

Heriot-Watt University Student Union

Trustees' report and financial statements

31 July 2024

Charity number SC011949

Company number SC504788

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Union information

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity number	SC011949
Company number	SC504788
Registered office	Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS
Auditors	Henderson Loggie LLP Level 5, The Stamp Office, 10-14 Waterloo Place Edinburgh, EH1 3EG
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland 239 St. John's Road, Edinburgh EH12 7XA
Solicitors	Turcan Connell Princes Exchange, 1 Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh EH3 9EE
Chief Executive Officer	Darrin Nightingale

Trustee Board

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the financial year and up to the date of approval of the financial statements were:

Paul Travill
Kathleen Patterson
Linda Rodgers
Andrew Grant
Molly Knight
Samantha Kane
Zafeer Alam Khan
Sheree Mackay (Resigned 30/09/2024)
Judith Benningwood (Appointed 01/08/2024)

President (*ex-officio*) and Vice-Presidents (*ex officio*) – as detailed below

Ex-officio trustees for 2024

President	Cameron Fields (Appointed 01/06/2024)
Vice-Presidents	
- Community	Sebastian Merino-Beattie
- Wellbeing	Rachel Poole (Appointed 01/06/2024)
- Education	Holly McAdams (Appointed 01/06/2024)

Ex-officio trustees for 2023

President	Scott Anderson (Resigned 31/05/2024)
Vice-Presidents	
- Community	Sebastian Merino-Beattie
- Wellbeing	Georgia Noble (Resigned 31/05/2024)
- Education	Connel Greenhorn (Resigned 31/05/2024)

Trustees' report

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the period ended 31 July 2024. This report is prepared in accordance with the recommendations of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and in accordance with applicable law.

Structure, management and governance

Governing documents

Heriot-Watt University Students Association is constituted under the Charter of Heriot-Watt University since 1966. The Association is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee registered in Scotland. Our charity number is SC011949, and company number is SC504788. The organisation has adopted the name Heriot-Watt University Student Union (the Union).

Appointment of Trustees

The four Full Time Officers are elected annually by the students attending the university UK campuses, both undergraduate and postgraduate. They start office on 1 June to the following 31 May, though may choose to stand down early. They are also Trustees of the charity. There are also two student Trustees of Heriot-Watt University appointed by the Trustee Board following an open recruitment process who can hold office for 2 years with a further 2-year re-appointment. There is one University appointed Trustee who is nominated by the University and ratified by the Board. Additionally, there are up to five and no less than three external Trustees, one of whom must be an alumnus of the University. External Trustees are recruited by the Board and may serve a maximum of two consecutive 4-year periods.

Organisational structure

The Union Articles of Association and Bye Laws set out the organisation's membership-led structure. In order to ensure that the charity is managed properly and is suitably focused on our membership (the UK student community), the charity employs key management personnel. The charity considered the four Full Time Officers and Senior Management Team as key management. Full Time Officer remuneration is set by benchmarking against other comparator Scottish student associations. Full Time Officers are auto enrolled into a pension scheme as appropriate.

The Senior Management Team (SMT) consists of the Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer, and Student Engagement Manager. The Union's Remuneration Committee undertakes an annual review of reward and compensation, and recommends annual pay awards for consideration and approval by the Board of Trustees. In the year, a benchmarking exercise has been undertaken, the results of which were implemented in the 2024/25 pay awards, along with further development of staffing structures and implementation of the Pay & Reward Policy by the Board. This work formed part of the development of a People Plan for the organisation which will continue into 24/25.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Union as set out in its governing document, are:

- The advancement of education of students at Heriot-Watt University by representing, supporting, advising and promoting the interests, health and welfare of students within the University during their course of study and within the wider community, and by promoting student participation in, facilitating, coordinating and developing, the services, projects and activities of the Union.
- The provision of recreational activities through the services, projects and activities of the University providing social, cultural and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students.
- The advancement of community development within the University and within the wider community through student participation in the Union and its services, projects and activities, and by facilitating the involvement of students in the wider community.
- The relief of the student needs by being the recognised representative channel between students and Heriot-Watt University, other academic organisations, the general public and any other external bodies and promoting social and academic unity among students of the University.

Decision-making

The Trustee Board is responsible for overall governance of, and supportive challenge to, the Union and delegates day to day management powers to the Chief Executive Officer who is required to report regularly to the Trustee Board.

Senior Managers are allowed to make non-routine financial decisions up to the value of £10,000. The Chief Executive Officer has power to make non-routine financial decisions up to the value of £20,000 and any amount above this must be approved by the Trustees.

The Trustee Board is responsible for agreeing any amendments to any policy and procedure relating to employees and financial structures. The Student Parliament is responsible for passing policy on campaign issues and provides reports to the Trustee Board. The SMT is responsible for supporting and advising both the Board and the Student Parliament on the fulfilment of these responsibilities.

The Trustee Board delegates responsibility for initial consideration of pay and reward to a Remuneration Committee that consists of external trustees and a Student Trustee); the Committee makes recommendations to the Board for consideration and final approval. Informed by external data including comparator benchmarking and local competition, the committee, which has its own terms of reference, is supported by the CEO.

Trustee induction

The Union provides all new Trustees with an induction programme. The induction covers:

- Legal responsibilities of Trustees
- An introduction to the structure of the organisation
- Current financial position of the Union and an introduction to the format of our management accounts
- Strategic & Organisational Plans
- Union policy
- Code of Conduct

Achievements and performance

The Union's current strategy (2022 – 2030) is known as the BIG plan. It supports delivery of our purpose: students first, always, incorporating our 5 values - We are student-focused, fun, brave, welcoming, and empowering.

Our goal is to make sure students have the best student experience while at Heriot-Watt University. To do this we have five key areas:

- Connections
- Opportunities
- Representation
- Services
- Advice

To achieve our 2030 objectives, the Board oversees the development and delivery of an annual plan, (known internally as a LITTLE plan), that encompasses BIG plan objectives and the priorities of the Full Time Officers.

The Student Union had a successful year in 2023/24, strengthening partnerships both globally with the other Heriot-Watt campuses and with the University, and focusing on both improving the student experience and financial sustainability, all underpinned by robust governance.

Student Insight

The emphasis of the Big Six Survey this year was to examine what life is like for Heriot-Watt students in general. The findings were used to help shape the Global Priorities, focusing the Union's attention on what matters to students. The findings have shaped discussions with the University over the year to highlight ways to improve the student experience. The key takeaways from the survey are:

- Students are looking for social spaces on campus to act as a respite from work, a space to socialise, where they can take "down-time" to improve their wellbeing.
- Students are looking for University processes & interactions to be straightforward & readily available through a mix of on-line and self-help options, appreciating the importance of face-to-face support from University staff.
- Students are still finding it difficult to cope in the current economic climate with accommodation costs being a key concern.
- Students spend their life filtering content – how we communicate with students and earn their trust is vital.
- Time is the overall limiting factor to students getting more out of their University experience.
- Students choose Heriot-Watt for career-focused opportunities, a great experience, and cultural diversity. However, some students struggle to make friends, highlighting a gap in meeting expectations.

Global Priorities

The FTOs, along with the Student Officers, identified 4 global priorities and focused their activities and campaigns throughout the year on these priorities. They included:

1. **Reducing Student Isolation:** Initiatives included summer events, Pride month activities, Freshers Week, Feel Good Fest, Black Voices Project, Movember fundraising, LGBT+ History Month, and Self-Care Day. Galashiels and Orkney campuses also saw increased engagement through various events and community initiatives.
2. **Relieving Financial Pressure:** The Union provided free meals, a community larder, finance workshops, and dignity boxes. Community meals and financial wellness stalls were well-received.
3. **Limiting Student Confusion:** Efforts included forming the MCATSS group, renaming academic representative roles, and improving feedback mechanisms. Personalised timetables will be introduced in August 2024.
4. **Increasing Global Connectivity:** Collaborative projects and events with Dubai and Malaysia campuses, including the Global Day event, were successful.

Services

The Advice Hub supports students with academic, financial, and wellbeing issues. To better serve students two new team members were added to manage increased enquiries and the Hub underwent a refurbishment to create a more welcoming space. Financial hardship remains a significant issue, along with help and support with academic processes.

Student Engagement

Democratic engagement included elections with an 18% turnout. Department Officers played a key role in student representation. Student Parliament and the Annual General Meeting for members were developed to achieve better engagement. Volunteer contributions were significant, with over £100,000 worth of hours donated to the community. Over 2,000 students are members of one of our 69 societies. Throughout the year, events hosted by societies have been highlights of the student experience. The subjects of these events were wide and varied, covering academic, cultural, wellbeing, professional development, and community areas.

Watt Welcome Fair

During Welcome Week we held our Watt Welcome Fair, in partnership with the Sports Union. This event is the busiest of the week, with all sports clubs and student societies hosting a stall promoting their activities, events and achievements. We also hosted external stalls in the union building, with companies ranging from pubs and clubs to Nightline and anti-spiking support services.

Global Day

Global Day is the Student Union's celebration of the diversity of background and culture among our students. Fifteen countries were represented bringing examples of their local food, art, music, and culture, and shared them with over 200 students who attended the event.

Awards

The Learning and Teaching Oscars and Volunteer Awards were held consecutively, fostering a sense of community. Over 230 student nominations were received, recognising staff and professional service teams.

Scottish Borders Campus

We have worked hard to build our presence in the Scottish Borders Campus this year. Something we are continuously striving for is building more societies in Galashiels that will deliver student-led events as this is the case in Edinburgh.

Orkney

We have improved communication with the Orkney campus this year and are looking to help students lead their own events by providing them with support and funding provided by the Alumni Fund.

Governance

The Student Parliament and Board of Trustees has undertaken a major update of the Byelaws, following last year's update to the Articles of Association. This work was completed in December 2023.

The Board of Trustees has undertaken a self-assessment of effectiveness with consequent changes being introduced in 24/25.

The Union continues to work with the University in accordance with the annual Student Partnership Agreement, the aim being to deliver an enhanced experience for students.

Financial review

The principal funding sources of the charity come from the annual block grant from the University and our trading services activity.

The current year, as a result of the current economic climate, has proved challenging particularly for our trading activities. Throughout this period the organisation has sought to mitigate costs wherever possible. As a result of these prudent measures, the impact on the underlying reserves position of the Union has been controlled as far as possible. The Trustees have undertaken a review of the pension arrangements of the Union and have made the decision to exit the LPF pension scheme in the financial year 24/25 with staff migrating to a defined contribution scheme. This decision mitigates any future financial risk and volatility to the organisation, whilst supporting the Union's ongoing financial sustainability.

Reserves Policy

The Union aims to hold sufficient reserves to fund its student support activities for a period of at least six months. This means that we should hold sufficient cash reserve to cover salaries and overheads for the charitable activity of the Union for six months.

At 31 July 2024, the Union had a surplus on reserves of £815,856 (2023: surplus of £874,806), consisting of unrestricted funds of £740,341 and restricted funds of £75,515. Unrestricted funds not held in fixed assets amounted to £443,681 (2023: £452,951). The board has deemed the level of reserves to be adequate to meet our charitable activity for six months. The union has a reserves policy that enables the union to release cash reserves for investment. As at 31 July 2024 there were no plans to release any reserves.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Union is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Union and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to risk. The Trustees meet regularly and review all aspects of operations and finances with reference to financial reports and future forecasts. The Trustees formally review the risk register annually in September. However, due to the rapidly changing risks in the current economic climate, the Board reviewed the risk register more frequently as required.

The Union building continues to present our most pressing strategic and operational risk. The Board of Trustees produced a report on the difficulties and constraints caused by the ageing building. Unfortunately, the financial impact of the ongoing economic environment has resulted in the University's new Student Life Building plans being delayed. The current Student Union building, while no longer fit for purpose, will enable the Union to continue providing services at its current level, rather than being able to grow to meet our ambition by providing a more attractive environment for students and to meet their needs and expectations.

Disclosures required by the Educational Act 1994

Affiliations

The Union was affiliated to the following organisations during 2023/24:

National Union of Students (NUS) – payments of £16,330

- Provides national representation, information, advice including office-bearer training and other services.

Plans for the future

Despite challenges, the Student Union aims to continue to provide valuable services and representation for our members. We are working closely with the University to deliver a positive student experience as the needs of our students evolve in the current educational environment & economic climate.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

The Trustee Board Members who were in office on the date of approval of these Financial Statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant information of which the Auditors are unaware. Each of the Trustees have confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the Auditors.

Auditors

A resolution to reappoint Henderson Loggie LLP as auditors for the ensuing year in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approval of the report

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 22 April 2025 and are signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by:


Kathleen Ann Patterson - 2025-04-24, 12:30:54 UTC

Kathleen Patterson

Chair of the Heriot-Watt Student Union Board of Trustees

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Heriot-Watt University Student Union for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practices). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the charitable company's Articles of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees and Members of Heriot-Watt University Student Union

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Heriot-Watt University Student Union (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees and Members of Heriot-Watt University Student Union *(continued)*

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report incorporating the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report, included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees and Members of Heriot-Watt University Student Union *(continued)*

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of our planning process:

- We enquired of management the systems and controls the charitable company has in place, the areas of the financial statements that are mostly susceptible to the risk of irregularities and fraud, and whether there was any known, suspected or alleged fraud. Management informed us that there were no instances of known, suspected or alleged fraud;
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charitable company. We determined that the following were most relevant: Health and Safety; Employment Law, GDPR; and compliance with company and charity law.
- We considered the incentives and opportunities that exist in the charitable company, including the extent of management bias, which present a potential for irregularities and fraud to be perpetrated, and tailored our risk assessment accordingly; and
- Using our knowledge of the charitable company, together with the discussions held with management at the planning stage, we formed a conclusion on the risk of misstatement due to irregularities including fraud and tailored our procedures according to this risk assessment.

The key procedures we undertook to detect irregularities including fraud during the course of the audit included:

- Inquiry of management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing legal fee expenditure and minutes of board meetings;
- Testing key income lines, in particular cut-off, for evidence of management bias;
- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and determining whether accounting policies have been appropriately applied;
- Documenting and verifying all significant related party balances and transactions; and
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness.

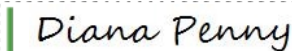
Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). For instance, the further removed non-compliance is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the auditor is to become aware of it or to recognise the non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities and fraud rests with the directors.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees and Members of Heriot-Watt University Student Union *(continued)*

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 44 (1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees 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 charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.


Diana Penny – 2025-04-24, 12:45:17 UTC

Diana Penny (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Henderson Loggie LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Level 5
The Stamp Office
10-14 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh
EH1 3EG

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 200

Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 July 2024

2024	Note	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	846,529	14,000	860,529	779,110	59,830	838,940
Other trading activities	3	32,323	-	32,323	25,151	-	25,151
Charitable activities	4	1,980,861	-	1,980,861	1,815,669	-	1,815,669
Investments	5	164,517	-	164,517	78,733	-	78,733
Total income and endowments		3,024,230	14,000	3,038,230	2,698,663	59,830	2,758,493
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4	2,891,646	43,534	2,935,180	2,640,006	39,774	2,679,780
Total expenditure		2,891,646	43,534	2,935,180	2,640,006	39,774	2,679,780
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		132,584	(29,534)	103,050	58,657	20,056	78,713
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	76,225	(76,225)	-
Other recognised gains and losses:							
Actuarial gain/(loss) in respect of pension scheme	13	(162,000)	-	(162,000)	(49,000)	-	(49,000)
Net movement in funds	12	(29,416)	(29,534)	(58,950)	85,882	(56,169)	29,713
Fund balance brought forward at 1 August 2023		769,757	105,049	874,806	683,875	161,218	845,093
Fund balance carried forward at 31 July 2024	12	740,341	75,515	815,856	769,757	105,049	874,806

All activities relate to continuing operations.

Balance sheet
as at 31 July 2024

	<i>Note</i>	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		296,660		316,806
Current assets					
Stock	9	71,220		51,435	
Debtors	10	57,450		94,396	
Cash at bank and in hand		528,933		552,873	
		657,603		698,704	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(138,407)		(140,704)	
Net current assets			519,196		558,000
Total assets less current liabilities			815,856		874,806
Net assets/(liabilities)			815,856		874,806
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	12		740,341		769,757
Restricted funds	12		75,515		105,049
Total funds			815,856		874,806

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee Board and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:


Kathleen Ann Patterson - 2025-04-24, 12:30:54 UTC

Kathleen Patterson
Chair

Company registration number SC504788

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year to 31 July 2024

	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities				
Net income/(expenditure)	103,050		78,713	
Depreciation charges	46,239		30,590	
Income from investments	(15,517)		(4,733)	
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(19,785)		705	
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	36,946		(54,348)	
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(2,297)		7,838	
Defined benefit pension scheme gain/(loss)	(162,000)		(49,000)	
	-----		-----	
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(13,364)		9,765
Cash flows from investing activities				
Income from investments	15,517		4,733	
Purchase of fixed assets	(26,093)		(23,513)	
	-----		-----	
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(10,576)		(18,780)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Repayment of borrowings	-		(38,769)	
	-----		-----	
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-		(38,769)
		-----		-----
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(23,940)		(47,784)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2023		552,873		600,657
		-----		-----
Total cash and cash equivalents at 31 July 2024		528,933		552,873
		=====		=====
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:				
Cash at bank and in hand		528,933		552,873
		=====		=====

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with applicable accounting standards and under the historical cost convention. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity and a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Scotland with the registered office as noted on page 1. The financial statements are compliant with the charity's constitution, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS 102 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been presented in pounds sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable company, monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest £.

The charity has availed itself of S396 of the Companies Act 2006, as permitted in paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 of SI 2008 no 409, and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the charity's activities.

Going concern

During the period to 31 July 2024, the Union has continued in a strong financial position with net current assets of £519,196. In view of this performance, the financial memorandum of agreement between Heriot-Watt University and the Union, and the financial assistance the University will provide for twelve months from signing, the Trustees are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on the going concern basis.

Income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Income from the provision of bar, café and shop services to students is recognised on receipt, which is when the service has been delivered.

Income received in the form of rebates from the National Union of Students (NUS) is recognised on a cash basis rather than an accrual basis due to the difficulty in accurately measuring the rebates until the remittance advice is received. This approach aligns with the Charity SORP (FRS 102), which permits income to be recognised on a cash basis when it cannot be reliably measured at the point it is earned. In this case, since the income cannot be fully determined until remittance advice is obtained, the cash basis provides an appropriate method for recognition.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

In accordance with Charity SORP (FRS 102), services provided by volunteers are not recognised.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure of the Union, once incurred, is considered either a direct charitable activity cost or a support cost. Support costs are allocated to charitable activities according to the amount of staff time spent on these activities or by reference to floor space. Charitable activities are those resources applied in the delivery of services to meet the Union's charitable objectives. Support costs include management and accommodation costs and staff costs. They also include governance cost, which are those associated with the general running of the Union including activities which provide the Union's governance infrastructure.

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)* for the year ended 31 July 2024

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employees services are received.

Termination payment are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Fixed assets

All expenditure of a capital nature where the expenditure exceeds £750 is capitalised under one of the following categories.

Depreciation is provided on categories of fixed assets on a straight-line basis over the following periods:

Office equipment	3 to 5 years
Furniture and fittings	3 to 10 years
Plant and machinery	3 to 5 years
Building additions/improvements	over 12 years

A full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and none in the year of disposal. Impairment reviews are carried out at least annually as part of the annual reporting exercise and when significant changes in the Union's activities occur, or in other situations where circumstances indicate a review is necessary.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting date, the charity reviews the carrying amount of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Provision is made for any slow-moving or obsolete stock.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discounts offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)* for the year ended 31 July 2024

1 Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments

The Union only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Pension costs

The Union offers a defined benefit pension scheme for certain employees: the Lothian Pension Fund (LPF – Local Government Scheme). This is a defined benefit plan, which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension.

The Union's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme are measured by a qualified actuary using the assumptions set out in note 13. The assets of the Scheme are measured using closing fair values. Liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in assumptions are recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Activities. All costs relating to the defined benefit plan are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities within employee benefit costs.

Taxation

The Union has been granted charitable status by HM Revenue and Customs and is a registered charity. The Union is not subject to corporation tax on any surpluses that have been derived in pursuing activities designed to carry out the main objects of its charitable status.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charity's general charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are those for which the purpose and use of the funds has been specified prior to their transfer to the charity, and which can only be applied for those specified purposes.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have made the following significant judgements:

- The value of the surplus/deficit in the defined benefit pension fund is determined using an actuarial valuation, provided by an independent and qualified actuary. The actuarial valuation involves making assumptions about discount rates, mortality rates and future pension increases. Due to the complexity of the valuation, the underlying assumptions and the long-term nature of the liabilities, such estimates are subject to significant uncertainty. In determining the appropriate discount rate, management considers the interest rates of corporate bonds with extrapolated maturities corresponding to the expected duration of the defined benefit obligation. The mortality rate is based on publicly available mortality tables. Future pension increases are based on expected future inflation rates.
- During the year, the trustees reviewed the estimated useful lives of the charity's fixed assets as part of the annual assessment process. As a result of this review, the useful life of buildings additions/improvements was revised from 30-50 years to revised estimate, 12 years, to better reflect the expected pattern of economic benefits derived from these assets.

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £
Allocation from University	845,000	-	845,000	765,000	-	765,000
Grant income - HWU	500	14,000	14,500	-	59,830	59,830
Donations - other	1,029	-	1,029	14,110	-	14,110
	<u>846,529</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>860,529</u>	<u>779,110</u>	<u>59,830</u>	<u>838,940</u>

3 Other trading activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Commission on sales	1,323	1,351
Marketing income	31,000	23,800
	<u>32,323</u>	<u>25,151</u>

4 Charitable activities

	Social space and ancillary trading £	Other charitable activities £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income:				
Income from normal operations	1,955,474	25,387	1,980,861	1,815,669
Expenditure:				
Staff costs	(733,335)	(316,708)	(1,050,043)	(960,769)
Sabbaticals	(24,543)	(92,149)	(116,692)	(113,408)
Property costs	(210,594)	(7,081)	(217,675)	(180,799)
Support costs	(67,031)	(24,434)	(91,465)	(92,405)
Welfare costs	-	(81,414)	(81,414)	(41,595)
Commercial cost of sales	(1,334,357)	-	(1,334,357)	(1,251,030)
Specific project costs	-	(43,534)	(43,534)	(39,774)
	<u>(2,369,860)</u>	<u>(565,320)</u>	<u>(2,935,180)</u>	<u>(2,679,780)</u>
Deficit	<u>(414,386)</u>	<u>(539,933)</u>	<u>(954,319)</u>	<u>(864,111)</u>

Within the above expenditure, amounts relating to specific projects costs of £43,534 (2023: £39,774) and £nil (2023: £2,718) of property costs were restricted.

Included within property costs were £6,406 (2023: £6,406) of operating lease payments.

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

4 Charitable activities *(continued)*

Support costs include the following.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank charges	19,572	20,740
Computer expenses	23,662	25,468
Office expenses	10,337	26,937
Insurance	18,862	-
Governance costs (note 6)	19,032	19,260
	91,465	92,405
	91,465	92,405

Support costs are allocated between charitable activities according to the amount of staff time spent on these activities or by reference to floor space.

5 Income from investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	15,517	4,733
Net interest income on defined benefit pension	149,000	74,000
	164,517	78,733
	164,517	78,733

6 Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Office-bearer's training costs	4,001	2,793
Election costs	2,033	1,307
Consultant's costs	619	2,155
Remuneration of auditors	12,000	12,000
Trustee Costs	379	618
Welfare	-	387
	19,032	19,260
	19,032	19,260

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

7 Staff costs and numbers

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	991,526	849,871
Social security costs	69,451	56,411
Pension costs	87,905	81,038
FRS 102 Defined benefit pension adjustments (Note 13)	(13,000)	25,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,135,882	1,012,321
Other staff costs not through payroll	-	36,291
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,135,882	1,048,612
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Average number of employees during the period	69	76
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The number of employees receiving emoluments of greater than £60,000 ranged as follows:

	2024	2023
£60,000 - £70,000	1	1

No termination payments were made during the year (2023: £Nil).

The key management personnel are the Chief Executive officer, the President and Vice-Presidents and other members of the Senior Management Team whose total employment benefits for the year totaled £339,149 (2023: £337,795).

7 trustees (2023: 4) received reimbursement of expenses amounting to £2,789 (2023: £1,241) in the year.

The President and Vice-Presidents are required by the constitution of the Union to be Sabbatical members of the Executive Committee and Trustees ex-officio and as such are remunerated for their work. Remuneration and pension contributions totaling £105,879 (2023: £87,085) were paid to the President and Vice-Presidents.

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

8 Fixed assets

	Building improvements £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2023	551,758	32,346	520,484	77,064	1,181,652
Additions	5,700	-	13,932	6,461	26,093
Disposals	-	(6,733)	(50,085)	(11,458)	(68,276)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	557,458	25,613	484,331	72,067	1,139,469
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2023	257,925	32,346	508,801	65,774	864,846
Charge for year	24,961	-	12,031	9,247	46,239
Eliminated on disposals	-	(6,733)	(50,085)	(11,458)	(68,276)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	282,886	25,613	470,747	63,563	842,809
Net book value					
At 31 July 2024	274,572	-	13,584	8,504	296,660
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 1 August 2023	293,833	-	11,683	11,290	316,806
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9 Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Bar	8,168	6,760
Shop	63,052	44,675
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	71,220	51,435
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

10 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	26,205	31,924
Other debtors	2,085	6,036
Heriot-Watt University	19,379	18,125
Prepayments	9,781	10,887
Accrued income	-	27,425
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	57,450	94,396
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	70,645	51,627
Heriot-Watt University	6,755	21,135
Other tax and social security	11,410	14,546
Other creditors	25,216	12,625
Accruals and deferred income	24,382	40,771
	138,407	140,704

12 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Actuarial Gain/(Loss) £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	769,757	3,024,230	(2,891,646)	-	(162,000)	740,341
	769,757	3,024,230	(2,891,646)	-	(162,000)	740,341
Restricted funds						
Alumni Fund	71,632	-	(22,075)	-	-	49,557
USC grant	7,875	-	(3,875)	-	-	4,000
Other restricted funds	25,542	14,000	(17,584)	-	-	21,958
	105,049	14,000	(43,534)	-	-	75,515
Total funds	874,806	3,038,230	(2,935,180)	-	(162,000)	815,856

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

12 Funds *(continued)*

2023	Balance at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Actuarial Gain £	Balance at 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	683,875	2,698,663	(2,640,006)	76,225	(49,000)	769,757
	<u>683,875</u>	<u>2,698,663</u>	<u>(2,640,006)</u>	<u>76,225</u>	<u>(49,000)</u>	<u>769,757</u>
Restricted funds						
Building improvement						
Building improvement	67,954	-	(2,718)	(65,236)	-	-
Alumni Fund	61,855	32,825	(23,048)	-	-	71,632
Lift funding	11,419	-	(430)	(10,989)	-	-
Scottish Funding Council	4,411	-	(4,411)	-	-	-
USC grant	10,077	-	(2,202)	-	-	7,875
Other restricted funds	5,502	27,005	(6,965)	-	-	25,542
	<u>161,218</u>	<u>59,830</u>	<u>(39,774)</u>	<u>(76,225)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,049</u>
Total funds	<u>845,093</u>	<u>2,758,493</u>	<u>(2,679,780)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(49,000)</u>	<u>874,806</u>

Purpose of the fund

Building improvements – a capital fund for improvements financed by HWU against which depreciation is applied annually. The restricted fund was transferred to unrestricted funds at 31 July 2023 as the restriction has now been fulfilled.

Alumni fund – grant awards from HWU for specific charitable projects and activities.

Lift fund – grant awarded towards installation of lift in Union building against which depreciation is applied annually. The restricted fund was transferred to unrestricted funds at 31 July 2023 as the restriction has now been fulfilled.

Scottish Funding Council – grant for student unions to support student wellbeing post pandemic.

USC grant - University Covid Support grant – support grant from the University for student community activity during the pandemic.

Other restricted funds – smaller grants received for specific purposes.

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

12 Funds *(continued)*

Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £
Fixed assets	296,660	-	296,660	316,806	-	316,806
Net current assets	443,681	75,515	519,196	452,951	105,049	558,000
	<u>740,341</u>	<u>75,515</u>	<u>815,856</u>	<u>769,757</u>	<u>105,049</u>	<u>874,806</u>

13 Pension commitments

Heriot-Watt University Student Union participates in the Lothian Pension Fund (LPF) which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) (Scotland), a multi-employer scheme. The LGPS is a defined benefit scheme based on final pensionable salary.

The Union's share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme at 31 July 2024 are assessed by independent qualified actuaries using the projected unit method, updated from the latest full actuarial valuation of the scheme at 31 March 2020. The major assumptions used by the actuary are shown below.

The Lothian Pension Fund is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The employer contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2024 totalled £73,000 (2023: £73,000).

Principal Actuarial assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2020 updated to 31 July 2024 by a qualified independent actuary:

	2024 % p.a.	2023 % p.a.
Inflation/Pension increase rate	2.75	3.00
Salary increase rate	3.45	3.50
Discount rate	4.95	5.05
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2023 model, with a 15% weighting of 2023 (and 2022) data, a 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. for both males and females. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 for the Employer are summarised below:

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	19.4 years	23.9 years
Future pensioners	20.8 years	24.9 years

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

13 Pension commitments *(continued)*

The net pension asset/(deficit) was:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Estimated employer assets	6,380	6,316
Present value of scheme liabilities	(3,642)	(3,386)
Effect of asset ceiling	(2,738)	(2,930)
	-----	-----
Net pension asset/(deficit)	-	-
	=====	=====

The surplus on the Union's share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme as at 31 July 2024 of £2,738,000 is not considered recoverable at the year-end, as it is not certain that future pension contributions will reduce as a results of the net asset position, and as such has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

Reconciliation of fair value of scheme assets:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	6,316	6,193
Interest income on plan assets	319	216
Contributions by members	26	24
Contributions by employer	73	73
Return on assets	324	(72)
Other experience	(543)	-
Benefits paid	(135)	(118)
	-----	-----
	6,480	6,316
	=====	=====

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

13 Pension commitments *(continued)*

Reconciliation of defined benefit obligation:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Opening defined benefit obligation	3,386	4,065
Current service cost	60	98
Interest cost	170	142
Contributions by members	26	24
Actuarial losses/(gains)	135	(825)
Benefits paid	(135)	(118)
	3,642	3,386
	3,642	3,386

Analysis of the amount charged to staff costs (Note 7):

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Current service costs	60	98
Past service cost	-	-
	60	98
Total operating charge	60	98
Less: Contributions paid	(73)	(73)
	(13)	25
	(13)	25

Amount charged to operating costs (Note 5):

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Interest income on plan assets	319	216
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	(170)	(142)
	149	74
	149	74

Analysis of the amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Return on assets	324	(72)
Other experience	(543)	-
Actuarial gains/(losses) in defined benefit obligations	(135)	825
Effect of asset ceiling	192	(802)
	(162)	(49)
	(162)	(49)

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

13 Pension commitments *(continued)*

Movement in pension during the year:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Surplus/(deficit) at beginning of year	-	-
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(60)	(98)
Employer contributions	73	73
Net interest income/(costs)	149	74
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(354)	753
Effect of asset ceiling	192	(802)
Surplus/ (Deficit) at end of year	-	-
	-	-

Analysis of scheme assets:

	2024	2023
Equities	70%	73%
Bonds	18%	15%
Property	8%	8%
Cash	4%	4%
	-	-

14 Related party transactions

During the year, Heriot-Watt University allocated to the Students' Union £845,000 (2023: £765,000) in the form of block grant funding. Other grant funding from Heriot-Watt University amounted to £14,500 (2023: £73,940).

During the course of the Union's activities for the period, transactions with Heriot-Watt University took place. The total amount invoiced by the Union to the University for goods and services was £32,186 (2023: £58,354) and the total amount invoiced by the University to the Union for goods and services was £129,918 (2023: £49,873). At 31 July 2024 the University owed the Union a balance of £19,379 (2023: £18,125). Amounts owed by the Union to Heriot-Watt University amounted to £6,755 (2023: £21,135).

Rent of £6,406 (2023: £6,406) was paid to Heriot Watt University for the Union shop premises. The Union building is owned by Heriot Watt University and is made available for use by the Union free of charge to operate the bar. Due to the layout, location and purpose of the building no accurate estimated annual rent for the building could be calculated and as such has not been recognised as a donation in the accounts.

Notes to the financial statements *(continued)*
for the year ended 31 July 2024

15 Ultimate controlling party

The charitable company is constituted by its Articles of Association and is controlled by its Board of Trustees.

16 Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities relate to donations received from Alumni Fund which are repayable if unspent on specified purpose. This total at 31 July 2024 is therefore the balance of £49,557 (2023: £71,629) held within restricted funds.

17 Post Balance Sheet Event

On 23rd of October 2024 the trustees unanimously decided to leave the Lothian Pension Fund. A cessation surplus of £2,650,000 was paid to the union on the 19th of December 2024. At the year-end no decision had been made regarding exiting from the scheme and consequently the union had no entitlement to a refund from the pension fund. No adjustment is required in the accounts to 31 July 2024 as a result of this post balance sheet event.



Certificate Summary

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Timeline

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