of the merger arrangements.

GlaxoSmithKline plc was incorporated as an English public limited company on 6 December 1999. We were formed by a merger between Glaxo Wellcome plc and SmithKline Beecham plc. GSK acquired these two English companies on 27 December 2000 as part of the merger arrangements.

Our shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange.

Read more at www.gsk.com

Brand names
Brand names appearing in italics throughout this report are trade marks either owned by and/or licensed to GSK or associated companies, with the exception of Gardasil, owned by Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., Rifater owned by Biogen MA Inc. and Zofan owned by Novartis AG.

Acknowledgements

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Printed sustainably in the UK by Pureprint, a CarbonNeutral company with FSC® chain of custody and an ISO 14001 certified environmental management system recycling over 99% of all dry waste.

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Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements

The Group’s reports filed with or furnished to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), including this document and written information released, or oral statements made, to the public in the future by or on behalf of the Group, may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements give the Group’s current expectations or forecasts of future events. An investor can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as ‘anticipate’, ‘estimate’, ‘expect’, ‘intend’, ‘will’, ‘project’, ‘plan’, ‘believe’, ‘target’ and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with any discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, prospective products or product approvals, future performance or results of current and anticipated products, sales efforts, expenses, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings, dividend payments and financial results. Other than in accordance with its legal or regulatory obligations (including under the Market Abuse Regulations, the UK Listing Rules and the Disclosure and Transparency Rules of the Financial Conduct Authority), the Group undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. The reader should, however, consult any additional disclosures that the Group may make in any documents which it publishes and/or files with the SEC.

All readers, wherever located, should take note of these disclosures. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that any particular expectation will be met and investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are subject to assumptions, inherent risks and uncertainties, many of which relate to factors that are beyond the Group’s control or precise estimate. The Group cautions investors that a number of important factors, including those in this document, could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement.

Such factors include, but are not limited to, those discussed under ‘Principal risks and uncertainties’ on pages 275 to 287 of this Annual Report. Any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Group speak only as of the date they are made and are based upon the knowledge and information available to the Directors on the date of this Annual Report.

A number of non-IFRS measures are used to report the performance of our business. These measures are defined on pages 50 to 52 and a reconciliation of Adjusted results to Total results is set out on page 62.

The information in this document does not constitute an offer to sell or an invitation to buy shares in GlaxoSmithKline plc or an invitation or inducement to engage in any other investment activities. Past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide to future performance. Nothing in this Annual Report should be construed as a profit forecast.

Assumptions related to 2016-2020 outlook

In outlining the expectations for 2020 and the five-year period 2016-2020, the Group has made certain assumptions about the healthcare sector, the different markets in which the Group operates and the delivery of revenues and financial benefits from its current portfolio, pipeline and restructuring programmes.

For the Group specifically, over the period to 2020, GSK expects further declines in sales of Seretide/Advair. The introduction of a generic alternative to Advair in the US has been factored into the Group’s assessment of its future performance. The Group assumes no premature loss of exclusivity for other key products over the period.

The assumptions for the Group’s revenue, earnings and dividend expectations assume no material interruptions to supply of the Group’s products, no material mergers, acquisitions or disposals, except for the acquisition of Tevaar, the proposed divestment of Horlicks and other Consumer Healthcare products to Unilever and the formation of a new Consumer Healthcare Joint Venture with Pfizer, all announced in December 2018, no material litigation or investment costs for the Company (save for those that are already recognised or for which provisions have been made), no share repurchases by the Company, and no change in the Group’s shareholdings in Vivendi Healthcare. The assumptions also assume no material changes in the macro-economic and healthcare environment. The 2020 guidance and 2016-2020 outlook have factored in all divestments and product exits since 2015, including the divestment and exit of more than 130 non-core tail brands (£0.5 billion in annual sales) as announced on 26 July 2017 and the product divestments planned in connection with the formation of the Consumer Healthcare Joint Venture with Pfizer.

The Group’s expectations assume successful delivery of the Group’s integration and restructuring plans over the period 2016-2020, including the extension and enhancement to the combined programme announced on 26 July 2017, the new Major restructuring plan announced on 25 July 2018, the Consumer Healthcare Joint Venture integration programme and the new Separation Preparation programme. They also assume that the proposed divestment of Horlicks and other Consumer Healthcare products to Unilever closes in Q1 2020 and that the integration and investment programmes following the Tesaro acquisition and the Consumer Healthcare Joint Venture with Pfizer over this period are delivered successfully.

Material costs for investment in new product launches and R&D have been factored into the expectations given. Given the potential development options in the Group’s pipeline, the outlook may be affected by additional data-driven R&D investment decisions. The expectations are given on a constant currency basis (2016-2020 outlook at 2015 CER).

Note regarding limitations on Director Liability under English Law

Under the UK Companies Act 2006, a safe harbour limits the liability of Directors in respect of statements in and omissions from the Directors’ Report (for which see pages 94-95), the Strategic report and the Remuneration report. Under English law the Directors would be liable to the company, but not to any third party, if one or more of these reports contained errors as a result of recklessness or knowing misstatement or dishonest concealment of a material fact, but would otherwise not be liable. Pages 75 to 114, 152 to 153, and 275 to 310 inclusive comprise the Directors’ Report, pages 1 to 74 inclusive comprise the Strategic report and pages 115 to 150 inclusive comprise the Remuneration report, each of which have been drawn up and presented in accordance with and in reliance upon English company law and the liabilities of the Directors in connection with these reports shall be subject to the limitations and restrictions provided by such law.

Website

GSK’s website www.gsk.com gives additional information on the Group. Notwithstanding the references we make in this Annual Report to GSK’s website, none of the information made available on the website constitutes part of this Annual Report or shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein.

Carbon Balanced scheme.

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Carbon Neutral print is achieved through an environmentally sustainable paper chain of custody and an ISO 14001 management certification. The mill’s energy is produced from 100% biomass fuels sourced from local forestry and no fossil fuels are used. The carbon emissions have been measured and offset using the World Land Trust’s Carbon Balanced scheme.