

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Trustee Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 July 2023**  
**Charity Number: SC037971**



## Aberdeen University Students' Association Contents

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**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Reference and administrative details**

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Principal Address: Aberdeen University Students' Association  
Student Union Building  
University of Aberdeen  
Elphinstone Road  
Aberdeen  
AB24 3TU

Auditors: Henderson Loggie LLP  
11-15 Thistle Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 1DF

Bankers: Bank of Scotland plc  
The Mound  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1YZ

Charity Number: SC037971

Chief Executive Officer: Graeme Kirkpatrick

Finance Manager: Michelle Elrick

Website: <https://www.ausa.org.uk/>

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Reference and administrative details**

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Aberdeen University Students' Association ("AUSA") is a registered charity (Scottish Charity No SC037971).

The Trustees of AUSA at the date of this report are as follows:

Student President	Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo
Vice President for Welfare	Sai Shraddha S. Viswanathan
Vice President for Activities	Tõnis Tilk (Appointed 1 July 2023)
Vice President for Communities	Ainhoa Burgos Aguilera (Appointed 1 July 2023)
Vice President for Education	Rhiannon Ledwell (Appointed 1 July 2023)
Student Trustee	Onyegbuna Chukukelue
Student Trustee	Farida Adamu (Appointed 1 May 2023)
Student Trustee	Graeme Campbell (Appointed 1 May 2023)
Student Trustee	Jonathan Dorrat (Appointed 1 May 2023)
External Trustee	Sandy Mckinnon
External Trustee	Jon Matthews
External Trustee	Nicky Jenkins (Appointed 1 May 2023)

The following were Trustees at the start of the financial year but resigned during the year.

Ruth Taylor (Resigned 31 March 2023)  
Adam Lambert (Resigned 30 June 2023)  
Camilo Torres-Barragán (Resigned 30 June 2023)  
Akua Serwaa Agyeman (Resigned 30 June 2023)

## **Aberdeen University Students' Association**

### **Report of the Board of Trustees**

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The Board of Trustees presents its report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2022. This report is prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the Financial Statements. They also comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The review of the year forms part of this report.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The purposes of the Aberdeen University's Students' Association as set out in its Constitution are:

- the prevention and relief of poverty of students;
- the advancement of citizenship and community development;
- the advancement of education;
- the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science;
- the advancement of health among students;
- the organisation of recreational activities for students who have need of them by reason of financial hardship or other disadvantage;
- the promotion of religious and racial harmony;
- the promotion of equality and diversity;
- the promotion of charitable fundraising activities.

In pursuance of its objects, but not to further any other purpose, the Association may:

- provide services and facilities for members;
- establish, support, promote and operate a network of student activities for Members;
- support any Raising and Giving (RAG) or similar fundraising activities carried out by its Members for charitable causes, including the provision of administrative support, banking facilities and acting as a holding trustee of any fund raised;
- alone or with other organisations carry out campaigning activities, seek to influence public opinion and make representations to and seek to influence governmental and other bodies and institutions;
- write, make, commission, print, publish or distribute materials or information or assist in these activities;
- promote, initiate, develop or carry out education and training and arrange, provide or assist with exhibitions, lectures, meetings, seminars, displays or classes;
- promote, encourage, carry out or commission research, surveys, studies or other works and publish useful results;
- provide or appoint others to provide advice, guidance, representation and advocacy;
- co-operate with other charities and bodies and exchange information and advice with them;
- become a member of, affiliate or associate with other charities and bodies;
- raise funds and invite and receive contributions provided that the Association shall not carry out any taxable trading activities in raising funds;
- set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
- invest and deal with the Association's money not immediately required for its objects in or upon any investment, securities or property;
- delegate the management of investments to an appropriately experienced and qualified financial expert provided stated terms are adhered to;

- open and operate banking accounts and other facilities for banking and draw, accept, endorse, negotiate, discount, issue or execute negotiable instruments such as promissory notes or bills of exchange;
- trade in the course of carrying out its objects;
- establish or acquire subsidiary companies to carry out taxable trade;
- subject to Clause 5 of the Constitution, employ and pay employees and professionals or other advisors;
- grant pensions and retirement benefits to employees of the Association and to their dependants and to subscribe to funds and schemes for providing pensions and retirement benefits;
- pay out of the funds of the Association the cost of any premium in respect of any indemnity insurance to cover the liability of Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Association, with the exceptions stated in the Constitution;
- do all such lawful things as shall further the Association's objects.

The Association may exercise the following additional powers but only with the prior consent of the University of Aberdeen:

- purchase or acquire all or any property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any charity with objects similar to the Association's objects;
- purchase, lease, hire or receive property of any kind including land, buildings and equipment and maintain and equip it for use above the value of £15,000;
- sell, manage, lease, mortgage, dispose of or deal with all or any of its property;
- enter into a significant investment or create a partnership or other similar arrangement with any other entity.

The main achievements and performance of the Association ("AUSA") within the three key areas of its mission in the year to 31 July 2023 are as follows:

## **1. SUPPORT**

### **Students' Union Advice**

During 2022/23, Students' Union Advice supported students with a wide range of issues including academic disciplinary/appeals/complaint matters, accommodation issues, and health and wellbeing information. In the year, the advice team supported a total of 595 enquiries. The team also embarked upon a review of the services offered to ensure that the Students' Union were using their resources in the most efficient way according to student need.

### **Student space**

The principal physical social space for students remained the Union Brew bar café, located within the Student Union Building.

The vision for the SUB is to be a social 'living room on campus' for students to have a space they feel comfortable in and enjoy using. Its importance was highlighted by the cost-of-living crisis, which led the Union to extend its opening hours (with the University's support), offering cheap coffee and food as well as free spaces for activities such as the crafts room, games room, and radio room.

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Report of the Board of Trustees**

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Additionally, we offer free bookable media equipment to create content: cameras, mics, computers, DJ equipment, speakers, etc. We are happy to see that students are increasingly booking Union spaces for their own activities, events, and fundraising, with Union Brew space receiving over 150 bookings from students between October 2022 and April 2023.

**Financial Support for Sports Clubs and Societies**

Over 239 funding applications were received this academic year. 55.6% were for Sports & Societies Union Grants; 28.9% Sports & 26.8% for societies; 7.9% for Media fund, 22.6% for COVID recovery and 13.8% for AUSA Student Fund. Sports & Societies Grants alone received a request for £257,667: (70%) £180,499 from Sports and (30%) £77,168 from Societies.

The total money students requested through all funding channels was £347,927.

A Total of £132,081, has been awarded to Student Activities this academic year. Only 47% (£62,529) of that is from the Union Membership monies that is guaranteed and available Annually. The remaining 53% is from unguaranteed funds e.g. including £36,300 from the University Development Fund as well as in the region of £41,817 from the Covid recovery Grant that is not sustainable or available annually.

Grant applications requests included equipment or transport for sports to compete or for societies to attend trips. This equates to Societies Grants having a 16.7% success rate and Sports Grants 27.49% due to the demand and current Union Membership rates. It should be noted that new training is being developed for Student Activities to help them have a higher success rate by understanding better the SU's charitable objectives as well as what each grant is intended for.

**2. EMPOWER**

**Activities**

We had 260 active Student Activities during academic year 2022-23: 199 Societies and 61 Sports. 286 different Student Activities available (including 26 up for adoption).

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Sports Union membership	2,791	1,688
Societies Union membership	3,154	1,766

Activities memberships 1/8-31/7	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Semester 1- Nov 22	Semester 2 Increase	2022-23 Total Feb 23
Sports	3,543	1,688	2,791	2,547	+367	2,914
Societies	3,607	1,766	3,154	3,015	+574	3,589
Total	7,150	3,454	5,945	5,562	+941	6,503

(Unique members are not known)

**Sport**

University of Aberdeen had 65 teams entered into BUCS. 3 teams won their league (Men's 2nd Football (tier 4); Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> Netball (EY Scottish Tier 4) and Women's 3rd Tennis (Women's Scottish Tier 3 (FAST4). Golf were cup winners. 13 teams progressed to BUCS semi-finals with swimming finishing top of their SSS League 1. We finished the season with 1267.5 points BUCS points; 39<sup>th</sup> out of 147 institutions. 40.79% BUCS win rate and 46.6% win rate for SSS.

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Report of the Board of Trustees**

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**Aberdeen Boat Race**

University of Aberdeen maintained the title for the Boat race on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 on the river Dee. They crossed the line 3 ¼ boat lengths ahead of RGU with a time of 8min 48sec along with the Alumni race in a time of 8min 22 sec by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a boat.

We hosted Granite City Challenge on 22nd March 2023, reclaiming the title with the final score: UoA 75 v RGU 24 points.

611 guests attended the Activities Ball (Formerly separate Sports' & King's Balls) at P&J Live venue on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Over 600 guests attended the event.

<b>Individual Award</b>	<b>Number of Nominations</b>	<b>Awarded 22-23</b>	<b>No. of different Sports/Societies</b>	<b>Awarded 20-21 (ET)</b>	<b>Awarded 21-22 (ET)</b>
½ Blues	17 (11 clubs)	21 Individuals	11 sports	16	24
Full Blues	33 (14 Clubs)	24 Individuals	10 sports	6	11
King's Award with Merit	20	10 Individuals	5 Societies	13	5
King's Award with Distinction	17	10 Individuals	4 Societies	1	3
Colours	33	34 Individuals	12 Sports	81	48
Colours with Distinction	26	23 Individuals	10 Sports	37	52
	159			154	143

Table 1: Individual award nominations and winners  
**Societies**

Over the year, despite there still being some remaining restrictions, some societies were able to get back to some activity.

Five societies came together to run the spotlight event. This saw Creative Writing, English Lit, Folk and Trad, Show Choir and A Cappella all working together to put on 'Spotlight' to give them all a way to preform and work together to raise their profile.

The Dance Society hosted a competition that hosted 8 universities and won our 'Event of the Year' award.

We also assisted the Photography and filmmaking society to collectively open a dark room and editing studio. This we believe is the only dark room available for student use in the city.

**Student Groups**

We had six Student Groups: Aberdeen Student Radio, BookEnds, CASE (Consent and Sexual Education), Debater, Nightline and the Gaudie.

These groups are differentiated from societies by delivering a service to students which requires them to have a greater level of autonomy and do not have a paid membership. New student groups are approved by the whole of student council rather than the Societies Union Committee and must rigorously demonstrate the benefit their service will bring to students. We have provided physical locations for most of the students' groups where these are required for them to run their service.



**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
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Despite most Students Groups not making a full return to campus many were still able to deliver core parts of their service. We were able to support them with handovers, COVID risk assessments and them obtaining key information that had been lost through the pandemic.

The Gaudie were able to continue publishing online, including coverage of our elections and what the pandemic meant for students. Nightline adapted their call service to an instant messaging based service which volunteers ran from home, while CASE was able to run successful events, campaigns, and discussions online. Bookends had a lot of accumulated stock, so we were able to facilitate a free book giveaway space for them to clear out and prepare for reopening as Student Activities started a phased return to campus.

**Volunteering**

We had 62 partners who assisted with opportunities for over 1,078 students registered.

The Enhanced Transcript for 22-23.

Pathway	Number started	Not completed	Completed	19-20	20-21	21-22
Society Committee	206	61 (29.6%)	145 (70.4%)	15	107	149
Sports Committee	142	28 (19.7%)	114 (73.3%)	4	76	119
Society President	74	13 (17.6%)	61 (82.4%)	4	42	54
Sports President	24	8 (33.3%)	16 (66.67%)	1	26	27
Groups Committee	17	5 (29.4%)	12 (70.6%)	-	4	5 (+1 Pres)
AUSA Committee				26	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>115 (24.8%)</b>	<b>348 (75.2%)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>355</b>

**Sustainability**

SwapShop - Redistributes over 1 tonne of cloths each year saving carbon from being emitted and money for students!

Foodsharing: Since starting in 2017 the volunteer run Foodsharing program over 25 tonnes of food have been saved from waste, by collecting surplus from partnered outlets.

Secret Garden: Over 30 regular volunteers are growing food in otherwise disused university land!

Bike hire: The Students' Union runs a free bike hire program for students, since relaunching in February 2022 644 weeks' worth of bike hire have been booked, covering a total of over 17 000 km!

We were awarded the SU Green Impact Award at Excellence level.

**Charitable activities**

The Student Show Ayetantic took place at HMT 19<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup> April 23 with approximately £125, 000 that was distributed to local charities.

### **3. REPRESENT**

#### **Sabbatical officer team**

In March 2023, the Students' Union held a hugely successful election process to elect the Sabbatical Officer Team for the 2023/24 academic year. The Elections attracted 29 candidates which represents an increase of 16. There were 2,568 students voted (13.4% turnout) in the elections, an increase of over 156%. Both statistics represent the most successful set of elections to elect the Sabbatical Officer team in its current format and are the highest number of individual voters in some time. The officers elected are set out on page 2.

#### **Class representatives**

In 2022/23, there were 1,578 class representative appointments made. The Students' Union provided the Class Representatives with the opportunity to undertake training online and gain recognition for their efforts through the Enhanced Transcript. Over 400 reps completed the training and reps who successfully completed their training, attended an SSLC, and completed a reflective report, were put forward for this to be included on their University Transcript.

#### **Student Council**

The Student Council elections were held in October 2022 we had 1,442 voters compared to 492 in 2021. In 2022/23 following a range of structural changes there were 44 members of Student Council, including the Sabbatical Officers, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, standing committee chairs and vice chairs, liberation and section forum reps, and student group reps. The structural reforms meant a smaller council that operated more efficiently and created a more welcoming environment. This allowed for more thorough and comprehensive discussions of importance to students. In seven meetings in the academic year, the student council has made considerable progress in positively impacting the university community, by passing two motions and three byelaw amendments.

- Advocating for an accessible hardship fund application process for international students.
- Supporting campaign to preserve mental health funding resources.
- Passed the first-ever Biodiversity Motion to promote green spaces on campus.
- Passed UCU Action Motion to lobby stakeholders to reach a positive resolution. Confirming students' stance on not supporting the Marking Boycott if it happens.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Association is governed by a constitution and managed by the Trustee Board. The current membership of the Board is set out on Page 2.

The Board consists of not more than 5 Sabbatical Trustees, 3 Student Trustees, 1 University appointed Trustee and 3 external Trustees. At the year-end there were 3 vacancies on the Trustee Board. Two Student Trustee Position and 1 External Trustee position.

The Trustee Board is responsible for formally approving Association policy passed by Student Council. The Student Council consists of students of the University of Aberdeen who have been elected by cross-campus ballot.

## **Aberdeen University Students' Association**

### **Report of the Board of Trustees**

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Standing Committees meet as required, their remit being to deal with the business affecting their Standing Committee and to discuss policy regarding their portfolio. Standing Committees report into the Student Council.

The Sabbatical Trustees of the Association, who also act as remunerated full-time Student Officers of the Association, are elected annually by cross-campus ballot. The other Student Trustee and External Trustee positions are appointed under the terms and conditions laid out within the Association's Constitution.

The Sabbatical Officers receive a handover prior to their start date and an induction and training programme during their first month in post. This training covers all aspects of running the Association and includes the opportunity to attend specific National Union of Students training courses. The non-sabbatical Trustees receive training on the role of trustee and finance training.

Operational issues are delegated to staff through the Chief Executive. Trustees are involved in approving strategic plans, the annual budget and action plans.

Full details of the constitutional arrangements are set out in the Constitution of the Association. This is available on the Association's web page at <https://www.ausa.org.uk/about/constitution/>

### **Key Management Personnel**

The Board consider the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team to be the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

Graeme Kirkpatrick has been in place at the Chief Executive of AUSA with effect from November 2020. The other members of the SMT for 22/23 were:

- Scott Carle – Representatives Services Manager
- Danielle Greive – Activities Development Manger
- Lorna Cruickshank - Activities Development Manger (Maternity Cover)
- Michelle Elrick – Finance and Business Support Manager

### **Related Parties**

The Association is financially and materially supported by the University of Aberdeen receiving unrestricted income of £854,764 (2022: £764,764) in the year ended 31 July 2023 from the Disbursement Fund. The University of Aberdeen also provided restricted grant funding to fund the purchase of sports facilities at Aberdeen Sports Village totalling £185,000 (2022: £170,000) and £31,000 (2022: £31,000) to fund sustainability activities.

The Association occupies University premises at The Student Union Building, Elphinstone Road, and at the Hillhead Halls of Residence, the costs of which are accounted for as a donation in kind totalling £219,065 (2022: £219,066).

The Association works closely with the University of Aberdeen in the furtherance of its purposes.

**Risk Management**

The Association has endeavoured to minimise risk through appropriate training for Trustees and staff, implementation of appropriate policies, for example Health and Safety Policies and Financial Procedures. The Board of Trustees has produced a risk register, the format of which was revamped during 21-22 and has been included in summarised form as follows:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
<p><b>Governance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to recruit suitable Trustees;</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate skills on the Board;</li> <li>• Insufficient/ inappropriate reporting to Trustees;</li> <li>• Failure to ensure good organisational governance;</li> <li>• Deterioration of relationship with the University.</li> <li>• Status as an unincorporated charity.</li> </ul>	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust Trustee recruitment and training policies in place;</li> <li>• Skill matrix used to identify skills required on the Board;</li> <li>• Finance Reporting systems in place;</li> <li>• Adherence to Education Act;</li> <li>• Open and transparent dialogue maintained with the University.</li> <li>• Investigation of options regarding incorporation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial sustainability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient funding levels.</li> <li>• Fraud or error causing financial loss.</li> </ul>	Medium/High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear business planning and budgeting process;</li> <li>• Strong internal financial controls in place;</li> <li>• Regular finance reporting to the Board;</li> <li>• Appropriate monitoring of management accounts;</li> <li>• Annual review of Insurance Policies.</li> <li>• External audit process in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Compliance:</b></p>			

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Report of the Board of Trustees**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to comply with relevant legislation;</li> <li>• Serious accident/death during a student activity.</li> </ul>	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of Practice to Ensure Compliance with Part II of the Education Act 1994 up-to-date with UoA;</li> <li>• Induction and training for staff and sabbaticals;</li> <li>• Advice from external professionals, including University HR, sought as required;</li> <li>• Health and safety policies regularly reviewed and appropriate risk assessment processes in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Operational:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing issues including high turnover, poor morale;</li> <li>• Poor service provided to members;</li> <li>• Inappropriate contractual arrangements with external partners.</li> </ul>	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate training and induction;</li> <li>• Staff engagement surveys carried out;</li> <li>• Employee assistance scheme launched December 2020;</li> <li>• Contracts Policy and associated procedures in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Member engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of student engagement decreasing;</li> <li>• Turnout in Elections remains low;</li> <li>• Student run activities are dissatisfied;</li> <li>• Incorrect advice given to students;</li> <li>• Damage to reputation caused by society, sports club or student group through inappropriate student behaviour at events or outside AUSA premises/activities;</li> </ul>	Medium/High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work ongoing to develop and implement new ways to engage and support students;</li> <li>• Consideration being given to review of all elections regulations;</li> <li>• Facilities available within the SU building, Hillhead and Butchart</li> <li>• Training provided to societies and sports clubs;</li> <li>• Regular discussions and support sought from the University;</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSS Score remains low;</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk assessment process in place for high-risk activities or activities which pose a risk to reputation;</li> <li>Process undertaken to develop new strategy in line with member views</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commercial Activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Café Bar is financially unviable;</li> <li>Failure to comply with relevant legislation and standards;</li> <li>Lack of success affects reputation.</li> </ul>	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly financial reporting in place;</li> <li>Promotions and offers being implemented and developed further;</li> <li>Trained staff in place;</li> <li>Marketing and promotion being implemented.</li> </ul>

**AUSA Strategic Plan**

In addition to its constitution, AUSA's work is guided by our Purpose, Values and Pillars, as set out in its Strategic Plan for 2023-2040.

***Our Purpose is:***

"To 'improve students lives'- Every graduating student at the University of Aberdeen will report that the Students' Union made their time at university better.."

***Our Pillars are:***

"To Represent, Empower and Support"

***Our values:***

The way we do things is as important as what we achieve. As an organisation we will be:

Student Focused:- Students always come first in everything we do

Inclusive:- Every student will have the same opportunities at the Students' Union no matter what their background, campus or mode of study.

Helpful:- We will help any student with an issue. We will go the extra mile to help a student wherever and whenever we can.

The AUSA Strategic Plan for the period from 2023-2040 is available on the AUSA website at <https://www.ausa.org.uk/pageassets/about/vision/strategic-plan-digital-version-final.pdf>

**Finance and Governance**

In the year to 31 July 2023 the Association generated an unrestricted surplus of £19,346 (2022: deficit £908). The disbursement of additional restricted funds, including £46,940 towards the helping Clubs and Societies with their post-covid recovery, which was received in the prior year, contributed to a restricted deficit of £41,430 (2022: surplus £64,186)

Overall, therefore, the Association made a deficit of £22,084 (2022: surplus £63,278).

Plans for the Association to convert into an Incorporated Association remain under review by the Board of Trustees.

**Financial Reserves**

The Association aims to ensure that sufficient reserves are in place to guarantee its long-term sustainability and to provide funds for service and facility improvements. The minimum level of reserves required to ensure the Association can meet its commitments over a three-month period should they get into financial difficulty is currently estimated at £160,000. At 31 July 2023 the level of unrestricted reserves held was £375,423.

**Provision of Information to Auditor**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Association's auditors is unaware and we have taken all the necessary steps that we ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make ourselves aware of all the relevant audit information and to establish that the Association's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

  
Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo – 2024-04-17, 12:11:52 UTC

.....  
**Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo**

**Student President July 2021–June 2024**

..... 2024

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Independent auditor's report**  
**To the Trustees of Aberdeen University Students' Association**

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The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Association and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Association 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;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, 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 Association will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Aberdeen University Students' Association (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

### **Basis for 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 charity 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 charity'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 Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Report of the Trustees. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor 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 report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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.

### **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 extent to which our procedures 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 charity 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 charity. We determined that the following were most relevant: Health and Safety, employment law, bar regulation and compliance with charity legislation;
- We considered the incentives and opportunities that exist in the charity, 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 charity, 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.

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Independent auditor's report**  
**To the Trustees of Aberdeen University Students' Association**

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

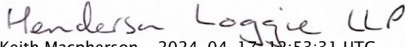
- Inquiry of management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing the charity's policies and procedures in relation to health and safety, employment law and data protection;
- Review legal and professional expenditure incurred in the year;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates, in particular the valuation of tangible fixed assets, recoverability of debtors, and the application of accruals; 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 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.

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.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
Keith Macpherson - 2024-04-17, 12:53:31 UTC

### **Henderson Loggie LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Henderson Loggie LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

11-15 Thistle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1DF

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**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 31 July 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	2022 Total £
<b>Income</b>							
Voluntary income	2	854,764	216,000	1,070,764	764,764	227,500	992,264
Activities for raising funds	3	159,610	-	159,610	76,293	-	76,293
Investment income	4	1,011	-	1,011	482	-	482
Income from charitable activities	5	123,290	289,290	412,580	120,951	291,313	412,264
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,138,675</b>	<b>505,290</b>	<b>1,643,965</b>	<b>962,490</b>	<b>518,813</b>	<b>1,481,303</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Fundraising trading	6	143,485	-	143,485	105,650	-	105,650
Charitable activities	7	975,844	546,720	1,522,564	857,747	454,628	1,312,375
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,119,329</b>	<b>546,720</b>	<b>1,666,049</b>	<b>963,398</b>	<b>454,628</b>	<b>1,418,025</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		<b>19,346</b>	<b>(41,430)</b>	<b>(22,084)</b>	<b>(908)</b>	<b>64,186</b>	<b>63,278</b>
<b>Transfers</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>19,346</b>	<b>(41,430)</b>	<b>(22,084)</b>	<b>(908)</b>	<b>64,186</b>	<b>63,278</b>
<b>Total funds at 31 July 2022</b>		<b>356,077</b>	<b>183,019</b>	<b>539,096</b>	<b>356,985</b>	<b>118,833</b>	<b>475,818</b>
<b>Total funds at 31 July 2023</b>	13	<b>375,423</b>	<b>141,589</b>	<b>517,012</b>	<b>356,077</b>	<b>183,019</b>	<b>539,096</b>

All of the above activities relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 21 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	10	<b>9,905</b>	2,278
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		2,514	3,073
Debtors	11	38,151	11,557
Cash and bank		548,495	623,424
		<b>589,160</b>	638,054
<b>Creditors</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	<b>(82,053)</b>	(101,237)
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>507,107</b>	536,817
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>517,012</b>	539,095
<b>Funds</b>			
General funds	14	375,423	356,076
Restricted funds	14	141,589	183,019
		<b>517,012</b>	539,095

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo*  
 Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo - 2024-04-17, 12:11:52 UTC

**Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo**

**Student President July 2021–June 2024**

..... 2024

The notes on pages 21 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 July 2023**

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	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
<b>Cash provided by operating activities (note 18)</b>		<b>(65,238)</b>		160,723
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Interest received	1,011		482	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(10,702)		-	
	-----		-----	
<b>Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(9,691)</b>		482
		-----		-----
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(74,930)</b>		161,205
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>623,424</b>		462,219
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		----- <b>548,494</b> =====		----- 623,424 =====

## **1. Principal accounting policies**

### **(i) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Aberdeen University Students' Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the association. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

### **(ii) Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that any material uncertainties that exist can be managed. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves and assets for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

### **(iii) Income recognition**

All income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Income is recognised when the Association is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Voluntary income including donation, grants and gifts that provide core funding are of general nature and are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods;  
or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Interest on bank deposits is credited in the year in which they are received.

## **1. Principal accounting policies (continued)**

### **(iv) Expenditure**

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for expenditure, it is probable that a settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the provision of the Association's facilities
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements.
- Support costs include central functions and have been allocated on a basis with the use of resources.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on an appropriate basis.

### **(v) Funds**

In the Statement of Financial Activities, funds are classified as either restricted funds or unrestricted funds, defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Transfers are made between unrestricted and restricted funds of the surplus/deficit remaining on completion of a project.

### **(vi) Irrecoverable VAT**

Irrecoverable VAT is included under the cost heading to which it relates.

The Association has been granted charitable status by HMRC and is therefore not liable to taxation.

### **(vii) Donations in kind**

Donated facilities and services are consumed immediately and are recognised as income, with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities (SoFA). They are measured on the basis of the value of the gift. The University of Aberdeen provides facilities and utilities to the Association that enables them to carry out their charitable activities.



**1. Principal accounting policies (continued)**

**(viii) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its useful life as follows:

Plant & Equipment	25% straight line method
-------------------	--------------------------

Expenditure under £2,500 is written off in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it is incurred.

**(ix) Stock**

Stock represents goods held for resale in the Union Brew bar café, and stocks of student parking permits held for resale. Stock is valued at the lower of cost, or net realisable value.

**(x) Debtors**

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

**(xi) Cash at bank**

Cash at bank includes cash held in a deposit or similar account.

**(xii) 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.

**(xiii) Financial instruments**

The charity 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.

**(xiv) Pensions**

A defined benefit scheme is operated by the University of Aberdeen on behalf of the Association for the benefit of some of its employees. The scheme is a multiemployer pension scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Association. In accordance with FRS102 therefore, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period they are payable.

**(xv) Operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements**

**2. Voluntary income**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 £
Disbursements from University of Aberdeen	<b>854,764</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>1,070,764</b>	764,764	226,000	990,764
Santander Bank	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>854,764</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>1,070,764</b>	764,764	227,500	992,264
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**3. Activities for raising funds**

Sports Ball	-	-	-	15,767	-	15,767
Societies Ball	-	-	-	1,167	-	1,167
Activities Ball	<b>31,034</b>	-	<b>31,034</b>			
Graduation Ball	<b>11,428</b>	-	<b>11,428</b>	11,692	-	11,692
Union Brew sales	<b>78,386</b>	-	<b>78,386</b>	44,334	-	44,334
Marketing and commercial services	<b>38,762</b>	-	<b>38,762</b>	3,334	-	3,334
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>159,610</b>	-	<b>159,610</b>	76,293	-	76,293
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**4. Investment income**

Interest on cash deposit	<b>1,011</b>	-	<b>1,011</b>	482	-	482
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements**

**5. Income from charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 £
General	6,661	-	6,661	12,734	1,500	14,234
Sustainability projects	-	25,433	25,433	-	34,300	34,300
RAG -Fundraising	-	-	-	-	498	498
Sports	58,260	-	58,260	43,589	2,950	46,539
Fresher's Week and Refreshers	5,114	-	5,114	27,894	-	27,894
Transport and vehicles	44,237	-	44,237	28,849	-	28,849
Societies	9,018	-	9,018	7,885	-	7,885
AUSA Superteams	-	-	-	-	-	-
University of Aberdeen Development Trust Grants						
-Student Experience Fund	-	36,300	36,300	-	33,000	33,000
-Other	-	8,492	8,492	-	-	-
Donations in kind	-	219,065	219,065	-	219,066	219,066
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>123,290</b>	<b>289,290</b>	<b>412,580</b>	<b>120,951</b>	<b>291,313</b>	<b>412,264</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Donations in kind were received from the University of Aberdeen for rent and utility costs.

**6. Expenditure on Fundraising activities**

Sports Ball	-	-	-	16,583	-	16,583
Societies Ball	-	-	-	5,256	-	5,256
Activities Ball	33,136	-	33,136			
Graduation Ball	12,262	-	12,262	12,198	-	12,198
Union Brew	94,286	-	94,286	70,151	-	70,151
Marketing & commercial	3,801	-	3,801	1,463	-	1,463
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>143,485</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,485</b>	<b>105,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105,650</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements**

**7. Cost of charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 £
Student representation	482,593	2,352	484,945	461,483	16,355	477,838
Sports	55,654	237,133	292,787	41,973	170,130	212,103
Societies	12,758	-	12,758	5,957	-	5,957
Aberdeen Student Fund Grants paid						
-Sports clubs	-	25,018	25,018	-	15,461	15,461
-Societies	-	11,284	11,284	-	10,931	10,931
Election expenses and democratic review	2,099	-	2,099	749	-	749
Fresher's Week and Refreshers	17,363	-	17,363	13,014	-	13,014
Training	16,802	-	16,802	16,523	1,500	18,023
Corporate and software subscriptions	68,190	-	68,190	64,689	-	64,689
Insurances	26,872	-	26,872	22,560	-	22,560
Sustainability Project	-	50,368	50,368	4,350	18,720	23,070
Support costs						
- Professional services	24,771	-	24,771	6,284	-	6,284
- Recruitment fees	7,380	-	7,380	1,717	-	1,717
- Staffing	203,591	-	203,591	174,946	-	174,946
Transport/vehicles	44,220	-	44,220	28,930	-	28,930
Campaigns	632	1,500	2,132	2,469	-	2,469
Governance costs (note 9)	5,130	-	5,130	5,890	-	5,890
Rent and utility costs (note 5)	-	219,065	219,065	-	219,067	219,067
Depreciation	3,076	-	3,076	2,599	2,420	5,019
Gaudie printing costs	4,713	-	4,713	3,615	-	3,615
RAG - donations to local charities	-	-	-	-	45	45
	----- 975,844 =====	----- 546,720 =====	----- 1,522,564 =====	----- 857,747 =====	----- 454,628 =====	----- 1,312,375 =====

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements**

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**8. Total staffing costs**

Total staffing costs, included within the expense categories at Note 7 were as follows:

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and Salaries	<b>584,441</b>	<b>24,909</b>	<b>609,350</b>	535,761	32,158	567,919
Employers' National Insurance	<b>46,770</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>48,994</b>	44,974	1,891	46,865
Employers' pension contributions	<b>64,089</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>64,641</b>	58,025	1,350	59,375
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>695,300</b>	<b>27,685</b>	<b>722,985</b>	638,760	35,399	674,159
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Average number of employees in year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Administrative (including student staff)	<b>23</b>	19
Sabbatical Officers	<b>5</b>	5
Union Brew (including student staff)	<b>10</b>	5
	-----	-----
	<b>38</b>	29
	=====	=====

**8. Total staffing costs (continued)**

There were no employees (2022: 0) who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension costs) of more than £60,000.

Remuneration paid to Trustees in their capacity as Sabbatical Officers totalled £106,541 (2022: £103,254).

No remuneration was paid to any individual in their capacity as Trustee, who is not a Sabbatical Officer.

Expenses totalling £3,462 (2022: £nil) were paid to 8 (2022: 0) Trustees as reimbursement of authorised personal expenditure, incurred for travel and other incidental expenses.

**Pensions**

A defined benefit scheme is operated by the University of Aberdeen on behalf of the Association for the benefit of some of its employees. In addition, some employees are members of the NEST Pension Scheme.

Contributions payable to both these schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period they are payable.

**Key Management Personnel**

The total remuneration of those considered to be key management personnel in the year (including pension contributions and Employers' National Insurance) was £121,877 (2022: £110,651).

**9. Governance costs**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Audit Fee	<b>9,250</b>	6,350
	-----	-----
	<b>9,250</b>	6,350
	=====	=====

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements**

**10. Tangible assets**

	Plant and Equipment Unrestricted funds £	Plant and Equipment Restricted funds £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 August 2022	25,816	86,781	112,597
Additions	10,702	-	10,702
Disposals	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
<b>At 31 July 2023</b>	<b>36,518</b>	<b>86,781</b>	<b>123,299</b>
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 August 2022	23,538	86,781	110,319
Charge for year	3,075	-	3,075
On Disposals	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
<b>At 31 July 2023</b>	<b>26,613</b>	<b>86,781</b>	<b>113,394</b>
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 31 July 2023</b>	<b>9,905</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,905</b>
	=====	=====	=====
<b>At 31 July 2022</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,278</b>
	=====	=====	=====

**11. Debtors**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade Debtors	11,872	7
Other Debtors	24,163	7,651
Prepayments	2,117	3,819
	-----	-----
	<b>38,152</b>	11,477
	=====	=====

**12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	20,797	10,785
Due to University of Aberdeen	-	704
Balances held on behalf of others	6,334	6,500
Other creditors	19,940	13,986
Accruals	34,982	69,261
	-----	-----
	<b>82,053</b>	101,237
	=====	=====

**13. Analysis of funds**

	<b>Tangible Fixed assets</b>	<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>Funds at 31 July 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Restricted funds	-	141,589	141,589
Unrestricted funds	9,905	365,518	375,423
	-----	-----	-----
	9,905	507,107	517,012
	=====	=====	=====

	<b>Tangible Fixed assets</b>	<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>Funds at 31 July 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
Restricted funds	0	183,019	183,019
Unrestricted funds	2,278	353,798	356,076
	-----	-----	-----
	2,278	536,817	539,095
	=====	=====	=====



**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**

**14. Analysis of funds**

	Funds at 1 Aug 2022 £	Movement in resources		Transfers £	Funds at 31 July 2023 £
		Incoming	Outgoing		
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
<b>University of Aberdeen Grants</b>					
Aberdeen Sports Village Usage	29,917	185,000	(190,193)	-	24,724
Donations in kind	-	219,065	(219,065)	-	-
EU/International Students Hardship fund	58,059	-	-	-	58,059
Class rep conference support	333	-	-	-	333
Sustainability activities	20,131	31,000	(25,054)	-	26,077
Club & Society Covid Recovery Support	54,791	-	(46,940)	-	7,851
Black History Month	-	2,000	(1,758)	-	242
<b>Aberdeen Future Grants</b>					
Sports- Equipment	4,263	-	-	(4,263)	-
Education – academic societies	2,950	-	-	(2,950)	-
AUSA Student Fund	-	36,300	(36,302)	7,213	7,211
<b>Other</b>					
University of Aberdeen Development Trust	1,180	-	-	-	1,180
RAG - Charitable fundraising	2,921	-	-	-	2,921
National Lottery- Mental Health Award	400	-	-	-	400
Santander Bank	8,074	-	-	-	8,074
University of Aberdeen Development Trust - Summer Activities Programme	-	3,000	(595)	-	2,405
University of Aberdeen Development Trust - Gender Expression Fund	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
University of Aberdeen Development Trust - Asthma Awareness	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
University of Aberdeen Development Trust - E-bike Scheme	-	5,000	(4,891)	-	109
Energy Saving Trust E-bike Grant	-	20,174	(20,174)	-	-
Scottish Fair Trade	-	250	(247)	-	3
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>183,019</b>	<b>505,289</b>	<b>(546,719)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>141,589</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>General funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	356,077	1,138,675	(1,119,329)	-	375,423
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>539,095</b>	<b>1,643,963</b>	<b>(1,666,048)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>517,012</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Notes to the financial statements (continued)**

**14. Analysis of funds (continued)**

	Funds at 1 Aug 2021 £	Movement in resources		Transfers £	Funds at 31 July 2022 £
Restricted funds		Incoming	Outgoing £		
<b>University of Aberdeen Grants</b>					
Aberdeen Sports Village Usage	25,888	170,000	(165,971)	-	29,917
Phase 2 facilities and support costs	2,421	-	(2,421)	-	-
Donations in kind	-	219,066	(219,066)	-	-
EU/International Students Hardship fund	58,059	-	-	-	58,059
Class rep conference support	333	-	-	-	333
Sustainability activities	4,550	34,300	(18,720)	-	20,130
Club & Society Covid Recovery Support	-	56,000	(1,209)	-	54,791
Tennis Club Facilities Support	-	2,950	(2,950)	-	-
<b>Aberdeen Future Grants</b>					
Sports- Equipment	254	19,470	(15,461)	-	4,263
Education – academic societies	351	13,530	(10,931)	-	2,950
<b>Other</b>					
University of Aberdeen Development Trust	1,180	-	-	-	1,180
RAG - Charitable fundraising	2,468	498	(45)	-	2,921
AberGreen - Climate Change Fund	400	-	-	-	400
AberGreen – Sustainability fund	6,806	1,500	(232)	-	8,074
National Lottery- Mental Health Award	16,123	-	(16,123)	-	-
Santander Bank	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	118,833	518,813	(454,628)	-	183,019
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>General funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	356,984	962,490	(963,398)	-	356,076
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total funds</b>	475,817	1,481,303	(1,418,026)	-	539,095
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**14. Analysis of funds (continued)**

The nature of the main restricted funds at 31 July 2023 are as follows:

- University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Sports Village Usage relates to the funding of the Association's use of the Aberdeen Sports Village facilities during 2022/23
- University of Aberdeen Donations in kind relates to rent and utilities paid for by the University on behalf of the Association.
- EU/International Hardship Fund relates to funding to provide hardship support for EU/International students, who are not eligible to access other support funding within the University of Aberdeen. Awards will be determined jointly by the Association and the University of Aberdeen.
- Class Rep conference. In 2018/19, a grant of £1,100 was made to support a Class Rep conference. As it was not fully spent, the balance will be carried forward to support a similar event in the future.
- Sustainability activities. The University of Aberdeen have agreed to fund a post to continue sustainability activities within the Association.
- Club and Society Covid Recovery Support. This fund was used to create a Covid-19 relief fund to support affiliated Clubs and Societies whose activities were disrupted by the pandemic and to help them recover.
- Black History Month. Funds to be used for events during Black History Month.
- University of Aberdeen Development Trust AUSA Student Fund, relates to monies given to the Association in order to make grants to Clubs and Societies which will enhance the student experience.
- RAG Charitable funds relate to the balance between monies raised during the year, and the balance of monies not yet disbursed to local charities.
- National Lottery. An award of £10,000 was received to fund a mental health "Train the Trainer" programme in 2019. £9,600 was spent on this project, and the National Lottery have confirmed that the unspent balance may be carried forward to fund similar activities in the future.
- Santander Bank. An initial award of £1,500 was received from Santander Bank in July 2019. Additional monies were received from Santander in 2020/21, which were used to create a Covid-19 relief fund to support affiliated Clubs and Societies whose activities were disrupted by the pandemic and were left out of pocket as a result.
- Summer Activities Programme. To enable event to be run for students over the summer period, particularly for postgraduate students.

**14. Analysis of funds (continued)**

- Asthma Awareness. Given for the UoA Rector's Asthma Awareness event.
- E-Bike Scheme. To add a number of e-bikes to the current bike scheme enabling students to rent a bike for a period of time
- Scottish Fair Trade. This was given to promote Scottish fair trade during Fairtrade Fortnight.

**15. Capital commitments**

At 31 July 2023 the Association had no capital commitments.

**16. Related parties**

**University of Aberdeen**

The Association is a semi-autonomous organisation within the University of Aberdeen. The property of the Association shall be vested in the University Court.

The Association is financially and materially supported by the University of Aberdeen, receiving a total of £854,764 in the year to 31 July 2023 (2022: £764,764) from the Disbursement Fund, £185,000 as a restricted grant to purchase sports facilities from Aberdeen Sports Village (2022: £170,000), and £31,000 (2022: £31,000) as a restricted grant to support sustainability activities.

In addition the Association occupies premises at the Union Building, Hillhead Halls and Balgownie Playing Fields on a rent-free basis from the University of Aberdeen. The Association has estimated that the value of this donation in kind amounts to £219,067 (2022: £219,067).

The amounts payable to the University of Aberdeen at 31 July 2023 amounted to £4,685 (2022: £704). The amount receivable from the University of Aberdeen at 31 July 2023 was £nil (2022: £nil).

**17. Pensions**

**University of Aberdeen Superannuation and Life Assurance Pension Scheme**

Aberdeen University Students' Association participates in the University of Aberdeen Superannuation and Life Assurance Pension Scheme ("UASLAS") which is a funded defined benefit scheme which is open to new members and accruals. There were 7 members of staff participating in the scheme as at 31 July 2023 (2022: 13), and this is operated as a salary exchange scheme.

Under the UASLAS pension fund the contribution rate required for Aberdeen University Students' Association is set on a group basis, combining the experience of the employer with other employers within the same group also participating in the Fund. Within this group assets and liabilities of the Fund are not separately identified between the various employers participating as part of the triennial actuarial valuations. As a result Aberdeen University Students' Association is unable to identify its relevant share of the underlying assets and liabilities in the Fund. These accounts have therefore been drawn up in accordance with FRS102 on the basis that the pension cost is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

**17. Pensions (continued)**

Information about the overall funding position of the UASLAS was provided by the actuary in his report dated 31 July 2019. The contributions payable by the employers are based on the position of the Fund as a whole, which is reassessed at each triennial valuation.

During the year, total contributions to this scheme amounted to £41,869 (2022: £54,408.55).

**NEST**

The Association also operates a defined contribution scheme with NEST. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Association in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Association to the funds and amounted to £4,444 (2022: £4,863).

**18. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the year	<b>(22,074)</b>	63,278
Adjustments for:		
Investment income	<b>(1,011)</b>	(482)
Depreciation and loss on sale	<b>3,075</b>	5,019
Decrease/(Increase) in stock	<b>552</b>	(3,072)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	<b>(26,594)</b>	13,993
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	<b>(19,186)</b>	81,988
	-----	-----
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>(65,238)</b>	160,724
	=====	=====

**19. Control**

The charity is controlled by the Trustees on behalf of the members.



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## Certificate Summary

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DOCUMENT ORIGINATOR: **Kirsty Bunton (kirsty.bunton@hlca.co.uk)**

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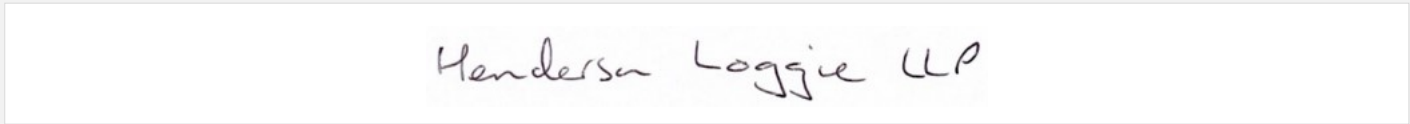
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