

How we performed

We measure our performance using both financial KPIs and strategic indicators that we believe provide a meaningful assessment of our performance against our strategy.

Financial KPIs

Revenue

£m

2018	493.9
2017	461.7
2016	454.5
2015	422.8
2014	460.1

£493.9m

Revenue demonstrates our ability to deliver growth. Revenue increased by 7% in the year, with solid growth across three segments. Excluding the paper business sold on 29 March 2018, revenue was up 4% to £426.4m.

Adjusted operating profit²

£m

2018	62.8
2017	70.7
2016	70.4
2015	69.1
2014	93.4

£62.8m

Adjusted operating profit was 11% lower than the prior year, reflecting the £3.7m write off of the UK Passport bid costs, the planned investment programme, and the poor performance in the paper business. Excluding the exited paper business, adjusted operating profit was up 7% to £56.9m.

Return on capital employed⁴

%

2018	36
2017	39
2016	42
2015	39
2014	56

36%

Return on capital employed shows how efficiently and effectively we use our assets and resources to generate return for shareholders. The year on year decline was primarily driven by lower adjusted operating profit in year.

Adjusted EBITDA¹

£m

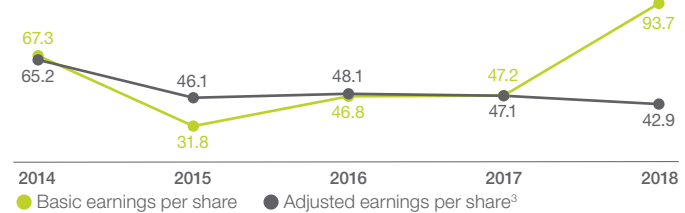
2018	87.3
2017	97.4
2016	96.4
2015	93.8
2014	117.7

£87.3m

Adjusted EBITDA provides an underlying picture of our performance by excluding the non-operating factors such as financing and changes to tax environment. The year on year decline was due to lower adjusted operating profit as well as lower depreciation and amortisation in the current year.

Basic earnings per share

Pence



Growth in earnings per share demonstrates our ability to create value for our shareholders. The year on year decrease in adjusted earnings per share was due to decline in profit. The year on year increase in basic earnings per share was due to the £60.9m exceptional gain relating primarily to the pension indexation change.

Cash conversion⁵

%

2018	163
2017	114
2016	160
2015	123
2014	111

163%

We are focusing on better managing our cash through effective inventory planning and credit control. The year on year increase was driven by lower inventory due to structural changes and a focus on inventory management, and lower account receivable on strong cash collections in the last two months of the year.

¹ Adjusted EBITDA represents earnings before the deduction of interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and exceptional items.

² Adjusted operating profit represents operating profit adjusted to exclude exceptional items and amortisation of acquired intangible assets.



³ Adjusted basic earnings per share are the earnings attributable to equity shareholders excluding exceptional items, divided by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year.

⁴ ROCE is calculated as the ratio of adjusted operating profit over average capital employed (where capital employed equals net assets excluding liabilities for pension, tax interest and long term liabilities).

⁵ Cash conversion is the ratio of operating cash flow (adjusted operating profit plus depreciation and amortisation and working capital movement) divided by the adjusted operating profit.

See page 157 for further explanations of non-IFRS measures and reconciliations to comparable amounts.

Linking to performance

-  Performance measures which directly affect the remuneration of our Directors
-  See Directors' remuneration report on [pages 74 to 94](#)

Strategic measures

Adjusted EBITDA margin¹

Year	Adjusted EBITDA margin (%)
2018	17.7
2017	21.1
2016	21.2
2015	22.2
2014	25.6

17.7%

This measurement provides an underlying picture of our performance by excluding the non-operating factors such as financing and accounting decisions, or tax environments. Adjusted EBITDA margin decline due to the higher revenue combined with the decline in profit.

Identity Solutions revenue

Year	Identity Solutions revenue (£m)
2018	82.0
2017	80.6
2016	76.5
2015	75.9
2014	87.1

£82.0m

Identity Solutions is one of our key growth product lines in which we are investing to build capabilities and focusing resources. Revenue grew by 2% year on year primarily driven by increasing sales from existing customers as well as the acquisition of DuPont Authentication Inc completed in January 2017.

Percentage of revenue from long term agreements (LTAs)

Year	Percentage of revenue from LTAs (%)
2018	51
2017	44
2016	35

51%

Increasing long term recurring revenues as a proportion of total sales enables us to improve the visibility as well as the quality of earnings. LTAs are contracts that have a duration of two or more years and a regular call-off value. This was a new measure in 2017 and therefore historic data are not available.

Group 12 month order book

Year	Group 12 month order book (£m)
2018	363
2017	341
2016	365
2015	226
2014	283

£363m

Group 12 month order book is a record of received customers' orders that are due to be delivered in the next 12 months following the reporting date. The numbers include committed orders and regular call-off orders on contracts. Excluding the paper orders, Group 12 month order book increased by 6% year on year.

Net debt/EBITDA covenant ratio

Year	Net debt/EBITDA covenant ratio (Times)
2018	0.66
2017	1.27
2016	1.25
2015	1.23
2014	0.83

0.66

Net debt/EBITDA is a bank covenant which excludes pension liabilities. The year on year decrease was primarily due to a lower net debt of £50.0m (25 March 2017: £120.9m), reflecting the £61m cash proceeds from the disposal of the paper business as well as favourable working capital movement as result of good cash management.

Product Authentication & Traceability revenue

Year	Product Authentication & Traceability revenue (£m)
2018	40.1
2017	31.6
2016	28.8
2015	32.7
2014	36.7

£40.1m

Product Authentication & Traceability is one of our key growth product lines in which we are investing to build capabilities and focusing resources. Revenue was up 16% year on year, reflecting the acquisition of DuPont Authentication Inc completed in January 2017.

Total number of patents granted

Year	Total number of patents granted (Number)
2018	46
2017	26
2016	22
2015	29
2014	18

46

We have a strong track record of innovation, with more than 1,000 granted patents and 500 pending applications. Our commitment to double our R&D investment in the five years to 2020 will ensure a strong product pipeline and enhance differentiation.

¹ Adjusted EBITDA margin represents adjusted EBITDA as a percentage of sales.