

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID

**A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered Charity**

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH 2024

**Registered Charity Number 1095897 (England & Wales) SC039255 (Scotland)
Company Registered in England and Wales Number 04620683**

Registered Office and Principal Address:

**2 Lakeside Business Park,
Swan Lane,
Sandhurst, Berkshire
GU47 9DN**

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the Charity") are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. An explanation of the method of appointment of Trustees is provided in the Trustees' Report.

The Trustees serving during the year and at the time the accounts were signed were:

R H Bartlett	
B W Dalla Mura	
L D Hendle	
M McKenzie	
H E Murray	
D Pervez	
M P Smith	
R A M Smith	Chair
L A Stigant	
H M Tatum	
H M Tucker	
J C Uttley	
D C Wheeler	Treasurer
M R Williamson	(Resigned 26 th February 2023, Re-appointed 6 th September 2023)

Life Patrons	Lord Price CVO; Mike Coupe; Paul Monk
President	Allan Leighton
Chief Executive	Steve Barnes (Resigned 17 th March 2023), Mark Williamson (Appointed as interim CEO on 17 th March 2023, resigned 1 st September 2023) Kieran Hemsworth (Appointed 4 th September 2023)
Company Secretary	Catherine Robinson-McCormick
Registered Office	2 Lakeside Business Park, Swan Lane, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 9DN
Website	www.groceryaid.org.uk
Email	info@groceryaid.org.uk
Independent Auditors	Moore Kingston Smith LLP, 9 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2AP
Bankers	Lloyds Bank, 24 Broad Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 2BT
Investment providers	CCLA Investment Management Limited, London Newton Investment Management Limited, London Rathbone Brothers Plc, London

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The demand for GroceryAid's welfare services has risen dramatically in the year ending 31st March 2024, the total incidences of support has risen from 41,000 in the previous year to over 78,000 in the latest year, a staggering growth rate of 93%.

We have seen growth across all our welfare services, covering financial, emotional and practical support, however the support provided to help industry colleagues through the cost of living crisis has driven the growth in demand.

In our survey last December, 57% of grocery workers said that help with the cost of living would have a positive impact on their household, and this rose to 66% amongst workers paid under £20,000 a year.

To satisfy this growth in demand, GroceryAid spent over £6m on welfare support, which was £1m more than the previous year. GroceryAid, thanks to the generosity of its supporters, are always ready to support and care for grocery colleagues and their families through difficult times.

Supporting Industry Colleagues

In the year ending 31st March 2024, GroceryAid have experienced a dramatic increase in the demand for all its welfare services.

GroceryAid Grants Officers have dealt with a 57% increase in colleagues receiving a non-repayable financial grant. More than 22,000 colleagues have visited our cost-of-living web page and over 17,000 colleagues have used our MoneyHelper financial wellbeing hub.

Our School Essentials Grant, supported by the Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust, ran for the fourth year in June last year. Over 5,900 children have benefited from a £150 grant, helping families ensure their children started the new academic year with new school uniform and equipment.

Over last year there has also been a 22% increase in calls to our Helpline, which included a 11% increase of 'in the moment' counselling sessions with a qualified mental health counsellor and a 27% increase in calls to our Telephone Information Specialists, who provide practical advice.

GroceryAid is constantly reviewing its welfare offer to ensure we meet the changing needs of grocery colleagues. As part of our 'listen and learn' approach we work with senior industry colleagues as part of the Welfare Strategy Group and last year we conducted an in-depth study with grocery colleagues to remain close to the latest trends and will continue running this survey annually.

We expect the demand for our welfare services to continue to grow throughout 2024 and 2025, as industry colleagues continue to be impacted by economic pressures.

Raising Awareness

Raising awareness is a key priority for GroceryAid. In our recent survey of grocery colleagues only 18% said they have heard of the Charity; we therefore need to improve awareness and recognition to ensure that all grocery workers who find themselves requiring our help know that they can turn to us for free and confidential support. The Charity focusses on different activities, such as social media, digital communications and the use of channels owned by our supporters to raise awareness.

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GroceryAid Day, held last year on the 10th of May, was the day the industry came together to raise awareness of the Charity's welfare services, just under 300 companies took part, organising events, posting on social media and placing over 30,000 pieces of printed material.

In addition, the Charity also has a number of programmes with the objective of raising awareness and educating. The GroceryAid Network programme brings together future industry leaders to help raise awareness in their organisations. The programme continues to grow, last year the number of companies taking part has increased from 70 to 134. The GroceryAid Engage programme is a community of HR and Communications professionals, who join a webinar to discuss the latest welfare developments and marketing initiatives. Over the last year the number of companies taking part in this initiative has increased from 142 to 172.

We have a real challenge to raise awareness but, with our supporters, we continue to make a difference so that we can support more of our industry colleagues who need us.

Fundraising

Our fundraising income is important because, as we raise more, we can provide greater support to even more of our colleagues in need.

Our fundraising income continues to grow as we increase the number of events, increase the number of supporters, and offer more opportunities for companies to activate their brands. Over the last year, 15,700 industry colleagues have attended our events.

For the first time, four of our events raised over £1m in contribution; Barcode, Sporting Lunch, Asda's Tickled Pink Gala Ball and Sainsbury's Big Bash. We were delighted to have been chosen to continue to manage the Waitrose Garden Party for the next 3 years. We have also been appointed to manage three new events: Morrison's Big Night Out, the Booker Dragon Boat Race and the Charity Leadership Dinner.

The only way we can satisfy the increase in demand for our welfare services is through the tremendous support we get from companies across the grocery industry. Last year we have worked with over 500 companies, and we are delighted that 440 companies have been recognised with a GroceryAid Award.

The Diversity & Inclusion in Grocery Programme (D&I), which is managed by GroceryAid, has a vision to accelerate a truly diverse and inclusive grocery industry. The programme helps connect partners to accelerate their D&I journeys through 12 month mentoring sessions, monthly learning labs and an interactive hub. Last year the programme has continued to show impressive growth with the number of partners increasing from 77 to 91, and over 1,300 industry colleagues attending our live event. The Programme has also launched a maturity model, which enables partners and the industry to measure their progress on their D&I journey.

Our People

After an organisational health check, the Charity placed greater emphasis on making GroceryAid an even better place to work for its employees. As part of this review, Alicia Oughton has been recruited as Head of HR and sits as part of the Senior Leadership Team. During last year the Charity continued to invest in strengthening the team, with additional recruitment to support the increase in events, and additional recruitment to support the growth in demand for our welfare services.

Trustee Board

During the year there were no changes to the Trustee Board. Over the next three years, however several Trustees will come to an end of their term, and we would welcome those with the skills and experience we require, to put themselves forward for those vacancies. I would like to thank the Trustees for their help and support over the last year, their diligence and commitment to the Charity is truly appreciated.

I am incredibly proud of the GroceryAid team, along with our wonderful group of volunteers, who relentlessly focus on improving the lives of grocery colleagues and their families. I am also continually humbled by the amazing feedback we receive from our beneficiaries.

As we increase the level of awareness and reach more families in the sector who are in need, we will need to raise the amount we spend on our welfare services. We are only able to satisfy this growth in demand due to the support of companies across the industry. I would like to, once again, thank all our supporters for their tremendous, continued generosity.



Ruston Smith
Chair of GroceryAid Trustees

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The National Grocers Benevolent Fund, trading as GroceryAid, is a registered charity in England and Wales (registration number 1095897) and Scotland (registration number SC039255) and is constituted as a company limited by guarantee (registration number 04620683). Its governing document is its memorandum and articles of association.

The Charity is run by 14 serving Trustees who are also directors and members of the limited company. In that capacity the Trustees select new members of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees are responsible for compliance with our legal and statutory requirements and the safe and effective running of the charity. They meet every quarter to discuss and review both the day-to-day operations and the strategic direction of the charity. In addition, the Trustees also meet on an ad hoc basis when required.

The Trustees **appoint** the Chief Executive **who** manages the day-to-day operations of the Charity and reports to the quarterly Trustee meetings and contributes to the discussions in an advisory capacity. The senior direct reports are Mandi Leonard, Welfare Director, Jane Hill, Fundraising Director and Catherine Robinson-McCormick, Finance Director.

Remuneration for key management personnel is determined by a sub-committee of the Trustee Board - the Remuneration Committee. This committee has specific delegated responsibilities to:

- Set the remuneration policy for directors (salary, pension and benefits) in line with the approach taken for GroceryAid's employees
 - Determine salary levels for directors considering:
 - Individual directors' capabilities and contribution
 - Salary levels for comparable roles in organisation identified as suitable benchmarks;
 - Salary levels across GroceryAid; and
 - Overall appropriateness given charitable purpose, stakeholder perception and affordability.
- Be kept informed by the Chief Executive of any significant changes in the remuneration arrangements for GroceryAid's employees.
- The objectives of our senior remuneration policy are:
 - To be able recruit and retain individuals who will lead the successful delivery of our mission, and
 - To reward them fairly by taking account of their contribution, market levels and experience within GroceryAid.

The Remuneration Committee meets at least twice annually and is chaired by Hayley Tatum.

Various Trustees and industry colleagues sit on one or more of our six sub-committees covering welfare, welfare strategy, finance, fundraising, remuneration and recruitment. These committees consider each of their areas in depth and report to the Trustee Board on key developments, risks, plans and initiatives. These committees each have formal Terms of Reference and these are set out in the GroceryAid Policy Document, which is reviewed and updated annually. This document also contains various processes and procedures to ensure that we have appropriate controls in place for the effective and efficient operation of the charity.

From 2018, it was agreed that Trustees can serve for a three-year period and may be re-elected to serve for two further three-year periods i.e. a total of three terms. All GroceryAid Trustees have

signed an 'Eligibility to Serve' declaration form, and a Declaration of Interest and Connected Persons form. The possible existence of conflicts of interest is considered prior to the start of every meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Declaration of Interest and Connected Persons forms are completed annually and are held on file at the GroceryAid offices.

All nominations are approved by the Board of Trustees. All new Trustees have a formal induction that covers the role of the Charity and what is expected of them in their role as GroceryAid Trustees. Governance requirements of both Trustees and Senior Management are incorporated into the GroceryAid Policy Manual which forms part of ongoing training and updates at Trustee meetings.

No Trustees are paid by the Charity for their services.

Charity law requires organisations to demonstrate explicitly that their aims are for public benefit. The charitable activities of GroceryAid are available to people in need who are, or have been, engaged in the grocery or provisions trade, greengrocers and the off-licence trade, in any capacity and for their surviving spouses, civil partners and dependent children. The Trustee Board has discussed the issue of public benefit and are confident that the breadth and scope of the work of the Charity, as disclosed in this Report, clearly falls within the guidelines set in Section 17 of the 2011 Charities Act.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The objectives of the Charity are the provision of relief to persons in need, whether that be through ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage who:

- are or have been engaged in the grocery trade, in any capacity; or
- are the surviving spouse, civil partner or otherwise long-term partner or child (or other dependent or former dependent) of persons who have been engaged in the grocery trade

The term 'grocery trade' means any work relating to the manufacturing, logistics, distribution or sales of groceries or other products typically sold in supermarkets, whether wholesale or retail. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the off-licence trade.

Our vision is that everyone engaged in this trade can turn to us for help. Our long-term objectives are to work with the industry to identify and support those in need, to address social isolation through our Helpline and Carer's initiative and to enhance our income streams to further support our industry colleagues.

The key activities of the Charity are providing emotional, practical and financial support to colleagues working in the grocery sector, who meet our eligibility criteria as agreed and regularly reviewed by the Trustees. This includes, but is not exclusive to:

- Non-repayable financial grants
- 24/7 freephone Helpline providing emotional and practical support
- Relationship counselling
- Legal advice
- Digital wellbeing support for adults and young people
- Online wellbeing platform
- Workplace critical incident support
- Managers support line
- Debt advice
- Online financial wellbeing
- Gambling addiction support

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Emotional and practical support services are delivered in partnership with expert, third party organisations, to provide bespoke services to colleagues.

FUNDRAISING

The vast majority of the Charity's income comes from the industry we work to support. This can be in the form of donations and/or by supporting regional and national fundraising events. The remainder is derived from the charity's investments.

GroceryAid fundraises through industry events organised by its branches and its central fundraising team, who on occasion use the services of event management companies to assist in organising events. It also received donations during the year from other organisations which organise events for the industry.

No monies are raised by public collections. As a result, the Charity can be sure there are no fundraising approaches made to vulnerable individuals. GroceryAid does not receive any support from either local or central government.

GroceryAid is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and follows the fundraising code. GroceryAid has not received any complaints about its fundraising activities.

RESERVES POLICY

The aim of our Reserves Policy is to ensure the sustainability of the Charity.

The Charity uses a risk-based approach to the setting of its minimum level of reserves.

The sustainability of the fund is paramount to our beneficiaries and the Trustees believe that having considered our key risks and their potential impact, a minimum level of £6M of reserves is sufficient to cover the current worst case scenario, identified as part of a stress testing exercise. As at 31st March 2024, GroceryAid's free reserves were £11.4M – where the excess reserves will support both the investment in the extension of our support to meet colleagues' new needs but to also meet the increase in the applications for financial support.

As described in the Strategic Report, we have developed a strategy to raise awareness of the Charity within the industry. We are therefore anticipating a significant increase in applications for financial support as a result of this work and that the level of reserves will be reduced over the next 12 months and beyond.

GOING CONCERN

During the year to 31st March 2024, the Charity has been able to run a full calendar of events and moreover increased the number of events we run. The FY25 calendar of events are **already** over 90% sold out and demand for tickets remains strong.

Careful cash management has ensured that the Charity has maintained a strong cash balance. Furthermore, over the last three years, the Charity has not needed to draw down on reserves.

The Trustees have assessed the principal risks and formulated a suitable reserves policy as stated above. A number of scenarios have been modelled based on different income and demand assumptions. Based on the results of these models and the level of reserves, the Trustees are

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satisfied that GroceryAid, the charitable organisation, has adequate resources to continue as a going concern.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

As of 31st March 2024, GroceryAid's investment fund was valued at £10,402,854.

This is held by the Charity to underpin the value of Reserves retained to ensure the Charity's sustainability. The Trustees' objective is that the Reserves do not decrease in real value by aiming to achieve long-term capital growth ahead of inflation.

The Reserves are also key in the provision of income to help fund current expenditure. To meet these objectives the Trustee Board has set a target return of CPI +3% per year over a rolling five-year period. This is a target, and the Trustees acknowledge that due to fluctuations in markets this may not always be possible.

The GroceryAid Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the Trustee board and meets quarterly to review financial controls within the charity, oversee investment performance and recommend changes to the investments as necessary. Our Investment Policy allows us to manage the money we raise and the money we need to have in reserve for unforeseen eventualities.

At 31st March 2024, 99% of the reserves were invested in four Common Investment Funds. These are: Newton Growth and Income Fund for Charities, Newton Global Higher Income Fund, Rathbone's Core Investment Fund for Charities and CCLA Charities Property Fund. The remaining 1% is held in cash deposits.

With regard to ethical investing, the Trustees continue to be satisfied that our investment managers invest responsibly, having regard to the Environment, Social and Governance consideration and our managers exercise our stewardship responsibilities in an appropriate way.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

The Charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary which is incorporated in the U.K., GroceryAid Trading Limited, company registration No. 2952403. The company undertakes certain fundraising activities to raise money for its parent company, the National Grocers Benevolent Fund. The company utilises resources from the parent company, which it pays for on an arms-length basis as resources are required.

The company generated a profit for the year of £4.53M and had net assets of £4.66M at the Balance Sheet date.

The Charity will continue to use the Trading Company in future years and will continue to review whether certain fundraising activities are more appropriate for the Trading Company.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of National Grocers Benevolent Fund for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the group 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 Statement of Recommended Practice;
- 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 operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees 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.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

AUDITORS

A resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting with regard to audit arrangements for the forthcoming financial year.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES

Ruston Smith (Chair)



4th September 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

PERFORMANCE

During the year to 31st March 2024:

- GroceryAid spent over £6m supporting grocery colleagues and their families with emotional, practical and financial challenges.
- GroceryAid provided over 78,000 incidences of support throughout the financial year, which includes financial grants, calls to the Helpline and use of our digital and partner services. This was a 93% increase on the previous year, mainly driven by grocery colleagues looking for financial help and support due to the cost-of-living crisis.
- GroceryAid provided over 6,800 financial grants, which was an increase of 57% versus the previous financial year. This growth was driven by an increase in the number of Cost-of-Living, Carers, and School Essentials Grants, paid to beneficiaries.
- The School Essentials Grant provided over 5,900 children the opportunity to return to school with a new school uniform and equipment.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

- Our operational unrestricted deficit of £0.2M, which combined with a surplus on restricted funds of £0.3M and a net gain on investments of £0.5M, resulted in an overall surplus of £0.6M. In comparison, in the year to 31st March 2023, there was an annual surplus of £0.2M, which combined with a net loss on investments of £0.6M, resulted in an overall deficit of £0.4M.
- Total income for the period amounted to £15.9M, an increase of £1.9M compared to the prior year and reflects the enhanced events calendar run in the year combined with an increase in corporate donations.
- Total costs of £15.7M were £1.3M higher than the previous year, and reflect increased welfare spend, combined with the costs incurred through an enhanced calendar of events compared to the prior year (including £0.5M donated to Comic Relief as part of the profit share agreement for the Sainsbury's Big Bash event). Net contribution from centrally run events was £0.8M higher than the previous year.
- As of 31st March 2024, cash at bank and in hand was £4.2M, £0.7M lower than the prior year.

PRINCIPAL RISKS & MITIGATIONS

Our Risk Management Policy seeks to identify any major risks to which the Charity may be exposed and that may affect the realisation of our goals.

Our short-term targets and long-term objectives are reviewed by the Trustee Board at our quarterly Trustee meetings. The Risk Assessment procedure is also regularly reviewed and we can confirm systems are in place to mitigate those risks. This assessment forms part of our Policy Document which is updated and issued annually.

The Trustees consider the key risks and mitigations facing GroceryAid are:

- Financial and reputational damage that could occur in the event of a cyberattack on the organisation. Cybercrime continues to rise in scale and complexity. We manage this risk

through regular staff training combined with external penetration and phishing exercises undertaken to determine any potential areas of weakness.

- Income generated from donations and other fundraising activities is insufficient to meet the needs of our beneficiaries. We manage this through reviews and discussions at each Trustee meeting and through our Fundraising Committee, led by the President of GroceryAid, that has over 50 senior members from the industry, who meet three times per year to review and discuss our fundraising efforts.
- Breaches of regulatory body requirements, leads to interventions, fines, closure or in the case of Health & Safety breaches, loss of life. We manage this risk through appropriate insurance, independent reviews of our systems, appropriate policies and processes, and regular reviews to ensure all remains in line with best practice and current legislation.

FUTURE PLANS

Strategy and Business Plan

During the year, GroceryAid worked with Accenture to develop a 2030 vision for the Charity, with a focus on driving awareness, adapting the welfare offer, and outlining new income driving initiatives, to support more grocery colleagues and their families in need.

Our priorities for the 2024/25 year, to further our charitable objects and deliver public benefit are as follows:

- To raise over £9.8m in net income
- To expand our calendar of events to include Morrisons and Booker
- To drive a much higher level of awareness of the Charity's welfare offer with front line grocery workers
- To continue to expand our welfare offer to better reflect the needs of grocery workers and their families
- To continue to grow our welfare spend to match the continued strong growth in the incidences of support
- To ensure the maximum proportion of our income from supporters flows through to helping our beneficiaries.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES

Ruston Smith (Chair)



4th September 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, TRADING AS GROCERYAID

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Grocers Benevolent Fund (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise of the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheets, the Group 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 group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended) and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the strategic report and the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the trustees' annual report.

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

- the parent charitable company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group and parent charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Explanation as to what extent 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.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (as amended), regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud

may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report addressed to them and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the charitable company and charitable company's members as a body, and the charity's trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Luke Holt (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

12 September 2024
9 Appold Street
London
EC2A 2AP

Moore Kingston Smith LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	1,557,544	823,881	2,381,425	2,246,561
Central fundraising	5	12,845,219	-	12,845,219	11,857,851
Branch fundraising	6	231,608	-	231,608	227,009
Investment Income	7	392,712	-	392,712	275,053
Other Income – gross gain on sale of property		-	-	-	-
Total Income		15,027,083	823,881	15,850,964	14,606,474
Expenditure on:					
Cost of raising funds					
Central fundraising	5	8,944,935	-	8,944,935	8,748,848
Branch fundraising	6	73,084	-	73,084	95,353
Charitable activities					
Grants	8	4,218,305	364,438	4,582,743	3,551,534
Goods and services	8	2,011,492	109,728	2,121,220	2,009,846
Other Expenses	10	6,305	-	6,305	-
Total Expenditure before investments		15,254,121	474,166	15,728,287	14,405,580
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	521,593	-	521,593	(580,862)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		294,555	349,715	644,270	(379,968)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward from previous year		12,574,396	0	12,574,396	12,954,366
Total funds carried forward		12,868,952	349,715	13,218,667	12,574,396

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period. All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 23-39 form part of these financial statements.

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID


**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST MARCH 2024**

		Group		Charity	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Notes					
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	13	1,373,917	1,445,896	1,373,917	1,445,896
Intangible assets	14	97,440	38,082	97,440	38,082
Investments	15	10,402,854	9,583,054	10,412,854	9,593,054
Total fixed assets		11,874,211	11,067,032	11,884,211	11,077,032
Current Assets					
Debtors	16	9,230,670	6,098,408	1,597,192	1,029,344
Cash at bank and in hand	17	4,208,881	4,869,375	2,292,878	2,179,762
Total current assets		13,439,551	10,967,783	3,890,070	3,209,106
CREDITORS:	18	(12,095,094)	(9,460,419)	(7,204,023)	(5,601,651)
Amounts falling due within one year					
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,344,457	1,507,364	(3,313,953)	(2,392,545)
NET ASSETS		13,218,667	12,574,396	8,570,258	8,684,487
FUNDS					
Unrestricted income fund	20	12,868,952	12,574,396	8,220,543	8,684,487
Designated fund	20	-	-	-	-

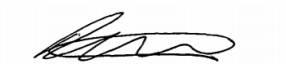
NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID

Restricted income fund	20	349,715	-	349,715	-
TOTAL FUNDS		13,218,667	12,574,396	8,570,258	8,684,487

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on the 4th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Ruston Smith, Chair, GroceryAid Trustees



David Wheeler, Treasurer GroceryAid

Charity Number 1095897
Company Number: 04620683

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
NET CASH (USED IN)/PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	23		(680,364)		1,115,062
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Dividends, Interest and Rents for Investment		392,712		275,053	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,422)		(264,623)	
Purchase of intangible assets		(73,213)		(6,199)	
Proceeds from the sale of investments		-		-	
Purchase of investments		(298,207)		(260,923)	
Net cash provided by investing activities			(19,870)		(256,692)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(660,494)		858,370
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			4,869,375		4,011,005
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	24		4,208,881		4,869,375

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies of the charity are as follows:

a) **General information**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 2 Lakeside Business Park, Swan Lane, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 9DN.

b) **Statement of compliance and basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', 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 (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at fair value.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 and has taken regard of the charity commissions guidance on public benefit, including 'Public Benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity, and are rounded to the nearest £.

c) **Going Concern**

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees have considered possible events and conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. A number of scenarios have been modelled based on different income and demand assumptions. Based on the results of these models and the level of reserves, the Trustees are satisfied that GroceryAid, the charitable company, will be able to continue its operations and meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. The charitable company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

d) **Method of consolidation**

The financial statements consolidate the results and position of the subsidiary undertaking (see note 3) and all of the Charity's branches on a line-by-line basis in both the Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) and the Balance Sheet.

e) **Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement, it is probable that the amount will be received, and it can be measured reliably as follows:

Voluntary income

Income from donations is accounted for on a receipt.

Grant income

Grants are recognised when any conditions for entitlement are met. Grants received before the conditions for entitlement have been met are deferred and included in creditors at the year end.

Legacies

Income from legacies is accounted for on a receivable basis being included at the earliest of the date of receipt or at the point which notification is received, provided that there is sufficient evidence to provide the necessary probability that the legacy will be received.

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Central and branch fundraising

Income from fundraising is accounted for on a receivable basis. Income associated with a particular event is reported only upon that event having taken place, with income received in advance of events being treated as deferred income.

Investment income

Income from investments is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Gifts in Kind and Donated Services

Items donated to the charity to assist with particular fundraising events are recognised in the financial statements at market value as income to and resources expended against the respective activities. The donation of services to the charity is similarly recognised within the financial statements by the inclusion of a charge to expenditure and a corresponding credit to income, based on the estimated market value.

f) **Resources expended**

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis. The inclusion of costs within the various categories of expenditure was made on the following basis:

Costs of raising funds

This category is used to record any costs which are associated with the cost of raising funds from whatever source and will include costs incurred in attracting donations and sponsorship.

Investment management fees

The cost of managing the Charity's investment funds is not charged separately by the investment managers but is instead effectively recovered by way of a deduction from the funds.

Charitable activities

This category is used to record expenditure incurred in fulfilling the Charity's objectives: it includes the payment of monetary grants to beneficiaries, expenditure made in providing beneficiaries with goods and services, and the costs of distributing and administering such direct charitable provision. The cost of such provision, and that in respect of monetary grants in particular, is recognised when award of the grant has been communicated to the beneficiary. Grants are awarded on an annual basis and are subject to annual review.

Governance

This category comprises costs incurred in the general management of the Charity, as distinct from that concerned directly with the conduct of the Charity's operational activities, and includes those costs associated with ensuring that the Charity complies with applicable laws and regulations, to include the preparation of information required for public accountability.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Expenditure is classified according to the above headings that aggregate all costs related to those categories, whether they be directly attributable or apportioned as such. The bases of the apportionment of costs are consistent with the use of the staff resources under each heading.

g) **Creditors**

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

h) **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for income and expenditure during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

The key assumptions involving estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets or liabilities within the next financial year are as follows:

Useful life of Tangible and Intangible fixed assets

Both Tangible and Intangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives. The actual lives of the asset and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. The useful life is set depending upon asset class. The Trustees believe this is an appropriate methodology for valuing these fixed assets.

i) **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the asset and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. Residual value assessments consider issues such as the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

All assets costing over £1,000 are capitalised subject to considerations as to the likely useful life of each item. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives by equal annual instalments at the following rates:

Improvements to freehold	2% per annum
Freehold buildings	1% per annum
Office equipment	20% per annum
Furniture fixtures and fittings	10% per annum

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

j) **Intangible assets**

All assets costing over £1,000 are capitalised subject to considerations as to the likely useful life of each item. Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives by equal annual instalments at the following rates:

Software	20% per annum
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k) **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 the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are measured at the cash or consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

l) **Investments**

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the bid price. Gains and losses on the disposal and revaluation of investments are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

investment gains and losses are combined in the statement of financial activities. The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

m) **Fund accounting**

Funds held by the charity as unrestricted funds are free for the Trustees to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects as set out in the Charity's Reserves policy. Designated funds are those that have been set aside by Trustees for specific purposes. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors. At the year end, any restricted fund deficits can be eliminated by a transfer from unrestricted funds unless the Trustees are of the opinion that such deficits will be eliminated by future giving. There are no transfers out of restricted fund unless approval is given by the donors.

n) **Pension costs**

Pension contributions are charged in the financial statements as they become payable.

o) **Publicity**

Costs associated with the objective of raising awareness of the Charity and its profile, particularly within the grocery trade, are included under this sub-heading within Central Fundraising. This policy was adopted on the basis that increasing awareness of the Charity, particularly within the grocery industry, should enhance its relevance and influence and so, in turn, better enable it to raise funds through its various activities.

p) **Irrecoverable VAT**

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

q) **Cash & Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

2. Results of the parent undertaking

The gross income and result of the parent charity excluding those of its subsidiary were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross income	9,419,249	6,029,799
Net movement in funds	(1,172,968)	(1,674,610)

3. Subsidiary undertaking

The charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, GroceryAid Trading Limited, by virtue of the ownership of that company's entire share capital of 10,000 ordinary £1 shares, to which all voting rights are attached. The subsidiary is incorporated in the U.K., company registration number 02952403. GroceryAid Trading Limited may be used to operate certain activities that might be regarded as trading. The Trading Company's registered office is 2 Lakeside Business Park, Swan Lane, Sandhurst, GU47 9DN. The subsidiary donates its taxable profit to the National Grocers Benevolent Fund under the Gift Aid scheme. A summary of its trading results for the year to 31st March 2024 is shown below and accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Profit and Loss Account – Summary	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	11,404,809	10,988,891
Net Profit/(Loss) and Retained Reserves	4,529,493	3,770,993

The subsidiary's net assets were comprised as follows:

Debtors	13,141,958	8,811,858
Cash at Bank	1,916,002	2,689,614
Creditors	(10,399,550)	(7,601,562)
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	4,658,410	3,899,910

4. Voluntary Income – Donations and Legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations – unrestricted	1,557,544	1,655,561
Voluntary Income – restricted:		
Grant from Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust	466,666	466,000
Funds for retailer hardship fund	357,215	125,000
TOTAL	2,381,425	2,246,561

In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

5. Fundraising – all Unrestricted

Central fundraising		2024	
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
Central fundraising - unrestricted	12,316,226	(6,037,883)	6,278,343
Allocated support costs	-	(2,240,427)	(2,240,427)
PR Marketing	-	(137,632)	(137,632)
Total current central fundraising	12,316,226	(8,416,012)	3,900,284
Gifts in Kind	528,993	(528,993)	-
Total	12,845,219	(8,944,935)	3,900,284

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Central fundraising	2023		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
Central fundraising - unrestricted	10,856,966	(5,754,362)	5,102,604
Allocated support costs	-	(1,895,834)	(1,895,834)
PR Marketing	-	(97,767)	(97,767)
Total current central fundraising	10,856,966	(7,747,963)	3,109,003
Gifts in Kind	1,000,885	(1,000,885)	-
Total	11,857,851	(8,748,848)	3,109,003

PR Marketing costs includes the estimated value of discounted advertisements placed in various trade publications of £16,300 (2023: £91,284) and related development work. This support is to help raise the awareness of the work of the charity and its fundraising efforts.

6. Branch fundraising

	2024		2023
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
	£	£	£
Total Branch Fundraising	231,608	(73,084)	158,524
			131,656

Gifts in Kind are included in the individual branch fundraising income and expenses above amounting to £nil in total (2023: £nil)

7. Investment income

	2024		2023
	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
	£	£	£
Dividend and other investment income	306,264	306,264	274,538
Bank deposit interest receivable	86,448	86,448	515
Other investment income	-	-	-
Total Investment Income	392,712	392,712	275,053

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

8. Charitable expenditure

2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Monetary Grants	3,135,881	364,438	3,500,319
Provision of goods and services	1,547,595	109,728	1,657,323
Allocated support costs	1,546,321	-	1,546,321
Total	6,229,797	474,166	6,703,963

2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Monetary Grants	2,143,796	421,404	2,565,200
Provision of goods and services	1,452,036	135,096	1,587,132
Allocated support costs	1,409,048	-	1,409,048
Total	5,004,880	556,500	5,561,380

The grants paid to individuals are to relieve financial hardship in accordance with the objects of the Charity. The provision of goods and services includes one-off crisis payments, provision of basic essentials, helpline facilities, respite and other goods and services in furtherance of the charity's objects.

9. Governance costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit – Current year	36,308	24,097
Audit – Relating to Prior year	-	-
Meetings	77	82
Legal advice	77,565	155,397
Other Services (including payroll, VAT & Tax)	30	25
Trustees' expenses	-	-
Trustees' indemnity insurance	5,911	5,218
	119,891	184,819

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

10. Other Expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Legal advice	-	-
Release of other creditor	-	-
Prior year	6,305	-
	6,305	-

11. Support Costs

2024	Central Fundraising	Charitable Activities	Governance	Total
	£	£	£	£
Staff related costs	1,855,808	883,886	272,747	3,012,441
Direct costs (note 9)	-	-	119,891	119,891
Overheads	488,021	227,779	42,018	757,818
Governance costs	-	434,656	(434,656)	-
Total allocation	2,343,829	1,546,321	-	3,890,150

2023	Central Fundraising	Charitable Activities	Governance	Total
	£	£	£	£
Staff related costs	1,580,522	785,821	222,716	2,589,059
Direct costs (note 9)	-	-	184,819	184,819
Overheads	373,842	184,179	31,512	589,533
Governance costs	-	439,047	(439,047)	-
Total allocation	1,954,364	1,409,047	-	3,363,411

The costs shown above are not specific to any one activity and have been allocated on the basis of a judgement as to the proportion of time spent on each of the activities.

12. Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	2,256,834	1,892,259
Termination payments	-	27,350
Temp Staff	40,395	55,168
Employer's National Insurance	248,913	210,664
Pension contributions	276,357	212,603
Health insurance	29,220	22,282
	2,851,719	2,420,326

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

The average monthly head count was 53 staff (2023: 41 Staff) and the average monthly number of employees (including casual and part-time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Charitable welfare	18.7	15.3
Fundraising	30.9	23.9
Governance	3.1	2.2
Average Headcount	52.7	41.4

8 out of the total of 53 employees at the year-end are part-time (2023: 7 out of 41 employees). There were 9 employees (2023: 6 employees) with emoluments above £60,000 per annum.

The number of senior post holders and other staff who receive emoluments, excluding pension contributions but including benefits in kind, in the following ranges were:

	2024	2023
£60,000 to £69,999	3	1
£70,000 to £79,999	3	1
£80,000 to £89,999	-	-
£90,000 to £99,999	1	1
£100,000 to £109,999	1	1
£110,000 to £119,999	1	1
£120,000 to £129,999	-	-
£130,000+	-	1

- (i) The pension arrangements operated by the charity are for all members of staff and provide benefits on a defined contribution basis. Contributions paid in accordance with the rules of the scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities as they become payable. The cost for the year was £276,357 (2023: £212,603) and there were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at the balance sheet date.
- (ii) The charity holds an investment bond, valued in the accounts at £436 (2023: £427), which is used to supplement the pension of a former Director General.
- (iii) Funds belonging to the Charity have been used for the purchase of insurance to indemnify the Trustees against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The cost recognised for the year in providing that insurance was £5,911 (2023: £5,218).
- (iv) The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, Chief Executive, Fundraising Director, Welfare Director and Finance Director & Company Secretary. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £550,460 (2023: £647,383).
- (v) During the period, no termination payments were made (2023: termination payments were made to one individual)
- (vi) During the period, no trustees received any remuneration, nor did they receive any expenses (2023: £nil)

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

13. Tangible assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Office Equipment £	Furniture, fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<u>Cost:</u>				
Brought forward	1,555,018	109,535	32,913	1,697,466
Additions	-	1,422	-	1,422
Disposals	-	(4,717)	-	(4,717)
Carried forward	1,555,018	106,240	32,913	1,694,171
<u>Depreciation</u>				
Brought forward	194,492	48,162	8,916	251,570
Charge for year	49,430	20,313	3,146	72,889
Disposals	-	(4,205)	-	(4,205)
Carried forward	243,922	64,270	12,062	320,254
Net book value carried forward	1,311,096	41,970	20,851	1,373,917
Net book value brought forward	1,360,526	61,373	23,997	1,445,896

All of the Charity group's fixed assets were held for functional charity use and all assets are used in the running and administration of the Charity.

14. Intangible assets

	Website £	Software £	Total £
<u>Cost:</u>			
Brought forward	45,376	145,062	190,438
Additions	-	73,213	73,213
Disposals	-	(79,582)	(79,582)
Carried forward	45,376	138,693	184,069
<u>Depreciation</u>			
Brought forward	21,786	130,570	152,356
Charge for year	9,075	4,780	13,855
Disposals	-	(79,582)	(79,582)
Carried forward	30,861	55,768	86,629
Net book value carried forward	14,515	82,925	97,440
Net book value brought forward	23,590	14,492	38,082

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

15. Investments

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
<u>Analysis of Movement of Investments</u>				
Market value at beginning of year	9,593,054	9,912,993	9,593,054	9,912,993
Additions to investments at cost	298,207	260,923	298,207	260,923
Disposals at market value	-	-	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	521,593	(580,862)	521,593	(580,862)
Market value at end of year	10,412,854	9,593,054	10,412,854	9,593,054
<u>Investments held</u>				
Listed investments	10,402,854	9,583,054	10,402,854	9,583,054
Investments in subsidiary undertakings	-	-	10,000	10,000
Total investments held	10,402,854	9,583,054	10,412,854	9,593,054

Unrestricted fund investments consist of a portfolio of listed investments managed on the charity's behalf by professional fund managers. The following investments make up more than 5% of the total investment portfolio:

	% of total	Market Value
BNY Mellon Global Income Fund Newton Inst Shares 1	17%	£1,744,278
Newton Growth and Income Fund for Charities Inc Class	31%	£3,188,309
Rathbones Core Investment Fund for Charities	39%	£4,102,582
CCLA COIF Charities Property Fund	13%	£1,366,100

16. Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Current:				
Trade debtors	6,336,642	4,032,275	1,289,196	797,859
Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking			-	-
Other debtors	2,587,532	1,836,148	1,500	1,500
Prepayments	172,428	134,652	172,428	134,652
Accrued income	134,068	87,222	134,068	87,222
	9,230,670	6,090,297	1,597,192	1,021,233
Loans receivable secured on property	-	8,111	-	8,111
	9,230,670	6,098,408	1,597,192	1,029,344

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

17. Cash at bank and in hand

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Head office bank current account	2,289,275	1,925,933	2,289,275	1,925,934
Head office deposit accounts	195	251,925	195	251,925
Trading Co bank account	1,916,002	2,689,614	-	-
Branch bank accounts *	3,409	1,903	3,408	1,903
	4,208,881	4,869,375	2,292,878	2,179,762

*Deposit account in Northern Ireland only.

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	(1,032,234)	(987,378)	(228,265)	(124,545)
Other creditors	(9,885,051)	(7,006,922)	(699,628)	(791,983)
Accruals	(113,572)	(105,500)	(84,011)	(60,929)
Deferred income	(1,064,238)	(1,360,619)	(683,640)	(881,400)
Amounts due to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	(5,508,479)	(3,742,794)
	(12,095,095)	(9,460,419)	(7,204,023)	(5,601,651)

Movement on deferred income balances was as follows:

Balance brought forward	(1,360,619)	(4,176,029)	(881,400)	(375,799)
Released to statement of financial activities	1,360,619	4,176,029	881,400	375,799
Fund raising proceeds received	(1,064,238)	(1,360,619)	(683,640)	(881,400)
Balance carried forward	(1,064,238)	(1,360,619)	(683,640)	(881,400)

19. Commitments under operating lease

	2024	2023
	£	£
Office equipment		
Amounts to be paid		
Within 1 year	7,072	3,577
Between 2 - 5 Years	8,402	5,864
Over 5 Years	-	-
	15,474	9,441

Operating lease costs in the year ending 31st March 2024, were £4,451. (2023: £5,850)

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

20. Funds

At the balance sheet date restricted funds were represented by current assets with the balance of the Charity's assets and liabilities were representing the unrestricted funds.

The Restricted Funds comprise:

- 1) The Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust grant received during the year, which can only be used for certain categories of our beneficiaries. As at the end of FY24, there were no unspent funds.
- 2) Unspent funds from a retailer for a fund administered by the charity for those in the industry impacted by breast cancer.

GROUP	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Carried forward
Year to 31 March 2024						
General funds						
Unrestricted fund	12,574,396	15,027,083	(15,254,120)	521,593	-	12,868,952
Total general funds	12,574,396	15,027,083	(15,254,120)	521,593	-	12,868,952
Restricted funds						
Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust	-	466,666	(466,666)	-	-	-
Breast Cancer Fund	-	357,215	(7,500)	-	-	349,715
Total restricted funds	-	823,881	(474,166)	-	-	349,715
Total funds	12,574,396	15,850,964	(15,728,286)	521,593	-	13,218,667

	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Carried forward
CHARITY						
Year to 31 March 2024						
General funds						
Unrestricted fund	8,684,487	8,595,369	(9,580,906)	521,593	-	8,220,543
Total general funds	8,684,487	8,595,369	(9,580,906)	521,593	-	8,220,543
Restricted funds						
Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust	-	466,666	(466,666)	-	-	-
Breast Cancer Fund	-	357,215	(7,500)	-	-	349,715
Total restricted funds	-	823,881	(474,166)	-	-	349,715
Total funds	8,684,487	9,419,250	(10,055,072)	521,593	-	8,570,258

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

GROUP & CHARITY	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Carried forward
Year to 31 March 2023						
General funds						
Unrestricted fund	12,558,620	14,015,475	(13,725,749)	(580,862)	306,912	12,574,396
Designated funds – Covid 19	278,590	-	(123,332)	-	(155,258)	-
Designated funds – office refurb	96,904	-	-	-	(96,904)	-
Total general funds	12,934,114	14,015,475	(13,849,081)	(580,862)	54,750	12,574,396
Restricted funds						
Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust	-	466,000	(466,000)	-	-	-
Retailer hardship fund	20,250	125,000	(90,500)	-	(54,750)	-
Total restricted funds	20,250	591,000	(556,500)	-	(54,750)	-
Total funds	12,954,366	14,606,475	(14,405,581)	(580,862)	-	12,574,396

21. Net assets

2024 Consolidated Group	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,373,917	-	1,373,917
Intangible fixed assets	97,440	-	97,440
Investments	10,402,854	-	10,402,854
Current assets	13,089,836	349,715	13,439,551
Current liabilities	(12,095,095)	-	(12,095,095)
Total	12,868,952	349,715	13,218,667

2024 Charity	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,373,917	-	1,373,917
Intangible fixed assets	97,440	-	97,440
Investments	10,412,854	-	10,412,854
Current assets	3,540,355	349,715	3,890,070
Current liabilities	(7,204,023)	-	(7,204,023)
Total	8,220,543	349,715	8,570,258

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

2023 Consolidated Group	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,445,896	-	1,445,896
Intangible fixed assets	38,082	-	38,082
Investments	9,583,054	-	9,583,054
Current assets	10,913,033	54,750	10,967,783
Current liabilities	(9,460,419)	-	((9,460,419))
Total	12,519,646	54,750	12,574,396

2023 Charity	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,445,896	-	1,445,896
Intangible fixed assets	38,082	-	38,082
Investments	9,593,054	-	9,593,054
Current assets	3,154,355	54,750	3,209,105
Current liabilities	(5,601,650)	-	(5,601,650)
Total	8,629,737	54,750	8,684,487

22. Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is limited to £1.

23. Reconciliation of Net Incoming Resources to Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow from Operating Activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	644,270	(379,968)
Income from investments	(306,264)	(274,538)
Interest receivable	(86,448)	(515)
(Gains)/losses on investments	(521,593)	(580,862)
Depreciation & Amortisation	86,743	84,768
Loss (Profit) on sale of fixed assets	513	3,487
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(3,132,263)	(2,227,924)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	2,634,678	3,328,891
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(680,364)	(1,115,062)

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

24. Reconciliation of Net cash Flow Movement in Net Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period	(660,494)	858,370
Change in net funds	(660,494)	858,370
Net funds at 1 April	4,869,375	4,011,005
Net funds at 31 March	4,208,881	4,869,375

25. Analysis of changes in Net Funds

	1-Apr-2023	Cash flows	31-Mar-2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank	4,869,375	(660,494)	4,208,881

26. Related party transactions

During the year ending 31st March 2024, there were no related party transactions (2023: nil).

27. Parent company Statement of Financial Activity

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	5,328,537	823,881	6,152,418	3,772,249
Central fundraising	2,642,511	-	2,642,511	1,755,488
Branch fundraising	231,608	-	231,608	227,009
Investment Income	392,712	-	392,712	275,053
Total Income	8,595,368	823,881	9,419,249	6,029,799
Expenditure on:				
Cost of generating funds				
Central fundraising	3,271,722	-	3,271,722	2,417,478
Branch fundraising	73,084	-	73,084	95,353
Charitable activities				
Grants	4,218,305	364,438	4,582,743	3,551,534
Goods and services	2,011,492	109,728	2,121,220	2,009,846
Other Expenses	6,303	-	6,303	-
Total Expenditure	9,580,906	474,166	10,055,072	8,074,211

NATIONAL GROCERS BENEVOLENT FUND, trading as GROCERYAID
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

Net gains/(losses) on investments	521,593	-	521,593	(580,862)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds	(463,945)	349,715	(114,230)	(2,625,274)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward from previous year	8,684,487	-	8,684,487	11,309,761
Total funds carried forward	8,220,542	349,715	8,570,257	8,684,487