed of or terminated through closure, the carrying value of any goodwill of that subsidiary is included in the determination of the net profit or loss on disposal/termination.

Intangible assets (other than goodwill) arising on business combinations – Note 15

An intangible asset is capitalised separately from goodwill as part of a business combination at cost (fair value at date of acquisition) to the extent that it is probable that the expected future economic benefits attributable to the asset will flow to the Group and that its cost can be measured reliably.

Subsequent to initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. The carrying values of definite-lived intangible assets (the Group does not currently have any indefinite-lived intangible assets other than goodwill) are reviewed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date and are subject to impairment testing when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying values may not be recoverable.

The amortisation of intangible assets is calculated to write off the book value of definite-lived intangible assets over their useful lives on a straight-line basis on the assumption of zero residual value. In general, definite-lived intangible assets are amortised over periods ranging from one to ten years, depending on the nature of the intangible asset.

Amortisation periods, useful lives, expected patterns of consumption and residual values are reviewed at each financial year-end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for by changing the amortisation period or method as appropriate on a prospective basis.

Other financial assets – Note 16

All investments are initially recognised at the fair value of consideration given plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Where equity investments are actively traded in organised financial markets, fair value is determined by reference to Stock Exchange quoted market bid prices at the close of business on the balance sheet date. Unquoted equity investments are recorded at historical cost given that it is impracticable to determine fair value in accordance with IAS 39 and are included within financial assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Leases – Notes 4 and 30

Leases where the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as operating leases. Operating lease rentals are charged to the Consolidated Income Statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Inventories and construction contracts – Note 17

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is based on the first-in, first-out principle (and weighted average, where appropriate) and includes all expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their present location and condition. Raw materials are valued on the basis of purchase cost on a first-in, first-out basis. In the case of finished goods and work-in-progress, cost includes direct materials, direct labour and attributable overheads based on normal operating capacity and excludes borrowing costs.

Net realisable value is the estimated proceeds of sale less all further costs to completion, and less all costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution. Estimates of net realisable value are based on the most reliable evidence available at the time the estimates are made, taking into consideration fluctuations of price or cost directly relating to events occurring after the end of the period, the likelihood of short-term changes in buyer preferences, product obsolescence or perishability (all of which are generally low given the nature of the Group's products) and the purpose for which the inventory is held. Materials and other supplies held for use in the production of inventories are not written down below cost if the finished goods, in which they will be incorporated, are expected to be sold at or above cost.

Amounts recoverable on construction contracts, which are included in receivables, are stated at the net invoiced value of the work done less amounts received as progress payments on account. Cumulative costs incurred, net of amounts transferred to cost of sales, after deducting foreseeable losses, provisions for contingencies and payments on account not matched with revenue, are included as construction contract balances in inventories. Cost includes all expenditure directly related to specific projects and an allocation of fixed and variable overheads incurred in the Group's contract activities based on normal operating capacity.

Trade and other receivables – Note 18

Trade receivables are carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for potentially uncollectible debts. Provision is made when there is objective evidence that the Group will not be in a position to collect the associated debts. Bad debts are written-off in the Consolidated Income Statement on identification.

Cash and cash equivalents – Note 23

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments and investments which are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Bank overdrafts are included within current interest-bearing loans and borrowings in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Where the overdrafts are repayable on demand and form an integral part of

cash management, they are netted against cash and cash equivalents for the purposes of the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

Interest-bearing loans and borrowings – Note 24

All loans and borrowings are initially recorded at the fair value of the consideration received net of directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, current and non-current interest-bearing loans and borrowings are, in general, measured at amortised cost employing the effective interest methodology. Fixed rate term loans, which have been hedged to floating rates (using interest rate swaps), are measured at amortised cost adjusted for changes in value attributable to the hedged risks arising from changes in underlying market interest rates. The computation of amortised cost includes any issue costs and any discount or premium materialising on settlement.

Gains and losses are recognised in the Consolidated Income Statement through amortisation on the basis of the period of the loans and borrowings.

Borrowing costs arising on financial instruments are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred (unless capitalised as part of the cost of property, plant and equipment).

Derivative financial instruments and hedging practices – Note 25

In order to manage interest rate, foreign currency and commodity risks and to realise the desired currency profile of borrowings, the Group employs derivative financial instruments (principally interest rate swaps, currency swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts). Derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value on the date on which a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured at fair value. The carrying value of derivatives is fair value based on discounted future cash flows and adjusted for counterparty risk. Future floating rate cash flows are estimated based on future interest rates (from observable yield curves at the end of the reporting period). Fixed and floating rate cash flows are discounted at future interest rates and translated at period end foreign exchange rates.

At the inception of a derivative transaction, the Group documents the relationship between the hedged item and the hedging instrument together with its risk management objective and the strategy underlying the proposed transaction. The Group also documents its assessment, both at the inception of the hedging relationship and subsequently on an ongoing basis, of the effectiveness of the hedging instrument in offsetting movements in the fair values or cash flows of the hedged items. Where derivatives do not fulfil the criteria for hedge accounting, changes in fair values are reported in the Consolidated Income Statement.

Fair value and cash flow hedges

The Group uses fair value hedges and cash flow hedges in its treasury activities. For the purposes of hedge accounting, hedges are classified either as fair value hedges (which entail hedging the exposure to movements in the fair value of a recognised asset or liability or an unrecognised firm commitment that could affect profit or loss) or cash flow hedges (which hedge exposure to fluctuations in future cash flows derived from a particular risk associated with a recognised asset or liability, or a highly probable forecast transaction that could affect profit or loss).

Where the conditions for hedge accounting are satisfied and the hedging instrument concerned is classified as a fair value hedge, any gain or loss stemming from the remeasurement of the hedging instrument to fair value is reported in the Consolidated Income Statement. In addition, any gain or loss on the hedged item which is attributable to the hedged risk is adjusted against the carrying amount of the hedged item and reflected in the Consolidated Income Statement. Where the adjustment is to the carrying amount of a hedged interest-bearing financial instrument, the adjustment is amortised to the Consolidated Income Statement with the objective of achieving full amortisation by maturity.

Where a derivative financial instrument is designated as a hedge of the variability in cash flows of a recognised asset or liability or a highly probable forecast transaction that could affect profit or loss, the effective part of any gain or loss on the derivative financial instrument is recognised

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as other comprehensive income, net of the income tax effect, with the ineffective portion being reported in the Consolidated Income Statement. The associated gains or losses that had previously been recognised as other comprehensive income are transferred to the Consolidated Income Statement contemporaneously with the materialisation of the hedged transaction. Any gain or loss arising in respect of changes in the time value of the derivative financial instrument is excluded from the measurement of hedge effectiveness and is recognised immediately in the Consolidated Income Statement.

Hedge accounting is discontinued when the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised, or no longer qualifies for hedge accounting. At that point in time, any cumulative gain or loss on the hedging instrument recognised as other comprehensive income remains there until the forecast transaction occurs. If a hedged transaction is no longer anticipated to occur, the net cumulative gain or loss previously recognised as other comprehensive income is transferred to the Consolidated Income Statement in the period.

Net investment hedges

Where foreign currency borrowings provide a hedge against a net investment in a foreign operation, and the hedge is deemed to be effective, foreign exchange differences are taken directly to a foreign currency translation reserve. The ineffective portion of any gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised immediately in the Consolidated Income Statement. Cumulative gains and losses remain in equity until disposal of the net investment in the foreign operation at which point the related differences are transferred to the Consolidated Income Statement as part of the overall gain or loss on sale.

Fair value hierarchy – Note 25

For financial reporting purposes, fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

Level 1: quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2: valuation techniques for which the lowest level of inputs which have a significant effect on the recorded fair value are observable, either directly or indirectly

Level 3: valuation techniques for which the lowest level of inputs that have a significant effect on the recorded fair value are not based on observable market data

Share capital and dividends – Notes 12 and 29

Treasury Shares and own shares

Ordinary Shares acquired by the Parent Company or purchased by the Employee Benefit Trust on behalf of the Parent Company under the terms of the Performance Share Plan and the Restricted Share Plan are deducted from equity and presented on the face of the Consolidated Balance Sheet. No gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the Parent Company's Ordinary Shares.

Dividends

Dividends on Ordinary Shares are recognised as a liability in the Consolidated Financial Statements in the period in which they are declared by the Parent Company.

Emission rights

Emission rights are accounted for such that a liability is recognised only in circumstances where emission rights have been exceeded from the perspective of the Group as a whole and the differential between actual and permitted emissions will have to be remedied through the purchase of the required additional rights at fair value; assets and liabilities arising in respect of under and over-utilisation of emission credits respectively are accordingly netted against one another in the preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements. To the extent that excess emission rights are disposed of during a financial period, the profit or loss materialising thereon is recognised immediately within cost of sales in the Consolidated Income Statement.

Foreign currency translation

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ("the functional currency"). The Consolidated Financial Statements are presented in euro, which is the presentation currency of the Group and the functional currency of the Parent Company.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All currency translation differences are taken to the Consolidated Income Statement with the exception of all monetary items that provide an effective hedge for a net investment in a foreign operation. These are recognised in other comprehensive income until the disposal of the net investment, at which time they are recognised in the Consolidated Income Statement.

Results and cash flows of subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates with non-euro functional currencies have been translated into euro at average exchange rates for the year, and the related balance sheets have been translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Adjustments arising on translation of the results of non-euro subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates at average rates, and on restatement of the opening net assets at closing rates, are recognised in a separate translation reserve within equity, net of differences on related currency borrowings. All other translation differences are taken to the Consolidated Income Statement.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on acquisition of a foreign operation are regarded as assets and liabilities of the foreign operation, are expressed in the functional currency of the foreign operation, are recorded in euro at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and are subsequently retranslated at the applicable closing rates.

The principal exchange rates used for the translation of results, cash flows and balance sheets into euro were as follows:

euro 1 =	Average		Year-end	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
US Dollar	1.3281	1.2848	1.3791	1.3194
Pound Sterling	0.8493	0.8109	0.8337	0.8161
Polish Zloty	4.1975	4.1847	4.1543	4.0740
Ukrainian Hryvnia	10.8339	10.3933	11.3583	10.6259
Swiss Franc	1.2311	1.2053	1.2276	1.2072
Canadian Dollar	1.3684	1.2842	1.4671	1.3137
Argentine Peso	7.2892	5.8492	8.9910	6.4890
Turkish Lira	2.5335	2.3135	2.9605	2.3551
Indian Rupee	77.9300	68.5973	85.3660	72.5600
Chinese Renminbi	8.1646	8.1052	8.3491	8.2207

Notes on Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Adoption of New Accounting Standards

As noted in the Accounting Policies on page 102 the Group adopted IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements* and IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* (revised) on 1 January 2013. As required by IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, the financial impact of the adoption of these standards is outlined below.

	Year ended 31 December 2012			
	As reported €m	Adoption of IFRS 11 €m	IAS 19R €m	Restated €m
Impact on Consolidated Income Statement				
Revenue	18,659	(575)	-	18,084
Cost of sales	(13,562)	401	-	(13,161)
Gross profit	5,097	(174)	-	4,923
Operating costs	(4,252)	134	-	(4,118)
Group operating profit	845	(40)	-	805
Profit on disposals	230	-	-	230
Profit before finance costs	1,075	(40)	-	1,035
Finance costs	(277)	6	-	(271)
Finance income	19	(4)	-	15
Other financial expense	(31)	-	(18)	(49)
Share of equity accounted investments' (loss)/profit	(112)	28	-	(84)
Profit before tax	674	(10)	(18)	646
Income tax expense	(120)	10	4	(106)
Group profit for the financial year	554	-	(14)	540
Basic earnings per Ordinary Share	76.5c	-	(1.9c)	74.6c
Diluted earnings per Ordinary Share	76.4c	-	(1.9c)	74.5c
Impact on Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income				
Group profit for the financial year	554	-	(14)	540
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent years:</i>				
Remeasurement of retirement benefit obligations	(171)	-	25	(146)
Tax on items recognised directly within other comprehensive income	28	-	(5)	23
Impact on Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows				
Net cash inflow from operating activities	1,025	(40)	-	985
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(269)	54	-	(215)
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(257)	11	-	(246)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	499	25	-	524

1. Adoption of New Accounting Standards | continued

Impact on Consolidated Balance Sheet

	As at 31 December 2012				As at 1 January 2012			
	As reported €m	Adoption of			As reported €m	Adoption of		
		IFRS 11 €m	IAS 19R €m	Restated €m		IFRS 11 €m	IAS 19R €m	Restated €m
ASSETS								
Non-current assets								
Property, plant and equipment	8,448	(477)	-	7,971	8,936	(928)	-	8,008
Intangible assets	4,446	(179)	-	4,267	4,488	(340)	-	4,148
Investments accounted for using the equity method	835	587	-	1,422	1,089	984	-	2,073
Other financial assets	36	(2)	-	34	36	(2)	-	34
Other receivables	86	(3)	-	83	62	(2)	-	60
Derivative financial instruments	120	-	-	120	181	(18)	-	163
Deferred income tax assets	197	(2)	(4)	191	290	(13)	(3)	274
Total non-current assets	14,168	(76)	(4)	14,088	15,082	(319)	(3)	14,760
Current assets								
Inventories	2,397	(64)	-	2,333	2,286	(107)	-	2,179
Trade and other receivables	2,592	(72)	-	2,520	2,663	(121)	-	2,542
Asset held for sale	143	-	-	143	-	-	-	-
Current income tax recoverable	17	-	-	17	8	-	-	8
Derivative financial instruments	52	-	-	52	24	-	-	24
Liquid investments	31	(31)	-	-	29	(29)	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	1,768	(21)	-	1,747	1,295	(49)	-	1,246
Total current assets	7,000	(188)	-	6,812	6,305	(306)	-	5,999
Total assets	21,168	(264)	(4)	20,900	21,387	(625)	(3)	20,759
EQUITY								
Other components of equity	4,250	-	-	4,250	4,161	-	-	4,161
Retained income	6,287	-	16	6,303	6,348	-	10	6,358
	10,537	-	16	10,553	10,509	-	10	10,519
Non-controlling interests	36	-	-	36	74	(33)	-	41
Total equity	10,573	-	16	10,589	10,583	(33)	10	10,560
LIABILITIES								
Non-current liabilities								
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	4,239	(78)	-	4,161	4,463	(163)	-	4,300
Derivative financial instruments	14	-	-	14	20	(20)	-	-
Deferred income tax liabilities	1,301	(69)	-	1,232	1,492	(156)	-	1,336
Other payables	296	(19)	-	277	204	(20)	-	184
Retirement benefit obligations	674	(1)	(20)	653	664	(15)	(13)	636
Provisions for liabilities	257	(1)	-	256	252	(8)	-	244
Total non-current liabilities	6,781	(168)	(20)	6,593	7,095	(382)	(13)	6,700
Current liabilities								
Trade and other payables	2,841	(66)	-	2,775	2,858	(141)	-	2,717
Current income tax liabilities	181	(1)	-	180	201	(8)	-	193
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	676	(29)	-	647	519	(61)	-	458
Derivative financial instruments	6	-	-	6	10	-	-	10
Provisions for liabilities	110	-	-	110	121	-	-	121
Total current liabilities	3,814	(96)	-	3,718	3,709	(210)	-	3,499
Total liabilities	10,595	(264)	(20)	10,311	10,804	(592)	(13)	10,199
Total equity and liabilities	21,168	(264)	(4)	20,900	21,387	(625)	(3)	20,759

2. Segment Information

CRH is a diversified international building materials group which manufactures and distributes a range of building materials products from the fundamentals of heavy materials and elements to construct the frame, through value-added products that complete the building envelope, to distribution channels which service construction fit-out and renewal. Based on these key strategic drivers across the value chain, the Group was organised in 2013 into six business segments comprising Europe Materials (including activities in China and India), Europe Products (including activities in Australia and Southeast Asia), Europe Distribution, Americas Materials, Americas Products and Americas Distribution. No operating segments have been aggregated to form these segments.

Materials businesses are predominantly engaged in the production and sale of a range of primary materials including cement, aggregates, readymixed concrete, asphalt/bitumen and agricultural/chemical lime.

Products businesses are predominantly engaged in the production and sale of architectural and structural concrete products, clay products, fabricated and tempered glass products, construction accessories and the provision of a wide range of inter-related products and services to the construction sector.

Distribution businesses encompass builders merchandising activities and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) stores engaged in the marketing and sale of supplies to the construction sector and to the general public.

The principal factors employed in the identification of the six segments reflected in this note include the Group's organisational structure in 2013, the nature of the reporting lines to the Chief Operating Decision-Maker (as defined in IFRS 8 *Operating Segments*), the structure of internal reporting documentation such as management accounts and budgets, and the degree of homogeneity of products, services and geographical areas within each of the segments from which revenue is derived.

The Chief Operating Decision-Maker monitors the operating results of segments separately in order to allocate resources between segments and to assess performance. Segment performance is predominantly evaluated based on operating profit. During the year the Chief Operating Decision-Maker received information relating to the results of our joint venture operations on both a proportionate consolidation basis and equity accounting basis (see note 10 for results of our joint venture operations). As performance is also evaluated using operating profit before depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA (as defined)*), supplemental information based on EBITDA (as defined)* is also provided below. Given that net finance costs and income tax are managed on a centralised basis, these items are not allocated between operating segments for the purposes of the information presented to the Chief Operating Decision-Maker and are accordingly omitted from the detailed segmental analysis below. There are no asymmetrical allocations to reporting segments which would require disclosure.

A. Operating segments disclosures - Consolidated Income Statement data

	Continuing operations - year ended 31 December							
	Materials		Products		Distribution		Total Group	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Revenue								
Europe	2,266	2,383	2,376	2,477	3,936	3,956	8,578	8,816
Americas	4,721	4,886	3,068	2,806	1,664	1,576	9,453	9,268
	6,987	7,269	5,444	5,283	5,600	5,532	18,031	18,084
Group operating profit before depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA (as defined)*)								
Europe	278	352	119	152	186	217	583	721
Americas	557	555	246	204	89	83	892	842
	835	907	365	356	275	300	1,475	1,563
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment (i)								
Europe	239	135	525	133	80	72	844	340
Americas	331	276	178	118	22	24	531	418
	570	411	703	251	102	96	1,375	758
Group operating profit (EBIT)								
Europe	39	217	(406)	19	106	145	(261)	381
Americas	226	279	68	86	67	59	361	424
	265	496	(338)	105	173	204	100	805
Profit on disposals (ii)							26	230
Finance costs less income							(249)	(256)
Other financial expense							(48)	(49)
Share of equity accounted investments' loss (iii)							(44)	(84)
(Loss)/profit before tax							(215)	646
(i) See note 3 for details of the impairment charge.								
(ii) Profit/(loss) on disposals (note 5)								
Europe	7	148	5	54	(2)	3	10	205
Americas	19	24	(3)	1	-	-	16	25
	26	172	2	55	(2)	3	26	230
(iii) Share of equity accounted investments' (loss)/profit (note 10)								
Europe	(60)	(98)	-	(1)	9	14	(51)	(85)
Americas	7	1	-	-	-	-	7	1
	(53)	(97)	-	(1)	9	14	(44)	(84)

* EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortisation, asset impairment charges, profit on disposals and the Group's share of equity accounted investments' result after tax.

2. Segment Information | continued

B. Operating segments disclosures - Consolidated Balance Sheet data

Continuing operations - year ended 31 December

	Materials		Products		Distribution		Total Group	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Total assets								
Europe	3,399	3,411	1,974	2,473	2,217	2,247	7,590	8,131
Americas	5,510	5,826	2,360	2,403	853	814	8,723	9,043
	8,909	9,237	4,334	4,876	3,070	3,061	16,313	17,174

Reconciliation to total assets as reported in the Consolidated Balance Sheet:

Investments accounted for using the equity method							1,340	1,422
Other financial assets							23	34
Derivative financial instruments (current and non-current)							80	172
Asset held for sale							-	143
Income tax assets (current and deferred)							133	208
Cash and cash equivalents							2,540	1,747
Total assets as reported in the Consolidated Balance Sheet							20,429	20,900

Total liabilities

Europe	870	1,064	738	716	542	594	2,150	2,374
Americas	772	890	656	580	255	227	1,683	1,697
	1,642	1,954	1,394	1,296	797	821	3,833	4,071

Reconciliation to total liabilities as reported in the Consolidated Balance Sheet:

Interest-bearing loans and borrowings (current and non-current)							5,540	4,808
Derivative financial instruments (current and non-current)							53	20
Income tax liabilities (current and deferred)							1,317	1,412
Total liabilities as reported in the Consolidated Balance Sheet							10,743	10,311

C. Operating segments disclosures - other items

Additions to non-current assets

Europe: Property, plant and equipment (note 14)	78	101	67	84	49	70	194	255
Financial assets (note 16)	68	30	2	16	1	1	71	47
Americas: Property, plant and equipment (note 14)	199	212	83	69	21	8	303	289
Financial assets (note 16)	7	9	-	-	-	-	7	9
	352	352	152	169	71	79	575	600

D. Entity-wide disclosures

Section 1: Information about products and services

The Group's revenue from external customers in respect of its principal products and services is analysed in the disclosures above. Segment revenue includes €3,268 million (2012: €3,456 million) in respect of revenue applicable to construction contracts. The bulk of our construction activities are performed by our Americas Materials reportable segment, are for the most part short-term in nature and are generally completed within the same financial reporting period.

Revenue derived through the supply of services and intersegment revenue is not material to the Group. The transfer pricing policy implemented by the Group between operating segments and across its constituent entities is described in greater detail in note 32. In addition, due to the nature of building materials, which exhibit a low value-to-weight ratio, the Group's revenue streams include a low level of cross-border transactions.

Section 2: Information about geographical areas and customers

CRH has a presence in 35 countries worldwide. The revenues from external customers and non-current assets (as defined in IFRS 8) attributable to the country of domicile and all foreign countries of operation are as follows; regions which exceed 10% of total external Group revenue have been highlighted separately on the basis of materiality.

	Year ended 31 December Revenue by destination		As at 31 December Non-current assets	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Country of domicile - Republic of Ireland	278	267	475	497
Benelux (mainly the Netherlands)	2,324	2,327	1,280	1,464
Americas (mainly the United States)	9,468	9,285	6,488	6,822
Other	5,961	6,205	4,547	4,877
Group totals	18,031	18,084	12,790	13,660

There are no material dependencies or concentrations on individual customers which would warrant disclosure under IFRS 8. The individual entities within the Group have a large number of customers spread across various activities, end-uses and geographies.

3. Cost Analysis

	2013	2012
	€m	€m
Cost of sales analysis		
Raw materials and goods for resale	7,240	7,282
Employment costs (note 6)	1,974	1,946
Energy conversion costs	644	670
Repairs and maintenance	421	411
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment (i)	792	559
Change in inventory (note 20)	37	(93)
Other production expenses (primarily sub-contractor costs and equipment rental)	2,206	2,386
Total	13,314	13,161

Operating costs analysis

Selling and distribution costs	2,893	2,892
Administrative expenses	1,724	1,226
Total	4,617	4,118

(i) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment analysis

	Cost of sales		Operating costs		Total	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Depreciation and depletion (note 14)	521	538	150	148	671	686
Impairment of property, plant and equipment (note 14)	271	21	4	4	275	25
Impairment of intangible assets (note 15)	-	-	375	3	375	3
Amortisation of intangible assets (note 15)	-	-	54	44	54	44
Total	792	559	583	199	1,375	758

Segmental analysis of 2013 impairment charges

	Materials		Products		Distribution		Total 2013 €m
	Europe	Americas	Europe	Americas	Europe	Americas	
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Annual impairment process (note 15)	58	-	-	10	4	-	72
Portfolio review (ii)	43	60	414	61	-	-	578
Included in operating profit	101	60	414	71	4	-	650
Portfolio review - included in share of equity accounted investments (ii)	101	-	-	-	4	-	105
Total	202	60	414	71	8	-	755

Asset impairment charges of €174 million arose in 2012, €28 million of which were recorded within operating profit (Europe Products €24 million and Americas Products €4 million).

(ii) Impairments arising from portfolio review

In November 2013, a Group-wide portfolio review was initiated to identify and focus on those businesses within our portfolio which offer the most attractive future returns, and to prioritise capital allocation to ensure profitable growth across our network of businesses. This review has resulted in the identification of 45 (34 Europe, 11 Americas) business units which will not meet our future returns objectives and are in line for divestment. None of these businesses has been classified as held-for-sale or as discontinued operations at 31 December 2013 as they did not meet the relevant criteria under IFRS 5. The decision to divest of these business units has resulted in the need to assess each of them separately for impairment.

For each of the business units identified, a valuation was prepared based on the estimated fair value less costs of disposal. The valuations were then compared to the carrying value of each business and where that valuation fell below the carrying value an impairment charge was taken.

The largest impairments have arisen in two businesses within the Europe Products segment amounting to €99 million (€58 million goodwill and €41 million property, plant and equipment) and €75 million (all goodwill). The recoverable amount of these businesses is calculated based on their fair value less costs of disposal (income-based valuation approach) using real pre-tax discount rates of 8.9% and 9.2% respectively. Both businesses serve the residential new-build sector in mature markets.

In addition, financial asset impairments of €105 million have been recorded (see note 10), primarily in respect of a re-assessment of the carrying value of two equity accounted investments in our Europe Materials segment. The recoverable amount of these financial assets is based on their fair value less costs of disposal (income-based valuation approach) using real pre-tax discount rates of 9.2% and 9.8% respectively.

3. Cost Analysis | continued

Sensitivity analysis

Fair value less costs of disposal for businesses identified for divestment in the portfolio review was calculated using either an income-based valuation approach or a market-based valuation approach. In respect of those businesses that used the latter valuation approach, a 10% decrease in valuation would result in an additional impairment of €28 million.

In respect of the remaining businesses which employed an income-based valuation approach, the following table provides valuation sensitivity analysis.

	Additional impairment that would arise as a result of	
	0.5% reduction in EBITDA (as defined)* margin	0.5% increase in pre-tax discount rate
	€m	€m
Income-based valuation approach	74	36

4. Operating Profit Disclosures

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Operating lease rentals		
- hire of plant and machinery	108	99
- land and buildings	220	187
- other operating leases	47	69
Total	375	355

Auditor's remuneration

In accordance with statutory requirements in Ireland, fees for professional services provided by the Group's independent auditors in respect of each of the following categories were:

	Audit of the Group accounts (i)		Other assurance services (ii)		Tax advisory services		Total	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
EY Ireland (statutory auditor)	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2
EY (network firms)	12	12	2	2	1	1	15	15
Total	14	14	2	2	1	1	17	17

(i) Audit of the Group accounts includes Sarbanes-Oxley attestation, parent and subsidiary statutory audit fees, but excludes €1 million (2012: €1 million) paid to auditors other than EY.

(ii) Other assurance services includes attestation and due diligence services that are closely related to the performance of the audit.

* EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortisation, asset impairment charges, profit on disposals and the Group's share of equity accounted investments' result after tax.

5. Profit on Disposals

	Business disposals		Disposal of other non-current assets		Total	
	2013 €m	2012 (ii) €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Assets/(liabilities) disposed of at net carrying amount:						
- non-current assets (notes 14,15,16)	43	432	66	90	109	522
- cash and cash equivalents	-	3	-	-	-	3
- working capital and provisions (note 20)	6	21	-	-	6	21
- asset held for sale (i) (note 16)	139	-	-	-	139	-
- interest-bearing loans and borrowings	(17)	(2)	-	-	(17)	(2)
- deferred tax (note 27)	-	1	-	-	-	1
- retirement benefit obligations (note 28)	-	(4)	-	-	-	(4)
Net assets disposed	171	451	66	90	237	541
Re-classification of currency translation effects on disposal	3	14	-	-	3	14
Total	174	465	66	90	240	555
Proceeds from disposals (net of disposal costs)	26	652	96	133	122	785
Asset exchange (i) (note 31)	144	-	-	-	144	-
(Loss)/profit on disposals	(4)	187	30	43	26	230
Net cash inflow arising on disposal						
Cash proceeds	26	652	96	133	122	785
Less: cash and cash equivalents disposed	-	(3)	-	-	-	(3)
Total	26	649	96	133	122	782

(i) On 25 February 2013, the Group transferred its 26% stake in Corporacion Uniland to Cementos Portland Valderrivas in exchange for a 99% stake in Cementos Lemona, an integrated cement, readymixed concrete and aggregates business.

(ii) This relates principally to the disposal of our 49% investment in our Portuguese joint venture, Secil (which was part of the Europe Materials segment).

6. Employment

The average number of employees is as follows:

	Materials	Products	Distribution	Total Group
Year ended 31 December 2013				
Europe	9,440	15,613	11,388	36,441
Americas	18,216	17,276	3,709	39,201
Total	27,656	32,889	15,097	75,642
Year ended 31 December 2012				
Europe	9,473	16,129	11,174	36,776
Americas	18,106	15,546	3,532	37,184
Total	27,579	31,675	14,706	73,960

Employment costs charged in the Consolidated Income Statement are analysed as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Wages and salaries	2,915	2,876
Social welfare costs	360	359
Other employment-related costs	464	432
Share-based payment expense (note 8)	15	14
Total retirement benefits expense (note 28)	201	181
Total	3,955	3,862
Total charge analysed between:		
Cost of sales	1,974	1,946
Operating costs	1,959	1,891
Finance costs (net) - applicable to retirement benefit obligations (note 9)	22	25
Total	3,955	3,862

7. Directors' Emoluments and Interests

Directors' emoluments (which are included in administrative expenses in note 3) and interests are given in the Directors' Remuneration Report pages 59 to 90 of this Annual Report.

8. Share-based Payment Expense

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Share option expense	1	-
Performance Share Plan and Restricted Share Plan expense	14	14
Total	15	14

Share-based payment expense is reflected in operating costs in the Consolidated Income Statement.

Share option schemes

In May 2010, shareholders approved the adoption of new share option and savings-related share option schemes, which replaced schemes approved by shareholders in May 2000. The general terms and conditions applicable to the new share option and savings-related share option schemes were set out in a circular issued to shareholders on 31 March 2010, a copy of which is available on www.crh.com.

Due to the immateriality of the savings-related schemes' expense and the level of savings-related share options outstanding, detailed financial disclosures have not been provided in relation to these schemes.

Details of options granted under the share option schemes (excluding savings-related share option schemes)

	Weighted average exercise price	Number of options 2013	Weighted average exercise price	Number of options 2012
Outstanding at beginning of year	€18.84	23,295,955	€19.13	23,591,756
Granted (a)	€16.19	3,853,400	€15.19	3,889,100
Exercised (b)	€13.21	(1,245,029)	€11.98	(1,010,780)
Lapsed	€18.53	(4,105,439)	€18.68	(3,174,121)
Outstanding at end of year	€18.75	21,798,887	€18.84	23,295,955
Exercisable at end of year	€17.94	2,114,772	€16.24	3,364,448

(a) Granted in April 2013 (2012: April), the level of vesting of these options will be determined by reference to certain performance targets (see page 69). If the performance criteria have been met, these options, or portion thereof as appropriate, may be exercised after the expiration of three years from their date of grant. All options granted have a life of ten years.

(b) The weighted average share price at the date of exercise of these options was €17.28 (2012: €14.95).

	2013	2012
Weighted average remaining contractual life for the share options outstanding at 31 December (years)	5.54	5.69
Euro-denominated options outstanding at the end of the year (number)	21,683,559	23,182,257
Range of exercise prices (€)	15.07-29.86	11.86-29.86
Sterling-denominated options outstanding at the end of the year (number)	115,328	113,698
Range of exercise prices (Stg£)	10.04-20.23	8.17-20.23

The CRH share price at 31 December 2013 was €18.30 (2012: €15.30). The following analysis shows the number of outstanding share options with exercise prices lower/higher than the year-end share price:

Number of options with exercise prices lower than year-end price:		
Exercisable	506,581	1,677,365
Not exercisable	13,788,399	5,382,296
	14,294,980	7,059,661
Number of options with exercise prices higher than year-end price:		
Exercisable	1,608,191	1,687,083
Not exercisable	5,895,716	14,549,211
	7,503,907	16,236,294
Total options outstanding	21,798,887	23,295,955

8. Share-based Payment Expense | continued

Fair values

The weighted average fair value assigned to the 3-year euro-denominated options granted in 2013 under the 2010 share option scheme was €3.61 (2012: €3.43). The fair values of these options were determined using the following assumptions:

	2013	2012
Weighted average exercise price	€16.19	€15.19
Risk-free interest rate	0.36%	0.80%
Expected dividend payments over the expected life	€3.25	€3.25
Expected volatility	33.7%	33.8%
Expected life in years	5	5

The expected volatility was determined using a historical sample of 61 month-end CRH share prices. Share options are granted at market value at the date of grant. The expected lives of the options are based on historical data and are therefore not necessarily indicative of exercise patterns that may materialise.

Other than the assumptions listed above, no other features of option grants were factored into the determination of fair value. No relevant modifications were effected to either the 2010 share option scheme or the previously approved 2000 share option scheme during the course of 2013.

Performance Share Plan

The Group operates a Performance Share Plan which was approved by shareholders in May 2006.

The expense of €13 million (2012: €14 million) reported in the Consolidated Income Statement has been arrived at through applying a Monte Carlo simulation technique to model the combination of market-based and non-market-based performance conditions in the Plan.

Due to the immateriality of the Restricted Share Plan expense and the level of awards outstanding in this plan at 31 December 2013, detailed financial disclosures have not been provided in relation to this share-based payment arrangement.

Details of awards granted under the Performance Share Plan

	Share price at date of award	Period to earliest release date	Number of Shares			Fair value
			Initial award	Cumulative lapses to date	Net outstanding	
Granted in 2010	€18.51	3 years	1,459,750	(1,459,750)	-	€10.01
Granted in 2011	€16.52	3 years	1,684,250	(172,000)	1,512,250	€9.72
Granted in 2012	€15.63	3 years	2,079,000	(116,500)	1,962,500	€7.77
Granted in 2013	€16.69	3 years	1,195,500	(71,750)	1,123,750	€8.54

The fair value of the shares awarded was determined using a Monte Carlo simulation technique taking account of peer group total shareholder return, volatilities and correlations, together with the following assumptions:

	2013	2012
Risk-free interest rate (%)	0.10	0.33
Expected volatility (%)	31.3	35.4

The expected volatility was determined using a historical sample of 37 month-end CRH share prices.

9. Finance Costs and Finance Income

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Finance costs	323	327
Interest payable on borrowings	(55)	(47)
Net income on interest rate and currency swaps		
Mark-to-market of derivatives and related fixed rate debt:		
- interest rate swaps (i)	68	22
- currency swaps and forward contracts	1	3
- fixed rate debt (i)	(79)	(34)
Net loss on interest rate swaps not designated as hedges	4	-
Net finance cost on gross debt including related derivatives	262	271
Finance income	(3)	(2)
Interest receivable on loans to joint ventures and associates	(10)	(13)
Interest receivable on cash and cash equivalents and other	(13)	(15)
Finance income	249	256
Finance costs less income		
Other financial expense	15	15
Unwinding of discount element of provisions for liabilities (note 26)	11	9
Unwinding of discount applicable to deferred and contingent acquisition consideration (note 19)	22	25
Pension-related finance cost (net) (note 28)	48	49
Total		

(i) The Group uses interest rate swaps to convert fixed rate debt to floating rate. Fixed rate debt, which has been converted to floating rate through the use of interest rate swaps, is stated in the Consolidated Balance Sheet at adjusted value to reflect movements in underlying fixed rates. The movement on this adjustment, together with the offsetting movement in the fair value of the related interest rate swaps, is included in finance costs in each reporting period.

10. Share of Equity Accounted Investments' (Loss)/Profit

The Group's share of joint ventures' and associates' results after tax is equity accounted and is presented as a single-line item in the Consolidated Income Statement; it is analysed as follows between the principal Consolidated Income Statement captions:

	Joint Ventures		Associates		Total	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 (ii) €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Group share of:						
Revenue	469	575	961	978	1,430	1,553
EBITDA (as defined)*	60	77	109	118	169	195
Depreciation and amortisation	(27)	(37)	(39)	(50)	(66)	(87)
Impairment (i)	(54)	-	(51)	(146)	(105)	(146)
Operating (loss)/profit	(21)	40	19	(78)	(2)	(38)
Finance costs (net)	(2)	(2)	(22)	(26)	(24)	(28)
(Loss)/profit before tax	(23)	38	(3)	(104)	(26)	(66)
Income tax expense	(5)	(10)	(13)	(8)	(18)	(18)
(Loss)/profit after tax	(28)	28	(16)	(112)	(44)	(84)

An analysis of the result after tax by operating segment is presented in note 2. The aggregated balance sheet data (analysed between current and non-current assets and liabilities) in respect of the Group's investment in joint ventures and associates is presented in note 16.

(i) See note 3 for details of the impairment charge.

(ii) During 2012, the Group recognised an impairment charge of €146 million in respect of our 26% investment in our associate Corporacion Uniland (part of the Europe Materials segment). During 2013, the Group transferred its 26% stake in Corporacion Uniland to Cementos Portland Valderivas in exchange for a 99% stake in Cementos Lemona (see note 5 for further details).

* EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortisation, asset impairment charges and profit on disposals.

11. Income Tax Expense

Recognised within the Consolidated Income Statement	2013 €m	2012 €m
<i>(a) Current tax</i>		
Republic of Ireland	(1)	(4)
Overseas	77	103
Total current tax expense	76	99
<i>(b) Deferred tax</i>		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences:		
Retirement benefit obligations	16	20
Share-based payment expense	(1)	1
Derivative financial instruments	4	(9)
Other items	(15)	(5)
Total deferred tax expense	4	7
Income tax expense reported in the Consolidated Income Statement	80	106

Recognised within equity

(a) Within the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income:

Deferred tax - retirement benefit obligations	(43)	23
Income tax recognised directly within equity	(43)	23

Reconciliation of applicable tax rate to effective tax rate

(Loss)/profit before tax (€m)	(215)	646
<i>Tax charge expressed as a percentage of (loss)/profit before tax (effective tax rate):</i>		
- current tax expense only	(35.3%)	15.3%
- total income tax expense (current and deferred)	(37.2%)	16.4%

The following table reconciles the applicable Republic of Ireland statutory tax rate to the effective tax rate (current and deferred) of the Group:

	% of (loss)/profit before tax	
Irish corporation tax rate	12.5	12.5
Higher tax rates on overseas earnings	17.8	3.1
Other items (primarily comprising items not chargeable to tax/expenses not deductible for tax):		
- arising from 2013 impairment	(70.2)	-
- other items	2.7	0.8
Total effective tax rate	(37.2)	16.4

Other disclosures

Effective tax rate

The 2013 income statement includes an impairment charge of €755 million with an associated tax credit of €25 million. The 2013 effective tax rate excluding the aforementioned impairment charge and related tax credit is 19.4%.

Changes in tax rates

The total tax charge in future periods will be affected by any changes to the tax rates in force in the countries in which the Group operates.

Excess of capital allowances over depreciation

The current tax charge will also be impacted by changes in the excess of tax depreciation (capital allowances) over accounting depreciation. Based on current capital investment plans, the Group expects to continue to be in a position to claim capital allowances in excess of depreciation in future years.

Investments in subsidiaries

Given that participation exemptions and tax credits would be available in the context of the Group's investments in subsidiaries in the majority of the jurisdictions in which the Group operates, the aggregate amount of temporary differences in respect of which deferred tax liabilities have not been recognised would be immaterial.

Proposed dividends

There are no income tax consequences for the Company in respect of dividends proposed prior to issuance of the Consolidated Financial Statements and for which a liability has not been recognised.

12. Dividends

The dividends paid and proposed in respect of each class of share capital are as follows:

	2013	2012
	€m	€m
Dividends to shareholders		
<i>Preference</i>		
5% Cumulative Preference Shares €3,175 (2012: €3,175)	-	-
7% 'A' Cumulative Preference Shares €77,521 (2012: €77,521)	-	-
<i>Equity</i>		
Final - paid 44.00c per Ordinary Share (2012: 44.00c)	320	317
Interim - paid 18.50c per Ordinary Share (2012: 18.50c)	135	133
Total	455	450
Dividends proposed (memorandum disclosure)		
<i>Equity</i>		
Final 2013 - proposed 44.00c per Ordinary Share (2012: 44.00c)	323	320
Reconciliation to Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows		
Dividends to shareholders	455	450
Less: issue of scrip shares in lieu of cash dividends (note 29)	(88)	(88)
Dividends paid to equity holders of the Company	367	362
Dividends paid by subsidiaries to non-controlling interests	1	4
Total dividends paid	368	366

13. Earnings per Ordinary Share

The computation of basic and diluted earnings per Ordinary Share is set out below:

	2013	2012
	€m	€m
Numerator computations		
Group (loss)/profit for the financial year	(295)	540
Profit attributable to non-controlling interests	(1)	(2)
(Loss)/profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	(296)	538
Preference dividends	-	-
<i>(Loss)/profit attributable to ordinary equity holders of the Company - numerator for basic/diluted earnings per Ordinary Share</i>	(296)	538
Depreciation charge	671	686
Amortisation of intangible assets	54	44
Impairment of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	650	28
Impairment of financial assets	105	146
Numerator for "cash" earnings per Ordinary Share (i)	1,184	1,442
Denominator computations		
<i>Denominator for basic earnings per Ordinary Share</i>		
Weighted average number of Ordinary Shares (millions) outstanding for the year (ii)	729.2	721.9
Effect of dilutive potential Ordinary Shares (employee share options) (millions) (ii) and (iii)	-	0.3
Denominator for diluted earnings per Ordinary Share	729.2	722.2
Basic (loss)/earnings per Ordinary Share	(40.6c)	74.6c
Diluted (loss)/earnings per Ordinary Share	(40.6c)	74.5c
"Cash" earnings per Ordinary Share (i)	162.4c	199.8c

- (i) This measure is presented here for information as management believes it is a useful indicator of the Group's ability to generate cash from operations. This is not a recognised measure under generally accepted accounting principles.
- (ii) The weighted average number of Ordinary Shares included in the computation of basic and diluted earnings per Ordinary Share has been adjusted to exclude shares held by the Employee Benefit Trust and Ordinary Shares repurchased and held by the Company (CRH plc) as Treasury Shares given that these shares do not rank for dividend. The number of Ordinary Shares so held at the balance sheet date is detailed in note 29.
- (iii) Contingently issuable Ordinary Shares (totalling 24,282,615 at 31 December 2013 and 24,856,007 at 31 December 2012) are excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per Ordinary Share where the conditions governing exercisability have not been satisfied as at the end of the reporting period.

14. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Land and buildings (i) €m	Plant and machinery €m	Assets in course of construction €m	Total €m
At 31 December 2013				
Cost/deemed cost	5,912	8,847	229	14,988
Accumulated depreciation (and impairment charges)	(1,816)	(5,633)	-	(7,449)
Net carrying amount	4,096	3,214	229	7,539
At 1 January 2013, net carrying amount	4,313	3,371	287	7,971
Translation adjustment	(129)	(114)	(8)	(251)
Reclassifications	7	144	(151)	-
Additions at cost	46	350	101	497
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	132	210	-	342
Disposals at net carrying amount	(30)	(44)	-	(74)
Depreciation charge for year	(132)	(539)	-	(671)
Impairment charge for year (ii)	(111)	(164)	-	(275)
At 31 December 2013, net carrying amount	4,096	3,214	229	7,539

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 31 December 2012				
Cost/deemed cost	5,838	8,694	287	14,819
Accumulated depreciation (and impairment charges)	(1,525)	(5,323)	-	(6,848)
Net carrying amount	4,313	3,371	287	7,971
At 1 January 2012, net carrying amount	4,269	3,181	558	8,008
Translation adjustment	(28)	(21)	2	(47)
Reclassifications	30	352	(382)	-
Additions at cost	58	378	108	544
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	156	96	1	253
Disposals at net carrying amount	(38)	(38)	-	(76)
Depreciation charge for year	(126)	(560)	-	(686)
Impairment charge for year (ii)	(8)	(17)	-	(25)
At 31 December 2012, net carrying amount	4,313	3,371	287	7,971
At 1 January 2012				
Cost/deemed cost	5,750	8,225	558	14,533
Accumulated depreciation (and impairment charges)	(1,481)	(5,044)	-	(6,525)
Net carrying amount	4,269	3,181	558	8,008

(i) The carrying value of mineral-bearing land included in the land and buildings category above amounted to €1,824 million at the balance sheet date (2012: €1,835 million).

(ii) See note 3 for details of the impairment charge.

Future purchase commitments for property, plant and equipment

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Contracted for but not provided in the financial statements	155	176
Authorised by the Directors but not contracted for	91	82

15. Intangible Assets

	Other intangible assets				Total €m
	Goodwill €m	Marketing- related €m	Customer- related (i) €m	Contract- based €m	
At 31 December 2013					
Cost/deemed cost	4,158	48	420	31	4,657
Accumulated amortisation (and impairment charges)	(424)	(36)	(269)	(17)	(746)
Net carrying amount	3,734	12	151	14	3,911
At 1 January 2013, net carrying amount	4,067	17	177	6	4,267
Translation adjustment	(117)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(121)
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	169	1	20	18	208
Disposals	(12)	-	-	(2)	(14)
Amortisation charge for year	-	(5)	(42)	(7)	(54)
Impairment charge for year	(373)	-	(2)	-	(375)
At 31 December 2013, net carrying amount	3,734	12	151	14	3,911

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 31 December 2012					
Cost/deemed cost	4,122	51	413	17	4,603
Accumulated amortisation (and impairment charges)	(55)	(34)	(236)	(11)	(336)
Net carrying amount	4,067	17	177	6	4,267
At 1 January 2012, net carrying amount	3,967	14	160	7	4,148
Translation adjustment	(32)	-	-	(1)	(33)
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	162	8	56	1	227
Reclassifications	(13)	-	-	-	(13)
Disposals	(15)	-	-	-	(15)
Amortisation charge for year	-	(5)	(38)	(1)	(44)
Impairment charge for year	(2)	-	(1)	-	(3)
At 31 December 2012, net carrying amount	4,067	17	177	6	4,267

At 1 January 2012					
Cost/deemed cost	4,020	44	360	18	4,442
Accumulated amortisation (and impairment charges)	(53)	(30)	(200)	(11)	(294)
Net carrying amount	3,967	14	160	7	4,148

(i) The customer-related intangible assets relate predominantly to non-contractual customer relationships.

Goodwill

The net book value of goodwill capitalised under previous GAAP (Irish GAAP) as at the transition date to IFRS (1 January 2004) has been treated as deemed cost. Goodwill arising on acquisition since that date is capitalised at cost.

Cash-generating units

Goodwill acquired through business combination activity has been allocated to cash-generating units (CGUs) that are expected to benefit from synergies in that combination. The cash-generating units represent the lowest level within the Group at which the associated goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes, and are not larger than the operating segments determined in accordance with IFRS 8 *Operating Segments*. A total of 19 (2012: 21) cash-generating units have been identified and these are analysed between the six business segments in the Group below. The decrease in the number of CGUs in 2013 relates to organisational changes in our Americas Products and Europe Materials segments. All businesses within the various cash-generating units exhibit similar and/or consistent profit margin and asset intensity characteristics. Assets, liabilities, deferred tax and goodwill have been assigned to the CGUs on a reasonable and consistent basis.

Significant under-performance in any of CRH's major cash-generating units may give rise to a material write-down of goodwill which would have a substantial impact on the Group's income and equity.

	Cash-generating units		Goodwill (€m)	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Europe Materials	7	8	579	579
Europe Products*	1	1	431	679
Europe Distribution	1	1	641	629
Americas Materials	7	7	1,151	1,231
Americas Products	2	3	618	629
Americas Distribution	1	1	314	320
Total cash-generating units	19	21	3,734	4,067

* Included in the goodwill number of €431 million in respect of Europe Products at 31 December 2013 is an amount of €62 million in respect of businesses identified for divestment as part of the portfolio review, which have been tested separately (see note 3).

15. Intangible Assets | continued

Impairment testing methodology and results

Goodwill is subject to impairment testing on an annual basis. The recoverable amount of each of the 19 CGUs is determined based on a value-in-use computation. The cash flow forecasts are primarily based on a five-year strategic plan document formally approved by senior management and the Board of Directors and specifically exclude the impact of future development activity. These cash flows are projected forward for an additional five years to determine the basis for an annuity-based terminal value, calculated on the same basis as the Group's acquisition modelling methodology. As in prior years, the terminal value is based on a 20-year annuity. The projected cash flows assume zero growth in real cash flows beyond the initial evaluation period. The value-in-use represents the present value of the future cash flows, including the terminal value, discounted at a rate appropriate to each CGU. The real pre-tax discount rates used range from 7.8% to 11.7% (2012: 7.6% to 12.6%); these rates are in line with the Group's estimated weighted average cost of capital, arrived at using the Capital Asset Pricing Model.

The 2013 annual goodwill impairment testing process has resulted in an impairment of €58 million being recorded in respect of our Benelux CGU in Europe Materials. The CGU, which has formed part of our sensitivity disclosures for the last number of years, has experienced a difficult trading environment in 2013, resulting in a slower recovery now being forecast for the CGU than previously anticipated. These updated assumptions underlying the value-in-use model projections result in a present value (using a real pre-tax discount rate of 9.4%) of €241 million and a related goodwill impairment being recorded of €58 million. A sensitivity analysis in respect of this CGU is presented below.

	Additional impairment that would arise as a result of	
	0.5% reduction in EBITDA (as defined)* margin	0.5% increase in pre-tax discount rate
	€m	€m
Benelux CGU	14	11

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The cash flows have been arrived at taking account of the Group's strong financial position, its established history of earnings and cash flow generation and the nature of the building materials industry, where product obsolescence is very low. However, expected future cash flows are inherently uncertain and are therefore liable to material change over time. The key assumptions employed in arriving at the estimates of future cash flows factored into impairment testing are subjective and include projected EBITDA (as defined)* margins, net cash flows, discount rates used and the duration of the discounted cash flow model.

Significant goodwill amounts

The goodwill allocated to the Europe Products, Europe Distribution and the Oldcastle Building Products (Americas Products segment) CGUs accounts for between 10% and 20% of the total carrying amount of €3,734 million. The goodwill allocated to each of the remaining CGUs is less than 10% of the total carrying value in all other cases. The additional disclosures required for the three CGUs with significant goodwill are as follows:

	Europe Products		Europe Distribution		Oldcastle Building Products	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Goodwill allocated to the cash-generating unit at balance sheet date	€369m**	€679m	€641m	€629m	€615m	€625m
Discount rate applied to the cash flow projections (real pre-tax)	9.9%	9.1%	9.4%	9.7%	11.7%	11.3%
Average EBITDA (as defined)* margin over the initial 5-year period	11.3%	9.4%	6.4%	6.9%	10.6%	10.1%
Value-in-use (present value of future cash flows)	€1,168m	€1,847m	€2,201m	€2,242m	€2,380m	€2,217m
Excess of value-in-use over carrying amount	€284m	€140m	€431m	€684m	€579m	€389m

** Excludes €62 million of goodwill in respect of businesses identified for divestment as part of the portfolio review.

The key assumptions and methodology used in respect of these three CGUs are consistent with those described above. The values applied to each of the key estimates and assumptions are specific to the individual CGUs and were derived from a combination of internal and external factors based on historical experience and took into account the cash flows specifically associated with these businesses. The cash flows and 20-year annuity-based terminal value were projected in line with the methodology disclosed above.

Europe Products, Europe Distribution and Oldcastle Building Products are not included in the CGUs referred to in the "Sensitivity analysis" section below. Given the magnitude of the excess of value-in-use over carrying amount, and our belief that the key assumptions are reasonable, management believe that it is not reasonably possible that there would be a change in the key assumptions such that the carrying amount would exceed the value-in-use. Consequently no further disclosures relating to sensitivity of the value-in-use computations for the Europe Products, Europe Distribution or Oldcastle Building Products CGUs are considered to be warranted.

Sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analysis has been performed and results in additional disclosures in respect of 1 of the other 19 CGUs. The key assumptions, methodology used and values applied to each of the key assumptions for this cash-generating unit are in line with those outlined above. This CGU had goodwill of €224 million at the date of testing. The table below identifies the amounts by which each of the following assumptions may either decline or increase to arrive at a zero excess of the present value of future cash flows over the book value of net assets in an Americas CGU.

Reduction in EBITDA (as defined)* margin	1.0 percentage points
Reduction in profit before tax	10.1%
Reduction in net cash flow	9.6%
Increase in pre-tax discount rate	0.9 percentage points

The average EBITDA (as defined)* margin for the CGU over the initial 5-year period was 10.8%. The value-in-use (being the present value of the future net cash flows) was €595 million and the carrying amount was €535 million, resulting in an excess of value-in-use over carrying amount of €60 million.

* EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortisation, asset impairment charges, profit on disposals and the Group's share of equity accounted investments' result after tax.

16. Financial Assets

**Investments accounted for
using the equity method
(i.e. joint ventures and associates)**

	Share of net assets €m	Loans €m	Total €m	Asset held for sale €m	Other (i) €m
At 1 January 2013	1,291	131	1,422	143	34
Translation adjustment	(72)	(5)	(77)	(1)	(1)
Investments and advances	64	10	74	-	4
Disposals and repayments	-	(7)	(7)	(139)	(14)
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	2	-	2	-	-
Retained loss	(74)	-	(74)	(3)	-
At 31 December 2013	1,211	129	1,340	-	23

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 1 January 2012	1,923	150	2,073	-	34
Translation adjustment	(24)	(2)	(26)	-	-
Investments and advances	52	4	56	-	-
Disposals and repayments	(410)	(21)	(431)	-	-
Reclassifications	13	-	13	-	-
Transfer to asset held for sale	(143)	-	(143)	143	-
Retained loss	(120)	-	(120)	-	-
At 31 December 2012	1,291	131	1,422	143	34

(i) Other financial assets primarily comprise trade investments carried at historical cost.

Summarised financial information for the Group's investment in joint ventures and associates which are accounted for using the equity method is as follows:

	Joint Ventures		Associates		Total	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Non-current assets	600	663	862	837	1,462	1,500
Current assets	176	188	557	641	733	829
Non-current liabilities	(174)	(168)	(230)	(194)	(404)	(362)
Current liabilities	(106)	(96)	(474)	(580)	(580)	(676)
Net assets	496	587	715	704	1,211	1,291

A listing of the principal equity accounted investments is contained on page 160.

The Group holds a 21.13% stake (2012: 21.13%) in Samse S.A., a publicly-listed distributor in France which is accounted for as an associate investment above. The fair value of this investment was €58 million (2012: €39 million) (Level 1 input in the fair value hierarchy) as at the balance sheet date. Fair value has been calculated based on the number of shares held multiplied by the closing share price at 31 December 2013.

For details of the impairments recorded as a result of the portfolio review process see note 3.

17. Inventories

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Raw materials	606	628
Work-in-progress (i)	86	87
Finished goods	1,562	1,618
Total inventories at the lower of cost and net realisable value	2,254	2,333

(i) Work-in-progress includes €2 million (2012: €1 million) in respect of the cumulative costs incurred, net of amounts transferred to cost of sales under percentage-of-completion accounting, for construction contracts in progress at the balance sheet date.

An analysis of the Group's cost of sales expense is provided in note 3 to the financial statements.

Write-downs of inventories recognised as an expense within cost of sales amounted to €19 million (2012: €12 million).

18. Trade and Other Receivables

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Current		
Trade receivables	1,725	1,706
Amounts receivable in respect of construction contracts (i)	422	469
Total trade receivables, gross	2,147	2,175
Provision for impairment	(118)	(123)
Total trade receivables, net	2,029	2,052
Amounts receivable from equity accounted investments	4	3
Prepayments and other receivables	483	465
Total	2,516	2,520
Non-current		
Other receivables	93	83

The carrying amounts of current and non-current trade and other receivables approximate their fair value largely due to the short-term maturities and nature of these instruments.

(i) Includes unbilled revenue and retentions held by customers in respect of construction contracts at the balance sheet date amounting to €121 million and €63 million respectively (2012: €137 million and €65 million respectively).

Provision for impairment

The movements in the provision for impairment of receivables during the financial year were as follows:

At 1 January	123	136
Translation adjustment	(2)	-
Provided during year	36	40
Written-off during year	(33)	(50)
Recovered during year	(6)	(3)
At 31 December	118	123

Information in relation to the Group's credit risk management is provided in note 22 to the financial statements.

Aged analysis

The aged analysis of gross trade receivables and amounts receivable in respect of construction contracts at the balance sheet date was as follows:

Neither past due nor impaired	1,554	1,637
Past due but not impaired:		
- less than 60 days	290	218
- 60 days or greater but less than 120 days	126	113
- 120 days or greater	53	54
Past due and impaired (partial or full provision)	124	153
Total	2,147	2,175

Trade receivables and amounts receivable in respect of construction contracts are in general receivable within 90 days of the balance sheet date.

19. Trade and Other Payables

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Current		
Trade payables	1,495	1,469
Construction contract-related payables (i)	103	97
Deferred and contingent acquisition consideration (ii)	24	105
Accruals and other payables	1,093	1,067
Amounts payable to equity accounted investments	39	37
Total	2,754	2,775
Non-current		
Other payables	105	85
Deferred and contingent acquisition consideration (ii)	184	192
Total	289	277

(i) Construction contract-related payables include billings in excess of revenue, together with advances received from customers in respect of work to be performed under construction contracts and foreseeable losses thereon.

Other than deferred and contingent consideration, the carrying amounts of trade and other payables approximate their fair value largely due to the short-term maturities and nature of these instruments.

(ii) Deferred and contingent acquisition consideration

The fair value of total contingent consideration is €120 million (2012: €141 million), (Level 3 input in the fair value hierarchy) and deferred consideration is €88 million (2012: €156 million). On an undiscounted basis, the corresponding basis for which the Group may be liable for contingent consideration range from €nil million to a maximum of €149 million. The movement in deferred and contingent consideration during the financial year was as follows:

At 1 January	297	151
Translation adjustment	(9)	(3)
Arising on acquisitions and investments during the year	17	170
Changes in estimate	(3)	-
Paid during the year	(105)	(30)
Discount unwinding	11	9
At 31 December	208	297

20. Movement in Working Capital and Provisions for Liabilities

	Inventories €m	Trade and other receivables €m	Trade and other payables €m	Provisions for liabilities €m	Total €m
At 1 January 2013	2,333	2,603	(3,052)	(366)	1,518
Translation adjustment	(74)	(80)	91	9	(54)
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	41	53	(80)	(14)	-
Disposals	(9)	(4)	7	-	(6)
Deferred and contingent acquisition consideration:					
- arising on acquisitions during year (note 31)	-	-	(17)	-	(17)
- paid during year	-	-	105	-	105
Interest accruals and discount unwinding	-	-	(14)	(15)	(29)
(Decrease)/increase in working capital and provisions for liabilities	(37)	37	(83)	6	(77)
At 31 December 2013	2,254	2,609	(3,043)	(380)	1,440

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 1 January 2012	2,179	2,602	(2,901)	(365)	1,515
Translation adjustment	(15)	(5)	8	2	(10)
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	98	103	(57)	(1)	143
Disposals	(22)	(23)	23	1	(21)
Deferred and contingent acquisition consideration:					
- arising on acquisitions during year (note 31)	-	-	(151)	-	(151)
- paid during year	-	-	30	-	30
Interest accruals and discount unwinding	-	-	(31)	(15)	(46)
Increase/(decrease) in working capital and provisions for liabilities	93	(74)	27	12	58
At 31 December 2012	2,333	2,603	(3,052)	(366)	1,518

21. Analysis of Net Debt

Components of net debt

Net debt is a non-GAAP measure which we provide to investors as we believe they find it useful. Net debt comprises cash and cash equivalents, derivative financial instrument assets and liabilities and interest-bearing loans and borrowings and enables investors to see the economic effects of these in total (see note 22 for details of the capital and risk management policies employed by the Group). Net debt is commonly used in computations such as net debt as a % of total equity and net debt as a % of market capitalisation.

	As at 31 December 2013		As at 31 December 2012	
	Fair value (i) €m	Book value €m	Fair value (i) €m	Book value €m
Cash and cash equivalents (note 23)	2,540	2,540	1,747	1,747
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings (note 24)	(5,799)	(5,540)	(5,142)	(4,808)
Derivative financial instruments (net) (note 25)	27	27	152	152
Group net debt	(3,232)	(2,973)	(3,243)	(2,909)

(i) All interest-bearing loans and borrowings are Level 2 fair value measurements.

The following table shows the effective interest rates on period-end fixed, gross and net debt:

	As at 31 December 2013			As at 31 December 2012		
	€m	Interest rate	Weighted average fixed period Years	€m	Interest rate	Weighted average fixed period Years
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings nominal - fixed rate (i)	(5,362)			(4,516)		
Derivative financial instruments - fixed rate	1,518			1,314		
Net fixed rate debt including derivatives	(3,844)	5.5%	5.1	(3,202)	6.3%	4.4
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings nominal - floating rate (ii)	(54)			(82)		
Adjustment of debt from nominal to book value (i)	(124)			(210)		
Derivative financial instruments - currency floating rate	(1,491)			(1,162)		
Gross debt including derivative financial instruments	(5,513)	4.6%		(4,656)	5.3%	
Cash and cash equivalents - floating rate	2,540			1,747		
Net debt including derivative financial instruments	(2,973)			(2,909)		

(i) Of the Group's nominal fixed rate debt at 31 December 2013, €1,882 million (2012: €2,087 million) was hedged to floating rate at inception using interest rate swaps. The balance of nominal fixed rate debt of €3,480 million (2012: €2,429 million) pertains to financial liabilities measured at amortised cost in accordance with IAS 39.

(ii) Floating rate debt comprises bank borrowings and finance leases bearing interest at rates set in advance for periods ranging from overnight to less than one year largely by reference to inter-bank interest rates.

Currency profile

The currency profile of the Group's net debt and net worth (capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders) as at 31 December 2013 and 2012 is as follows:

	euro €m	US Dollar €m	Pound Sterling €m	Swiss Franc €m	Other (iii) €m	Total €m
Net debt by major currency including derivative financial instruments	(1,304)	(1,476)	(57)	11	(147)	(2,973)
Non-debt assets and liabilities analysed as follows:						
Non-current assets	3,378	6,293	433	796	2,113	13,013
Current assets	1,568	2,138	234	330	526	4,796
Non-current liabilities	(522)	(1,221)	(107)	(169)	(77)	(2,096)
Current liabilities	(1,126)	(1,221)	(208)	(198)	(301)	(3,054)
Non-controlling interests	(8)	(3)	-	(12)	(1)	(24)
Capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders	1,986	4,510	295	758	2,113	9,662

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

Net debt by major currency including derivative financial instruments	(856)	(1,828)	(49)	(3)	(173)	(2,909)
Non-debt assets and liabilities analysed as follows:						
Non-current assets	3,583	6,682	522	870	2,311	13,968
Current assets	1,721	2,181	235	358	518	5,013
Non-current liabilities	(571)	(1,356)	(150)	(243)	(98)	(2,418)
Current liabilities	(1,118)	(1,279)	(197)	(211)	(260)	(3,065)
Non-controlling interests	(20)	(3)	-	(11)	(2)	(36)
Capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders	2,739	4,397	361	760	2,296	10,553

(iii) The principal currencies included in this category are the Polish Zloty, the Indian Rupee, the Ukrainian Hryvnia, the Chinese Renminbi, the Turkish Lira, the Canadian Dollar, the Israeli Shekel and the Argentine Peso.

22. Capital and Financial Risk Management

Capital management

Overall summary

The primary objectives of CRH's capital management strategy are to ensure that the Group maintains a strong credit rating to support its business and to create shareholder value by managing the debt and equity balance and the cost of capital. No changes were made in the objectives, policies or processes for managing capital during 2013.

The Board periodically reviews the capital structure of the Group, including the cost of capital and the risks associated with each class of capital. The Group manages and, if necessary, adjusts its capital structure taking account of underlying economic conditions; any material adjustments to the Group's capital structure in terms of the relative proportions of debt and equity are approved by the Board. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Group may issue new shares, dispose of assets, amend investment plans, alter dividend policy or return capital to shareholders. The Group is committed to optimising the use of its balance sheet within the confines of the overall objective to maintain an investment grade credit rating. Dividend cover for the year ended 31 December 2013, before impairment charges (and the related tax credit), amounted to 0.95 times (2012: 1.2 times).

The capital structure of the Group, which comprises net debt and capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders, may be summarised as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders	9,662	10,553
Net debt	2,973	2,909
Capital and net debt	12,635	13,462

Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Group uses financial instruments throughout its businesses: interest-bearing loans and borrowings, cash and cash equivalents and finance leases are used to finance the Group's operations; trade receivables and trade payables arise directly from operations; and derivatives, principally interest rate and currency swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are used to manage interest rate risks and currency exposures and to achieve the desired profile of borrowings. The Group does not trade in financial instruments nor does it enter into any leveraged derivative transactions.

The Group's corporate treasury function provides services to the business units, co-ordinates access to domestic and international financial markets, and monitors and manages the financial risks relating to the operations of the Group. The Head of Group Financial Operations reports to the Finance Director and the activities of the corporate treasury function are subject to regular internal audit. Systems are in place to monitor and control the Group's liquidity risks. The Group's net debt position forms part of the monthly documentation presented to the Board of Directors.

The main risks attaching to the Group's financial instruments are interest rate risk, foreign currency risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. Commodity price risk arising from financial instruments is of minimal relevance given that exposure is confined to a small number of contracts entered into for the purpose of hedging future movements in energy costs. The Board reviews and agrees policies for the prudent management of each of these risks as documented below.

Interest rate risk

The Group's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates stems predominantly from its long-term debt obligations. Interest cost is managed using a mix of fixed and floating rate debt. With the objective of managing this mix in a cost-efficient manner, the Group enters into interest rate swaps, under which the Group contracts to exchange, at predetermined intervals, the difference between fixed and variable interest amounts calculated by reference to a pre-agreed notional principal. Such contracts enable the Group to mitigate the risk of changing interest rates on the fair value of issued fixed rate debt and the cash flow exposures of issued floating rate debt.

The majority of these swaps are designated under IAS 39 to hedge underlying debt obligations and qualify for hedge accounting; undesignated financial instruments are termed "not designated as hedges" in the analysis of derivative financial instruments presented in note 25. The following table demonstrates the impact on (loss)/profit before tax and total equity of a range of possible changes in the interest rates applicable to net floating rate borrowings, with all other variables held constant. These impacts are calculated based on the closing balance sheet for the relevant period and assume all floating interest rates and interest curves change by the same amount. For (loss)/profit before tax, the impact shown is the impact on closing balance sheet floating rate net debt for a full year while for total equity the impact shown is the impact on the value of financial instruments.

		+/- 1%	+/- 0.5%
Percentage change in cost of borrowings			
Impact on (loss)/profit before tax	2013	+/- €10m	+/- €5m
	2012	+/- €5m	+/- €3m
Impact on total equity	2013	-/+ €8m	-/+ €4m
	2012	+/- €1m	+/- €0.5m

22. Capital and Financial Risk Management | continued

Foreign currency risk

Due to the nature of building materials, which in general exhibit a low value-to-weight ratio, CRH's activities are conducted primarily in the local currency of the country of operation resulting in low levels of foreign currency transaction risk; variances arising in this regard are reflected in operating costs or cost of sales in the Consolidated Income Statement in the period in which they arise.

Given the Group's presence in 35 countries worldwide, the principal foreign exchange risk arises from fluctuations in the euro value of the Group's net investment in a wide basket of currencies other than the euro; such changes are reported separately within the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income. A currency profile of the Group's net debt and net worth is presented in note 21. The Group's established policy is to spread its net worth across the currencies of its various operations with the objective of limiting its exposure to individual currencies and thus promoting consistency with the geographical balance of its operations. In order to achieve this objective, the Group manages its borrowings, where practicable and cost effective, to hedge a portion of its foreign currency assets. Hedging is done using currency borrowings in the same currency as the assets being hedged or through the use of other hedging methods such as currency swaps.

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity of (loss)/profit before tax and equity to selected movements in the relevant €/US\$ exchange rate (with all other variables held constant); the US Dollar has been selected as the appropriate currency for this analysis given the materiality of the Group's activities in the United States. The impact on (loss)/profit before tax is based on changing the €/US\$ exchange rate used in calculating (loss)/profit before tax for the period. The impact on total equity and financial instruments is calculated by changing the €/US\$ exchange rate used in measuring the closing balance sheet.

Percentage change in relevant €/US\$ exchange rate		+/- 5%	+/- 2.5%
Impact on (loss)/profit before tax			
	2013	-/+ €14m	-/+ €7m
	2012	-/+ €14m	-/+ €7m
Impact on total equity*			
	2013	-/+ €215m	-/+ €110m
	2012	-/+ €210m	-/+ €108m
* Includes the impact on financial instruments which is as follows:			
	2013	+/- €70m	+/- €36m
	2012	+/- €87m	+/- €45m

Financial instruments include deposits, money market funds, bank loans, medium term notes and other fixed term debt, interest rate swaps, commodity swaps and foreign exchange contracts. They exclude trade receivables and trade payables.

Credit/counterparty risk

In addition to cash at bank and in hand, the Group holds significant cash balances which are invested on a short-term basis and are classified as cash equivalents (see note 23). These deposits and other financial instruments (principally certain derivatives and loans and receivables included within financial assets) give rise to credit risk on amounts due from counterparty financial institutions (stemming from their insolvency or a downgrade in their credit ratings). Credit risk is managed by limiting the aggregate amount and duration of exposure to any one counterparty primarily depending on its credit rating and by regular review of these ratings. Acceptable credit ratings are high investment-grade ratings - generally counterparties have ratings of A2/A or higher from Moody's/Standard & Poor's ratings agencies. The maximum exposure arising in the event of default on the part of the counterparty (including insolvency) is the carrying value of the relevant financial instrument.

In its worldwide insurance programme, the Group carries appropriate levels of insurance for typical business risks (including product liability) with various leading insurance companies. However, in the event of the failure of one or more of its insurance counterparties, the Group could be impacted by losses where recovery from such counterparties is not possible.

Credit risk arising in the context of the Group's operations is not significant with the total bad debt provision at the balance sheet date amounting to 5.5% of gross trade receivables (2012: 5.7%). Customer credit risk is managed at appropriate Group locations according to established policies, procedures and controls. Customer credit quality is assessed in line with strict credit rating criteria and credit limits established where appropriate. Outstanding customer balances are regularly monitored and a review for indicators of impairment (evidence of financial difficulty of the customer, payment default, breach of contract etc.) is carried out at each reporting date. Significant balances are reviewed individually while smaller balances are grouped and assessed collectively. Receivables balances are in general unsecured and non-interest-bearing. The trade receivables balances disclosed in note 18 comprise a large number of customers spread across the Group's activities and geographies with balances classified as neither past due nor impaired representing 72% of the total trade receivables balance at the balance sheet date (2012: 75%); amounts receivable from related parties (notes 18 and 32) are immaterial. Factoring and credit guarantee arrangements are employed in certain of the Group's operations where deemed to be of benefit by operational management.

Liquidity risk

The principal liquidity risks faced by the Group stem from the maturation of debt obligations and derivative transactions. A downgrade of CRH's credit ratings may give rise to increases in funding costs in respect of future debt and may impair the Group's ability to raise funds on acceptable terms. The Group's corporate treasury function ensures that sufficient resources are available to meet such liabilities as they fall due through a combination of cash and cash equivalents, cash flows and undrawn committed bank facilities. Flexibility in funding sources is achieved through a variety of means including (i) maintaining cash and cash equivalents only with a diversity of highly-rated counterparties; (ii) limiting the maturity of such balances; (iii) borrowing the bulk of the Group's debt requirements under committed bank lines or other term financing; and (iv) having surplus committed lines of credit.

The undrawn committed facilities available to the Group as at the balance sheet date are quantified in note 24; these facilities span a wide number of highly-rated financial institutions thus minimising any potential exposure arising from concentrations in borrowing sources. The repayment schedule (analysed by maturity date) applicable to the Group's outstanding interest-bearing loans and borrowings as at the balance sheet date is also presented in note 24.

22. Capital and Financial Risk Management | continued

The tables below show the projected contractual undiscounted total cash outflows (principal and interest) arising from the Group's trade and other payables, gross debt and derivative financial instruments. The tables also include the gross cash inflows projected to arise from derivative financial instruments. These projections are based on the interest and foreign exchange rates applying at the end of the relevant financial year.

	Within 1 year €m	Between 1 and 2 years €m	Between 2 and 3 years €m	Between 3 and 4 years €m	Between 4 and 5 years €m	After 5 years €m	Total €m
At 31 December 2013							
<i>Financial liabilities - cash outflows</i>							
Trade and other payables	2,754	140	20	22	22	128	3,086
Finance leases	3	2	1	6	1	2	15
Other interest-bearing loans and borrowings	955	353	1,203	-	472	2,445	5,428
Interest payments on finance leases	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Interest payments on other interest-bearing loans and borrowings	263	214	178	134	116	318	1,223
Cross-currency swaps - gross cash outflows	2,196	327	-	-	-	-	2,523
Gross projected cash outflows	6,172	1,037	1,402	162	611	2,893	12,277
<i>Derivative financial instruments - cash inflows</i>							
Interest rate swaps - net cash inflows	(40)	(30)	(20)	(12)	(13)	(22)	(137)
Cross-currency swaps - gross cash inflows	(2,183)	(308)	-	-	-	-	(2,491)
Gross projected cash inflows	(2,223)	(338)	(20)	(12)	(13)	(22)	(2,628)

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 31 December 2012							
<i>Financial liabilities - cash outflows</i>							
Trade and other payables	2,775	145	41	13	21	118	3,113
Finance leases	3	3	1	1	6	3	17
Other interest-bearing loans and borrowings	634	905	350	1,257	1	1,457	4,604
Interest payments on finance leases	1	1	-	1	-	1	4
Interest payments on other interest-bearing loans and borrowings	284	224	176	138	93	264	1,179
Cross-currency swaps - gross cash outflows	2,201	29	343	8	-	-	2,581
Gross projected cash outflows	5,898	1,307	911	1,418	121	1,843	11,498
<i>Derivative financial instruments - cash inflows</i>							
Interest rate swaps - net cash inflows	(57)	(34)	(25)	(20)	(11)	(7)	(154)
Cross-currency swaps - gross cash inflows	(2,216)	(27)	(332)	(8)	-	-	(2,583)
Gross projected cash inflows	(2,273)	(61)	(357)	(28)	(11)	(7)	(2,737)

Commodity price risk

The fair value of derivatives used to hedge future energy costs was €4 million unfavourable as at the balance sheet date (2012: €2 million unfavourable).

23. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents balances are spread across a wide number of highly-rated financial institutions. The credit risk attaching to these items is documented in note 22.

Cash and cash equivalents, are included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows at fair value and, are analysed as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Cash at bank and in hand	582	604
Investments (short-term deposits)	1,958	1,143
Total	2,540	1,747

Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily deposit bank rates. Short-term deposits are made for varying periods of between one day and three months depending on the immediate cash requirements of the Group, and earn interest at the respective short-term deposit rates.

24. Interest-bearing Loans and Borrowings

Loans and borrowings outstanding

	2013	2012
	€m	€m
Bank overdrafts	40	54
Bank loans	28	48
Finance leases	15	17
Bonds and private placements	5,439	4,670
Other	18	19
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings*	5,540	4,808

* Including loans of €1 million (2012: €3 million) secured on specific items of property, plant and equipment; these figures do not include finance leases.

Maturity profile of loans and borrowings and undrawn committed facilities

	As at 31 December 2013		As at 31 December 2012	
	Loans and borrowings €m	Undrawn committed facilities** €m	Loans and borrowings €m	Undrawn committed facilities** €m
Within one year	961	-	647	150
Between one and two years	349	40	928	-
Between two and three years	1,240	1,625	347	40
Between three and four years	4	85	1,314	1,626
Between four and five years	506	200	5	-
After five years	2,480	-	1,567	1
Total	5,540	1,950	4,808	1,817

** The Group manages its borrowing ability by entering into committed borrowing agreements. Revolving committed bank facilities are generally available to the Group for periods of up to five years from the date of inception. The figures shown above are the undrawn committed facilities available to be drawn by the Group at 31 December 2013.

Guarantees

The Company has given letters of guarantee to secure obligations of subsidiary undertakings as follows: €5.5 billion in respect of loans, bank advances, derivative obligations and future lease obligations (2012: €4.8 billion), €270 million in respect of letters of credit (2012: €289 million) and €nil million in respect of other obligations (2012: €7 million).

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, the Company has guaranteed the liabilities of its wholly-owned subsidiary undertakings and the Oldcastle Finance Company and Oldcastle North America Funding Company general partnerships in the Republic of Ireland for the financial year ended 31 December 2013 and, as a result, such subsidiary undertakings and the general partnerships have been exempted from the filing provisions of Section 7, Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986 and Regulation 20 of the European Communities (Accounts) Regulations, 1993 respectively.

Lender covenants

The Group's major bank facilities and debt issued pursuant to Note Purchase Agreements in private placements require the Group to maintain certain financial covenants. Non-compliance with financial covenants would give the relevant lenders the right to terminate facilities and demand early repayment of any sums drawn thereunder thus altering the maturity profile of the Group's debt and the Group's liquidity. Calculations for financial covenants are completed for twelve-month periods half-yearly on 30 June and 31 December. The Group was in full compliance with its financial covenants throughout each of the periods presented. The Group is not aware of any stated events of default as defined in the Agreements.

The financial covenants are:

- (1) *Minimum interest cover* defined as PBITDA/net interest (all as defined in the relevant agreement) cover at no lower than 4.5 times. As at 31 December 2013 the ratio was 6.3 times (2012: 6.5 times);
- (2) *Minimum net worth* defined as total equity plus deferred tax liabilities and capital grants less repayable capital grants being in aggregate no lower than €5.1 billion (2012: €5.1 billion) (such minimum being adjusted for foreign exchange translation impacts). As at 31 December 2013 net worth (as defined in the relevant agreement) was €10.9 billion (2012: €11.8 billion).

25. Derivative Financial Instruments

The fair values of derivative financial instruments are analysed by year of maturity and by accounting designation as follows:

	Fair value hedges	Cash flow hedges	Net investment hedges	Not designated as hedges	Total
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
At 31 December 2013					
Derivative assets					
Within one year - current assets	9	-	8	-	17
Between one and two years	-	-	-	-	-
Between two and three years	30	-	-	-	30
Between three and four years	-	-	-	-	-
Between four and five years	28	-	-	-	28
After five years	-	-	-	5	5
Non-current assets	58	-	-	5	63
Total derivative assets	67	-	8	5	80
Derivative liabilities					
Within one year - current liabilities	-	(2)	(17)	-	(19)
Between one and two years	-	(21)	-	-	(21)
Between two and three years	-	(1)	-	-	(1)
Between three and four years	-	(1)	-	-	(1)
Between four and five years	-	-	-	-	-
After five years	(11)	-	-	-	(11)
Non-current liabilities	(11)	(23)	-	-	(34)
Total derivative liabilities	(11)	(25)	(17)	-	(53)
Net asset arising on derivative financial instruments	56	(25)	(9)	5	27

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 31 December 2012

Derivative assets					
Within one year - current assets	48	-	4	-	52
Between one and two years	24	-	-	-	24
Between two and three years	-	-	-	-	-
Between three and four years	45	-	-	-	45
Between four and five years	-	-	-	-	-
After five years	51	-	-	-	51
Non-current assets	120	-	-	-	120
Total derivative assets	168	-	4	-	172
Derivative liabilities					
Within one year - current liabilities	-	(1)	(5)	-	(6)
Between one and two years	-	(1)	-	-	(1)
Between two and three years	-	(13)	-	-	(13)
Between three and four years	-	-	-	-	-
Between four and five years	-	-	-	-	-
After five years	-	-	-	-	-
Non-current liabilities	-	(14)	-	-	(14)
Total derivative liabilities	-	(15)	(5)	-	(20)
Net asset arising on derivative financial instruments	168	(15)	(1)	-	152

25. Derivative Financial Instruments | continued

At 31 December 2013 and 2012, the Group had no master netting or similar arrangements, collateral posting requirements, and enforceable right of set-off agreements with any of its derivative counterparts.

Fair value hedges consist of interest rate swaps and currency swaps. These instruments hedge risks arising from changes in asset/liability fair values due to interest rate and foreign exchange rate movements.

Cash flow hedges consist of forward foreign exchange and commodity contracts and interest rate and currency swaps. These instruments hedge risks arising to future cash flows from movements in foreign exchange rates, commodity prices and interest rates. Cash flow hedges are expected to affect profit and loss over the period to maturity.

Net investment hedges comprise cross-currency swaps and hedge changes in the value of net investments due to currency movements.

The profit/(loss) arising on fair value, cash flow, net investment hedges and related hedged items reflected in the Consolidated Income Statement is shown below:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Cash flow hedges - ineffectiveness	-	(3)
Fair value of hedge instruments	(68)	(16)
Fair value of the hedged items	71	21

Components of other comprehensive income - cash flow hedges

(Losses)/gains arising during the year:

- commodity forward contracts	(2)	-
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Reclassification adjustments for losses/(gains) included in:

- the Consolidated Income Statement	-	1
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Total	(2)	1
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Fair value hierarchy

	2013 Level 2 €m	2012 Level 2 €m
<i>Assets measured at fair value</i>		
Fair value hedges - cross currency and interest rate swaps	67	168
Net investment hedges - cross currency swaps	8	4
Not designated as hedges (held-for-trading) - interest rate swaps	5	-
Total	80	172

Liabilities measured at fair value

Fair value hedges - cross currency and interest rate swaps	(11)	-
Cash flow hedges - cross currency, interest rate swaps and commodity forwards	(25)	(15)
Net investment hedges - cross currency swaps	(17)	(5)
Total	(53)	(20)

At 31 December 2013 and 2012 there were no derivatives valued using Level 1 or Level 3 fair value techniques. Valuation methods for Levels 1, 2 and 3 are described in the "fair value hierarchy" section of the accounting policies on page 108.

26. Provisions for Liabilities

Net present cost	At 1 January €m	Translation adjustment €m	Arising on acquisition (note 31) €m	Provided during year €m	Utilised during year €m	Disposed during year €m	Reversed unused €m	Discount unwinding €m	At 31 December €m
31 December 2013									
Insurance (i)	191	(7)	-	42	(50)	-	(4)	9	181
Environment and remediation (ii)	82	(1)	5	6	(4)	-	(4)	3	87
Rationalisation and redundancy (iii)	26	-	5	55	(38)	-	(6)	1	43
Other (iv)	67	(1)	4	14	(11)	-	(6)	2	69
Total	366	(9)	14	117	(103)	-	(20)	15	380
Analysed as:									
Non-current liabilities	256								231
Current liabilities	110								149
Total	366								380

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

31 December 2012									
Insurance (i)	199	(2)	-	51	(45)	-	(22)	10	191
Environment and remediation (ii)	85	-	-	2	(4)	(1)	(2)	2	82
Rationalisation and redundancy (iii)	13	-	-	48	(35)	-	(1)	1	26
Other (iv)	68	-	1	15	(8)	-	(11)	2	67
Total	365	(2)	1	116	(92)	(1)	(36)	15	366
Analysed as:									
Non-current liabilities	244								256
Current liabilities	121								110
Total	365								366

- (i) This provision relates to actual and potential obligations arising under the self-insurance components of the Group's insurance arrangements which comprise employers' liability (workers' compensation in the United States), public and products liability (general liability in the United States), automobile liability, property damage, business interruption and various other insurances; a substantial proportion of the total provision pertains to claims which are classified as "incurred but not reported". Due to the extended timeframe associated with many of the insurances, a significant proportion of the total provision is subject to periodic actuarial valuation. The projected cash flows underlying the discounting process are established through the application of actuarial triangulations, which are extrapolated from historical claims experience. The triangulations applied in the discounting process indicate that the Group's insurance provisions have an average life of six years (2012: six years).
- (ii) This provision comprises obligations governing site remediation and improvement costs to be incurred in compliance with either local or national environmental regulations together with constructive obligations stemming from established best practice. Whilst a significant element of the total provision will reverse in the medium-term (two to ten years), the majority of the legal and constructive obligations applicable to long-lived assets (principally mineral-bearing land) will unwind over a 30-year timeframe. In discounting the related obligations, expected future cash outflows have been determined with due regard to extraction status and anticipated remaining life.
- (iii) These provisions relate to irrevocable commitments under various rationalisation and redundancy programmes, none of which is individually material to the Group. In 2013, €55 million (2012: €48 million) was provided in respect of rationalisation and redundancy activities as a consequence of undertaking various cost reduction initiatives across all operations. These initiatives included removing excess capacity from manufacturing and distribution networks and scaling operations to match market supply and demand; implementation of these initiatives resulted in a reduction in staffing levels in all business segments over recent years. The Group expects that these provisions will be utilised within one to two years of the balance sheet date (2012: one to two years).
- (iv) This includes provisions relating to guarantees and warranties of €14 million (2012: €13 million) throughout the Group at 31 December 2013. The Group expects that these provisions will be utilised within two years of the balance sheet date (2012: two to three years).

Discount rate sensitivity analysis

All non-current provisions are discounted at a rate of 5% (2012: 5%), consistent with the average effective interest rate for the Group's borrowings. There is no impact (2012: €1 million) on profit before tax of a 1% change in the discount rate applicable to provisions, with all other variables held constant.

27. Deferred Income Tax

The deductible and taxable temporary differences in respect of which deferred tax has been recognised are as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Reported in balance sheet after offset		
Deferred tax liabilities	1,166	1,232
Deferred tax assets	(107)	(191)
Net deferred income tax liability	1,059	1,041

Deferred income tax assets (deductible temporary differences)

Deficits on Group retirement benefit obligations (note 28)	74	135
Revaluation of derivative financial instruments to fair value	15	21
Tax loss carryforwards	98	129
Share-based payment expense	2	1
Provisions for liabilities and working capital-related items	144	181
Other deductible temporary differences	38	47
Total	371	514

Deferred income tax assets have been recognised in respect of all deductible temporary differences, with the exception of some tax loss carryforwards. The amount of tax losses where recovery is not probable and is therefore not recognised in the Consolidated Balance Sheet is €712 million (2012: €357 million). The vast majority will expire post 2018 (2012: 2017).

Deferred income tax liabilities (taxable temporary differences)

Taxable temporary differences principally attributable to accelerated tax depreciation and fair value adjustments arising on acquisition (i)	1,400	1,522
Revaluation of derivative financial instruments to fair value	13	15
Rolled-over capital gains	17	18
Total	1,430	1,555

(i) Fair value adjustments arising on acquisition principally relate to property, plant and equipment.

Movement in net deferred income tax liability

At 1 January	1,041	1,062
Translation adjustment	(37)	(15)
Net expense for the year (note 11)	4	7
Arising on acquisition (note 31)	8	9
Disposal (note 5)	-	1
Movement in deferred tax asset on Group retirement benefit obligations	43	(23)
At 31 December	1,059	1,041

28. Retirement Benefit Obligations

The Group operates either defined benefit or defined contribution pension schemes in all of its principal operating areas.

The Group operates defined benefit pension schemes in the Republic of Ireland, Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and the United States; for the purposes of the disclosures which follow, the schemes in the Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany have been aggregated into a "Eurozone" category on the basis of common currency and financial assumptions. The majority of the defined benefit pension schemes operated by the Group are funded as disclosed in the analysis of the defined benefit obligation presented below with unfunded schemes restricted to one scheme in each of the Netherlands and the United States and three schemes in Germany.

All funded defined benefit schemes are administered by separate funds that are legally separate from the Group under the jurisdiction of Trustees. Each of the Group's schemes operate under broadly similar regulatory frameworks. The Trustees of the various pension funds in existence across the Group are required by law and by their articles of association to act in the best interests of the scheme participants and are responsible for the definition of investment strategy and for scheme administration. The level of benefits available to members depends on length of service and either their average salary over their period of employment or their salary in the final years leading up to retirement. The Group's pension schemes in Switzerland are contribution-based schemes with guarantees to provide further contributions in the event that certain targets are not met largely in relation to investment return and the annuity conversion factor on retirement.

Provision has been made in the financial statements for post-retirement healthcare obligations in respect of certain current and former employees principally in the United States and for long-term service commitments in respect of certain employees in the Eurozone and Switzerland. These obligations are unfunded in nature and the required disclosures form part of this note.

Defined benefit pension schemes - principal risks

Through its defined benefit pension schemes and post-retirement healthcare plans, the Group is exposed to a number of risks, the most significant of which are detailed below:

Asset volatility: Under IFRS, the assets of the Group's defined benefit pension schemes are reported at fair value (using bid prices, where relevant). The majority of the schemes' assets comprise of equities, bonds and property all of which may fluctuate significantly in value from period to period. Given that liabilities are discounted to present value based on bond yields and that bond prices are inversely related to yields, an increase in the liability discount rate (which would reduce liabilities) would reduce bond values though not necessarily by an equal magnitude.

Given the maturity of certain of the Group's funded defined benefit pension schemes, de-risking frameworks have been introduced to mitigate deficit volatility and enable better matching of investment returns with the cash outflows related to benefit obligations. These frameworks entail the usage of asset-liability matching techniques whereby triggers are set for the conversion of equity holdings into bonds of similar average duration to the relevant liabilities.

Discount rates: The discount rates employed in determining the present value of the schemes' liabilities are determined by reference to market yields at the balance sheet date on high-quality corporate bonds of a currency and term consistent with the currency and term of the associated post-employment benefit obligations. Changes in discount rates impact the quantum of liabilities as discussed above.

Inflation risk: Some of the Group's pension obligations have an inflation linkage; higher inflation will lead to higher liabilities (although in most cases, caps on the level of inflationary increases are in place to protect the scheme against extreme inflation).

Longevity risk: In the majority of cases, the Group's defined benefit pension schemes provide benefits for life with spousal and dependent child reversionary provisions; increases in life expectancy will therefore give rise to higher liabilities.

Financial assumptions - scheme liabilities

The major long-term assumptions used by the Group's actuaries in the computation of scheme liabilities as at 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2012 are as follows:

	Eurozone		Britain and Northern Ireland		Switzerland		United States	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rate of increase in:								
- salaries	4.00	4.00	4.30	4.00	2.25	2.25	3.50	3.50
- pensions in payment	2.00	2.00	3.30-3.50	3.00-3.40	0.25	0.25	-	-
Inflation	2.00	2.00	3.30	3.00	1.25	1.25	2.00	2.00
Discount rate	3.70	3.80	4.60	4.50	2.35	1.85	4.70	3.75
Medical cost trend rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.40	6.25

The mortality assumptions employed in determining the present value of scheme liabilities under IAS 19 are in accordance with the underlying funding valuations and represent actuarial best practice in the relevant jurisdictions taking account of mortality experience and industry circumstances. With regard to the most material of the Group's schemes, the future life expectations factored into the relevant valuations, based on retirement at 65 years of age for current and future retirees, are as follows:

	Republic of Ireland		Britain and Northern Ireland		Switzerland	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Current retirees						
- male	22.7	22.6	23.2	23.2	21.3	19.7
- female	24.9	24.4	25.7	25.8	23.8	22.0
Future retirees						
- male	25.7	25.7	25.5	24.8	23.5	19.7
- female	26.7	26.7	28.2	27.4	25.9	22.0

The above data allow for future improvements in life expectancy.

28. Retirement Benefit Obligations | continued

Impact on Consolidated Income Statement

The total retirement benefit expense in the Consolidated Income Statement is as follows:

	2013	2012
	€m	€m
Total defined contribution expense	149	142
Total defined benefit expense	52	39
Total expense in Consolidated Income Statement	201	181

At 31 December 2013, €34 million (2012: €38 million) was included in other payables in respect of defined contribution pension liabilities.

Analysis of defined benefit expense

	Eurozone		Britain and Northern Ireland		Switzerland		United States		Total Group	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Charged in arriving at Group profit before finance costs:										
Current service cost	11	7	13	14	27	25	-	(2)	51	44
Administration expenses	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	3	2
Past service costs	(6)	(33)	(3)	-	(15)	1	-	-	(24)	(32)
Subtotal	6	(26)	11	16	13	26	-	(2)	30	14
Included in finance income and finance costs respectively:										
Interest income on scheme assets	(27)	(29)	(26)	(26)	(12)	(16)	(6)	(7)	(71)	(78)
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	39	44	30	31	14	17	10	11	93	103
Net interest expense	12	15	4	5	2	1	4	4	22	25
Net charge to Consolidated Income Statement	18	(11)	15	21	15	27	4	2	52	39

Past service costs include curtailment and settlement gains. During 2013, the Group implemented changes to the terms of a number of its defined benefit pension schemes in Switzerland giving rise to a curtailment gain of €15 million.

No reimbursement rights have been recognised as assets in accordance with IAS19 *Employee Benefits*.

Reconciliation of scheme assets (bid value)

At 1 January	710	551	597	525	661	628	174	159	2,142	1,863
<i>Movement in year</i>										
Administration expenses	(1)	-	(1)	(2)	(1)	-	-	-	(3)	(2)
Past service costs	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	(4)
Interest income on scheme assets	27	29	26	26	12	16	6	7	71	78
Return on scheme assets excluding interest income	30	57	44	35	25	32	9	10	108	134
Employer contributions paid	70	114	28	20	17	18	9	14	124	166
Contributions paid by plan participants	3	3	-	-	10	11	-	-	13	14
Benefit and settlement payments	(49)	(41)	(21)	(19)	(31)	(33)	(11)	(11)	(112)	(104)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(15)	-	-	-	(15)
Translation adjustment	-	-	(11)	12	(10)	4	(8)	(4)	(29)	12
At 31 December	790	710	662	597	683	661	179	174	2,314	2,142

28. Retirement Benefit Obligations | continued

Reconciliation of actuarial value of liabilities

	Eurozone		Britain and Northern Ireland		Switzerland		United States		Total Group	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
At 1 January	(1,054)	(896)	(705)	(652)	(765)	(702)	(271)	(249)	(2,795)	(2,499)
<i>Movement in year</i>										
Current service cost	(11)	(7)	(13)	(14)	(27)	(25)	-	2	(51)	(44)
Past service costs	6	36	3	-	15	(1)	-	1	24	36
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	(39)	(44)	(30)	(31)	(14)	(17)	(10)	(11)	(93)	(103)
Remeasurements										
- experience variations	23	(4)	2	11	17	7	-	(1)	42	13
- actuarial (loss)/gain from changes in financial assumptions	(16)	(175)	(13)	(23)	64	(60)	30	(30)	65	(288)
- actuarial loss from changes in demographic assumptions	-	(2)	(2)	-	(51)	(3)	-	-	(53)	(5)
Contributions paid by plan participants	(3)	(3)	-	-	(10)	(11)	-	-	(13)	(14)
Benefit and settlement payments	49	41	21	19	31	33	11	11	112	104
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	19
Translation adjustment	-	-	14	(15)	13	(5)	11	6	38	(14)
At 31 December	(1,045)	(1,054)	(723)	(705)	(727)	(765)	(229)	(271)	(2,724)	(2,795)
Recoverable deficit in schemes	(255)	(344)	(61)	(108)	(44)	(104)	(50)	(97)	(410)	(653)
Related deferred income tax asset	39	51	6	25	9	21	20	38	74	135
Net pension liability	(216)	(293)	(55)	(83)	(35)	(83)	(30)	(59)	(336)	(518)

During the year, settlement payments of €11 million (2012: €nil million) were made in respect of some of the Group's schemes in the Eurozone (€7 million) and Switzerland (€4 million).

Split of scheme liabilities - funded and unfunded

Funded defined benefit pension schemes	(999)	(1,009)	(723)	(705)	(722)	(760)	(219)	(260)	(2,663)	(2,734)
Unfunded defined benefit pension schemes	(40)	(39)	-	-	-	-	(7)	(7)	(47)	(46)
Total - defined benefit pension schemes	(1,039)	(1,048)	(723)	(705)	(722)	(760)	(226)	(267)	(2,710)	(2,780)
Post-retirement healthcare obligations (unfunded)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)
Long-term service commitments (unfunded)	(6)	(6)	-	-	(5)	(5)	-	-	(11)	(11)
Actuarial value of liabilities (present value)	(1,045)	(1,054)	(723)	(705)	(727)	(765)	(229)	(271)	(2,724)	(2,795)

Sensitivity analysis

The impact of a movement (as indicated below) in the principal actuarial assumptions would be as follows:

		Eurozone	Britain and Northern Ireland	Switzerland	United States	Total Group
		2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
		€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2013		(1,045)	(723)	(727)	(229)	(2,724)
<i>Revised liabilities</i>						
Discount rate	Decrease by 0.25%	(1,088)	(759)	(757)	(236)	(2,840)
Inflation rate	Increase by 0.25%	(1,086)	(750)	(727)	(229)	(2,792)
Life expectancy	Increase by 1 year	(1,072)	(745)	(741)	(234)	(2,792)

The above sensitivity analysis is derived through changing the individual assumption while holding all other assumptions constant.

28. Retirement Benefit Obligations | continued

Split of scheme assets

	Eurozone		Britain and Northern Ireland		Switzerland		United States		Total Group	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
<i>Investments quoted in active markets</i>										
Equity instruments:										
- Developed markets	262	343	340	294	229	190	92	91	923	918
- Emerging markets	12	10	53	39	-	-	-	-	65	49
Debt instruments:										
- Non Government debt instruments	29	26	139	137	210	176	26	21	404	360
- Government debt instruments	390	220	69	72	58	48	51	50	568	390
Property	29	27	43	41	68	67	-	-	140	135
Cash and cash equivalents	47	72	1	7	2	2	4	3	54	84
Investment funds	12	-	9	5	-	-	6	8	27	13
Assets held by insurance company	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	1	5	5
<i>Unquoted investments</i>										
Property	2	2	-	-	68	66	-	-	70	68
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4	2	1	31	89	-	-	37	94
Investment funds	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Assets held by insurance company	3	6	-	1	12	19	-	-	15	26
Total	790	710	662	597	683	661	179	174	2,314	2,142

Actuarial valuations - funding requirements and future cash flows

In accordance with statutory requirements in Ireland and Britain (minimum funding requirements), additional annual contributions and lump-sum payments are required to certain of the schemes in place in those jurisdictions. The funding requirements in relation to the Group's defined benefit schemes are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent and qualified actuaries and valuations are prepared in this regard either annually, where local requirements mandate that this be done, or at triennial intervals at a maximum in all other cases. In Ireland and Britain, either the attained age or projected unit credit methods are used in the valuations. In the Netherlands and Switzerland, the actuarial valuations reflect the current unit method, while the valuations are performed in accordance with the projected unit credit methodology in Germany. In the United States, valuations are performed using a variety of actuarial cost methodologies - current unit, projected unit and aggregate cost. The dates of the actuarial valuations range from December 2010 to December 2013.

In general, actuarial valuations are not available for public inspection; however, the results of valuations are advised to the members of the various schemes.

The maturity profile of the Group's contracted payments (on a discounted basis) to certain schemes in the Eurozone (Ireland) and Britain and Northern Ireland is as follows:

	Eurozone		Britain and Northern Ireland		Total Group	
	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Within one year	18	18	7	18	25	36
Between one and two years	17	17	7	7	24	24
Between two and three years	16	16	7	6	23	22
Between three and four years	16	16	6	6	22	22
Between four and five years	15	15	6	6	21	21
After five years	-	15	47	41	47	56
	82	97	80	84	162	181

Employer contributions payable in the 2014 financial year including minimum funding payments (expressed using year-end exchange rates for 2013) are estimated at €115 million.

Average duration and scheme composition

	Eurozone		Britain and Northern Ireland		Switzerland		United States	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Average duration of defined benefit obligation (years)	15.9	16.9	18.1	20.8	16.0	16.0	13.3	13.2
Allocation of defined benefit obligation by participant:								
Active plan participants	39%	40%	27%	28%	86%	87%	36%	38%
Deferred plan participants	20%	20%	34%	34%	-	-	30%	30%
Retirees	41%	40%	39%	38%	14%	13%	34%	32%

29. Share Capital and Reserves

	2013		2012	
	Ordinary Shares of €0.32 each (i)	Income Shares of €0.02 each (ii)	Ordinary Shares of €0.32 each (i)	Income Shares of €0.02 each (ii)
Equity Share Capital				
<i>Authorised</i>				
At 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 (€m)	320	20	320	20
Number of Shares at 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 ('000s)	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
<i>Allotted, called-up and fully paid</i>				
At 1 January (€m)	235	14	233	14
Issue of scrip shares in lieu of cash dividends (iii)	2	-	2	-
At 31 December (€m)	237	14	235	14

The movement in the number of shares (expressed in '000s) during the financial year was as follows:

At 1 January	733,821	733,821	727,897	727,897
Issue of scrip shares in lieu of cash dividends (iii)	5,410	5,410	5,924	5,924
At 31 December	739,231	739,231	733,821	733,821

(i) The Ordinary Shares represent 93.68% of the total issued share capital.

(ii) The Income Shares, which represent 5.85% of the total issued share capital, were created on 29 August 1988 for the express purpose of giving shareholders the choice of receiving dividends on either their Ordinary Shares or on their Income Shares (by notice of election to the Company). The Income Shares carried a different tax credit to the Ordinary Shares. The creation of the Income Shares was achieved by the allotment of fully paid Income Shares to each shareholder equal to his/her holding of Ordinary Shares but the shareholder is not entitled to an Income Share certificate, as a certificate for Ordinary Shares is deemed to include an equal number of Income Shares and a shareholder may only sell, transfer or transmit Income Shares with an equivalent number of Ordinary Shares. Income Shares carry no voting rights. Due to changes in Irish tax legislation since the creation of the Income Shares, dividends on the Company's shares no longer carry a tax credit. As elections made by shareholders to receive dividends on their holding of Income Shares were no longer relevant, the Articles of Association were amended on 8 May 2002 to cancel such elections.

Share schemes

The aggregate number of shares which may be committed for issue in respect of any share option scheme, savings-related share option scheme, share participation scheme, performance share plan or any subsequent option scheme or share plan, may not exceed 10% of the issued Ordinary share capital from time to time.

Share option schemes

Details of share options granted under the Company's share option schemes and the terms attaching thereto are provided in note 8 to the financial statements and on page 68 of the Directors' Remuneration Report.

	Number of Shares	
	2013	2012
Options exercised during the year (satisfied by the reissue of Treasury Shares)	1,310,187	1,163,827

Share participation schemes

As at 31 December 2013, 7,386,047 (2012: 7,272,632) Ordinary Shares had been appropriated to participation schemes. In the financial year ended 31 December 2013, the appropriation of 113,415 shares was satisfied by the reissue of Treasury Shares (2012: 154,045). The Ordinary Shares appropriated pursuant to these schemes were issued at market value on the dates of appropriation. The shares issued pursuant to these schemes are excluded from the scope of IFRS 2 *Share-based Payment* and are hence not factored into the expense computation and the associated disclosures in note 8.

Restricted Share Plan

During the year, the Employee Benefit Trust purchased 391,250 shares on behalf of CRH plc in respect of awards under the 2013 Restricted Share Plan.

The nominal value of own shares, on which dividends have been waived by the Trustees of the 2013 Restricted Share Plan, amounted to €0.1 million at 31 December 2013.

(iii) Issue of scrip shares in lieu of cash dividends:

	Number of Shares		Price per Share	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
May 2013 - Final 2012 dividend (2012: Final 2011 dividend)	2,011,165	2,653,368	€17.01	€15.40
October 2013 - Interim 2013 dividend (2012: Interim 2012 dividend)	3,398,992	3,270,169	€15.79	€14.27
Total	5,410,157	5,923,537		

29. Share Capital and Reserves | continued

Preference Share Capital	5% Cumulative Preference Shares of €1.27 each (iv)		7% 'A' Cumulative Preference Shares of €1.27 each (v)	
	Number of Shares ('000s)	€m	Number of Shares ('000s)	€m
<i>Authorised</i>				
At 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013	150	-	872	1
<i>Allotted, called-up and fully paid</i>				
At 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013	50	-	872	1

There was no movement in the number of cumulative preference shares in either the current or the prior year.

(iv) The holders of the 5% Cumulative Preference Shares are entitled to a fixed cumulative preference dividend at a rate of 5% per annum and priority in a winding-up to repayment of capital, but have no further right to participate in profits or assets and are not entitled to be present or vote at general meetings unless their dividend is in arrears. Dividends on the 5% Cumulative Preference Shares are payable half-yearly on 15 April and 15 October in each year. The 5% Cumulative Preference Shares represent 0.03% of the total issued share capital.

(v) The holders of the 7% 'A' Cumulative Preference Shares are entitled to a fixed cumulative preference dividend at a rate of 7% per annum, and subject to the rights of the holders of the 5% Cumulative Preference Shares, priority in a winding-up to repayment of capital, but have no further right to participate in profits or assets and are not entitled to be present or vote at general meetings unless their dividend is in arrears or unless the business of the meeting includes certain matters, which are specified in the Articles of Association. Dividends on the 7% 'A' Cumulative Preference Shares are payable half-yearly on 5 April and 5 October in each year. The 7% 'A' Cumulative Preference Shares represent 0.44% of the total issued share capital.

Treasury Shares/own shares	2013 €m	2012 €m
At 1 January	(146)	(183)
Treasury Shares/own shares reissued	34	37
Shares acquired by Employee Benefit Trust (own shares)	(6)	-
At 31 December	(118)	(146)

As at the balance sheet date, the total number of Treasury Shares held was 5,951,104 (2012: 7,374,706); the nominal value of these shares was €2 million (2012: €3 million). During the year ended 31 December 2013, 1,423,602 shares were reissued (2012: 1,317,872) to satisfy exercises and appropriations under the Group's share option and share participation schemes. These reissued Treasury Shares were previously purchased at an average price of €24.08 (2012: €24.11). No Treasury Shares were purchased during 2013 or 2012.

Reconciliation of shares issued to net proceeds

Shares issued at nominal amount:

- scrip shares issued in lieu of cash dividends	2	2
Premium on shares issued	86	86
Total value of shares issued	88	88
Issue of scrip shares in lieu of cash dividends (note 12)	(88)	(88)
Net proceeds from issue of shares	-	-

Share Premium

At 1 January	4,133	4,047
Premium arising on shares issued	86	86
At 31 December	4,219	4,133

30. Commitments under Operating and Finance Leases

Operating leases

Future minimum rentals payable under non-cancellable operating leases at 31 December are as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Within one year	301	270
After one year but not more than five years	596	653
More than five years	357	398
	1,254	1,321

Finance leases

Future minimum lease payments under finance leases are not material for the Group.

31. Business Combinations

The principal acquisitions completed during the year ended 31 December 2013 by reportable segment, together with the completion dates, are detailed below; these transactions entailed the acquisition of an effective 100% stake except where indicated to the contrary:

Europe Materials: *Spain:* Cementos Lemona (99%, 25 February); *United Kingdom:* Southern Cement (25 February), assets of Cemex in Northern Ireland (13 May) and the cement import facilities of Dudman (31 May); *Ukraine:* Mykolaiv Cement (99%, 25 September).

Europe Products: *Belgium:* assets of Echo NV (24 April).

Europe Distribution: *Belgium:* Halschoor (4 January); *the Netherlands:* Van Buren (9 January); *France:* 4 Wolseley locations (1 October).

Americas Materials: *Colorado:* selected assets of Lafarge in the Western Slopes (3 July); *Michigan:* Rockwood quarry (10 May) and assets of Waterland Trucking Service (10 May); *Mississippi:* assets of Rogers Group (3 July); *New York:* selected assets of Dutchess Quarry and Supply (18 March); *Oregon:* selected assets of Cemex (15 February) and Turner Gravel (18 November); *Pennsylvania:* Miller reserves (26 March); *West Virginia:* Sugarland reserves (17 May).

Americas Products: *Canada:* Expocrete (18 March); *North and South Carolina:* concrete product assets of Cemex (8 April); *Pennsylvania:* assets of Modern Precast Concrete (25 January); *Wisconsin:* Harmony Outdoor Living (21 March).

Americas Distribution: *Florida:* assets of Fogleman Builders Supply (3 October); *Maryland:* assets of Eldersburg Supply (1 April, also Washington DC); *Texas:* certain assets of JEH Company (18 September).

The identifiable net assets acquired, including adjustments to provisional fair values, were as follows:	2013 €m	2012 €m
Assets		
Non-current assets	342	253
Property, plant and equipment	39	65
Intangible assets	2	-
Equity accounted investments	-	10
Deferred income tax assets	-	-
Total non-current assets	383	328
Current assets	41	98
Inventories	53	103
Trade and other receivables (i)	11	19
Cash and cash equivalents	105	220
Total current assets	105	220
Liabilities	(80)	(57)
Trade and other payables	(14)	(1)
Provisions for liabilities (stated at net present cost)	(44)	(42)
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings and finance leases	-	(3)
Current income tax liabilities	(8)	(19)
Deferred income tax liabilities	(8)	(19)
Total liabilities	(146)	(122)
Total identifiable net assets at fair value	342	426
Goodwill arising on acquisition (ii)	169	162
Excess of fair value of identifiable net assets over consideration paid (ii)	(2)	-
Non-controlling interests*	(1)	-
Total consideration	508	588
<i>Consideration satisfied by:</i>		
Cash payments	347	437
Asset exchange (note 5)	144	-
Deferred consideration (stated at net present cost)	4	75
Contingent consideration (iii)	13	76
Total consideration	508	588
Net cash outflow arising on acquisition	347	437
Cash consideration	(11)	(19)
Less: cash and cash equivalents acquired	336	418
Total	347	437

* Measured at the non-controlling interests' proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.

31. Business Combinations | continued

None of the acquisitions completed during the financial year were considered sufficiently material to warrant separate disclosure of the attributable fair values. The initial assignment of fair values to identifiable net assets acquired has been performed on a provisional basis in respect of certain acquisitions; any amendments to these fair values made during the subsequent reporting window (within the measurement period imposed by IFRS 3) will be subject to subsequent disclosure.

- (i) The gross contractual value of trade and other receivables as at the respective dates of acquisition amounted to €57 million (2012: €106 million). The fair value of these receivables is €53 million (all of which is expected to be recoverable) (2012: €103 million) and is inclusive of an aggregate allowance for impairment of €4 million (2012: €3 million).
- (ii) The principal factor contributing to the recognition of goodwill on acquisitions entered into by the Group is the realisation of cost savings and other synergies with existing entities in the Group which do not qualify for separate recognition as intangible assets. Due to the asset-intensive nature of operations in the Materials business segments, no significant intangible assets are recognised on business combinations in these segments. €49 million of the goodwill recognised in respect of acquisitions completed in 2013 is expected to be deductible for tax purposes (2012: €106 million). An excess of fair value of identifiable net assets over consideration of €2 million arose during the year and is included in operating costs in note 3.
- (iii) The fair value of contingent consideration recognised is €13 million (including adjustments to prior year acquisitions of €11 million). On an undiscounted basis, the corresponding future payments on current year acquisitions for which the Group may be liable range from €nil million to a maximum of €7 million.

Acquisition-related costs amounting to €2 million (2012: €4 million) have been included in operating costs in the Consolidated Income Statement (note 3).

No contingent liabilities were recognised on the acquisitions completed during the financial year or the prior financial years.

The carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities acquired determined in accordance with IFRS before completion of the acquisition, together with the adjustments made to those carrying values to arrive at the fair values disclosed above, were as follows:

	Book values €m	Fair value adjustments €m	Accounting policy alignments €m	Adjustments to provisional fair values €m	Fair value €m
Non-current assets	257	106	-	20	383
Current assets	130	(12)	(2)	(11)	105
Liabilities	(107)	(34)	-	(5)	(146)
Identifiable net assets acquired	280	60	(2)	4	342
Non-controlling interests	(2)	1	-	-	(1)
Goodwill arising on acquisition (see (ii) above)	224	(61)	2	2	167
Total consideration	502	-	-	6	508

The adjustments to provisional fair values above relate principally to our acquisition of Trap Rock Industries in December 2012.

The following table analyses the 25 acquisitions (2012: 32 acquisitions) by reportable segment and provides details of the goodwill and consideration figures arising in each of those segments:

Reportable segments	Number of Acquisitions		Goodwill		Consideration	
	2013	2012	2013 €m	2012 €m	2013 €m	2012 €m
Europe Materials	5	2	80	26	256	58
Europe Products	1	4	-	68	9	151
Europe Distribution	3	3	10	8	15	40
Americas Materials	9	14	19	34	76	226
Americas Products	4	9	48	14	124	112
Americas Distribution	3	-	8	-	22	-
Group totals	25	32	165	150	502	587
Adjustments to provisional fair values of prior year acquisitions					6	1
Total consideration					508	588

31. Business Combinations | continued

The post-acquisition impact of acquisitions completed during the year on the Group's result for the financial year was as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Revenue	306	270
Cost of sales	(232)	(201)
Gross profit	74	69
Operating costs	(63)	(56)
Group operating profit	11	13
Profit on disposals	-	-
Profit before finance costs	11	13
Finance costs (net)	(3)	(2)
Profit before tax	8	11
Income tax expense	(2)	(4)
Group profit for the financial year	6	7

The revenue and result of the Group for the financial year determined in accordance with IFRS as though the acquisitions effected during the year had been at the beginning of the year would have been as follows:

	Pro-forma 2013			Pro-forma 2012 €m
	2013 acquisitions €m	CRH Group excluding 2013 acquisitions €m	Pro-forma consolidated Group €m	
Revenue	434	17,725	18,159	19,054
Group (loss)/profit for the financial year	1	(301)	(300)	571

There have been no acquisitions completed subsequent to the balance sheet date which would be individually material to the Group, thereby requiring disclosure under either IFRS 3 or IAS 10 *Events after the Balance Sheet Date*. Development updates, giving details of acquisitions which do not require separate disclosure on the grounds of materiality, are published in January and July each year.

32. Related Party Transactions

The principal related party relationships requiring disclosure in the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Group under IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures* pertain to: the existence of subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates; transactions with these entities entered into by the Group; and the identification and compensation of key management personnel.

Subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates

The Consolidated Financial Statements include the financial statements of the Company (CRH plc, the ultimate parent) and its subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates as documented in the accounting policies on pages 102 to 108. The Group's principal subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates are disclosed on pages 154 to 160.

Sales to and purchases from joint ventures are immaterial in 2013 and 2012. Loans extended by the Group to joint ventures and associates (see note 16) are included in financial assets. Sales to and purchases from associates during the financial year ended 31 December 2013 amounted to €24 million (2012: €21 million) and €411 million (2012: €446 million) respectively. Amounts receivable from and payable to equity accounted investments (arising from the aforementioned sales and purchases transactions) as at the balance sheet date are included as separate line items in notes 18 and 19 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Terms and conditions of transactions with subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates

In general, the transfer pricing policy implemented by the Group across its subsidiaries is market-based. Sales to and purchases from joint ventures and associates are conducted in the ordinary course of business and on terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's-length transactions. The outstanding balances included in receivables and payables as at the balance sheet date in respect of transactions with joint ventures and associates are unsecured and settlement arises in cash. No guarantees have been either requested or provided in relation to related party receivables and payables. Loans to joint ventures and associates (as disclosed in note 16) are extended on normal commercial terms in the ordinary course of business with interest accruing and, in general, paid to the Group at predetermined intervals.

Key management personnel

For the purposes of the disclosure requirements of IAS 24, the term "key management personnel" (i.e. those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Company) comprises the Board of Directors which manages the business and affairs of the Company.

Key management remuneration amounted to:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Short-term benefits	7	6
Post-employment benefits	2	2
Share-based payments - calculated in accordance with the principles disclosed in note 8	2	2
Total	11	10

Other than these compensation entitlements, there were no other transactions involving key management personnel.

33. Board Approval

The Board of Directors approved and authorised for issue the financial statements on pages 98 to 145 in respect of the year ended 31 December 2013 on 24 February 2014.

Company Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2013

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Notes		
Fixed assets		
2 Financial assets	581	538
Current assets		
3 Debtors	6,394	6,394
Cash at bank and in hand	175	172
Total current assets	6,569	6,566
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)		
4 Trade and other creditors	1,453	1,126
Bank loans and overdrafts	57	2
Total current liabilities	1,510	1,128
Net current assets	5,059	5,438
Net assets	5,640	5,976
Capital and reserves		
7 Called-up share capital	251	249
7 Preference share capital	1	1
8 Share premium account	4,223	4,137
8 Treasury Shares and own shares	(118)	(146)
8 Revaluation reserve	42	42
8 Other reserves	187	172
8 Profit and loss account	1,054	1,521
Shareholders' funds	5,640	5,976

N. Hartery, A. Manifold, Directors

Notes to the Company Balance Sheet

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2013 and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the Republic of Ireland ("Irish GAAP"). The following paragraphs describe the principal accounting policies under Irish GAAP, which have been applied consistently.

Operating income and expense

Operating income and expense arises from the Company's principal activities as a holding company for the Group and are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Financial assets

Fixed asset investments, including investments in subsidiaries, are stated at cost (and at valuation at 31 December 1980 for those investments in existence at that date) less any accumulated impairments and are reviewed for impairment if there are indications that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Foreign currencies

The reporting currency of the Company is euro. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euro at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date, with a corresponding charge or credit to the profit and loss account.

Share issue expenses and share premium account

Costs of share issues are written off against the premium arising on issues of share capital.

Share-based payments

The Company has applied the requirements of FRS 20 *Share-based Payment*.

The accounting policy applicable to share-based payments is consistent with that applied under IFRS and is accordingly addressed in detail on pages 105 and 106 of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Cash flow statement

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by FRS 1 *Cash Flow Statements* not to provide a statement of cash flows.

Treasury Shares and own shares

Treasury Shares

Own equity instruments (i.e. Ordinary Shares) acquired by the Company are deducted from equity and presented on the face of the Company Balance Sheet. No gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the Company's Ordinary Shares.

Own shares

Ordinary Shares purchased by the Employee Benefit Trust on behalf of the Company under the terms of the Performance Share Plan are recorded as a deduction from equity on the face of the Company Balance Sheet.

Dividends

Dividends on Ordinary Shares are recognised as a liability in the Company's Financial Statements in the period in which they are declared by the Company.

2. Financial Assets

The Company's investment in its subsidiaries is as follows:

	Shares (i) €m	Other €m	Total €m
At 1 January 2013 at cost/valuation	371	167	538
Capital contribution in respect of share-based payments	-	14	14
Additions	29	-	29
At 31 December 2013 at cost/valuation	400	181	581

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 1 January 2012 at cost/valuation	371	155	526
Capital contribution in respect of share-based payments	-	12	12
At 31 December 2012 at cost/valuation	371	167	538

- (i) The Company's investment in shares in its subsidiaries was revalued at 31 December 1980 to reflect the surplus on revaluation of certain property, plant and equipment (land and buildings) of subsidiaries. The original historical cost of the shares equated to approximately €9 million. The analysis of the closing balance between amounts carried at valuation and at cost is as follows:

	2013 €m	2012 €m
At valuation 31 December 1980	47	47
At cost post 31 December 1980	353	324
Total	400	371

Pursuant to Section 16 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, a full list of subsidiaries, joint ventures and associated undertakings will be annexed to the Company's Annual Return to be filed in the Companies Registration Office in Ireland.

3. Debtors

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	6,394	6,394

4. Trade and Other Creditors

	2013 €m	2012 €m
Amounts falling due within one year		
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings	1,453	1,126

5. Auditor's Remuneration (Memorandum Disclosure)

In accordance with Section 161D of the Companies Act, 1963, the fees paid in 2013 to the statutory auditor for work engaged by the parent company comprised audit fees of €20,000 (2012: €20,000) and other assurance services of €60,000 (2012: €108,000).

6. Dividends Proposed (Memorandum Disclosure)

Details in respect of dividends proposed of €323 million (2012: €320 million) are presented in the dividends note (note 12) on page 120 of the notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

7. Called-up Share Capital

Details in respect of called-up share capital, Treasury Shares and own shares are presented in the share capital and reserves note (note 29) on pages 140 and 141 of the notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

8. Movement in Shareholders' Funds

	Issued share capital €m	Share premium account €m	Treasury Shares/ own shares €m	Revaluation reserve €m	Other reserves €m	Profit and loss account €m	Total equity €m
At 1 January 2013	250	4,137	(146)	42	172	1,521	5,976
Issue of share capital (net of expenses)	2	86	-	-	-	-	88
Profit after tax before dividends	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Treasury/own shares reissued	-	-	34	-	-	(34)	-
Shares acquired by Employee Benefit Trust (own shares)	-	-	(6)	-	-	-	(6)
Share option exercises	-	-	-	-	-	19	19
Share-based payment expense	-	-	-	-	15	-	15
Dividends (including shares issued in lieu of dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	(455)	(455)
At 31 December 2013	252	4,223	(118)	42	187	1,054	5,640

The equivalent disclosure for the prior year is as follows:

At 1 January 2012	248	4,051	(183)	42	158	986	5,302
Issue of share capital (net of expenses)	2	86	-	-	-	-	88
Profit after tax before dividends	-	-	-	-	-	1,006	1,006
Treasury/own shares reissued	-	-	37	-	-	(37)	-
Share option exercises	-	-	-	-	-	16	16
Share-based payment expense	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
Dividends (including shares issued in lieu of dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	(450)	(450)
At 31 December 2012	250	4,137	(146)	42	172	1,521	5,976

In accordance with Section 148(8) of the Companies Act, 1963 and Section 7(1A) of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, the Company is availing of the exemption from presenting its individual profit and loss account to the Annual General Meeting and from filing it with the Registrar of Companies. The profit for the financial year dealt with in the Company Financial Statements amounted to €3 million (2012: €1,006 million).

9. Share-based Payments

The total expense of €15 million (2012: €14 million) reflected in note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements attributable to employee share options and the Performance Share Plan has been included as a capital contribution in financial assets (note 2) in addition to any payments to/from subsidiaries.

10. Section 17 Guarantees

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986, the Company has guaranteed the liabilities of its wholly-owned subsidiary undertakings and the Oldcastle Finance Company and Oldcastle North America Funding Company general partnerships in the Republic of Ireland for the financial year ended 31 December 2013 and, as a result, such subsidiary undertakings and the general partnerships have been exempted from the filing provisions of Section 7, Companies (Amendment) Act, 1986 and Regulation 20 of the European Communities (Accounts) Regulations, 1993 respectively.

Details in relation to other guarantees provided by the Company are provided in the interest-bearing loans and borrowings note (note 24) on page 131 of the notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

11. Related Party Transactions

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 8 not to disclose transactions with wholly-owned subsidiaries.

12. Approval by Board

The Board of Directors approved and authorised for issue the Company Financial Statements on pages 146 to 149 in respect of the year ended 31 December 2013 on 24 February 2014.

Shareholder Information

Dividend payments

An interim dividend of 18.5c was paid in respect of Ordinary Shares on 25 October 2013.

A final dividend of 44c, if approved at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, will be paid in respect of Ordinary Shares on 12 May 2014 to shareholders on the Register of Members as at the close of business on 7 March 2014.

Dividend Withholding Tax (DWT) must be deducted from dividends paid by an Irish resident company, unless a shareholder is entitled to an exemption and has submitted a properly completed exemption form to the Company's Registrars, Capita Asset Services (the "Registrars"). DWT applies to dividends paid by way of cash or by way of shares under a scrip dividend scheme and is deducted at the standard rate of Income Tax (currently 20%). Non-resident shareholders and certain Irish companies, trusts, pension schemes, investment undertakings and charities may be entitled to claim exemption from DWT. Copies of the exemption form may be obtained from the Registrars. Shareholders should note that DWT will be deducted from dividends in cases where a properly completed form has not been received by the record date for a dividend. Individuals who are resident in Ireland for tax purposes are not entitled to an exemption.

Shareholders who wish to have their dividend paid direct to a bank account, by electronic funds transfer, should complete the required dividend mandate form and submit it to the Registrars. A copy of the required form can be obtained from the shareholder services section of the CRH website, www.crh.com, under "Equity Investors". Alternatively, shareholders can contact the Registrars to obtain a mandate form (see contact details below). Tax vouchers will be sent to the shareholder's registered address under this arrangement.

Dividends are generally paid in euro. However, in order to avoid costs to shareholders, dividends are paid in Sterling and US Dollars to shareholders whose shares are not held in the CREST system (see below) and whose address, according to the Share Register, is in the UK and the United States respectively, unless they require otherwise.

Dividends in respect of 7% 'A' Cumulative Preference Shares are paid half-yearly on 5 April and 5 October.

Dividends in respect of 5% Cumulative Preference Shares are paid half-yearly on 15 April and 15 October.

Shareholders have the option of taking their dividend in the form of shares under the Company's Scrip Dividend Scheme.

CREST

Transfer of the Company's shares takes place through the CREST system. Shareholders have the choice of holding their shares in electronic form or in the form of share certificates.

Where shares are held in CREST, dividends are automatically paid in euro unless a currency election is made. CREST members should use the facility in CREST to make currency elections. Such elections must be made in respect of entire holdings as partial elections are not permissible.

Stock Exchange listings

CRH has a premium listing on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and a secondary listing on the Irish Stock Exchange (ISE). The Group's American Depositary Shares (ADSs), each representing one Ordinary Share, are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The ADSs are evidenced by American Depositary Receipts.

Share price data

	2013		2012	
	€ - ISE	Stg£ - LSE	€ - ISE	Stg£ - LSE
Share price at 31 December	18.30	15.23	15.30	12.48
Market capitalisation	13.4bn	11.2bn	11.1bn	9.1bn
Share price movement during year:				
- high	19.30	16.17	16.79	14.09
- low	14.68	12.15	12.99	10.52

Shareholdings as at 31 December 2013

Ownership of Ordinary Shares

Geographic location*	Number of shares held '000s	% of total
North America	292,448	39.56
United Kingdom	166,254	22.49
Europe/Other	122,263	16.54
Retail	122,240	16.54
Ireland	30,075	4.06
Treasury	5,951	0.81
	739,231	100

* This represents a best estimate of the number of shares controlled by fund managers resident in the geographic regions indicated. Private shareholders are classified as retail above.

Holdings	Number of Shareholders	% of total	Number of shares held '000s	% of total
1 - 1,000	15,033	59.79	5,112	0.69
1,001 - 10,000	8,563	34.06	25,026	3.39
10,001 - 100,000	1,144	4.55	31,132	4.21
100,001 - 1,000,000	307	1.22	106,607	14.42
Over 1,000,000	95	0.38	571,354	77.29
	25,142	100	739,231	100

Financial calendar

Announcement of final results for 2013	25 February 2014
Ex-dividend date	5 March 2014
Record date for dividend	7 March 2014
Latest date for receipt of scrip forms	24 April 2014
Interim Management Statement	7 May 2014
Annual General Meeting	7 May 2014
Dividend payment date and first day of dealing in scrip dividend shares	12 May 2014
Announcement of interim results for 2014	19 August 2014
Interim Management Statement	11 November 2014

Website

The Group's website, www.crh.com, provides the full text of the Annual and Interim Reports, the Annual Report on Form 20-F, which is filed annually with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, interim management statements and copies of presentations to analysts and investors. News releases are made available, in the Media section of the website, immediately after release to the Stock Exchanges.

Electronic communications

Following the introduction of the 2007 Transparency Regulations, and in order to adopt a more environmentally friendly and cost effective approach, the Company provides the Annual Report to shareholders electronically via the CRH website, www.crh.com, and only sends a printed copy to those shareholders who specifically request a copy. Shareholders who choose to do so can receive other shareholder communications, for example, notices of general meetings and shareholder circulars, electronically. However, shareholders will continue to receive printed proxy forms, dividend documentation and, if the Company deems it appropriate, other documentation by post. Shareholders can alter the method by which they receive communications by contacting the Registrars.

Electronic proxy voting

Shareholders may lodge a proxy form for the 2014 Annual General Meeting electronically by accessing the Registrars' website as described below.

CREST members wishing to appoint a proxy via CREST should refer to the CREST Manual and the notes to the Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Registrars

Enquiries concerning shareholdings should be addressed to the Registrars:

Capita Asset Services

P.O. Box 7117

Dublin 2

Ireland

Telephone: +353 (0) 1 553 0050

Fax: +353 (0) 1 224 0700

Website: www.capitaassetservices.com

Shareholders with access to the internet may check their accounts by accessing the Registrars' website and selecting "Shareholder Portal (Ireland)". This facility allows shareholders to check their shareholdings and dividend payments, register e-mail addresses, appoint proxies electronically and download standard forms required to initiate changes in details held by the Registrars. Shareholders will need to register for a User ID before using some of the services.

American Depositary Receipts (ADRs)

The ADR programme is administered by the Bank of New York Mellon and enquiries regarding ADRs should be addressed to:

The Bank of New York Mellon

P.O. Box 358516

Pittsburgh

PA 15252-8516

U.S.A.

Telephone: Toll Free Number (United States residents): 1-888-269-2377

International: +1 201-680-6825

E-mail: shrelations@bnymellon.com

Website: www.bnymellon.com/shareowner

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Group's website contains answers to questions frequently asked by shareholders, including questions regarding shareholdings, dividends payments, electronic communications and shareholder rights. The FAQ can be accessed in the Investors section of the website under "Equity Investors".

Management

Executive Directors/ Company Secretary

Albert Manifold
Chief Executive

Maeve Carton
Finance Director

Mark Towe
*Chief Executive Officer
Oldcastle, Inc.*

Neil Colgan
Company Secretary

Senior Group Staff

Jack Golden
*Organisation Development
Director*

Henry Morris
*Managing Director Europe
Materials*

*Compliance, Sustainability
& Risk*

John Byrne
Head of Internal Audit

Ros O'Shea
*Head of Compliance &
Ethics*

Pat McCleery
*Group Sustainability
Manager*

Declan Condren
*Group Strategic Financial
Risk Manager*

*Strategy, Innovation,
Development & HR*

Oliver Mahon
*Group Performance & Value
Creation Director*

Noel O'Mahony
*Group Performance &
Innovation Director*

Philip Wheatley
*Group Strategy &
Development Director*

Nicola McCracken
HR Operations Director

*Corporate Communications
& Investor Relations*

Éimear O'Flynn
Corporate Communications

Frank Heisterkamp
Head of Investor Relations

Finance, Tax, Treasury

Alan Connolly
General Manager - Finance

Rossa McCann
*Head of Group Financial
Operations*

Paul Barry
*Head of Reporting &
Financial Control*

Johanna O'Driscoll
*Head of Financial Evaluation
& Advisory Services*

Pat O'Shea
Group Taxation Director

Anthony Fitzgerald
Group Treasurer

Europe

Edwin Bouwman
Chief Financial Officer

Heavyside & Lightside

Ken McKnight
Managing Director

Heavyside West

Francisco Irazusta
Managing Director

Owen Rowley
Chief Operating Officer

Edwin van den Berg
*Managing Director
Benelux*

Séamus Lynch
*Managing Director
Ireland & Spain*

Wayne Sheppard
*Managing Director
United Kingdom*

Claus Bering
*Managing Director
Denmark*

Urs Sandmeier
*Managing Director
Switzerland & Germany*

Francois Demoulin
*Managing Director
France*

Heavyside East

Jim Mintern
Managing Director

Declan Maguire
Chief Operating Officer

Mark Lowry
*Managing Director
Poland*

Mariusz Bogacz
*Managing Director
Finland*

Barry Leonard
*Managing Director
Ukraine*

Declan Maguire
*Managing Director
SE Europe*

Jim Mintern
*Managing Director
Russia & Israel*

Frank Heisterkamp
*Managing Director
Turkey*

Lightside Products

David Dillon
Managing Director

Kees-Jan van 't Westeinde
*Managing Director
Shutters & Awnings*

Jean-Luc Bernard
*Managing Director
Construction Accessories*

Dennis Gouka
*Managing Director
Heras*

Hans Welting
*Managing Director
Mobile Fencing*

Michael Wightman
*Managing Director
Cubis*

Distribution

Marc St. Nicolaas
Managing Director

Emiel Hopmans
*Managing Director
DIY Benelux*

Distribution North

Taco van Vroonhoven
Chief Operating Officer

Peter Stravers
*Managing Director
Builders Merchants,
Benelux*

Christoph Lehmann
*Managing Director
Builders Merchants,
Germany*

Tom Beyers
*Managing Director
SHAP & Netherlands
Roofing*

Distribution South

Khaled Bachir
Chief Operating Officer

Ulrich Paulmann
*Managing Director
Builders Merchants, Austria*

Nicolas Weinmann
*Managing Director
Builders Merchants,
Switzerland*

Khaled Bachir
*Managing Director
Builders Merchants, France*

Asia

Ken McKnight
President

Oliver Mahon
*Country Director
India*

Atul Khosla
*Managing Director
India*

Peter Buckley
*Country Director
China*

Ee Ming Wong
*Country Manager
China*

The Americas

Mark Towe
Chief Executive Officer

Michael O'Driscoll
Chief Financial Officer

Gary Hickman
Senior Vice President Tax & Risk Management

Michael Lynch
Executive Vice President Development

Bill Miller
Vice President & General Counsel

Mark Schack
Executive Vice President Talent Management

John Cooney, Jr.
President
New York Region

Sean O'Sullivan
President
Tilcon New Jersey

William Stavola
President
Trap Rock

Central

John Powers
President
Central Division

Ty Nofziger
President
Shelly

Gregg Campbell
President
Michigan Paving & Materials

Mid-Atlantic

Dan Cooperrider
President
Mid-Atlantic Division

Mark Snyder
President
MidA

Willie Crane
President
AMG – North

Kevin Bragg
President
AMG – South

Southeast

Rob Duke
President
Southeast Division

David Church
President
Mid-South Region

Northwest

Jim Gauger
President
Northwest Division

Craig Mayfield
President
East Region

Ricardo Linares
President
West Region

Mountain West

Scott Parson
President
Mountain West Division

Randy Anderson
President
Staker Parson North/Rocky Mountain

Michael Kurz
President
Staker Parson South

Rich Umbel
President
Southwest Region

Bob Rowberry
President
Jack B. Parson

Central West

Kirk Randolph
President
Central West Division

Earl Losier
President
KS/MO & OK/AR Regions

Raymond Lane
President
Texas & TN/MS Regions

Craig Lamberty
President
Midwest Region

Products

Keith Haas
Chief Executive Officer

Paul Valentine
Chief Financial Officer

Doug Crawford
Vice President Development & Strategy

Joe Myers
President
Building Solutions

Architectural Products

Rick Mergens
President

Mike Schaeffer
Chief Financial Officer

Tim Ortman
President
Masonry & Hardscapes

Eoin Lehane
President
National Group

Peter Kiley
Executive Vice President Strategic Sales

Precast

Dave Steevens
President

Bob Quinn
Chief Administrative Officer

Eric Farinha
Chief Financial Officer

BuildingEnvelope®

Ted Hathaway
Chief Executive Officer

Brian Reilly
Chief Administrative Officer

Jim Avanzini
Chief Operating Officer
Architectural Glass & Storefronts

Mary Carol Witry
Chief Operating Officer
Engineered Glazing Systems

Distribution

Robert Feury, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

Frank Furia
Chief Financial Officer

Jamie Kutzer
Chief Administrative Officer

John McLaughlin
President
Exterior Products

Ron Pilla
President
Interior Products

South America

Juan Carlos Girotti
Managing Director
CRH Sudamericana & Canteras Cerro Negro

Bernardo Alamos
Managing Director
Vidrios Dell Orto & South American Glass Group

Federico Ferro
Managing Director
Cormela

North America

Materials

Randy Lake
Chief Executive Officer

Charlie Brown
Chief Financial Officer

Pascal Convers
Senior Vice President Development

John Keating
President & Chief Operating Officer, East

Doug Radabaugh
Chief Financial Officer, East

John Parson
President & Chief Operating Officer, West

Jeff Schaffer
Executive Vice President, West

Chris Madden
Executive Vice President, Fleet Operations

Northeast

Dan Stover
President
Northeast Division

Christian Zimmermann
President
New England North

Principal Subsidiary Undertakings as at 31 December 2013

<i>Incorporated and operating in</i>	<i>% held</i>	<i>Products and services</i>
Europe Materials		
Belgium	VVM N.V.	100 Cement transport and trading, readymixed concrete, clinker grinding
Britain & Northern Ireland	Cubis	100 Supplier of access chambers and ducting products
	Northstone (NI) Limited (including Farrans, Scott (Toomebridge) Limited)	100 Aggregates, readymixed concrete, mortar, coated macadam, rooftiles, building and civil engineering contracting
	Premier Cement Limited	100 Marketing and distribution of cement
Finland	Finnsementti Oy	100 Cement
	Rudus Oy	100 Aggregates, readymixed concrete and concrete products
Ireland	Irish Cement Limited	100 Cement
	Clogrennane Lime Limited	100 Burnt and hydrated lime
	Roadstone Wood Limited	100 Aggregates, readymixed concrete, mortar, coated macadam, concrete blocks and pipes, asphalt, agricultural and chemical limestone and contract surfacing
Netherlands	Cementbouw B.V.	100 Cement transport and trading, readymixed concrete and aggregates
Poland	Bosta Beton Sp. z o.o.	90.30 Readymixed concrete
	Drogomex Sp. z o.o.*	99.94 Asphalt and contract surfacing
	Grupa Ożarów S.A.	100 Cement
	Grupa Prefabet S.A.*	100 Concrete products
	Masfalt Sp. z o.o.*	100 Asphalt and contract surfacing
	O.K.S.M. S.A.	100 Aggregates
	Polbruk S.A.	100 Readymixed concrete and concrete paving
	Trzuskawica S.A.	100 Production of lime and lime products
Spain	Beton Catalan S.A.	100 Readymixed concrete
	Cementos Leonesa S.A.	98.86 Cement
Switzerland	JURA-Holding AG	100 Cement, aggregates and readymixed concrete
Ukraine	LLC Cement*	51 Cement and clinker grinding
	PJSC Mykolaiv Cement	99.27 Cement
	Podilsky Cement PJSC	99.60 Cement

Europe Products & Distribution

Austria	<i>Distribution</i>		
	Quester Baustoffhandel GmbH	100	Builders merchants
Belgium	<i>Products</i>		
	Douterloigne N.V.	100	Concrete floor elements, pavers and blocks
	Ergon N.V.	100	Precast concrete and structural elements
	Stradus Aqua N.V.	100	Concrete paving, sewerage and water treatment
	Oeterbeton N.V.	100	Precast concrete
	Prefaco N.V.	100	Precast concrete structural elements
	Remacle S.A.	100	Precast concrete products
	Schelfhout N.V.	100	Precast concrete wall elements
	Plakabeton N.V.	100	Construction accessories
	Stradus Infra N.V.	100	Concrete paving and landscaping products
	Marlux N.V.	100	Concrete paving and landscaping products
	<i>Distribution</i>		
	Lambrechts N.V.	100	Builders merchants
	Sax Sanitair N.V.	75	Sanitary ware, heating and plumbing
Schrauwen Sanitair en Verwarming N.V.	100	Sanitary ware, heating and plumbing	
Van Neerbos België N.V.	100	DIY stores	
Britain & Northern Ireland	<i>Products</i>		
	Anchor Bay Construction Products	100	Construction accessories
	Ancon Limited	100	Construction accessories
	Anderton Concrete Products Limited	100	Precast and pre-stressed concrete products
	CRH Fencing & Security Group (UK) Limited	100	Security fencing
	Forticrete Limited	100	Concrete masonry products and rooftiles
	Ibstock Brick Limited	100	Clay brick manufacturer
	Supreme Concrete Limited	100	Concrete fencing, lintels and floorbeams
	Security Windows Shutters Limited	100	Physical security, industrial and garage doors, roofing systems
Denmark	<i>Products</i>		
	Betongruppen RBR A/S	100	Concrete paving manufacturer
	CRH Concrete A/S	100	Structural concrete products
France	<i>Products</i>		
	Béton Moulé Industriel S.A.	99.98	Precast concrete products
	Heras Clôture S.A.R.L.	100	Temporary fencing
	L'industrielle du Béton S.A.*	100	Structural concrete products
	Marlux	100	Concrete paving manufacturer
	Plaka Group France S.A.S.	100	Construction accessories
	Stradal	100	Utility and infrastructural concrete products
	<i>Distribution</i>		
	CRH Ile de France Distribution	100	Builders merchants
	CRH TP Distribution	100	Builders merchants
CRH Normandie Distribution	100	Builders merchants	

Principal Subsidiary Undertakings | continued

Incorporated and operating in

% held Products and services

Europe Products & Distribution continued

Germany	<i>Products</i>		
	Alulux GmbH	100 Roller shutter and awning systems	
	CRH Clay Solutions GmbH*	100 Clay brick, pavers and rooftiles	
	EHL AG	100 Concrete paving and landscape walling products	
	ERHARDT Markisenbau GmbH	100 Roller shutter and awning systems	
	Halfen GmbH	100 Construction accessories	
	Hammerl GmbH	100 Construction accessories	
	Heras-Adronit GmbH	100 Security fencing and access control	
	Reuss-Seifert GmbH	100 Construction accessories	
	<i>Distribution</i>		
	BauKing AG	100 Builders merchants, DIY stores	
	Andreas Paulsen GmbH	100 Sanitary ware, heating and plumbing	
	Hungary	<i>Products</i>	
		Ferrobeton Beton-és Vasbetonelem gyártó Zrt.	100 Precast concrete structural elements
Ireland	<i>Products</i>		
	Plaka Ireland Limited	100 Construction accessories	
Italy	<i>Products</i>		
	Halfen S.R.L., Società Unipersonale	100 Construction accessories	
	Plaka Group S.R.L.	100 Construction accessories	
Netherlands	<i>Products</i>		
	Aluminium Verkoop Zuid B.V.	100 Roller shutter and awning systems	
	Calduran Kalkzandsteen B.V.	100 Sand-lime bricks and building elements	
	CRH Kleiwaren Beheer B.V.	100 Clay brick manufacturer	
	CRH Structural Concrete B.V.	100 Precast concrete structural elements	
	Dycore B.V.	100 Concrete flooring elements	
	Heras B.V.	100 Security fencing and perimeter protection	
	Kooy Baksteencentrum B.V.	100 Clay brick factors	
	Mavotrans B.V.	100 Construction accessories	
	Struyk Verwo Groep B.V.	100 Concrete paving products	
	<i>Distribution</i>		
	CRH Bouwmaten B.V.	100 Cash & Carry building materials	
	CRH Bouwmaterialenhandel B.V.	100 Builders merchants	
	N.V.B. Ubbens Bouwstoffen B.V.	100 Builders merchants	
	Royal Roofing Materials B.V.	100 Roofing materials merchant	
	Stoel van Klaveren Bouwstoffen B.V.	100 Builders merchants	
	Van Neerbos Bouwmaterialen B.V.	100 Builders merchants	
	Van Neerbos Bouwmarkten B.V.	100 DIY stores	
	Wij©k's B.V.	100 Builders merchants	

Europe Products & Distribution continued

Norway	<i>Products</i>		
	Halfen AS	100	Construction accessories
Poland	<i>Products</i>		
	CRH Klinkier Sp. z o.o.	100	Clay brick manufacturer
	Ergon Poland Sp. z o.o.	100	Structural concrete products
Romania	<i>Products</i>		
	CRH Structural Concrete SRL	100	Structural concrete products
	Elpreco S.A.	100	Architectural concrete products
Slovakia	<i>Products</i>		
	Premac, spol. s.r.o.	100	Concrete paving and floor elements
Spain	<i>Products</i>		
	Plakabeton S.L.U.	100	Construction accessories
Sweden	<i>Products</i>		
	Heras Stängsel AB	100	Security fencing
Switzerland	<i>Products</i>		
	Element AG Schweiz	100	Prefabricated structural concrete elements
	F.J. Aschwanden AG*	100	Construction accessories
	<i>Distribution</i>		
	BR Bauhandel AG (trading as BauBedarf and Richner)	100	Builders merchants, sanitary ware and ceramic tiles
	Gétaz Romang Holding AG (trading as Gétaz Romang and Miauton)	100	Builders merchants
	Regusci Reco S.A. (trading as Regusci and Reco)	100	Builders merchants

Principal Subsidiary Undertakings | continued

Incorporated and operating in

% held Products and services

Americas Materials

United States			
	Oldcastle Materials, Inc.	100	Holding company
	APAC Holdings, Inc. and Subsidiaries	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Callanan Industries, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	CPM Development Corporation	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete, pre-stressed concrete and related construction activities
	Dolomite Products Company, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Eugene Sand Construction, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Evans Construction Company	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Hills Materials Company	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Michigan Paving and Materials Company	100	Aggregates, asphalt and related construction activities
	Mountain Enterprises, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt and related construction activities
	OMG Midwest, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Oldcastle Southern Group, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete, aggregates distribution and related construction activities
	Oldcastle SW Group, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Pennsy Supply, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Pike Industries, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	P.J. Keating Company	100	Aggregates, asphalt and related construction activities
	Staker & Parson Companies	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	The Shelly Company	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Tilcon Connecticut, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt, readymixed concrete and related construction activities
	Tilcon New York, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt and related construction activities
	Trap Rock Industries, LLC*	60	Aggregates, asphalt and related construction activities
	West Virginia Paving, Inc.	100	Aggregates, asphalt and related construction activities

Americas Products & Distribution

Argentina	CRH Sudamericana S.A.	100	Holding company
	Canteras Cerro Negro S.A.	99.98	Clay rooftiles, wall tiles and floor tiles
	Cormela S.A.	100	Clay blocks
	Superglass S.A.	100	Fabricated and tempered glass products
Canada	<i>Products</i>		
	Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope® Canada, Inc.	100	Custom fabricated and tempered glass products and curtain wall
	Oldcastle Building Products Canada, Inc. (trading as Décor Precast, Expocrete Concrete Products, Groupe Permacon, Oldcastle Enclosure Solutions and Transpavé)	100	Masonry, paving and retaining walls, utility boxes and trenches
Chile	Vidrios Dell Orto, S.A.	99.90	Fabricated and tempered glass products
	Comercial Duomo Limitada	99.99	Wholesaler and retailer of specialised building products
United States	Americas Products & Distribution, Inc.	100	Holding company
	CRH America, Inc.	100	Holding company
	Oldcastle, Inc.	100	Holding company
	<i>Products</i>		
	Oldcastle Architectural, Inc.	100	Holding company
	Oldcastle Building Products, Inc.	100	Holding company
	Big River Industries, Inc.	100	Lightweight aggregates
	Bonsal American, Inc.	100	Premixed cement and asphalt products
	Glen-Gery Corporation	100	Clay bricks
	Merchants Metals, Inc.	100	Fabrication and distribution of fencing products
	Meadow Burke, LLC	100	Concrete accessories
	Oldcastle APG Northeast, Inc. (trading principally as Anchor Concrete Products and Trenwyth Industries)	100	Specialty masonry, hardscape and patio products
	Oldcastle APG South, Inc. (trading principally as Adams Products, Georgia Masonry Supply, Northfield Block Company and Oldcastle Coastal)	100	Specialty masonry, hardscape and patio products
	Oldcastle APG West, Inc. (trading principally as Amcor Masonry Products, Central Pre-Mix Concrete Products, Texas Masonry Products, Miller Rhino Materials, Sierra Building Products and Superlite Block)	100	Specialty masonry and stone products, hardscape and patio products
	Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope®, Inc.	100	Custom fabricated architectural glass
	Oldcastle Lawn & Garden, Inc.	100	Patio products, bagged stone, mulch and stone
	Oldcastle Precast, Inc.	100	Precast concrete products, concrete pipe, pre-stressed plank and structural elements
	Oldcastle Surfaces, Inc.	100	Custom fabrication and installation of countertops
	<i>Distribution</i>		
	Oldcastle Distribution, Inc.	100	Holding company
	Allied Building Products Corp.	100	Distribution of roofing, siding and related products, wallboard, metal studs, acoustical tile and grid
	AMS Holdings, Inc.	100	Distribution of drywall, acoustical ceiling systems, metal studs and commercial door solutions
Mahalo Acquisition Corp. (trading as G. W. Killebrew)	100	Distribution of wallboard, metal studs, acoustical tile and grid, and other related products	

Principal Equity Accounted Investments as at 31 December 2013

<i>Incorporated and operating in</i>	<i>% held</i>	<i>Products and services</i>
Europe Materials		
China	Jilin Yatai Group Building Materials Investment Company Limited*	26 Cement
India	My Home Industries Limited	50 Cement
Ireland	Kemek Limited*	50 Commercial explosives
Israel	Mashav Initiating and Development Limited	25 Cement
Turkey	Denizli Çimento Sanayii T.A.Ş.	50 Cement and readymixed concrete
Europe Distribution		
France	Doras S.A.	56.95 Builders merchants
	Samse S.A.*	21.13 Builders merchants and DIY stores
Netherlands	Bouwmaterialenhandel de Schelde B.V.	50 DIY stores
	Intergamma B.V.	48.57 DIY franchisor
Portugal	Modelo Distribuição de Materials de Construção S.A.*	50 DIY stores
Americas Materials		
United States	American Cement Company, LLC*	50 Cement
	Boxley Aggregates of West Virginia, LLC*	50 Aggregates
	Southside Materials, LLC*	50 Aggregates
	Cadillac Asphalt, LLC*	50 Asphalt
	Piedmont Asphalt, LLC*	50 Asphalt
	American Asphalt of West Virginia, LLC*	50 Asphalt and related construction activities
	HMA Concrete, LLC*	50 Readymixed concrete
	Buckeye Ready Mix, LLC*	45 Readymixed concrete

* Audited by firms other than Ernst & Young

Pursuant to Section 16 of the Companies Act, 1986, a full list of subsidiaries, joint ventures and associated undertakings will be annexed to the Company's Annual Return to be filed in the Companies Registration Office in Ireland.

Group Financial Summary

(Figures prepared in accordance with IFRS)

	Restated 2004 €m	Restated 2005 €m	Restated 2006 €m	Restated 2007 €m	Restated 2008 €m	Restated 2009 €m	Restated 2010 €m	Restated 2011 €m	Restated 2012 €m	2013 €m
Revenue	12,281	13,831	17,836	19,916	19,715	16,278	16,112	17,374	18,084	18,031
EBITDA (as defined)*	1,656	1,845	2,326	2,704	2,478	1,654	1,487	1,543	1,563	1,475
Group operating profit	1,158	1,311	1,724	1,973	1,704	861	630	811	805	100
Profit on disposals	9	19	36	57	68	25	54	53	230	26
Profit before finance costs	1,167	1,330	1,760	2,030	1,772	886	684	864	1,035	126
Net finance costs (funding/cash)	(131)	(135)	(221)	(282)	(324)	(263)	(211)	(223)	(256)	(249)
Other financial expense	(3)	(10)	(15)	(7)	(6)	(27)	(29)	(28)	(49)	(48)
Share of equity accounted investments' profit/(loss)	59	75	60	138	160	117	69	87	(84)	(44)
Profit/(loss) before tax	1,092	1,260	1,584	1,879	1,602	713	513	700	646	(215)
Income tax expense	(220)	(254)	(360)	(441)	(340)	(115)	(74)	(103)	(106)	(80)
Group profit/(loss) for the financial year	872	1,006	1,224	1,438	1,262	598	439	597	540	(295)
Employment of capital										
Non-current and current assets										
Property, plant and equipment	5,340	6,275	6,954	7,503	7,904	7,570	7,939	8,008	7,971	7,539
Intangible assets	1,540	2,005	2,713	3,424	3,772	3,754	3,960	4,148	4,267	3,911
Equity accounted investments/other financial assets	(a) 708	1,126	1,169	1,448	1,969	2,204	2,265	2,107	1,599	1,363
Net working capital	(b) 1,471	1,864	2,314	2,326	2,468	1,838	1,799	2,004	2,078	2,016
Other liabilities - current and non-current	(c) (1,012)	(1,226)	(1,070)	(836)	(1,078)	(1,051)	(1,056)	(1,323)	(1,376)	(1,111)
Total	8,047	10,044	12,080	13,865	15,035	14,315	14,907	14,944	14,539	13,718
Capital and reserves excluding preference share capital	4,944	6,194	7,062	7,953	8,086	9,636	10,327	10,508	10,552	9,661
Preference share capital	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-controlling interests	29	25	31	37	38	41	50	41	36	24
Net deferred income tax liability	572	647	742	875	972	1,028	1,149	1,059	1,041	1,059
Net debt	(d) 2,501	3,177	4,244	4,999	5,938	3,609	3,380	3,335	2,909	2,973
Total	8,047	10,044	12,080	13,865	15,035	14,315	14,907	14,944	14,539	13,718
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	520	614	777	956	955	487	418	507	544	497
Acquisitions and investments	1,019	1,298	2,311	2,227	1,072	458	567	610	548	576
Total	1,539	1,912	3,088	3,183	2,027	945	985	1,117	1,092	1,073
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	494	525	577	696	717	709	711	673	686	671
Amortisation of intangible assets	4	9	25	35	43	43	44	38	44	54
Impairment of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	-	-	-	-	14	41	102	21	28	650
Earnings per share after amortisation of intangible assets (cent)	(e) 147.5	168.3	202.2	236.9	210.2	88.3	61.3	82.6	74.6	(40.6)
Earnings per share before amortisation of intangible assets (cent)	(e) 148.1	170.0	206.5	242.7	217.4	96.3	79.9	88.6	80.6	(33.2)
Dividend per share (cent)	(e) 29.76	35.17	46.89	61.31	62.22	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50
Cash earnings per share (cent)	(e), (f) 239.8	268.9	332.0	372.3	357.4	222.9	203.2	201.4	199.8	162.4
Dividend cover (times)	(g) 5.0	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.4	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.2	n/a

Notes to IFRS financial summary data

The Group financial summary for 2004 to 2012 has been restated for the impact of IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements*. The 2012 results also reflect the change in accounting as required by IAS 19 *Employee Benefits*.

- (a) Represents the sum of equity accounted investments (including assets held for sale included in current assets) and other financial assets.
- (b) Represents the sum of inventories and trade and other receivables (included in current assets) less trade and other payables (included in current liabilities), excluding bank advances and cash and liquid investments which are included under net debt (see note (d) below).
- (c) Represents the sum of current income tax liabilities, current and non-current provisions for liabilities, non-current other payables and retirement benefit obligations less the sum of current income tax recoverable and non-current other receivables.
- (d) Represents the sum of current and non-current interest-bearing loans and borrowings and derivative financial instrument liabilities less the sum of liquid investments, cash and cash equivalents and current and non-current derivative financial instrument assets.
- (e) Per share amounts for restated 2004 to 2008 have been restated for the bonus element of the Rights Issue in March 2009.
- (f) Cash earnings per share represents profit attributable to equity holders of the Company less preference dividends paid plus depreciation of property, plant and equipment, amortisation of intangible assets and, where applicable, asset impairments divided by the average number of Ordinary Shares outstanding for the year.
- (g) Represents earnings per Ordinary Share divided by dividends per Ordinary Share.

* Defined as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortisation, asset impairment charges, profit on disposals and the Group's share of equity accounted investments' result after tax.

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The International Building
Materials Group

CRH plc

Belgard Castle
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 404 1000

Fax: +353 1 404 1007

E-mail: mail@crh.com

Website: www.crh.com

Registered Office
42 Fitzwilliam Square
Dublin 2
Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 634 4340

Fax: +353 1 676 5013

E-mail: crh42@crh.com

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Rudus, CBH's aggregates business in the Baltic Region, supplied 2.5 million tonnes of crushed aggregates to the Finnish and Russian section of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline project. This project connects some of the world's largest natural gas reserves to the European Union gas network, through the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany, and provides the capacity to supply more than 26 million European households. Pictured here is Port Mussalo in Kotka, Finland, with aggregates from CBH's Rujavuori Quarry, located 17 kilometres away, being loaded for delivery to this important project.

