

DEAFCONNECT
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Company No: 06423466

Charity No: 1124196

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Contents	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Report of the Directors and Trustees	2 - 5
Independent Examiners Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expense Account)	7
Statement of financial position	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 – 14

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name

Deafconnect

Charity Registration Number

1124196

Company Registration Number

06423466

Registered Office

Spencer Dallington Community Centre
Tintern Avenue
Northampton
NN5 7BZ

Board of Trustees

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Claire Gogerty (Chair)
Mark Symmonds
Jack Knowles
Julie White-Fasulo – (Resigned 23/04/2024)
Anthony Williams
Christine Gallagher
Rhiannon Beswick

Chief Executive Officer

Jenni Dawkins

Independent Examiner

Lorraine Scullion MAAT
17 Peregrine Place
East Hunsbury
Northampton NN4 0SL

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
The Drapery Branch, 41 The Drapery
Northampton, NN1 2EY

DEAFCONNECT
(A company limited by guarantee)

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The directors, who are also trustees for the purposes of charitable law, present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Deafconnect is registered with the Charity Commission under number 1124196. The charity was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 9 November 2007. The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment, induction, and training of new trustees

The board of Deafconnect comprises not less than four and not more than ten directors. At each AGM one third of the trustees (or if there is not a multiple of three the number nearest to one third) retire by rotation. At this year's AGM, Jack Knowles and Mark Symmonds will retire and hopefully both will offer themselves for reappointment. Directors are appointed to the board based on an assessment of skills required to provide the strategic direction of the charitable company. As well as a general induction to the charitable company, newly appointed directors receive an induction in line with their individual requirements.

Organisational structure

The directors delegate operational responsibility for the organisation to the Chief Executive Officer through an agreed work plan.

Risk management review

The Directors monitor risks to which the organisation is exposed, and mitigation is part of the organisation's work plan.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In shaping the charitable company's objectives for the period and planning its activities the Directors have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The object of the charity is to support and empower Deaf and hearing impaired in the counties of England together with their Carers, dependents, and families.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the directors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

DEAFCONNECT
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Deafconnect services continue to be stretched beyond capacity most of the time. We continue to feel the effects of the pandemic plus the subsequent cost of living crisis. This in turn has had a knock-on effect with regards to applications for funding, but this is the same for many small charities currently.

We secured a Children In Need grant for a specific project around making the NHS more Deaf Aware and accessible for Deaf people which ends 31st March 2024.

In 2022 Northampton North and Northampton West councils granted us a two-year contract for services until the end of March 2024. The children's trust granted a year long contract for services until March 2023 which was extended to October 2024. Deafconnect continues to be the only Charity in Northamptonshire to offer support to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people of all ages.

We continue to offer Children's Services which we are in the process of seeking funding for.

The Trustees remain committed to providing services to deaf and hard of hearing people and recognise the needs to balance sensible investment to allow the organisation to function efficiently, whilst preserving sufficient funds to allow the charity to meet its charitable aims in the future.

The strategy of self-sustainability remains, with the organisation seeking appropriate development opportunities, but realistically this strategy will time take to implement.

Principal funding sources

Deafconnect would like to thank the following for their financial support by means of grants or donations throughout this fiscal year: The national lottery community fund, Awards for all, Queens Institute, Northamptonshire Sport, Northamptonshire Children's trust, Compton fund, and Northamptonshire councils. Organisations who supported us in other ways include Denton Village Hall Committee, V.I.N., Sense, Mowers Ark, neighbourly (Lidl, Aldi and marks and Spencer) Foodiverse (Tesco) and all our other volunteers.

Principal funding sources are shown at note 5, 6 and 7.

Investment policy

The investment policy is to ensure that long term capital appreciation exceeds inflation by placing funds in low to medium risk investments. The equity losses for restricted and unrestricted funds suffered in the previous year have been partly reversed in the current year.

DEAFCONNECT
(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

The policy calls for unrestricted funds to equal or exceed 6 months budgeted expenditure. The policy is currently being adhered to.

The charity has a number of restricted funds. These are analysed in detail in note 16. These are donations where the donor has specified the purpose for which the money can be spent. At the 31 March 2024 restricted funds were £128,708.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The strategy of self-sustainability continues and income from Interpreting, Room hires income at Spencer Dallington Community Centre, BSL classes and Deaf Awareness Training continues to support our services. The current economic climate is not easy for charities, but we continue to look at different and innovative ways to bring in income. We are doing the background work ready to launch a Legacy Campaign and have plans to update and relaunch our publicity material with a less clinical look to appeal to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. This will include updates to our Spencer Dallington Room Hire publicity too. The relaunch is predicted for January 2025.

DEAFCONNECT
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REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Company special provision

The report of the Directors has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the members of the Board of Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Company and of the income and expenditure of the Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements the members of the board are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make adjustments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue its activities

The members of the board are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have a general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Report was approved on 25th November 2024 by the Board of Directors (and Trustees) and signed on their behalf.



Claire Gogerty Chair

Registered Charity Number: 1124196

I report on the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on the attached pages 7 to 14

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures of the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Lorraine Scullion MAAT

12th December 2024

DEAF CONNECT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Page 7

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

	Notes	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	1	1,613	-	1,613	13,991	725
Investment income		106,722	-	106,722	6,724	-
Charitable activities	2	211,297	141,860	353,157	184,799	77,990
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total Income		319,632	141,860	461,492	205,514	78,715
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	284,033	74,137	358,170	250,029	68,532
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure		284,033	74,137	358,170	250,029	68,532
Net income/(expenditure)		35,599	67,723	103,322	(44,515)	10,183
Transfer between funds		13,850	(13,850)	-	10,675	(10,675)
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Net Gains/(losses) on investments		(79,826)	-	(79,826)	(8,373)	-
Net Movement in funds		(30,377)	53,873	23,496	(42,213)	(492)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward 1st April 2023		231,065	74,835	305,900	273,278	75,327
Total funds carried forward 31 March 2024		200,688	128,708	329,396	231,065	74,835

All income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2024

Company Number: 05396874

	Notes	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	5	2,782	-	2,782	5,562	-
Investments	6	159,442	-	159,442	239,268	-
Current Assets						
Debtors	7	63,256	-	63,256	37,652	-
Cash at bank and in hand		(20,622)	128,708	108,086	(47,721)	77,184
		42,634	128,708	171,342	(10,069)	77,184
Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,170)	-	(4,170)	(3,696)	(2,349)
		(4,170)	-	(4,170)	(3,696)	(2,349)
Net Current Assets		38,464	128,708	167,172	(13,765)	74,835
Net assets/(liabilities)		200,688	128,708	329,396	231,065	74,835

Charity Funds		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted
Unrestricted funds	9	200,688	-	200,688	231,065	
Restricted	10	-	128,708	128,708		74,835
		200,688	128,708	329,396	231,065	74,835

For the year ending 31st March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- (ii) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- (iii) these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees at a committee meeting held on 25th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


 Claire Gogerty Chair

The notes on Pages 9 to Page 14 form part of these financial statements.

DEAF CONNECT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Page 9

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2024

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and SORP (FRS 102) issued in January 2019, and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011

Format

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a Statement of Financial Activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the year.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grants are brought into account on a receivable basis.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is stated inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets over £500 are capitalised. The cost less the estimated residual value of furniture and equipment is written off on a straight line basis.

Intangible income

Intangible income, in the form of donated facilities and voluntary help etc., is not included in the financial statements since it is not considered practicable to quantify such income.

Reserves

The current reserve policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow for known commitments, and the replacement of certain assets. Not all grants/course income are received at the beginning of the financial others are received in arrears.

Risk

The directors/trustees do not believe the organisation is subject to any substantial risk beyond those disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts.

The organisation has employer and public liability insurance to protect it in the case of a claim.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £
1 Donations and Legacies					
General Donations	1,613	-	1,613	13,991	725
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	1,613	-	1,613	13,991	725
2 Charitable Activities					
Grants:					
Children in Need	-	37,242	37,242	-	4,138
NNC Prevention Grant	37,800	-	37,800	37,800	-
ESF Job Club	-	-	-	-	-
50+	1,597	-	1,597	520	-
NNC COVID Relief	-	-	-	-	-
Big Lottery HOH	-	103,918	103,918	-	58,342
NNC - Discretionary Grant	-	-	-	4,880	-
Councillor Community Fund	-	700	700	-	2,112
Magic Little Grant	-	-	-	-	500
HMRC Furlough	-	-	-	-	-
Northamptonshire Sport	-	-	-	-	1,600
NCF - Compton Fund	-	-	-	-	-
NCF - Winter Wellbeing Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Hans Rausing	-	-	-	-	-
The Percy Bilton Charity	-	-	-	-	4,298
NCF - Queens Institute Relief Fund	-	-	-	-	5,000
NCF - Cecil Pettit Fund	-	-	-	-	1,000
NCF - Nptonshire Federation of Disability Sport	-	-	-	-	1,000
Other:					
Interpreting Fees	79,183	-	79,183	72,571	-
Training Course Fees	8,744	-	8,744	10,062	-
PA Support	49,570	-	49,570	23,859	-
SD Room Hire	27,233	-	27,233	28,023	-
Voiceability	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising	1,644	-	1,644	2,122	-
Other Income	5,526	-	5,526	4,962	-
	211,297	141,860	353,157	184,799	77,990

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3 Charitable activities	4	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted
		Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Employment costs		160,019	63,095	223,114	140,642	30,420
DBS Checks		303	-	303	404	-
Adult Services		2,393	1,648	4,041	1,760	6,564
Adult trading, BSL & Interpreters Group		2,817	-	2,817	1,385	-
Childrens Services		2,569	1,747	4,316	544	6,335
Fundraising		385	-	385	1,189	-
Publicity/Advertising		313	737	1,050	65	1,513
Depreciation		2,781	-	2,781	3,040	-
Motor and travel expenses		1,859	32	1,891	1,498	20
Printing, postage and stationery		250	2,000	2,250	1,288	280
Telephone		12,443	-	12,443	12,952	-
Premises costs		10,824	700	11,524	16,980	12,635
Training		465	204	669	1,120	500
Accounting and Professional Fees		5,449	-	5,449	4,983	-
Insurance		3,568	-	3,568	3,305	-
Independent Examination		1,150	-	1,150	1,316	-
Interpreter Fees		63,731	2,951	66,682	42,190	10,250
Office Costs		10,896	15	10,911	13,050	15
Other Costs		1,818	1,008	2,826	2,318	-
		284,033	74,137	358,170	250,029	68,532

4 Trustees and Employment costs	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted
	Funds	Funds		Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross salaries	150,483	60,997	211,480	133,830	29,088
Employer N I	7,279	1,631	8,910	4,358	953
Employer pension	3,300	467	3,767	2,454	379
SMP Recovered	(1,043)	-	(1,043)	-	-
	160,019	63,095	223,114	140,642	30,420

There is no employee being paid in excess of £60,000 per annum.

The average number of employees during the year was: 13 (2023: 13)

During the year trustee received £nil in remuneration. (2021:£nil)

The total expenditure reimbursed to trustees amounted to £nil. (2023:£nil)

Remuneration paid to Key Management Personnel in the year £44,827

DEAF CONNECT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Page 12

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Total 2024	Total 2023
5 Fixed Assets	Furniture & Equip	Furniture & Equip
Cost	24,655	16,314
Add: additions during the year	-	8,341
	<u>24,655</u>	<u>24,655</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	19,093	16,053
Charge in year	2,780	3,040
At 31 March 2024	<u>21,873</u>	<u>19,093</u>
Net Book Value		
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,782</u>	
At 31 March 2023		<u>5,562</u>

	Quoted Unrestricted £	Quoted Restricted £	Total 2024 £
6 Fixed Asset Investments			
Market Value as at 1 April 2023	239,268	-	239,268
Disposals	(100,000)	-	(100,000)
Net loss/gain on revaluation	20,174	-	20,174
			-
Market value as at 31 March 2024	<u>159,442</u>	-	<u>159,442</u>

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £
7 Debtors					
Trade Debtors	61,558	-	61,558	36,317	-
Other Debtors	-	-	-	175	-
Pre-paid	1,698	-	1,698	1,160	-
	<u>63,256</u>	-	<u>63,256</u>	<u>37,652</u>	-
	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £
8 Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year					
Trade Creditors	(2,689)	-	(2,689)	(2,442)	-
Others	(99)	-	(99)	(254)	(2,349)
Accruals and deferred income	(1,382)	-	(1,382)	(1,000)	-
Social security and other taxation	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>(4,170)</u>	-	<u>(4,170)</u>	<u>(3,696)</u>	<u>(2,349)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**9 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits****Defined contribution plans**

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £3,767 (2023:£2833)

10 Unrestricted Reserves

	Opening Balance 2023	Movement In	Movement Out	Transfer Between Funds	Closing Balance 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted General Reserves	81,065	319,632	(363,859)	13,850	50,688
Designated - Development Fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Designated - IT	-	-	-	-	-
	231,065	319,632	(363,859)	13,850	200,688

11 Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance 2023	Movement In	Movement Out	Transfer Between Funds	Closing Balance 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Children in Need	1,024	37,242	(31,996)	(2,070)	4,200
Big Lottery	73,811	103,918	(41,441)	(11,780)	124,508
Councillor Community Fund	-	700	(700)	-	-
	74,835	141,860	(74,137)	(13,850)	128,708

Children in Need - Funds are provided towards providing support to children and families

Big Lottery - Towards Hard of Hearing Support Services

Councillor Community Fund - Towards the cost of lighting in the Kitchen

12 Comparative Funds:**Comparative Unrestricted Reserves**

	Opening Balance 2022	Movement In	Movement Out	Transfer Between Funds	Closing Balance 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted General Reserves	120,635	205,514	(255,759)	10,675	81,065
Designated - Development Fund	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Designated - IT	2,643	-	(2,643)	-	-
	273,278	205,514	(258,402)	10,675	231,065

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Comparative Restricted Funds	Opening Balance 2022 £	Movement In £	Movement Out £	Transfer Between Funds £	Closing Balance 2023 £
Children in Need	-	4,138	(3,114)	-	1,024
NCF - Queens Institute Relief Fund	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
NCF - Wellbeing 50+	5,730	-	(5,730)	-	-
Big Lottery	58,677	58,342	(32,024)	(11,184)	73,811
Arnold Clark	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Awards 4 All - 50+	1,346	-	(1,855)	509	-
NCF - Npton Federation of Disability	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Councillor Community Fund	-	2,112	(2,112)	-	-
Magic Little Grant	-	500	(500)	-	-
NCF - Compton Fund	3,350	-	(3,350)	-	-
Northamptonshire Sport	1,224	1,600	(2,824)	-	-
NCF - Cecil Pettit Fund	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
The Percy Bilton Charity	-	4,298	(4,298)	-	-
J.A.M Helping Out	-	725	(725)	-	-
	75,327	78,715	(68,532)	(10,675)	74,835

Children in Need - Funds are provided towards providing support to children and families

NCF - Queens Institute Relief Fund - To provide support for deaf and hard of hearing people who use BSL as their main communication

NCF - Wellbeing - To provide wellbeing support to 50+ British Sign Language Group

Big Lottery - Towards Hard of Hearing Support Services

Arnold Clark - Towards Interpreter fees

Awards 4 All 50+ - Towards activities for the 50+ Group

NCF - Npton Federation of Disability - Toward the deaf and hard of hearing support group

Councillor Community Fund - Towards the cost of Kitchen Refurbishment

Magic Little Grant - Towards the cost of Kitchen Refurbishment

Neighbourly - Purchase of a fridge to support the community food table and café.

NCF - Compton Fund - Childrens Theatre Project

Northamptonshire Sport - To support the establishment of a new sports club

NCF - Cecil Pettit Fund - Towards the cost of a new kitchen for the centre

The Percy Bilton Charity - Towards the cost of Kitchen Refurbishment

J.A.M Helping Out - Towards the cost of new blinds

13 Operating lease commitments

Financial commitments under no-cancellable operating leases will result in the following payments falling due in the next financial year.

	2024 £	2023 £
Land and buildings:		
Not later than 1 year	240	240
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	960	960
Later than 5 years	4,320	4,320

14 Ultimate Controlling Party

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its trustees, who are also the directors, and whose names are shown at the front of the financial statements.

