

Charity number: 1093455

Company number: 4463793

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The trustees of The London Philharmonic Choir ("the Choir") are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and are pleased to present the report and unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The unaudited financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts, and comply with the Choir's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019 ('the Charities SORP (FRS 102)').

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Choir's principal aim and objective is to promote, improve, develop and maintain education in the appreciation and knowledge of the art and science of music by the presentation of public concerts. In order to achieve this, the Choir gives public choral performances, principally but not exclusively, in association with professional orchestras; it also promotes, organises and/or performs in other cultural and educational activities relevant to the study and appreciation of music, and undertakes such other things in furtherance of its objectives, or which are conducive or incidental thereto.

Membership of the Choir is subject to audition initially and on an ongoing basis, to maintain the Choir's high standards. Auditions are open to all and members are not required to pay an annual subscription. The members receive no remuneration and give their time for free.

The Choir affords members the opportunity to rehearse and perform together to a very high standard and regularly performs with world class conductors and orchestras at public venues in the UK and abroad. The Choir has a current membership of around 300 singers but the numbers performing on any given occasion vary according to the venue and repertoire concerned.

In addition to large scale concerts, performances are sometimes given in smaller-scale venues which both extends the audience base and gives members a chance to explore and develop in different repertoire. The Choir also engages in relevant charity and educational activities in furtherance of its objectives.

The Choir's purposes are for the public benefit and the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The 2023-24 season programme saw the Choir performing alongside the LPO in six concerts at the Royal Festival Hall, and commenced with Mahler's well-loved *Symphony no. 2* under the baton of Edward Gardner, and *Symphony no. 3* conducted by Sir Mark Elder. The Choir also performed in Haydn's *The Creation* and Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*, both conducted by Edward Gardner. The Choir joined the LPO in April for Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* conducted by Vladimir Jurowski, and in May for Beethoven's much-loved *Symphony No 9*.

Other appearances for the Choir included Mozart's *Requiem* and a programme of Christmas music, both at the Royal Festival Hall, and performing a live soundtrack to the feature film *Amadeus*, screened at the Royal Albert Hall.

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The season concluded with two concerts at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the 2024 season of the BBC Proms, the first of which was Busoni's *piano concerto*, again appearing alongside the LPO under the baton of Edward Gardner. The Choir also appeared in both performances of the Dr Who Prom concert which was also aired on BBC television over the festive season.

During the 2023-24 season the Choir has maintained a strong membership base, and continues to focus on engagement with existing members and recruiting new members to ensure the future of the Choir. The Choir seeks to engage on a regular basis with the London Youth Choirs who have performed alongside the Choir on several occasions, giving those young people the opportunity to observe the Choir in rehearsal and performance and perform with top class orchestras and conductors. During the year some 300 younger students performed alongside the Choir in a concert of Christmas music at the Royal Festival Hall, and, on the recommendation of the Choir, older students joined the LPO in a performance of Holst's *The Planets* conducted by Edward Gardner at the Royal Festival Hall.

Individuals seeking to join the Choir are welcomed at a trial rehearsal and then encouraged to audition. Applicants for auditions come from a very wide range of backgrounds, and include singers who want to develop their interest in choral music, as well as some more experienced singers seeking to widen their repertoire and experience under the expert guidance of the Choir's Artistic Director and Associate Chorus Director. The Choir affords members the opportunity to enjoy performing well known pieces in person with world class orchestras under the diverse direction of world class conductors, and continues to offer the challenge of exploring new or less well known works.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year income from donations, charitable activities and investments amounted to £86,928, decreased from £93,542 for the year ended 31 August 2023. This decrease was due principally to a reduction in fees from performances given and tour contributions.

Expenditure on charitable activities and governance costs for the year amounted to £66,951, a decrease from £84,645 for the year ended 31 August 2023, principally as the result of a reduction in direct performance costs, partially offset by an increase in support costs.

The net income for the year and net movement in funds amounted to £19,977 (2023: £8,897). The balance of funds, which were all unrestricted funds, stood at £164,797 at the balance sheet date (2023: £144,820).

The trustees are responsible for the management of risks faced by the Choir. They consider that the major risks are that the level of Choir membership and the high standard of performances given is not maintained, and that fee-paying performance opportunities for the Choir are not available. They have taken steps to mitigate exposure to these risks. They are continuing to focus on recruitment and retention of members and bringing through the next generation of choral singers. They are also continuing to focus on maintaining the current high performance standards through continued expert choral coaching and direction, and are maintaining and developing relationships with orchestras and promoters to provide performance opportunities. The Trustees' policy is to seek to hold £160,000 in unrestricted funds as free reserves. These are to enable the Choir to fund a number of concerts and ongoing costs during periods when fee-paying concerts may not be provided by orchestras or promoters, and to fund currently unidentified opportunities, which will be assessed for their suitability on a case by case basis.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

In February 2024 the Choir announced the retirement of its esteemed Artistic Director, Neville Creed, at the end of the 2024-25 season after a distinguished tenure of 30 years. Neville's unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions have played a pivotal role in the Choir's remarkable journey and outstanding musical achievements. He will maintain a connection with the Choir in the new position of Chorus Director Emeritus.

Working with the artistic leadership of the LPO, the trustees established a succession plan to ensure continued musical success as the Choir approaches its 80th birthday. During 2024 Victoria Longdon was appointed as Associate Chorus Director to work alongside Neville Creed in his final season, and to focus on the vocal health of Choir members and bringing through the next generation of choral singers. In the Spring of 2025 Madeleine Venner was appointed as Chorus Director to take over from Neville at the end of the 2024-25 season, to ensure a seamless transition and continuation of artistic excellence.

The 2024-25 season involves a diverse programme of new and established works for the Choir, performing alongside the LPO in four major concerts at the Royal Festival Hall. The season commenced with a performance of Rachmaninoff's *The Bells* conducted by Edward Gardner, followed by a performance of Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw* and Shostakovich's *Symphony No 13* conducted by Andrey Boreyko. In the new year the Choir performed Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* together with John Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls* in a concert conducted by Vladimir Jurowski. At the end of April the Choir performed in Mahler's epic *Symphony No 8* conducted by Edward Gardner.

In addition to these concerts with the LPO the Choir has also performed Vivaldi's *Gloria* and will be performing Handel's *Messiah*, both conducted by Neville Creed at the Royal Festival Hall. Other performances for the 2024-25 season include Beethoven's *Symphony No 9* at the Royal Albert Hall and a programme of soundtrack music at the London Soundtrack Festival's gala concert. The Choir was joined again by some 300 LYC students in a concert of Christmas music at the Royal Festival Hall.

The Choir has plans for a busy and exciting 2025-26 season under the leadership of its new Chorus Director, including performances with the LPO at the Royal Festival Hall. The Choir continues to maintain and develop relationships with orchestras and promoters, and to focus on recruitment and retention of members, and maintaining consistently high performance standards.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Choir is a Charitable Company registered in England and Wales and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 April 2014, as amended by special resolutions passed on 19 June 2024, and is limited by guarantee.

The Choir is managed by a committee of members, who fulfil specific roles as determined from time to time. All of the committee members are trustees and directors of the charitable company. Committee members are elected to the committee by Choir members, and appointed as trustees and directors, at the Annual General Meeting, to hold office for the period of one year. In the event of a trustee resigning mid-year, a replacement may be elected by members, or appointed by the trustees, to hold office until the following AGM. The committee resigns office at each AGM, and all committee members are eligible for re-election as trustees in accordance with the company's constitution.

Upon appointment, new committee members are provided with a copy of the Choir Rules, Memorandum and Articles of Association, most recent statutory accounts and minutes of recent committee meetings,

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and a formal handover takes place with the former holder of their post. Informal training and induction is provided to new committee members by existing committee members on an ongoing basis, and particularly so during the first six months of their appointment.

The Choir’s Artistic Director, Chorus Director, Associate Chorus Director and piano accompanists receive fees in their professional capacity from the Choir. Choir members who are not trustees provide help and assistance with the day to day running of the Choir. No committee member or Choir member is remunerated by the Choir, but expenditure incurred by committee members and other Choir members in fulfilling their obligations to the Choir may be reimbursed.

The trustees are familiar with the Charity Code of Governance and are seeking to apply the principles and recommendations therein to improve existing governance within the charitable company. During the year amendments were made to the Company’s Articles of Association to support diversity, equality and inclusion, and to strengthen organisational and financial governance.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Charity no: | 1093455 | Company no: | 4463793 |
| Registered office and principal address | Independent Examiner | | |
| Hinde Street Methodist Church | James Cross | | |
| 19 Thayer Street | For and on behalf of | | |
| London W1U 2QJ | Moore Kingston Smith LLP | | |
| | Chartered Accountants | | |
| Secretary | 9 Appold Street | | |
| Joy Lee | London EC2A 2AP | | |

The current trustees, and those who served during the year, together with their roles on the committee are noted below. There are no corporate trustees.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tessa Bartley | Chair | (re-appointed June 2024) |
| Natasha Yousefzadeh Naghdi Sofla | Choir Manager | (appointed June 2024) |
| Bethea Hanson-Jones | Choir Manager | (resigned June 2024) |
| Joy Lee | Honorary Secretary | (appointed June 2024) |
| Martyn Atkins | Honorary Secretary | (resigned June 2024) |
| Susan Thomas | Honorary Treasurer | (re-appointed June 2024) |
| Jennifer Cresswell | Marketing Manager | (re-appointed June 2024) |
| Danielle Roman | Membership Manager | (appointed June 2024) |
| Joy Lee | Membership Co-ordinator | (resigned June 2024) |

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES’ RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of The London Philharmonic Choir for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees’ Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom New Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.)

Company law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

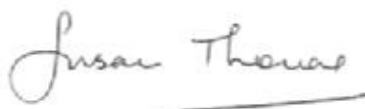
application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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. 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.

This report and unaudited accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective January 2019 (FRS 102) and with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective January 2019 ("the Charities SORP (FRS 102)").

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



Susan Thomas FCA CTA

London Philharmonic Choir
Company limited by guarantee, Company number 4463793

Date 19th May 2025

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR ('THE COMPANY')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



James Cross FCA DChA
For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP

Date 20 May 2025

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

| | Note | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|------|----------------|-----------|
| Unrestricted Funds | | | |
| Income and Endowments from:- | | | |
| Charitable activities | 2 | 85,273 | 92,882 |
| Investments | | 1,655 | 660 |
| Total Income | | 86,928 | 93,542 |
| Expenditure on:- | | | |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 66,951 | 84,645 |
| Total Expenditure | | 66,951 | 84,645 |
| Net income for the year and net movement in funds | | 19,977 | 8,897 |
| Total funds brought forward (all unrestricted funds) | | 144,820 | 135,923 |
| Total funds carried forward (all unrestricted funds) | | 164,797 | 144,820 |

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--|-------|----------------|-----------|
| Current assets | | | |
| Stock of music and goods for resale | | 960 | 1,330 |
| Debtors | 5 | 5,971 | 807 |
| Investments | 6 | 31,236 | 31,139 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 6 | 143,176 | 124,750 |
| | | 181,343 | 158,026 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 7 | (16,546) | (13,206) |
| Total net assets | | 164,797 | 144,820 |
| Funds | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 164,797 | 144,820 |
| Total charity funds | | 164,797 | 144,820 |

For the year ended 31 August 2024 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

No notice to the directors requiring an audit has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year, and of its income and expenditure for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act.

Authorised for issue by the board on 19th May 2025

and signed on its behalf by **Susan Thomas FCA CTA**

Susan Thomas

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019 ("the Charities SORP (FRS 102)"), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019 ("FRS 102").

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest pound.

b Going concern

The Choir continues to maintain engagement with its strong membership base and attract new members, and has plans in place to maintain high performance standards. It has plans for future performance opportunities and has significant unrestricted reserves. The trustees are satisfied with the Choir's ability to continue as a going concern and the accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis.

c Income

Income is recognised when receipt is probable. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised with the donation to which it relates. Interest on bank deposits is recognised as income from investments on a receivable basis.

d Donated services

Services donated by trustees and other Choir members as volunteers have not been recognised as either income or expenditure as the trustees consider that the contribution cannot be measured reliably or without undue cost.

e Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. As the charity has only one charitable activity, all support costs are allocated to that charitable activity. Governance costs represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

f Transactions in foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies included in the statement of financial activities are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the closing rates at the balance sheet date and exchange differences are included in the statement of financial activities.

g Stocks

The Choir holds selected musical scores for performances and for sale to Choir members. Members are required to purchase music folders for use during performances, and a stock of these and selected promotional goods is held by the charity. Closing stocks are reflected at the lower of historical cost and realisable value.

h Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within s 466-493 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and s 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

- i Critical estimates and judgements
In preparing the financial statements no judgements or estimates were required that would have a significant effect on the amounts recognised.
- j Financial instruments
- i. Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of less than three months.
- ii. Debtors and creditors
Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their transaction price.

2 Income from charitable activities

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Performance fees and royalties | 82,514 | 86,544 |
| Tour contributions | - | 3,120 |
| Income from sale and hire of music and related products | 2,759 | 3,218 |
| | <u>85,273</u> | <u>92,882</u> |

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

3 Expenditure on charitable activities

| | Direct Costs £ | Support Costs £ | Total 2024 £ | Total 2023 £ |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Performance Costs | 50,387 | 12,735 | 63,122 | 81,720 |
| <u>Direct Costs</u> | | | | |
| Choir Conductors and Accompanists | | | 26,020 | 39,474 |
| Hall Hire | | | 19,610 | 28,694 |
| Music Costs | | | 1,607 | 553 |
| Other performance costs | | | 3,150 | 175 |
| Transport and travel costs | | | - | 3,276 |
| | | | 50,387 | 72,172 |
| | Total 2024 | Governance element 2024 | Total 2023 | Governance element 2023 |
| <u>Support Costs</u> | | | | |
| AGM and board meeting costs | 265 | 265 | 258 | 258 |
| Bank charges and interest | 35 | - | 50 | - |
| Choir welfare | 991 | - | 2,427 | - |
| Independent examination | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Insurance and subscriptions | 611 | - | 579 | - |
| Legal Fees | 2,583 | 2,583 | - | - |
| Marketing and promotion | 1,754 | - | 484 | - |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 46 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Music library costs | 2,717 | - | 2,599 | - |
| Printing, postage and stationery | 294 | - | 138 | - |
| Transportation and travel | 139 | - | - | - |
| | 12,735 | 6,161 | 9,548 | 3,271 |
| Other Costs | | | 2024 | 2023 |
| Music and related products sold/hired | | | 1,429 | 1,038 |
| Donations | | | 2,400 | 1,887 |
| | | | 3,829 | 2,925 |
| Total Costs | | | £ 66,951 | £ 84,645 |

During the year a donation of £2,000 was made to the London Youth Choirs Chamber Choir scholarship fund (2023: £1,800), £250 to Gabrieli Roar and £150 to Halle Connect (2023: £87 to Crisis, relating to royalties earned from sales of the Choir's recording of Paul Finckham's *Ring the Bells*).

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

4 Staff costs; trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses; related party transactions

There were no employees during the year. Trustees, who are considered to be key management personnel, and other Choir members involved in the day to day running of the Choir give their time for free. None of the trustees received remuneration during the year. Expenditure incurred by trustees and other Choir members in fulfilling their obligations to the Choir may be reimbursed. During the year two trustees were reimbursed expenses incurred for transportation and travel, hospitality and communications software subscription totalling £90 (2023: three trustees were reimbursed expenses incurred for transportation and communications software subscription totalling £26).

Trustees engage in Choir activities on the same basis as other members. During the year the charity received no donations from trustees (2023: the charity received no donations from trustees). There were no other related party transactions requiring disclosure during the year.

5 Debtors

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Trade debtors | 256 | 262 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 5,715 | 545 |
| | 5,971 | 807 |

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

6 Investments and Cash at bank and in hand

Investments comprise bank deposits with a maturity of less than one year from the balance sheet date and are valued at the realisable amount at the balance sheet date.

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash and bank deposits held to meet short term commitments and are valued at the amount of cash held.

7 Creditors

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade creditors | - | 6,000 |
| Taxation and social security | 7,007 | 2,610 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 9,539 | 4,596 |
| | 16,546 | 13,206 |

Creditors are measured at their settlement amount.