

NOTES TO THE GROUP ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTINUED

for the year ended 31 May 2024

6. EQUITY

6.1 Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity and the shares are fully paid up.

Shares acquired by Blue Label Telecoms for its own employees' equity compensation benefit scheme, as well as the shares procured by the subsidiaries in terms of this scheme, are accounted for as treasury shares in the Group statement of financial position.

	2024 Number of shares	2023 Number of shares
Authorised		
Total authorised share capital of ordinary shares (no par value)	2 000 000 000	2 000 000 000
Issued		
Balance at the beginning of the year	883 573 392	876 782 473
Shares sold/(acquired) during the year	64 716	(9 973 803)
Shares vested during the year	12 694 462	16 764 722
Balance at the end of the year	896 332 570	883 573 392
Total number of shares in issue	913 655 874	913 655 874
Treasury shares	(17 323 304)	(30 082 482)

The Company acquired no shares in the current year and sold 64 716 shares to associate companies in terms of the equity-settled conditional share plan, at which point the shares were no longer considered to be treasury shares of the Group. In the prior year, the Company acquired 10 575 666 shares at an average price of R6.58 on the JSE in order to grant conditional shares to employees and Directors as part of the Group's conditional share plan. Of the total shares acquired in the prior year, 9 973 803 related to shares awarded to employees of subsidiary companies in terms of the equity-settled conditional share plan, which are held as treasury shares and accounted for against share premium. The remaining shares of 601 863 in the prior year related to shares awarded to employees of associate companies in terms of their cash-settled conditional share plan and are not considered to be treasury shares of the Group.

The amount paid to acquire the treasury shares in the prior year was R66.0 million and was deducted from shareholders' equity.

Refer to note 5.1 for details on the conditional shares.