

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1137560

Details

Other names	BRAIN RESEARCH UK, BRT, THE BRT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07345516
Registered	2010-08-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Fifth Floor Holborn Gate 330 High Holborn London WC1V 7QH
Phone	02074049982
Email	info@brainresearchuk.org.uk
Website	brainresearchuk.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT BY ALL AVAILABLE MEANS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION INTO AND STUDY OF DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND ALLIED SUBJECTS, AND PARTICULARLY THE CAUSES, MEANS OF PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, METHOD OF TREATMENT AND CURE OF SUCH DISEASES AND PUBLICATION OF SUCH RESEARCH, STUDY AND INVESTIGATION (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH") WHICH TERM SHALL INCLUDE THE PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY (QUEEN SQUARE) AND SUCH OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH SUCH RESEARCH INVESTIGATION OR STUDY IS OR IS TO BE PURSUED.

Activities: Brain Research UK (the working name of Brain Research Trust) promotes and supports basic and clinical research into neurological disease which affects one in five people in the UK. We fund ground-breaking research at UK-wide centres of excellence for scientific research into neurological diseases and conditions.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED.
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,347,000	£3,611,000	£10,659,000	7
2024-03-31	£3,495,000	£3,260,000	£10,771,000	6
2023-03-31	£3,197,000	£3,005,000	£9,993,000	5
2022-03-31	£2,029,000	£3,248,000	£10,637,000	6
2021-03-31	£1,751,474	£3,311,000	£11,574,000	6

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jim Gollan	Chair	2013-07-16
Dr Aoife Regan		2019-12-12
JONATHAN KROPMAN		2013-07-15
Jeremy Storrs		2019-09-12
Paul Vernon Wright		2019-09-12
Prof Kevin Talbot		2022-12-01
Professor Joanna Wardlaw		2022-03-03
Vijay Jassal		2023-03-02

Linked charities

- THE BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST (1137560-1)

Accounts

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

Registered Charity Number: 1137560
Registered Company Number: 07345516
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

Chair's introduction

Our vision is a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.



1 in 6 of us

has a neurological condition



12,300

people are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour every year



2.6 million

people live with the effects of traumatic brain injury or stroke



65,000

people suffer from cluster headache, the 'suicide headache'

Brain Research UK funds essential research to discover the causes, develop new treatments and improve the lives of those affected by neurological conditions.

Within this broad remit, we focus our funding in areas where research investment is needed most urgently. Following a review of our Research Strategy, our focus remains on research into brain and spinal cord injury, brain tumours, and headache and facial pain. In each of these three areas, there is a large unmet patient need that is not reflected in current levels of research funding.

Our income

Throughout the year, our supporters remained inspiring and humbling as they continued to raise vital funds.

Funds received during the period came from donations of £2,940,000 (2023/24: £2,920,000) and income from our investment portfolio of £407,000 (2023/24: £575,000).

Our research

During the year, we awarded grants of £1,693,000 (2023/24: £1,720,000) to institutions throughout the UK.

We awarded four new project grants in our priority areas of brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury and headache and facial pain. We introduced our new Post-Doc Fellowship scheme to help address a bottleneck in funding for post-docs looking for independence; we awarded two Fellowships, one in each of brain tumours and headache and facial pain. We had intended to award endowment funding to the Institute of Neurology (IoN); due to organisational changes at the IoN, this funding will be carried forward to 2025/26.

Collaboration

We continued our partnership with three other neurological charities on the London Marathon. In addition, as part of our commitment to collaboration, we were delighted to continue our funding partnership with the RFU Injured Players Foundation, England Rugby's Official Charity, to support our research in brain and spinal cord injury.

With thanks to our supporters

It is only thanks to the generosity of all our supporters that we have been, and continue to be, able to fund vital life-changing, life-saving neurological research.

Jim Gollan

Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Review of the year

During 2024/25, our focus has been to build on strengthening our core fundraising activities as we continue to explore additional avenues for growth and development. Following the success of our 2023 acquisition activity to recruit new regular giving donors, we invested in a second campaign in order to secure predictable and sustainable income. This year, total donations and legacies excluding grants increased to £2.9 million (£2.3 million in 2023/24).

A key fundraising highlight is our flagship fundraising event, the London Marathon. The London Marathon 2024 generated income of over £1 million, the first fundraising milestone of its kind in our history.

We have continued to roll out our 2023-2026 Fundraising Strategy. This year, this has included continued investment in donor acquisition activity as well as securing a new major corporate partner, Acrisure London, with many exciting fundraising activities planned throughout the course of 2025/26.

We continued to deliver our research strategy. This year, we awarded research grants of £1.7 million, which included £1.1 million to four new project grants as well as two new Post-Doctoral Fellowships, an investment of £570,000.

Fundraising activities

Our flagship fundraising activity, the London Marathon, was held in April and we were delighted to have a team of 304 runners, made up of Golden Bond and Own Place runners, take on the 26.2 miles. Thanks to their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm, over a staggering £1 million was raised. This is the largest amount ever raised by our London Marathon runners.

Other runs and challenges have continued to gain in popularity with a number of supporters undertaking activities ranging from the Edinburgh Running Festival to an inflatable 5k challenge. These have raised income of £123,428 this year alongside £54,154 income from community events.

We were again extremely grateful to benefit from Opera at Syon, a special event of two evenings of opera held at the Great Conservatory at Syon Park. Each evening, guests enjoyed a champagne reception and delicious supper before performances by Diva Opera of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Verdi's *La Traviata*. The evenings raised an impressive £136,250.

We were thrilled to be chosen by Acrisure London as their Charity of the Year 2025 in memory of their colleague Ian. Tragically, Ian suffered a fatal brain aneurysm in April 2024.

In 2011, at the age of 46, Andy underwent what should have been a minor operation to remove a lump in his neck. Unfortunately, a serious complication caused him to suffer a massive stroke following surgery. Doctors gave him a 5% chance of survival; only half of his brain was functioning properly. Andy couldn't walk, talk, eat, drink, or dress himself. He had to relearn everything. It took four long years of very hard work to regain his mobility and his ability to talk, work that is still ongoing. Inspired by his wife, his first challenge was walking to the end of the road and back. 50 metres. Then one mile to the school and back. It built from there.

Since then, he has completed a 7-day ultra-marathon in the Sahara Desert, climbed to Everest base camp and undertaken various endurance challenges. In 2024, he ran the London Marathon raising more than £3,000 for Brain Research UK.

"A life without challenges is no life at all. We aren't here to exist and hang on to life. I hope that my story will show others that life's adversities don't have to define us - it's having the determination to fightback that matters."



Charitable activities

During the year, we continued to fund research in our priority areas: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. We repeated our annual national call for applications for project grants, resulting in the award of four new grants: two in brain tumours, one in brain injury and one in headache.

We launched our new Fellowship scheme in March 2024, replacing our previous PhD studentship scheme. This new scheme will address a funding bottleneck and will help to build and retain research capacity in our three priority areas. We funded two outstanding candidates, one working in brain tumours and the other in headache.

Details of these awards, which total £1.7m, can be found on page 36.

The Trustees understand that the benefit of neurological research is long-term but believe that the knowledge gained from each research project funded is a step towards understanding how these diseases happen and how to treat them. Trustees also understand that measuring the impact of their donations is an important consideration for those who give so generously to support the Charity's work.

The future

The war in Ukraine, on-going economic challenges as well as political changes at a national and international level mean that uncertainty remains about the fundraising landscape. However, Brain Research UK remains nimble, adaptable to changing circumstances, and committed to funding the best science to achieve the greatest impact for people affected by neurological conditions.

Charitable objects

To promote and support by all available means for the public benefit research and investigation into and study of diseases of the nervous system and allied subjects, and particularly the causes, means of prevention, diagnosis, method of treatment and cure of such diseases and publication of such research, study and investigation which term shall include the promotion and support of University College London Institute of Neurology (Queen Square) and such other institutions in which such research investigation or study is or is to be pursued.

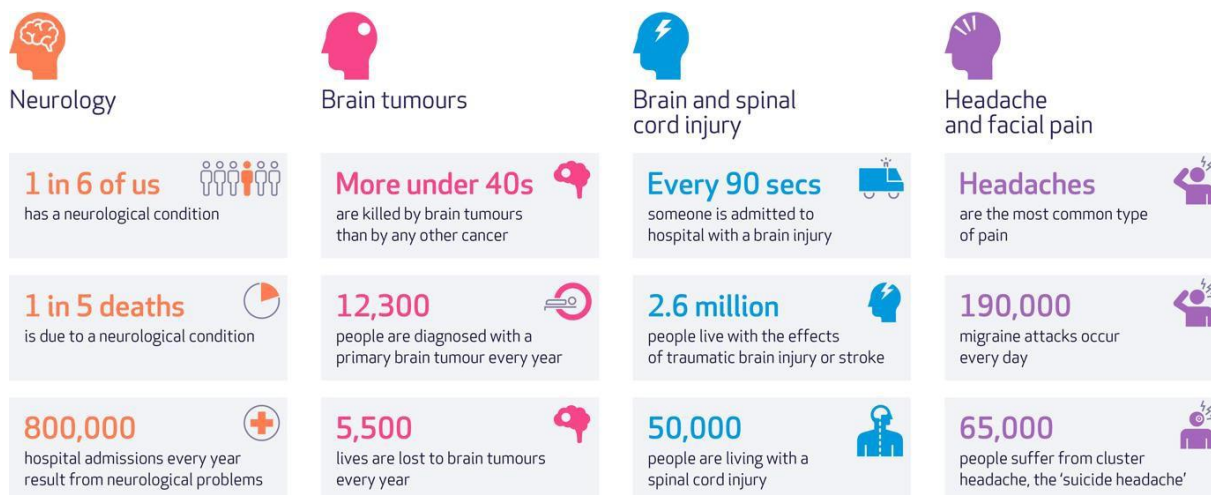
Objectives for 2025/26

Our objectives for research activities in 2025/26 are:

- To launch our national calls and award funding of at least £1 million for project grants and at least £500,000 for Post-doctoral Fellowships
- To award endowment funding towards the Sobell Chair (Sobell endowment) and research in to Motor Neurone Disease (Watts endowment)
- To host a Grant-holder meeting to highlight funded research, improve engagement with grant-holders and facilitate networking and collaboration

Our objectives for fundraising activities in 2025/26 are:

- To undertake additional regular giving acquisition activity to bolster our income sustainability
- To develop further our unique, as well as collaborative, event and challenge activities
- To implement our major relationship fundraising initiatives



Achievements and performance

The 12-month period to 31st March 2025 delivered the expected fundraising contribution. Specific fundraising highlights include the London Marathon, corporate fundraising and legacy fundraising.

Our London Marathon campaign generated income in excess of £1 million and we further developed our regular giving acquisition activity and undertook our second campaign.

For the third year, we benefitted from Opera at Syon in June 2024, a special event of two evenings of opera held at the Great Conservatory at Syon Park.

We recognise that fundraising from major donors is an area for development for us and have put in plans to capitalise on this in future years.

Following our national Project grant call, we awarded grant funding of over £1 million as expected. Four new project grants were awarded: two in brain tumours, one in brain and spinal cord injury and one in headache and facial pain.

We launched our first Post-doctoral Fellowship national call and awarded funding for two Post-doctoral Fellowships, one in brain tumours and one in headache and facial pain.

We published our updated Impact Report online.

As part of our strategic partnership commitment, we continued our collaboration with four other neurological charities for the London Marathon and benefitted from the second year of a three-year funding partnership with the RFU Injured Players Foundation, England's Rugby Office Charity, to support our research in brain and spinal cord injury.

We invested in staff recruitment to help ensure that the highest levels of supporter care and service are maintained as we diversify and grow our income streams.

We maintained our operating model that helps to maximise fundraising income whilst keeping operational costs to a minimum.

Financial review

	2024-25	2023-24
	£'000	£'000
Total income	3,347	3,495
Expenditure on raising funds	(1,576)	(1,228)
	1,771	2,267
Expenditure on Research	(1,903)	(1,915)
Expenditure on Information & Awareness	(132)	(117)
Increase/(decrease) in investment values	152	543
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	(112)	778

Donations

Total income includes donations of £2,940,000 received during the 12-month period (£2,920,000 in 2023/24). These comprise event income of £1,370,000 (2023/24: £1,265,000), individual giving income of £540,000 (2023/24: £357,000), legacies of £869,000 (2023/24: £518,000), grant income of £30,000 (2023/24: £608,000) and trusts, corporate, major donor income of £131,000 (2023/24: £172,000). The full breakdown of the donation categories can be seen in Note 2 of the accounts.

Expenditure on Research

This includes grants awarded in the year as well as other costs including support costs. See Note 4 for more information.

Investment performance

Our investment balances at 31st March 2025 are £13,732,000 (fixed assets) and £644,000 (current assets). This represents a change in the balances from 2023/24, which were £13,710,000 and £1,207,000 respectively. Notably, a small proportion of investment holdings were sold during the year to crystallise an investment gain.

Due to the size of the investment portfolio we hold, movements in the financial markets can have a significant impact on our year-end position. In recent years, the year-end movement has fluctuated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, changing political environment, the cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation. This year we are reporting a net investment gain of £152,000, compared to £543,000 last year. This is reflective of worldwide investment markets falling in the quarter to 31st March 2025.

Our investment income for the year stands at £407,000 compared to £575,000 in 2023/24.

Further information about our investment performance is given in the investment policy section and Note 8 of the accounts.

Research funded

Our aim is to improve the lives of those living with neurological condition to help people live better, longer. Our objects allow us to fund research into all neurological conditions. This is a broad remit, within which some disease areas have a higher profile and a higher level of research funding than others.

Currently, we focus our research funding on three key disease areas where we have identified a particular disparity between the level of unmet need and the level of current research investment: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain.

By focusing our funding on these three areas, we can have a more significant impact.

This year, we awarded research funding for project grants totaling £1.1 million to four new project grants led by the following:

Dr Philip Holland (King's College London)

Dr Harry Bulstrode (University of Cambridge)

Professor Stuart Allan (University of Manchester)

Professor Petra Hamerlik (University of Manchester).

In addition, we provided funding for two new Post-doctoral Fellowships to the following:

Dr Hannah Jackson (University of Nottingham)

Dr Alejandro Labastida-Ramirez (University of Manchester).

Note 22 in the accounts lists the awards made during the 12-month financial period to 31st March 2025.

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability, with limited treatment options.

Caused by sudden interruption of the blood supply to the brain, due to a clot or a bleed, stroke causes irreversible damage to brain cells. It has been shown that inflammation in the brain plays a role in this damage and it is possible, therefore, that drugs that reduce inflammation could limit brain damage after stroke.

We have awarded funding to Professor Stuart Allan and team at the University of Manchester to support experiments exploring the use of two existing drugs that they believe could be used to reduce inflammation in the brain after stroke, representing a possible new treatment option.

These drugs are both already approved for human use but there are important questions that need to be addressed concerning the way in which they could be used in patients with stroke. To address these questions, the team will use well-established mouse models in which they can mimic the effects of stroke and test the effects of different treatments.

This work will add crucial evidence about how the two drugs can best be used to treat the effects of stroke and minimise brain damage. As these drugs are already approved for use in humans, the project has high potential for rapid translation through to patient benefit.



Information and awareness

During the period to 31st March 2025, our information and awareness expenditure was £132,000 (2023/24: £117,000); this reflected updates and maintenance of our website, social media and general communication activities.

Future plans

As we enter the final year of our Strategy 2023-2026, we will continue as planned with the following:

- **Research:** we will fund world class, impactful neurological research. Having launched our new post-doctoral funding scheme in 2024/25 to replace our previous PhD studentship scheme, we will launch our second call in Spring 2025. We will continue our national call for applications for project grant funding. In November, we will host a Grant-holder Meeting to bring together current and past BRUK grant-holders and other BRUK stakeholders in a one-day meeting that will showcase funded research, improve engagement with grant-holders and facilitate networking and collaboration.
During 2025/26 we plan to award funding from the Sobell endowment, this funding was delayed from 2024/25, and also award funding from the Watts endowment. In 2026/27 we expect to award funding from the Marks endowment.
- **Fundraising:** we will focus on developing our existing flagship fundraising streams, such as the London Marathon, and will seek to diversify income streams most notably in major donor and corporate fundraising. We will strengthen the loyalty of our existing supporters and will invest further in the acquisition of new supporters to ensure growth and longevity.
- **Collaboration:** we will work collaboratively, across both fund-seeking and grant-making activities, with likeminded organisations with shared purpose.
- **Communications:** we will continue to boost and diversify our communications activities to ensure that we retain existing, and attract new, supporters as well as increase brand awareness. This will include the recruitment of a Communications and Digital Officer.
- **Organisation:** we will continue our focus on being a lean, agile, modern and adaptable organisation that can mobilise and respond quickly to changing circumstances. During 2025/26, we plan to grow our team in order to capitalise on developing our fundraising capabilities.

Financial performance

The Charity received income of £3,347,000 during the financial year to 31st March 2025 (2023/24: £3,495,000). Against the backdrop of economic and political turbulence, the fundraising environment has remained challenging during 2024/25.

As can be seen in Notes 2 and 3, the Charity's income comes from a number of diverse sources and this has been vital in safeguarding the sustainability of our income. Our flagship fundraising event is the London Marathon, and along with other events, we have been able to raise income of £1,370,000 during the year. This represents growth from last year where £1,265,000 was raised. This income stream has been supplemented by individual giving income of £540,000, legacies £869,000 and trusts, corporates and major donors £131,000.

In previous years we have benefitted from grant funding from the Medical Research Charities Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers. In the year to 31st March 2025 this was nil (2023/24 £548,000) and this represents the main movement in fundraising in the year.

In total, we received net income of £1,771,000 this year (after taking into account the expenditure on raising funds) compared to £2,267,000 raised last year. In 2024/25 we embarked on the first year of a planned regular giving programme designed to recruit long term supporters for the charity. The cost of investing in this activity is reflected in the lower net income compared to last year. Despite this we have continued to support our charitable activities at a similar level to last year with research spend of £1,903,000 (2023/24: £1,915,000) and information and awareness of £132,000 (2023/24: £117,000).

We end the year with an overall deficit of £112,000 which is mostly attributable to the investment we have made in acquiring new long-term supporters.

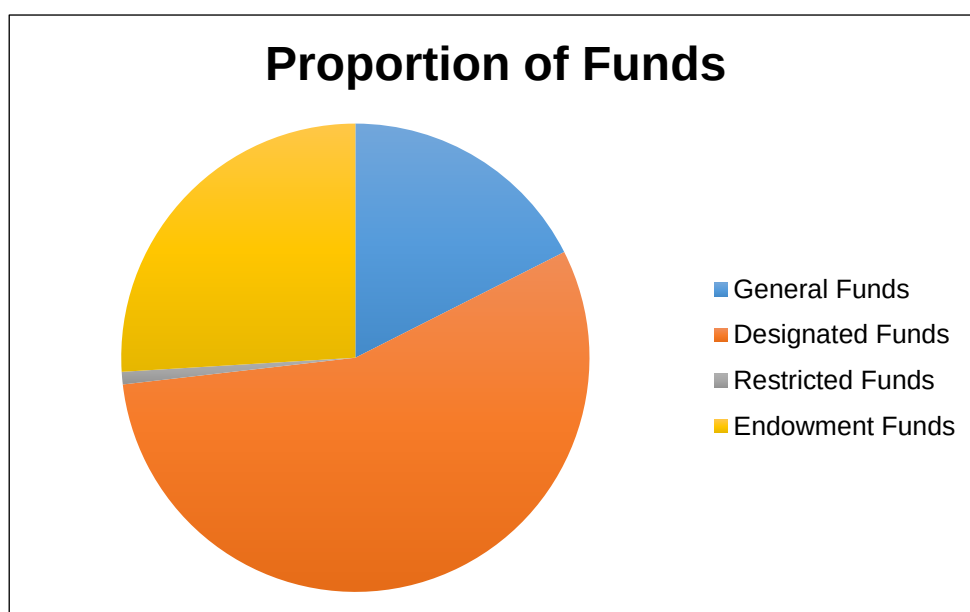
The impact of this on our funds position can be seen below.

Funds

The Charity's total funds at 31st March 2025 were £10,659,000 (2023/24: £10,771,000).

The funds are split as follows:

	2024/25	2023/24
General Funds	£1,870,000	£1,328,000
Designated Funds	£5,930,000	£6,688,000
Restricted Funds	£92,000	£102,000
Endowment Funds	£2,767,000	£2,653,000
	£10,659,000	£10,771,000



General funds

The general fund is used to provide a buffer for unforeseen activities and is maintained on the basis of being the higher of £750,000 or 9 months of non-grant expenditure (overheads and fundraising costs). 9 months of budgeted non-grant expenditure from our 2025/26 budget comes to £1,870,000 and this is therefore the balance reflected in our general funds.

Designated funds

The Charity holds two designated funds:

Grants Fund: This fund is in place to cover the next two years of expected unrestricted grant awards. The fund will be expended as the grant awards are made and then replenished in order to cover the planned future commitments.

Investment Fund: The Charity benefits from the income generated by its investment portfolio for a significant proportion of total income. As income and unrealised movements can change significantly from year to year, the investment fund was put in place to provide a cushion against these fluctuations. It is therefore the balance of the Unrestricted Funds after taking into account the General and Grant Fund.

Restricted funds

These funds have been donated for specific projects or research activities. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure restricted funds are utilised in accordance with the donors' wishes as soon as is practicable.

Endowment funds

These funds have been endowed for use on specific projects or research activities at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. All the endowment funds are expendable.

Balances and detailed movements on funds are detailed in Note 14.

Reserves policy

The Charity has developed a reserves policy that identifies and plans for the maintenance of essential activities and reflects the risks associated with the Charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts.

The policy is as outlined in the General Funds and Designated Funds sections above. It is devised with the intention of maintaining adequate funds within general funds to ensure that the Charity could operate effectively in the short term. Furthermore, adequate funds are to be kept aside for the continuity of grant funding.

As part of the annual risk review, the Board reviews the adequacy and relevance of the reserves policy to assess its validity in light of changing circumstances. Given the current uncertainty over the economy and the impact on financial performance, our reserves currently provide a sufficient buffer for the Charity to continue operations in the short to medium term.

Grant awarding policy

Brain Research UK funds research on a national basis into neurological conditions. Other than awards made from three restricted endowment funds, our research funding is awarded in open national competition.

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, our policy is to fund research that has been subject to rigorous assessment, including external peer review. Our grant-making processes were subject to audit by the AMRC in 2020, and we are pleased to report that we passed the audit and were awarded a certificate of best practice.

During the period under review, the Charity's Scientific Advisory Panel maintained its focus on the three priority research areas originally introduced during 2016 and reconfirmed during a review of our Research Strategy that completed in March 2023 when it was approved by the Board of Trustees: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. We issued one national call for project grant applications in these three areas.

Outside of the three priority areas, we collaborated with UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology to issue a call for applications and awarded two research fellowships in neurodegenerative conditions, funded by the Miriam Marks Fund, and we collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons of England to fund a joint research fellowship.

Going concern

As with the recent financial years, the accounts are approved during a period of financial and economic uncertainty. This has impacted the charity's fundraising performance and investment portfolio in recent years.

However, we have been able to invest in new fundraising activities during the year to safeguard the sustainability of our income and the cost of this is reflected in the annual deficit of £112,000. This still leaves us with a strong funds position of £10,659,000 (2023/24: £10,771,000).

The Charity, as a grant-making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. This is evidenced by this year's grants awarded of £1,693,000 and a further £3,410,000 held in a designated fund for future research.

The Charity has assessed the on-going impact of the current economic and political climate on its fundraising activities and formulated a budget for the forthcoming year which has taken into account the environment of uncertainty. The budget for 2025/26, similar to the budget for this year, is cautious and reflects ongoing financial repercussions from the current economic uncertainty and challenging financial conditions. Furthermore, in the June 2025 Trustee meeting, the Trustees reviewed the adequacy of our reserve position and the impact of maintaining grant making at the planned levels.

The Trustees have also considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12-month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities remain unpredictable, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our annual and mid-year financial planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned expenditure. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Risk assessment

The Trustees review the risks facing the Charity every six months and consider the steps needed to mitigate them. The Board reviews an annual report of identified risks and the control systems designed to respond to them. The review takes place in the June Board meeting.

The main risks facing the Charity are around financial stability and the sustainability of income. As we operate in an uncertain economic environment with rising costs, the viability of our fundraising has emerged as a major risk for the Charity to monitor. The Charity has responded to this risk by carrying out medium term financial modelling incorporating a number of scenarios. This has been to assess the sensitivity of certain factors and establish a minimum level of reserves that the Charity would plan to not go below.

Furthermore, the Charity operates with diversified income streams, and this has proved to be important in recent years. We have adopted a recent fundraising strategy and have during 2024/25 invested in support acquisition activity as part of a three-year programme.

Our reserves policy is intended to give us continuity of operation in the short to medium term supplemented by a strong reserve position to give us stability. We review our reserves policy every year and have assessed the adequacy of our reserves against various scenarios.

The Charity holds a substantial investment portfolio of £13.7 million, from which regular investment income is received. Given its size, protection of the portfolio is vital and effective management of the portfolio constitutes a further risk. To mitigate this, the portfolio is closely managed in line with our investment policy with the investment manager's performance and asset allocation appraised quarterly by the Investment Committee.

Fundraising approach and performance

The Charity undertakes a range of fundraising activities, including direct mail and fundraising events. No fundraising activities were carried out by either a professional fundraiser or commercial participator. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. During the period, no complaints were received.

Investment policy

The Articles of Association provide the Trustees with the power to invest funds that are not immediately required by the Charity. This is performed by outsourcing the management of investments to a specialist advisor on the basis of an investment policy that is overseen by the Investment Committee and approved by the Board. After reviewing recommendations provided by the Investment Committee, the investment policy was last approved by the Board in March 2024. The performance of the investment portfolio was reviewed against this policy in the March 2025 meeting.

Given the long-term nature of the Charity's commitment to fund research, the main objective of the investment policy is to achieve total returns on a rolling 5-year basis of UK CPI + 2.5% in order to:

- Fund investment in BRUK's charitable objectives.
- Preserve capital value in real terms to protect future investment.

The investment portfolio, which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, is a diversified portfolio of UK and overseas equities, gilts, corporate bonds, property, hedge funds, commodities and cash deposits. The Investment Committee monitors the composition and performance of the portfolio every quarter as well as reviewing the risk limits and ethical considerations.

Our intention is to adopt a medium to long-term time horizon for investment (5 to 10 years), accepting the risk of short-term fluctuation for long-term gains. Recent years have seen investment markets around the world show significant volatility and the Trustees recognise that these are uncertain times for investment returns. Therefore, the Trustees intentions are to protect asset valuations as far as possible during this economic uncertainty whilst at the same time deriving income.

In line with our ethical restrictions, we do not have direct or indirect investments in tobacco producers or manufacturers.

Over the rolling 12 months to 31st March 2025, a return of 2.8% was achieved.

Structure, governance and management

Brain Research Trust is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 07345516; incorporated 13 August 2010) and a registered charity (registration number 1137560) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Jim Gollan, under powers defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association amended 21 December 2015 and 7 March 2019. Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust.

Name	Brain Research Trust; working name Brain Research UK
Charity registration number	1137560 (registered in England and Wales)
Company registration number	07345516 (registered in England and Wales)
Registered office	Fifth Floor, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London WC1V 7QH
Trustees	Jim Gollan, Chair of Trustees Jonathan Kropman, Deputy Chair of Trustees Jerry Storrs, Treasurer Vijay Jassal Aoife Regan Professor Kevin Talbot Paul Wright Professor Joanna Wardlaw
Scientific Advisory Panel	Professor Liam Gray (Chair) Dr Faisal Amin Professor Khuloud Al-Jamal Dr Anish Bahra Professor Elizabeth Bradbury Professor Anthony Chalmers Professor Silvia Marino Professor Willie Stewart (resigned 8th April 2025)
Senior management	Caroline Blakely, Chief Executive Snezana Bjelogrljic, Head of Finance Pippa Ball, Head of Fundraising (resigned 31st May 2024)

Professional advisors

Auditors	Solicitors
HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG	Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR
Investment Managers	Bankers
Sarasin & Partners LLP Juxon House 100 St Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8BU	Clydesdale Bank PLC 30 St. Vincent Place Glasgow G1 2HL

Governance and management

The Charity's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents. Trustee indemnity insurance is in place together with a conflicts of interest policy.

In the period under review, the management of the Charity was as follows:

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, currently comprises eight members (2023/24: eight) and meets quarterly. The Board is responsible for determining the overall strategy of the Charity and is accountable for its operational, financial and managerial performance.

There is one standing Committee of the Board that meets quarterly.

The **Investment Committee** monitors the Charity's investment performance, portfolio and policy recommending any changes in strategy to the Trustee Board. The terms of reference for this committee are regularly monitored and updated accordingly.

A **Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)** meets periodically and also communicates via email, to evaluate and rank research grant applications recommending to the Trustees which projects should be funded. The members of the SAP are independent, drawn from various neurological disciplines, and are actively involved in neurological research. SAP members are listed on page 13.

The Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), an umbrella organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. AMRC members aim to follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Day-to-day running of the Charity is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

IT, telephony, database management, fundraising, financial consultancy services and investment management services are provided by external service providers.

Trading subsidiaries

The Charity holds 100% of the share capital of Brain Research UK Limited (company number 14108655), which was incorporated on 16 May 2022. This company is currently dormant and there are no immediate plans for the company to trade.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by either invitation or recruitment to ensure the right balance of skills and experience on the Board and to stimulate the growth and development of the Charity. Selection is based on the ability to contribute to Charity management, business, and scientific, financial, investment, legal, fundraising, campaigning and marketing skills.

The term of appointment is three years, renewable twice unless there are exceptional circumstances.

New trustees receive a thorough induction into the work of the Charity.

No new trustees (2023/24: none) were appointed during the financial period.

Management

The Trustees exercise executive responsibility for the governance of the Charity and, through the Chairman, supervise the management of the Charity by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Chief Executive also task the Board with decision-making on strategic management issues as well as overseeing the research grants application process and monitoring the progress of awarded grants.

The day-to-day running of the Charity has been delegated to the Chief Executive and includes the operational running of the Charity and the coordinating of fundraising appeals.

All staff posts are periodically evaluated to ensure that salary levels are reflective of industry, cost of living and organisational needs, as well as individual and charity performance.

In recruitment of a new post, an assessment is made of the requirements of the role in terms of skills, experience, competency and urgency. The salary is then determined on the basis of this assessment and the current market conditions. The salary of the CEO is reviewed periodically by the Board.

Membership of Regulatory Bodies and other organisations

We are committed to the highest standards of fundraising and grant making as demonstrated by our membership of the following organisations.

Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

- The AMRC is an umbrella organisation of leading medical and health research charities in the UK. As a member, we follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Fundraising Regulator (FR)

- The Fundraising Regulator is the UK's independent regulator of charitable fundraising that ensures public protection, accountability and excellence in fundraising. Their Code of Fundraising Practice sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third- party fundraisers in the UK. As a member, we adhere to the highest standards and highlight our Supporter Charter.

Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF)

- The CioF is the professional membership body for UK fundraising; as a member, we follow its recommendations.

Neurological Alliance (NA)

- The NA is a coalition of more than 80 organisations working together to transform outcomes for the millions of people in England with a neurological condition. The NA keeps their members apprised of patients' survey outcomes, any and all public policy changes that affect our beneficiaries and strengthen the voice of people affected by the neurological conditions.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Research funded by the Charity meets the Charity Commission's test for Public Benefit. In addition, although only a small percentage of the population may suffer from a particular neurological disease, the application of the results of the research is not restricted by gender, ethnicity, religion or ability to pay and in that respect the public at large benefit.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we 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

The auditors, Haysmacintyre LLP rebranded and changed their name to HaysMac LLP and were re-appointed during the period in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Date: 18/06/2025

Independent auditor's report to the members of Brain Research Trust**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brain Research Trust for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2025 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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

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

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.

Based on our understanding of the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to data protection legislation and employment (including taxation), and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates]

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Richard Weaver (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of HaysMac LLP Statutory Auditor
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 23/06/2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	2	2,894	46	-	2,940	2,920
Investments	3	307	-	100	407	575
Total income		3,201	46	100	3,347	3,495
Expenditure on						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs	4	73	-	24	97	82
Fundraising	4	1,479	-	-	1,479	1,146
Total expenditure on funds	4	1,552	-	24	1,576	1,228
Charitable activities:						
Research	4	1,903	-	-	1,903	1,915
Information & awareness	4	132	-	-	132	117
Total expenditure on charitable activities		2,035	-	-	2,035	2,032
Total expenditure		3,587	-	24	3,611	3,260
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds before gains/(losses) on investment assets		(386)	46	76	(264)	235
Realised/Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	8	114	-	38	152	543
Net income/(expenditure)		(272)	46	114	(112)	778
Transfers between funds		56	(56)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(216)	(10)	114	(112)	778
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as At 31st March 2024	14	8,016	102	2,653	10,771	9,993
At 31st March 2025	14	7,800	92	2,767	10,659	10,771

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 26 to 36 form part of these accounts.

	Notes	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		4	3
Investments	8	13,732	13,710
Total fixed assets		13,736	13,713
Current assets			
Sundry debtors	9	1,101	764
Investments		644	1,207
Cash at bank and in hand		605	1,107
Total current assets		2,350	3,078
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	(3,303)	(3,906)
Net current assets		(953)	(828)
Total assets less current liabilities		12,783	12,885
Creditors falling due after one year	11	(2,124)	(2,114)
Net assets		10,659	10,771
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted Funds			
Investment Fund	14	2,520	3,488
Grants Fund	14	3,410	3,200
		5,930	6,688
General Fund		1,870	1,328
		7,800	8,016
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	14	92	102
		92	102
Endowment Funds			
Marks Endowment Fund	14	1,552	1,488
Sobell Endowment Fund	14	389	373
Watts Endowment Fund	14	826	792
		2,767	2,653
		10,659	10,771

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Jim Gollan

.....
Jim Gollan (Chair)

Date: 18/06/2025

The notes on pages 26 to 36 form part of these accounts.

	2025		2024	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:				
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(1,599)		84
Cash flows from investing activities:	(3)		1	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment				
Net proceeds from sale of investments and reinvestments	537		583	
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>		534		584
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Change in cash equivalent in the period		(1,065)		668
Cash and cash equivalent at start of period		2,314		1,646
Cash and cash equivalent at end of period		1,249		2,314
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Net income / (expenditure) for the period</i>		(112)		778
Adjust for:				
Depreciation charge		2		1
(Gains) / losses on investments		(152)		(543)
Dividends and interest from investments		(407)		(575)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		(337)		235
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		(593)		188
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(1,599)		84
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand		605		1,107
Cash equivalents on deposits		644		1,207
Total cash and cash equivalent		1,249		2,314

Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1st April 2024 £'000	Cash flows £'000	At 31st March 2025 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash	1,107	(502)	605
Investment cash	1,207	(563)	644
Total	2,314	(1,065)	1,249

The notes on pages 26 to 36 form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 13. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Companies Act 2006, FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015") (Second edition effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. It has assessed the potential impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and has formulated a revised budget for the current year, which takes into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12-month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities will reduce in the short term, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts in wills which are recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of the gift is measurable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as soon as the related liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Expenditure on raising funds comprises fundraising costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure directly related to the awarding of grants to institutions, and provision of information and awareness.

Support costs represent indirect costs relating to raising funds and the Charity's charitable activities. Support costs, including governance costs, are allocated to activities on bases that represent the Trustees' best estimate of actual use. The bases used to allocate costs to the above categories of expenditure are set out in note 4.

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, auditors' remuneration, certain legal costs and all costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as costs of Board meetings and of preparing the statutory accounts.

Research grants

Grants payables are in respect of grants approved by the Trustees, having due regard for the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Panel. The full value of the grants approved is accounted for when the grant awards or commitments are made.

Investment income

Income from fixed interest stocks, loans and deposits is included in the accounts on an accrual basis. Income from other securities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Office and computer equipment with a cost of £500 or more are capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis of 25% per annum.

Investments

The Charity's investments are of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Investments are included in the balance sheet at fair value (bid price).

Realised gains are the difference between sales proceeds and the carrying value of the investment. The carrying value is the fair value at the beginning of the period or the purchase cost where the investment was acquired during the period.

Unrealised gains are the change in value of investments after taking into account any movements in investment holdings such as purchases and disposals of investments.

Realised and unrealised gains are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable are accounted for on the following basis:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors are measured at the transaction price less any provision for impairment. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure.

Grant commitments for awards with expected payments exceeding twelve months have been discounted using market rates for cash matching the term of the liabilities with rates between 2% - 5% p.a.

Leases

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

Staff benefits

The Charity makes pension provision for its employees by contributing to a personal pension scheme of their choice. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the Charity benefits from the employees' services. The Charity has no further liability under the scheme. In October 2016 all employees not already in an approved scheme were auto-enrolled into a multi-employer pension scheme administered by the Peoples Pension.

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Funds

Brain Research Trust consists of six funds as follows:

- General fund (unrestricted)
- Investment fund (designated)
- Grants fund (designated)
- Miriam Marks fund (expendable endowment)
- Sobell fund (expendable endowment)
- Watts fund (expendable endowment)

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted income funds comprise unexpended balances of donations and grants held in trust to be applied for specific purposes.

All the endowment funds are expendable. Each of the restricted and endowment funds are for the purpose of funding research into neurological conditions.

Allocation of costs to the Funds

Costs which are specific to an individual fund are charged to that fund. All other costs are charged to the unrestricted funds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of these accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

The preceding accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

2 DONATIONS and LEGACIES	Unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Restricted funds 2025 £'000	TOTAL 2025 £'000
Individuals	540	-	540
Trusts, corporates & major donors	85	46	131
Income from fundraising events	1,370	-	1,370
Legacies	869	-	869
Grants	30	-	30
	-----	-----	-----
	2,894	46	2,940
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Individuals	356	1	357
Trusts, corporates & major donors	69	103	172
Income from fundraising events	1,265	-	1,265
Legacies	518	-	518
Grants	608	-	608
	-----	-----	-----
	2,816	104	2,920
	=====	=====	=====
3 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Restricted funds 2025 £'000	TOTAL 2025 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	304	100	404
Deposit account interest	3	-	3
	-----	-----	-----
	307	100	407
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	410	163	573
Deposit account interest	2	-	2
	-----	-----	-----
	412	163	575
	=====	=====	=====

4 EXPENDITURE	Direct costs	Grants awarded	Support costs	TOTAL
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	97	-	-	97
Fundraising costs	1,427	-	52	1,479
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	1,524	-	52	1,576
Research	169	1,660	74	1,903
Information & awareness	125	-	7	132
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	294	1,660	81	2,035
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,818	1,660	133	3,611
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Direct costs	Grants awarded	Support costs	TOTAL
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	82	-	-	82
Fundraising costs	1,094	-	52	1,146
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	1,176	-	52	1,228
Research	160	1,682	73	1,915
Information & awareness	111	-	6	117
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	271	1,682	79	2,032
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,447	1,682	131	3,260
	=====	=====	=====	=====

See Notes 12 and 21 for details of grants awarded in 2024/25.

Support costs of £133k (2024: £131k) comprise of property and office costs and other sundry expenses and are allocated on the basis of staff costs. Governance costs of £68k (2024: £76k) are regarded as support costs and are apportioned to fundraising, research and charitable activity proportionately to the value attributed to each of these activities.

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	1	1	-	2
Telecomms and IT	30	18	5	53
Governance	20	55	2	77
	<u>52</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>133</u>

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	2	1	-	3
Telecomms and IT	31	17	4	52
Governance	20	54	2	76
	<u>54</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>132</u>

6 NET INCOME

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor remuneration - audit fees	25	26
- other fees	1	2
Depreciation	2	-
Operating lease charges	41	51
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period. Trustees were reimbursed £297 (2024: nil) for expenses. No amounts were paid to third parties on behalf of the trustees.

7 SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries	375	377
Social security costs	37	39
Pension costs	36	34
Freelancers/Agency	141	39
	-----	-----
	589	489
	=====	=====

The average headcount of staff employed by the charity during the period was 7 (2024: 6)

	2025 Headcount	2024 Headcount	2025 FTE	2024 FTE
Research	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.3
Information and awareness	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Raising funds	4.5	3.8	3.9	3.5
Governance	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.5</u>
	7.4	6.6	6.0	5.6

During the period, the number of employees who received emoluments falling within the following ranges was:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£90,000 - £99,999	1	1
£60,000 - £69,999	2	2
	-----	-----
	3	3
	=====	=====

During the period, these staff received employer pension contributions of £26,547 (2024: £21,563).

Key management personnel

In 2025, 3 (2024: 3) members of staff formed the senior management team. Their remuneration amounted to £205k including social security and pension costs (£253k in 2023).

8 INVESTMENTS

(a) Equities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Endowment funds 2025 £'000	TOTAL 2025 £'000
Brought forward at 1st April 2024 (Restated)	6,860	2,250	9,110
Additions	3,351	1,099	4,450
Disposals	(3,467)	(1,137)	(4,604)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	6	2	8
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31st March 2025	6,750	2,214	8,964
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1st April 2024	6,708	2,661	9,369
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31st March 2025	7,510	2,463	9,973
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Endowment Funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Brought forward at 1st April 2023	3,678	4,894	8,572
Additions	5,994	2,377	8,371
Disposals	(6,015)	(2,386)	(8,401)
Increase in unrealised (losses)/gains	407	161	568
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31st March 2024	4,064	5,046	9,110
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1st April 2023	5,551	2,180	7,731
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31st March 2024	6,708	2,661	9,369
	=====	=====	=====

(b) Fixed interest securities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Endowment Funds 2025 £'000	TOTAL 2025 £'000
Brought forward at 1st April 2024 (Restated)	3,033	995	4,028
Additions	2,097	688	2,785
Disposals	(2,487)	(816)	(3,303)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(62)	(20)	(82)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31st March 2025	2,581	847	3,428
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1st April 2024	3,075	1,220	4,295
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31st March 2025	2,839	931	3,770
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Endowment funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Brought forward at 1st April 2023	1,945	1,969	3,914
Additions	1,791	710	2,501
Disposals	(1,691)	(671)	(2,362)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(18)	(7)	(25)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31st March 2024	2,027	2,001	4,028
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1st April 2023	3,224	1,266	4,490
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31st March 2024	3,075	1,220	4,295
	=====	=====	=====
		2025 £'000	2024 £'000
(c) Cash held for investment purposes		1,339	585
		=====	=====
(d) Unrealised forex gains/(losses)		3	(13)
		=====	=====
(e) Total at bid-price (including cash)		13,732	13,710
		=====	=====
(f) Gains/(losses) on investments			
	Unrestricted funds 2025 £'000	Endowment funds 2025 £'000	TOTAL 2025 £'000
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	114	38	152
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Endowment funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	389	154	543
	=====	=====	=====
9 SUNDRY DEBTORS		2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Legacies and accrued income		460	269
Other debtors		42	16
Prepayments		599	479
		-----	-----
		1,101	764
		=====	=====

10 CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	25	70
Grants payable	3,168	3,756
Accruals	52	34
Social security and other taxes	10	13
Other creditors	11	12
Deferred income	37	21
	-----	-----
	3,303	3,906
	=====	=====

11 CREDITORS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Grants payable	2,124	2,114
	-----	-----
	2,124	2,114
	=====	=====

12 GRANTS PAYABLE

	2025		2024	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of period		5,870		5,690
Grants awarded in period	1,693		1,720	
Released prior year provision and underspends	25		83	
Adjustment for time value of money	(58)		(54)	
	-----		-----	
		1,660		1,749
Grant invoices paid in period		(2,238)		(1,569)
		-----		-----
Balance at end of period		5,292		5,870
		=====		=====
Payable within one year		3,168		3,756
Payable after one year		2,124		2,114
		-----		-----
		5,292		5,870
		=====		=====

Note 21 shows details of grants awarded in the period

During the period, grants totalling £1,693k were awarded to research institutions as per note 21. Each grant is made in accordance with the terms of the individual trust funds held by the charity. The total grants made during the period are analysed by fund in note 13.

13 GRANTS AWARDED ANALYSED BY FUND

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Grants fund	1,693	1,229
Marks fund	-	485
Sobell fund	-	-
Watts	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	6
	-----	-----
	1,693	1,720
	=====	=====

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2024 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2025 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	1,328	-	-	-	-	542	1,870
Designated funds							
Investment fund	3,488	3,171	-	(1,927)	114	(2,326)	2,520
Grants fund	3,200	30	(1,660)	-	-	1,840	3,410
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted Funds	8,016	3,201	(1,660)	(1,927)	114	56	7,800
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Other funds	102	46	-	-	-	(56)	92
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted Funds	102	46	-	-	-	(56)	92
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,488	56	-	(14)	22	-	1,552
Sobell fund	373	14	-	(3)	5	-	389
Watts fund	792	30	-	(7)	11	-	826
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment Funds	2,653	100	-	(24)	38	-	2,767
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	10,771	3,347	(1,660)	(1,951)	152	-	10,659
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the Trustees as disclosed within the Trustees' Report.

All the Endowment funds are expendable. Each of the Restricted and Endowment Funds are for the purpose of funding research into Neurological Conditions.

The Marks fund is for research into the first causes of deterioration of memory.
The Sobell fund is for a chair of neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology.
The Watts fund is for research into motor neurone disease.

15 STATEMENT OF FUNDS – 2024 COMPARATIVES

	2023 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2024 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	1,081	-	-	-	-	247	1,328
Designated funds							
Investment fund	3,905	3,228	-	(1,464)	389	(2,570)	3,488
Grants fund	2,076	-	(1,199)	-	-	2,323	3,200
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted Funds	7,062	3,228	(1,199)	(1,464)	389	-	8,016
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Other funds	95	104	(6)	(91)	-	-	102
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted Funds	95	104	(6)	(91)	-	-	102
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,780	102	(477)	(14)	97	-	1,488
Sobell fund	338	20	-	(3)	18	-	373
Watts fund	718	41	-	(6)	39	-	792
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment Funds	2,836	163	(477)	(23)	154	-	2,653
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	9,993	3,495	(1,682)	(1,578)	543	-	10,771
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Investment assets 2025 £'000	Fixed assets 2025 £'000	Other assets 2025 £'000	Total assets 2025 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds	10,340	4	(2,544)	7,800
Marks fund	1,895	-	(343)	1,552
Sobell fund	481	-	(92)	389
Watts fund	1,016	-	(190)	826
Restricted funds	-	-	92	92
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	13,732	4	(3,077)	10,659
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS –
2024 COMPARATIVES**

	Investment assets 2024 £'000	Fixed assets 2024 £'000	Other assets 2024 £'000	Total assets 2024 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds	9,844	3	(1,831)	8,016
Marks fund	2,399	-	(911)	1,488
Sobell fund	494	-	(121)	373
Watts fund	973	-	(181)	792
Restricted funds	-		102	102
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	13,710	3	(2,942)	10,771
	=====	=====	=====	=====

18 OPERATING LEASES

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Commitment:		
Within one year	74	42
Within one and five years	109	
	-----	-----
	183	42
	=====	=====

At 31st March 2025, the Charity had the future minimum operating lease payments as set out above. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities is £41k (2024: £40k)

19 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operated a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity which amounted to £36k (2024: £34k). Contributions totalling £3k (2024: £4k) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

20 RELATED PARTY

The only related party transactions made in the period relate to payments made to key management personnel who are the senior management team (see note 6 for details).

21 GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024-25

Recipient	Institute	Project Name	Disease area	Grant Value
Project grants				
Professor Stuart Allan	University of Manchester	Targeting interleukin-1 for the treatment of acute brain injury	Brain and spinal cord injury	£282,135
Professor Petra Hamerlik	University of Manchester	Development of D-2-hydroxyglutarate biosensor device for non-invasive and early detection of IDH1/2-mutant gliomas	Brain tumours	£299,915
Dr Philip Holland	King's College London	Exploring the neural mechanism of fatigue in migraine: novel therapeutic avenues.	Headache and facial pain	£299,851
Dr Harry Bulstrode	University of Cambridge	Gene and mRNA therapy approaches to Tumour Associated Macrophages in glioblastoma	Brain tumours	£232,729
				£1,114,630
Post-doctoral research fellowships				
Dr Alejandro Labastida-Ramirez	University of Manchester	Modulation of cortical spreading depolarizations by amylin in awake mice using functional imaging and electrophysiology	Headache and facial pain	£278,428
Dr Hannah Jackson	University of Nottingham	Unlocking the potential of circulating extracellular vesicles as biomarkers and therapeutic agents for paediatric ependymoma	Brain tumours	£295,185
				£573,613
Other				
Lauren Gay	Imperial College London	PhD studentship extension: Phage-guided CRISPR-Cas9 deletion of the mTOR therapeutic target in paediatric medulloblastoma	Brain tumours	£5,000
				£5,000
Total				£1,693,243

Accounts

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1137560
Registered Company Number: 07345516
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

Chairman's introduction

Our cause

Our vision is a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.



1 in 6 of us

has a neurological condition



12,300

people are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour every year



2.6 million

people live with the effects of traumatic brain injury or stroke



65,000

people suffer from cluster headache, the 'suicide headache'

Brain Research UK funds essential research to discover the causes, develop new treatments and improve the lives of those affected by neurological conditions.

Within this broad remit, we focus our funding in areas where research investment is needed most urgently. Following a review of our Research Strategy, our focus remains on research into brain and spinal cord injury, brain tumours, and headache & facial pain. In each of these three areas, there is a large unmet patient need that is not reflected in current levels of research funding.

Our income

Throughout the year, our supporters remained inspiring and humbling as they continued to raise vital funds.

Funds received during the period came from donations of £2,920,000 (2022/23: £2,770,000) and income from our investment portfolio of £575,000 (2022/23: £427,000). Donations included funding of £548,000 from the Medical Research Charities Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers.

Our research

During the year, we awarded grants of £1,720,000 (2022/23: £1,671,000) to institutions throughout the UK.

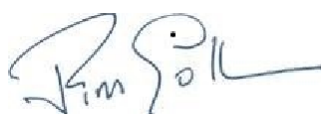
We awarded four new project grants in our priority areas of brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury and headache and facial pain. We awarded two new Brain Research UK Miriam Marks Research Fellowships to support research into brain degeneration. In addition, again, we awarded joint funding with the Royal College of Surgeons to support a Surgical Research Fellowship.

Collaboration

We continued our partnership with three other neurological charities on the London Marathon. In addition, as part of our commitment to collaboration, we were delighted to agree a three-year funding partnership with the RFU Injured Players Foundation, England Rugby's Official Charity, to support our research in brain and spinal cord injury.

With thanks to our supporters

It is only thanks to the generosity of all our supporters that we have been, and continue to be, able to fund vital life-changing, life-saving neurological research.



Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Review of the year

During 2023/24, our main focus has been to build on last year's fundraising performance as we explore additional avenues for growth and development. The previous financial year was the first uninterrupted fundraising year post Covid-19, and we were able to put initiatives in place that allowed our fundraising income to reach £2.9 million. We have been able to maintain this level of income in 2023/24 whilst also developing and investing in an acquisition activity to recruit new regular giving donors.

Pivotal to our fundraising performance is our flagship fundraising event, the London Marathon. This, alongside other event activity, has contributed almost £1.3 million this year, an increase on the £1.1 million that was raised last year.

We have continued to embed our 2023-2026 Fundraising Strategy. This year, this has included investing in donor acquisition activity as well as adapting our approach to fundraising from major donors.

We have also continued to fulfil the updated Research Strategy, as approved by our Board in March 2023. This year, we awarded research grants of £1.7 million, which included £1.2 million as part of our annual project grant round as well as two new Miriam Marks Fellows, an investment of £477,000. In addition, we laid foundations for the funding of our new post-doctoral fellowships with a call that launched in March 2024; awards are due to be made early in 2025.

Early in 2024, as part of our commitment to best practice, we undertook a thorough Governance Review in conjunction with sector experts; we scored in the high upper quartile.

Fundraising activities

Our flagship fundraising activity, the London Marathon, was held again in its traditional month of April, for the first time since 2019. Despite the previous marathon held on 2nd October 2022 being only six months prior to the 23rd of April 2023 date, we were able to send a team of 339 runners to complete the 26.2 miles and raise an exceptional campaign total of £838,437. This represents an increase on the previous marathon income of £635,137.

We continued to work with four other neurological charities to help increase awareness; as in previous years, this included pre-race collaboration at the expo and race day collaboration at cheering points along the course and at the finish.

Other runs and challenges have continued to gain in popularity with a number of supporters undertaking activities ranging from the Great North Run to climbing Kilimanjaro. These have raised income of £128,000 this year alongside £62,000 income from community events.

We were again delighted to work with The Syon Committee to benefit from Opera at Syon, a special event of two evenings of opera held at the Great Conservatory at Syon Park. Each evening, guests enjoyed a champagne reception and delicious supper before performances by Diva Opera of Verdi's Rigoletto and Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore. The evenings raised an impressive £117,000.

For the last two years, Mary-Antonia has joined Team #BrainResearchUK to take on the London Marathon in memory of her '*super intelligent, funny, warm-hearted brother*', Theo.

Theo was diagnosed with glioblastoma in March 2022. The location of the tumour meant that it was inoperable and there was very little that could be done. He died just five months later, at the age of 50.

A talented scientist, Theo had enjoyed a successful career working for a pharmaceutical and biotechnology company. He chaired a charity committee for many years, raising tens of thousands of pounds for both local and national charities.

As her brother was so passionate about scientific research, and a charity champion, Mary decided to make a difference to the lives of people living with neurological conditions by fundraising for Brain Research UK in his memory.

'Theo was absolutely an inspiration to me and always will be.'



Charitable activities

During the year, we continued to fund research in our priority areas: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. We repeated our annual national call for applications for project grants, once again funding exceptionally high-quality research in our priority areas. Following the review of our Research Strategy, undertaken in 2022/23, we finalised details of our new Fellowship scheme that launched in March 2024. We believe this new scheme will enable us to fund more impactful research, and to more successfully build research capacity in our three priority areas. In addition, our updated Research Strategy was published.

Total research grant awards of £1,720,000 were funded. Our project grant scheme ran as expected and four new grants were awarded, and we funded a second round of Miriam Marks Fellowships at UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, funded by the Miriam Marks Endowment for research into neurodegenerative conditions.

The Trustees understand that the benefit of neurological research is long-term but believe that the knowledge gained from each research project funded is a step towards understanding how these diseases happen and how to treat them. Trustees also understand that measuring the impact of their donations is an important consideration for those who give so generously to support the Charity's work.

The future

The war in Ukraine, on-going economic challenges as well as political changes at a national as well as international level mean that uncertainty remains about the fundraising landscape. However, Brain Research UK remains nimble, adaptable to changing circumstances, and committed to funding the best science to achieve the greatest impact for people affected by neurological conditions.

Charitable objects

To promote and support by all available means for the public benefit research and investigation into and study of diseases of the nervous system and allied subjects, and particularly the causes, means of prevention, diagnosis, method of treatment and cure of such diseases and publication of such research, study and investigation which term shall include the promotion and support of University College London Institute of Neurology (Queen Square) and such other institutions in which such research investigation or study is or is to be pursued.

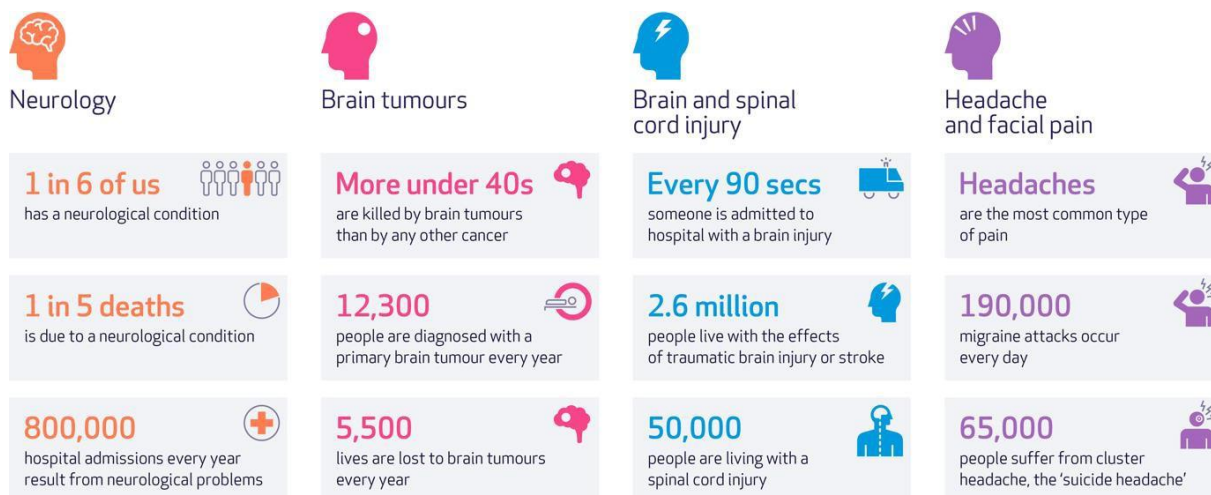
Objectives for 2023/24

Our objectives for research activities in 2024/25 are:

- To complete assessment of the project grant applications received under our 2023 call, with the aim of providing funding of at least £1 million to the strongest projects in our three priority areas.
- To deliver our national call for applications for our new Post-doctoral Fellowships, with at least two Fellowships to be awarded at a cost of c£300,000 each.
- To publish and disseminate our updated Impact Report

Our objectives for fundraising activities in 2024/25 are:

- To undertake additional acquisition activity: a second Regular Giving campaign, following the success of the campaign undertaken in Autumn 2023, and a Cash Giver campaign
- To grow our unique, as well as collaborative, event and challenge activities
- To advance our approach to, and income from, major relationship fundraising



Achievements and performance

The 12-month period to 31st March 2024 delivered the expected fundraising contribution. Specific fundraising highlights include the London Marathon, trusts fundraising and legacy fundraising.

We further developed our major donor proposal and, for the second year, benefitted from Opera at Syon in June 2023, a special event of two evenings of opera held at the Great Conservatory at Syon Park.

Following our national Project Grant call, we awarded core grant funding as expected. Four new project grants were awarded: two in brain tumours, one in brain and spinal cord injury and one in headache and facial pain. In addition, we awarded further funding for two fellowships through an endowment that is restricted to research into neurodegenerative conditions.

Following the review of our Research Strategy, an updated strategy was approved by the Board in March 2023. During the year, as agreed, we developed the framework for our new Post-Doctoral Fellowships that launched in March 2024, with awards due to be made early in 2025, and launched a further call for project grant applications, with awards to be made in June 2024.

As part of our strategic partnership plan, we continued our collaboration with four other neurological charities for the London Marathon and continued our collaboration to fund a joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. In addition, we agreed a three-year funding partnership with the RFU Injured Players Foundation, England's Rugby Office Charity, to support our research in brain and spinal cord injury.

We maintained our operating model that helps to maximise fundraising income whilst keeping operational costs to a minimum.

Financial review

	2023-24	2022-23
	£'000	£'000
Total income	3,495	3,197
Expenditure on raising funds	(1,228)	(1,187)
	2,267	2,010
Expenditure on Research	(1,915)	(1,730)
Expenditure on Information & Awareness	(117)	(88)
Increase/(decrease) in investment values	543	(836)
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	778	(644)

Donations

Total income includes donations of £2,920,000 received during the 12-month period (£2,770,000 in 2022/23). These comprise event income of £1,265,000 (2022/23: £1,150,000), individual giving income of £357,000 (2022/23: £388,000), legacies of £518,000 (2022/23: £384,000), grant income of £608,000 (2022/23: £682,000) and trusts, corporate, major donor income of £172,000 (2022/23: £166,000). The full breakdown of the donation categories can be seen in Note 2 of the accounts.

Investment performance

Our investment balances at 31st March 2024 are £13,710,000 (fixed assets) and £1,207,000 (current assets). This represents a change in the balances from 2022/23, which were £13,177,000 and £1,256,000 respectively. The overall increase is due to the relative stabilisation of our investment portfolio this year compared to the volatility experienced in the previous year.

Due to the size of the investment portfolio, we hold, movements in the financial markets can have a significant impact on our year-end position. In recent years, the year-end position has fluctuated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation. Whereas last year our year-end investment net losses were £836,000, this year we have experienced a gain of £543,000.

Our investment income for the year is also higher compared to last year at £575,000 compared to £427,000 in 2022/23.

Further information about our investment performance is given in the investment policy section and Note 8 of the accounts.

Research funded.

Our aim is to improve the lives of those living with neurological condition to help people live better, longer. Our objects allow us to fund research into all neurological conditions. This is a broad remit, within which some disease areas have a higher profile and a higher level of research funding than others.

Currently, we focus our research funding on three key disease areas where we have identified a particular disparity between the level of unmet need and the level of current research investment: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. By focusing our funding on these three areas, we can have a more significant impact.

This year, we awarded research grants totaling £1.19 million to for four new project grants led by Professor Rob Brownstone (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology), Professor Zameel Cader (University of Oxford), Dr Natividad Gomez-Roman (University of Strathclyde) and Dr Dan Williamson (Newcastle University).

In addition, we provided further funding for two new fellowships through the Miriam Marks Endowment which is restricted to research into neurodegenerative conditions at UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. The fellowships were awarded to Dr Chris Black and Dr Jobert Vargas.

We continued our collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of England funding our fourth joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Their Surgical Research Fellowships offer junior trainee surgeons the opportunity to obtain research training, providing one year's salary and some research costs. We co-funded neurosurgical trainee Ahmad Ali, who is developing a trial of a non-invasive form of brain stimulation called Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation to reduce cognitive impairment following surgery for low-grade glioma.

Note 22 in the accounts lists the awards made during the 12-month financial period to 31st March 2024.

Glioblastoma is an aggressive, incurable brain tumour that strikes around 2,500 people every year in the UK. It grows and spreads quickly and infiltrates the brain.

Despite many years of research, the treatments developed in the laboratory have not improved patient outcomes. The current treatment strategy prolongs survival but is not curative – the tumour always grows back. Only a quarter of patients survive more than a year from diagnosis, and just 5% survive five years.

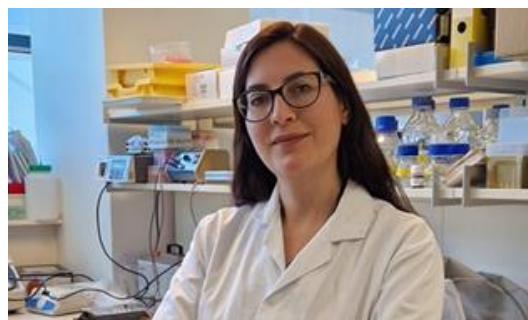
Treatment resistance in glioblastoma is attributed to cells called glioma stem-like cells (GSC), which evade therapy and drive the formation of new tumours. Finding a way to target these cells is key to the effective treatment of glioblastoma.

Dr Gomez-Roman and colleagues at the University of Strathclyde are pursuing a new avenue of research, focused on the role of cholesterol in the growth and survival of glioblastoma cells.

Recent studies have revealed that high levels of cholesterol in glioblastoma cells is associated with faster cell growth and resistance to chemo- and radio- therapy.

Building on previous work showing that targeting the movement of cholesterol within cells is very effective at killing glioblastoma cells in the laboratory, the team will now explore the effect of inhibiting genes and proteins involved in cholesterol movement, both alone and in combination with radiation and chemotherapy.

In this field where treatment options have remained static for two decades, we hope that this will lead to a new treatment approach that could improve survival.



Information and awareness

During the period to 31st March 2024, our information and awareness expenditure was £117,000. (2022/23: £88,000); this reflected updates to our website and general communication activities.

Future plans

Having completed the first year of our new Strategy 2023-2026, that was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2023, we will continue as planned with the following:

- Research: we will fund world class, impactful neurological research. We have launched a new post-doctoral funding scheme to replace our PhD Studentship scheme, as there is a bottleneck in funding for post-docs looking for independence. This scheme offers two significant advantages over the studentships: post-doctoral candidates will generally be in a better position to develop and deliver impactful research projects and will be more committed to their field of research. As such, they will help to build and retain capacity in the priority areas.
- Fundraising: we will focus on developing our existing flagship fundraising streams, such as the London Marathon, and will seek to diversify our income streams. We will strengthen the loyalty of our existing supporters and will invest in the acquisition of new supporters to ensure growth and longevity.
- Collaboration: we will work collaboratively, across both fund-seeking and grant-making activities, with likeminded organisations with shared purpose.
- Communications: we will continue to boost and diversify our communications activities to ensure that we retain existing, and attract new, supporters as well as increase brand awareness.
- Organisation: we will continue our focus on being a lean, agile, modern and adaptable organisation that can mobilise and respond quickly to changing circumstances. During 2024/25, we plan to grow our team in order to capitalise on developing our fundraising capabilities.

Financial performance

The Charity received income of £3,495,000 during the financial year to 31st March 2024 (2022/23: £3,197,000). The fundraising environment has been challenging with rising inflation impacting the cost of living for many people. Despite this turbulence, we were able to maintain fundraising income at a steady level at £2,920,000 on par with last year (2022/23: £2,770,000).

As can be seen in Notes 2 and 3, the Charity's income comes from a number of diverse sources. In recent years, our fundraising programme has been impacted by the repercussions of the pandemic with a number of income streams affected. The greatest impact was on our ability to fundraise from face-to-face events, in particular from our flagship fundraising event – the London Marathon. However, for the past two years we have been able to run uninterrupted programmes and have seen this fundraising event re-emerge as our core income stream. The current year reflects income of £1,265,000 from event related income, representing growth from last year's income of £1,150,000.

In addition, the Charity continued to benefit from funding from the Medical Research Charities Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers with £548,000 being recognised during the year (£682,000 in 2022/23). In addition, this year we received grant funding from the Neuroscience Foundation (£45,000) and the RFU Injured Players Foundation (£15,000).

In total, we received net income of £2,267,000 this year (after taking into account the expenditure on raising funds) compared to £2,010,000 raised last year. This has been used to fully fund the expenditure on our charitable activities of £2,032,000 during the year (2022/23: £1,818,000).

Our charitable activities include research spend of £1,915,000 (2022/23: £1,730,000) meaning that around two-thirds of all our expenditure this year was spent on our research activities.

We end the year with a surplus of £235,000 from operational activities, which has been supplemented by investment gains of £543,000 to give an overall surplus of £778,000. The impact of this on our funds position can be seen below.

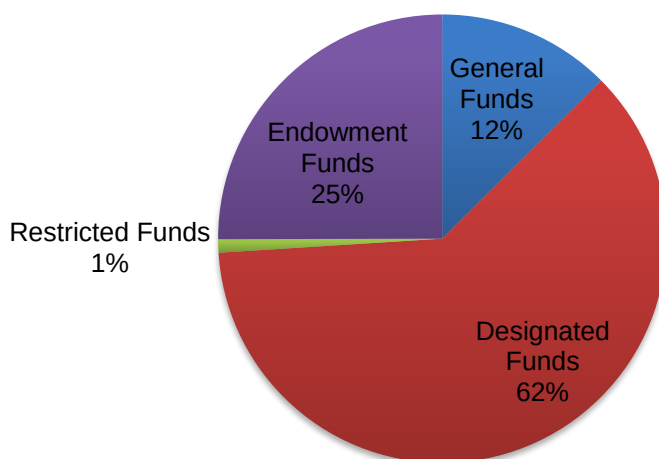
Funds

The Charity's total funds at 31st March 2024 were £10,771,000 (2022/23: £9,993,000).

The funds are split as follows:

	2023/24	2022/23
General Funds	£1,328,000	£1,081,000
Designated Funds	£6,688,000	£5,981,000
Restricted Funds	£ 102,000	£ 95,000
Endowment Funds	£2,653,000	£2,836,000
	£10,771,000	£9,993,000

2023/24



General funds

The general fund is used to provide a buffer for unforeseen activities and is maintained on the basis of being the higher of £750,000 or 9 months of non-grant expenditure (overheads and fundraising costs). 9 months of budgeted non-grant expenditure from our 2024/25 budget comes to £1,328,000 and this is therefore the balance reflected in our general funds.

Designated funds

The Charity holds two designated funds:

Grants Fund: This fund is in place to cover the next two years of expected unrestricted grant awards. The fund will be expended as the grant awards are made and then replenished in order to cover the planned future commitments.

Investment Fund: The Charity benefits from the income generated by its investment portfolio for a significant proportion of total income. As income and unrealised movements can change significantly from year to year, the

investment fund was put in place to provide a cushion against these fluctuations. It is therefore the balance of the Unrestricted Funds after taking into account the General and Grant Fund.

Restricted funds

These funds have been donated for specific projects or research activities. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure restricted funds are utilised in accordance with the donors' wishes as soon as is practicable.

Endowment funds

These funds have been endowed for use on specific projects or research activities at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. All the endowment funds are expendable.

Balances and detailed movements on funds are detailed in Note 14.

Reserves policy

The Charity has developed a reserves policy that identifies and plans for the maintenance of essential activities and reflects the risks associated with the Charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts.

The policy is as outlined in the General Funds and Designated Funds sections above. It is devised with the intention of maintaining adequate funds within general funds to ensure that the Charity could operate effectively in the short term. Furthermore, adequate funds are to be kept aside for the continuity of grant funding.

The Board reviews the adequacy and relevance of the reserves policy periodically to assess its validity in light of changing circumstances. The policy was reviewed by the Trustees during the current financial period and re-approved in June 2023.

Given the current uncertainty over the economy and the impact on financial performance, our reserves currently provide a sufficient buffer for the Charity to continue operations in the short to medium term.

Grant awarding policy

Brain Research UK funds research on a national basis into neurological conditions. Other than awards made from three restricted endowment funds, our research funding is awarded in open national competition.

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, our policy is to fund research that has been subject to rigorous assessment, including external peer review. Our grant-making processes were subject to audit by the AMRC in 2020, and we are pleased to report that we passed the audit and were awarded a certificate of best practice.

During the period under review, the Charity's Scientific Advisory Panel maintained its focus on the three priority research areas originally introduced during 2016 and reconfirmed during a review of our Research Strategy that completed in March 2023 when it was approved by the Board of Trustees: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. We issued one national call for project grant applications in these three areas.

Outside of the three priority areas, we collaborated with UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology to issue a call for applications and awarded two research fellowships in neurodegenerative conditions, funded by the Miriam Marks Fund, and we collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons of England to fund a joint research fellowship.

Going concern

As with the previous two financial years, the accounts are approved during a period of financial and economic uncertainty. This has impacted the charity's fundraising performance and investment portfolio in recent years. However, we end this year with a surplus of £778,000 and our total funds balance increasing from £9,993,000 to £10,771,000.

The Charity, as a grant-making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. This is evidenced by this year's direct research spend amounting to £1,720,000 and a further £3,200,000 held in a designated fund for future research.

The Charity has assessed the on-going impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and formulated a budget for the forthcoming year, which has taken into account the environment of uncertainty. The budget for 2024/25, similar to the budget for this year, is cautious and reflects ongoing financial repercussions of the pandemic and the current economic uncertainty. Furthermore, the Trustees have reviewed the impact of a range of scenarios over the next 3 years on the reserve position.

The Trustees have also considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12-month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities remain unpredictable, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our annual and mid-year financial planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned expenditure. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Risk assessment

The Trustees review the risks facing the Charity every six months and consider the steps needed to mitigate them. The Board reviews an annual report of identified risks and the control systems designed to respond to them. The last review took place during the June 2024 meeting.

The main risks facing the Charity are around financial stability and the sustainability of income. As we operate in an uncertain economic environment with rising costs, the viability of our fundraising has emerged as a major risk for the Charity to monitor. The Charity has responded to this risk by carrying out medium term financial modelling incorporating a number of scenarios. This has been to assess the sensitivity of certain factors and establish a minimum level of reserves that the Charity would plan to not go below.

Furthermore, the Charity operates with diversified income streams, and this has proved to be important in recent years. Whilst we were prevented from carrying out fundraising from events during the pandemic we were able to rely on other fundraising streams to support us such as legacies, trusts and major donors. We plan on maintaining our income diversity to manage the income risk and are also implementing the principles of our recent fundraising strategy.

Our reserves policy is intended to give us continuity of operation in the short to medium term supplemented by a strong reserve position to give us stability. We review our reserve policy every year and have assessed the adequacy of our reserves against various scenarios.

The Charity holds a substantial investment portfolio of around £14 million from which regular income is received. Given its size, protection of the portfolio is vital and effective management of the portfolio constitutes a further risk. To mitigate this, the portfolio is closely managed in line with our investment policy with the investment manager's performance and asset allocation appraised quarterly by the Investment Committee.

Fundraising approach and performance

The Charity undertakes a range of fundraising activities, including direct mail and fundraising events. No fundraising activities were carried out by either a professional fundraiser or commercial participator. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. During the period, no complaints were received.

Investment policy

The Articles of Association provide the Trustees with the power to invest funds that are not immediately required by the Charity. This is performed by outsourcing the management of investments to a specialist advisor on the basis of an investment policy that is overseen by the Investment Committee and approved by the Board. After reviewing recommendations provided by the Investment Committee, the investment policy was last approved by the Board in March 2024.

Given the long-term nature of the Charity's commitment to fund research, the main objective of the investment policy is to achieve total returns on a rolling 5-year basis UK CPI + 2.5% in order to:

- Fund investment in BRUK's charitable objectives.
- Preserve capital value in real terms to protect future investment.

The investment portfolio, which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, is a diversified portfolio of UK and overseas equities, gilts, corporate bonds, property, hedge funds, commodities and cash deposits. The Investment Committee monitors the composition and performance of the portfolio every quarter as well as reviewing the risk limits and ethical considerations.

Our intention is to adopt a medium to long term time horizon for investment (5 to 10 years), accepting the risk of short-term fluctuation for long-term gains. Recent years have seen investment markets around the world shown significant volatility and the Trustees recognise that these are uncertain times for investment returns. Therefore, the Trustees intentions are to protect asset valuations as far as possible during this economic uncertainty whilst at the same time deriving income.

In line with our ethical restrictions, we do not have direct or indirect investments in tobacco producers or manufacturers.

Over the 12 months to 31st March 2024, a return of 7.6% was achieved.

Structure, governance and management

Brain Research Trust is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 07345516; incorporated 13 August 2010) and a registered charity (registration number 1137560) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Jim Gollan, under powers defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association amended 21st December 2015 and 7th March 2019. Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust.

Name	Brain Research Trust; working name Brain Research UK
Charity registration number	1137560 (registered in England and Wales)
Company registration number	07345516 (registered in England and Wales)
Registered office	Fifth Floor, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London WC1V 7QH
Trustees	Jim Gollan, Chair of Trustees Jonathan Kropman, Deputy Chair of Trustees Jerry Storrs, Treasurer Vijay Jassal Aoife Regan Professor Kevin Talbot Paul Wright Professor Joanna Wardlaw
Scientific Advisory Panel	Professor Liam Gray (appointed Chair of Panel October 2022) Dr Faisal Amin Professor Khuloud Al-Jamal Dr Anish Bahra Professor Elizabeth Bradbury (appointed May 2023) Professor Anthony Chalmers (appointed April 2023) Professor Silvia Marino Professor Willie Stewart
Senior management	Caroline Blakely, Chief Executive Snezana Bjelogrljic, Head of Finance Pippa Ball, Head of Fundraising (resigned 31 st May 2024)

Professional advisors

Auditors	Solicitors
HaysMac LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG	Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR
Investment Managers	Bankers
Sarasin & Partners LLP Juxon House 100 St Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8BU	Clydesdale Bank PLC 30 St. Vincent Place Glasgow G1 2HL

Governance and management

The Charity's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents. Trustee indemnity insurance is in place together with a conflicts of interest policy.

In the period under review the management of the Charity was as follows:

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, currently comprises eight members (2022/23: eight) and meets quarterly. The Board is responsible for determining the overall strategy of the Charity and is accountable for its operational, financial and managerial performance.

There is one standing Committee of the Board that meets quarterly.

The **Investment Committee** monitors the Charity's investment performance, portfolio and policy recommending any changes in strategy to the Trustee Board. The terms of reference for this committee are regularly monitored and updated accordingly.

A **Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)** meets periodically and also communicates via email, to evaluate and rank research grant applications recommending to the Trustees which projects should be funded. The members of the SAP are independent, drawn from various neurological disciplines, and are actively involved in neurological research. SAP members are listed on page 13.

The Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), an umbrella organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. AMRC members aim to follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Day-to-day running of the Charity is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

IT, telephony, database management, fundraising, financial consultancy services and investment management services are provided by external service providers.

Trading subsidiaries

The Charity holds 100% of the share capital of Brain Research UK Limited (company number 14108655), which was incorporated on 16 May 2022. This company is currently dormant and there are no immediate plans for the company to trade.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by either invitation or recruitment to ensure the right balance of skills and experience on the Board and to stimulate the growth and development of the Charity. Selection is based on the ability to contribute to Charity management, business, and scientific, financial, investment, legal, fundraising, campaigning and marketing skills.

The term of appointment is three years, renewable twice unless there are exceptional circumstances.

New trustees receive a thorough induction into the work of the Charity.

No new trustees (2022/23: two) were appointed during the financial period.

Management

The Trustees exercise executive responsibility for the governance of the Charity and, through the Chairman, supervise the management of the Charity by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Chief Executive also task the Board with decision-making on strategic management issues as well as overseeing the research grants application process and monitoring the progress of awarded grants.

The day-to-day running of the Charity has been delegated to the Chief Executive and includes the operational running of the Charity and the coordinating of fundraising appeals.

All staff posts are periodically evaluated to ensure that salary levels are reflective of industry, cost of living and organisational needs, as well as individual and charity performance.

In recruitment of a new post, an assessment is made of the requirements of the role in terms of skills, experience, competency and urgency. The salary is then determined on the basis of this assessment and the current market conditions. The salary of the CEO is reviewed periodically by the Board.

Membership of Regulatory Bodies and other organisations

We are committed to the highest standards of fundraising and grant making as demonstrated by our membership of the following organisations.

Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

- The AMRC is an umbrella organisation of leading medical and health research charities in the UK. As a member, we follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Fundraising Regulator (FR)

- The Fundraising Regulator is the UK's independent regulator of charitable fundraising that ensures public protection, accountability and excellence in fundraising. Their Code of Fundraising Practice sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third- party fundraisers in the UK. As a member, we adhere to the highest standards and highlight our Supporter Charter.

Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF)

- The CioF is the professional membership body for UK fundraising; as a member, we follow its recommendations.

Neurological Alliance (NA)

- The NA is a coalition of more than 80 organisations working together to transform outcomes for the millions of people in England with a neurological condition. The NA keeps their members apprised of patients' survey outcomes, any and all public policy changes that affect our beneficiaries and strengthen the voice of people affected by the neurological conditions.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Research funded by the Charity meets the Charity Commission's test for Public Benefit. In addition, although only a small percentage of the population may suffer from a particular neurological disease, the application of the results of the research is not restricted by gender, ethnicity, religion or ability to pay and in that respect the public at large benefit.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we 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.

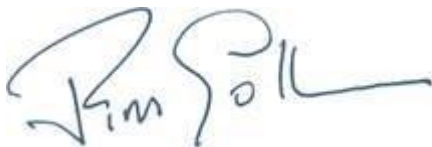
Auditors

The auditors, Haysmacintyre LLP rebranded and became HaysMac LLP on 18th November 2024 and were re-appointed during the period in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

JIM GOLLAN SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gollan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Brain Research Trust**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brain Research Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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

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

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.

Based on our understanding of the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to data protection legislation and employment (including taxation), and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates]

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Richard Weaver (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of HaysMac LLP, Statutory Auditor
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

20 November 2024

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	2	2,816	104	-	2,920	2,770
Investments	3	412	-	163	575	427
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total income		3,228	104	163	3,495	3,197
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure on						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs	4	59	-	23	82	84
Fundraising	4	1,146	-	-	1,146	1,103
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on funds	4	1,205	-	23	1,228	1,187
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Charitable activities:						
Research	4	1,341	97	477	1,915	1,730
Information & awareness	4	117	-	-	117	88
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on charitable activities		1,458	97	477	2,032	1,818
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure		2,663	97	500	3,260	3,005
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds before gains/(losses) on investment assets		565	7	(337)	235	192
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	8	389	-	154	543	(836)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure)		954	7	(183)	778	(644)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		954	7	(183)	778	(644)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as At 31 March 2023	14	7,062	95	2,836	9,993	10,637
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 March 2024	14	8,016	102	2,653	10,771	9,993
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

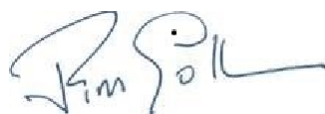
**BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Company registration No. 07345516 (England and Wales)
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain research Trust)

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		3	3
Investments	8	13,710	13,177
Total fixed assets		13,713	13,180
Current assets			
Sundry debtors	9	764	999
Investments		1,207	1,256
Cash at bank and in hand		1,107	390
Total current assets		3,078	2,645
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	(3,906)	(2,722)
Net current assets		(828)	(77)
Total assets less current liabilities		12,885	13,103
Creditors falling due after one year	11	(2,114)	(3,110)
Net assets		10,771	9,993
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted Funds			
Investment Fund	14	3,488	3,905
Grants Fund	14	3,200	2,076
		6,688	5,981
General Fund		1,328	1,081
		8,016	7,062
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	14	102	95
		102	95
Endowment Funds			
Marks Endowment Fund	14	1,488	1,780
Sobell Endowment Fund	14	373	338
Watts Endowment Fund	14	792	718
		2,653	2,836
		10,771	9,993

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2024
and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Jim Gollan (Chair)

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

	2024		2023	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:				
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		84		(639)
Cash flows from investing activities:	1		1	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment				
Net proceeds from sale of investments and reinvestments	583		453	
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>		584		455
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Change in cash equivalent in the period		668		(184)
Cash and cash equivalent at start of period		1,646		1,830
Cash and cash equivalent at end of period		2,314		1,646
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Net income / (expenditure) for the period</i>		778		(644)
Adjust for:		1		-
Depreciation charge				
(Gains) / losses on investments		(543)		836
Dividends and interest from investments		(575)		(427)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		235		(308)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		188		(96)
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		84		(639)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand		1,107		390
Cash equivalents on deposits		1,207		1,256
Total cash and cash equivalent		2,314		1,646

Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents			
Cash	390	717	1,107
Investment cash	1,256	(49)	1,207
Total	1,646	668	2,314

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 13. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Companies Act 2006, FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015") (Second edition effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. It has assessed the potential impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and has formulated a revised budget for the current year, which takes into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12-month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities will reduce in the short term, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts in wills which are recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of the gift is measurable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as soon as the related liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Expenditure on raising funds comprises fundraising costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure directly related to the awarding of grants to institutions, and provision of information and awareness.

Support costs represent indirect costs relating to raising funds and the Charity's charitable activities. Support costs, including governance costs, are allocated to activities on bases that represent the Trustees' best estimate of actual use. The bases used to allocate costs to the above categories of expenditure are set out in note 4.

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, auditors' remuneration, certain legal costs and all costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as costs of Board meetings and of preparing the statutory accounts.

Research grants

Grants payables are in respect of grants approved by the Trustees, having due regard for the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Panel. The full value of the grants approved is accounted for when the grant awards or commitments are made.

Investment income

Income from fixed interest stocks, loans and deposits is included in the accounts on an accrual basis. Income from other securities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Office and computer equipment with a cost of £500 or more are capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis of 25% per annum.

Investments

The Charity's investments are of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Investments are included in the balance sheet at fair value (bid price).

Realised gains are the difference between sales proceeds and the carrying value of the investment. The carrying value is the fair value at the beginning of the period or the purchase cost where the investment was acquired during the period.

Unrealised gains are the change in value of investments after taking into account any movements in investment holdings such as purchases and disposals of investments.

Realised and unrealised gains are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable are accounted for on the following basis:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors are measured at the transaction price less any provision for impairment. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure.

Grant commitments for awards with expected payments exceeding twelve months have been discounted using market rates for cash matching the term of the liabilities with rates between 2% - 5% p.a.

Leases

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

Staff benefits

The Charity makes pension provision for its employees by contributing to a personal pension scheme of their choice. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the Charity benefits from the employees' services. The Charity has no further liability under the scheme. In October 2016 all employees not already in an approved scheme were auto-enrolled into a multi-employer pension scheme administered by the Peoples Pension.

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Funds

Brain Research Trust consists of six funds as follows:

- General fund (unrestricted)
- Investment fund (designated)
- Grants fund (designated)
- Miriam Marks fund (expendable endowment)
- Sobell fund (expendable endowment)
- Watts fund (expendable endowment)

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted income funds comprise unexpended balances of donations and grants held in trust to be applied for specific purposes.

All the endowment funds are expendable. Each of the restricted and endowment funds are for the purpose of funding research into neurological conditions.

Allocation of costs to the Funds

Costs which are specific to an individual fund are charged to that fund. All other costs are charged to the unrestricted funds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of these accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

The preceding accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

2 DONATIONS and LEGACIES	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Individuals	356	1	357
Trusts, corporates & major donors	69	103	172
Income from events	1,265	-	1,265
Legacies	518	-	518
Grants	608	-	608
	-----	-----	-----
	2,816	104	2,920
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Individuals	388	-	388
Trusts, corporates & major donors	123	43	166
Income from events	1,150	-	1,150
Legacies	384	-	384
Grants	682	-	682
	-----	-----	-----
	2,727	43	2,770
	=====	=====	=====
3 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Restricted funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	410	163	573
Deposit account interest	2	-	2
	-----	-----	-----
	412	163	575
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	307	120	427
Deposit account interest	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	307	120	427
	=====	=====	=====

4 EXPENDITURE	Direct 2024 £'000	Grants 2024 £'000	Support 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	82	-	-	82
Fundraising costs	1,094	-	52	1,146
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	1,176	-	52	1,228
Research	160	1,682	73	1,915
Information & awareness	111	-	6	117
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	271	1,682	79	2,031
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,447	1,682	131	3,260
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Direct costs 2023 £'000	Grants awarded 2023 £'000	Support costs 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	84	-	-	84
Fundraising costs	1,038	-	65	1,103
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	1,122	-	65	1,187
Research	148	1,506	76	1,730
Information & awareness	80	-	8	88
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	228	1,506	84	1,818
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,350	1,506	149	3,005
	=====	=====	=====	=====

See note 22 for details of grants awarded in 2023-24.

Support costs of £132k (2023: £148k) comprise of property and office costs and other sundry expenses and are allocated on the basis of staff costs. Governance costs of £76k (2023: £69k) are regarded as support costs and are apportioned to fundraising, research and charitable activity proportionately to the value attributed to each of these activities.

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	2	1	-	3
Telecomms and IT	31	17	4	52
Human resources	-	-	-	-
Governance	20	54	2	76
	<u>54</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>132</u>

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	1	-	-	1
Telecomms and IT	46	25	6	77
Human resources	-	-	-	-
Governance	18	50	1	69
	<u>66</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>148</u>

6 NET INCOME

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor remuneration - audit fees (excludes VAT)	26	17
- other fees (excludes VAT)	2	2
Depreciation	1	-
Operating lease charges	53	51
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period. Trustees were reimbursed £0 (2023: 1,118) for travel expenses. No amounts were paid to third parties on behalf of the trustees.

7 SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	377	345
Social security costs	39	36
Pension costs	34	28
Freelancers/Agency	39	87
	-----	-----
	489	496
	=====	=====

The average headcount of staff employed by the charity during the period was 6 (2023: 6)

	2024	2023	2024	2023
	Headcount	Headcount	FTE	FTE
Research	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3
Information and awareness	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Raising funds	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.4
Governance	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.5</u>
	6.6	6.7	5.6	5.5

During the period, the number of senior employees who received emoluments falling within the following ranges was:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
£90,000 - £99,999	1	-
£80,000 - £89,999	-	1
£60,000 - £69,999	2	1
	-----	-----
	3	2
	=====	=====

During the period, these staff received employer pension contributions of £21,563 (2023: £12,036).

Key management personnel

In 2024, 3 (2023: 3) members of staff formed the senior management team. Their remuneration amounted to £253,000 including social security and pension costs (£223,000 in 2023).

8 INVESTMENTS

(a) Equities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Endowment funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2023	3,678	4,894	8,572
Additions	5,994	2,377	8,371
Disposals	(6,015)	(2,386)	(8,401)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	407	161	568
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2024	4,063	5,047	9,110
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2023	5,551	2,180	7,731
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2024	6,708	2,661	9,369
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Endowment Funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	4,637	5,271	9,908
Additions	508	200	708
Disposals	(1,201)	(472)	(1,673)
Increase in unrealised (losses)/gains	(266)	(105)	(371)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2023	3,678	4,894	8,572
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2022	6,807	2,876	9,683
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2023	5,551	2,180	7,732
	=====	=====	=====

(b) Fixed interest securities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Endowment Funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2023	1,945	1,969	3,914
Additions	1,791	710	2,501
Disposals	(1,691)	(671)	(2,362)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(18)	(7)	(25)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2024	2,027	2,001	4,028
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2023	3,224	1,266	4,490
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2024	3,075	1,220	4,295
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Endowment funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	1,262	1,701	2,963
Additions	1,462	574	2,036
Disposals	(445)	(175)	(620)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(334)	(131)	(465)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2023	1,945	1,969	3,914
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2022	2,198	929	3,127
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2023	3,224	1,266	4,490
	=====	=====	=====

The total investment holding included unrealised investments gains of £568k (2023: losses £371k) on equities and £25k losses (2023: losses £465k) on fixed interest securities, a total unrealised gain of £543k (2023: loss £836k).

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
(c) Cash held for investment purposes	585	691
	=====	=====
(d) Unrealised forex gains/(losses)	(13)	-
	=====	=====
(e) Total at bid-price (including cash)	13,710	13,177
	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £'000	Endowment funds 2024 £'000	TOTAL 2024 £'000
(f) Gains/(losses) on investments			
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	389	154	543
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Endowment funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	(600)	(236)	(836)
	=====	=====	=====

9 SUNDRY DEBTORS	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Legacies and accrued income	269	505
Other debtors	16	24
Prepayments	479	470
	-----	-----
	764	999
	=====	=====

10 CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	70	72
Grants payable	3,756	2,580
Accruals	34	23
Social security and other taxes	13	11
Other creditors	12	10
Deferred income	21	26
	-----	-----
	3,906	2,722
	=====	=====

11 CREDITORS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Grants payable	2,114	3,110
	-----	-----
	2,114	3,110
	=====	=====

12 GRANTS PAYABLE

	2024		2023	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of period		5,690		5,558
Grants awarded in period	1,720		1,671	
Released prior year provision and underspends	83		(82)	
Adjustment for time value of money	(54)		(83)	
	-----		-----	
		1,749		1,506
Grant invoices paid in period		(1,569)		(1,374)
		-----		-----
Balance at end of period		5,870		5,690
		=====		=====
Payable within one year		3,756		2,580
Payable after one year		2,114		3,110
		-----		-----
		5,870		5,690
		=====		=====

Note 22 shows details of grants awarded in the period

During the period, grants totalling £1,720k were awarded to research institutions as per note 22. Each grant is made in accordance with the terms of the individual trust funds held by the charity. The total grants made during the period are analysed by fund in note 13.

13 GRANTS AWARDED ANALYSED BY FUND

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Grants fund	1,229	1,646
Marks fund	485	-
Sobell fund	-	25
Watts	-	-
Other restricted funds	6	-
	-----	-----
	1,720	1,671
	=====	=====

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2023 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2024 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	1,081	-	-	-	-	247	1,328
Designated funds							
Investment fund	3,905	3,228	-	(1,463)	389	(2,570)	3,488
Grants fund	2,076	-	(1,199)	-	-	2,323	3,200
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted Funds	7,062	3,228	(1,199)	(1,463)	389	-	8,016
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Other funds	95	104	(6)	(92)	-	-	102
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted Funds	95	104	(6)	(92)	-	-	102
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,780	102	(477)	(14)	97	-	1,488
Sobell fund	338	20	-	(3)	18	-	373
Watts fund	718	41	-	(6)	39	-	7792
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment Funds	2,836	163	(477)	(23)	154	-	2,653
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	9,993	3,495	(1,682)	(1,578)	543	-	10,771
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the Trustees as disclosed within the Trustees' Report.

All the Endowment funds are expendable. Each of the Restricted and Endowment Funds are for the purpose of funding research into Neurological Conditions.

The Marks fund is for research into the first causes of deterioration of memory.

The Sobell fund is for a chair of neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology.

The Watts fund is for research into motor neurone disease.

15 STATEMENT OF FUNDS – 2023 COMPARATIVES

	01 Apr 2022 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2023 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	925	-	-	-	-	156	1,081
Designated funds							
Investment fund	3,963	3,034		(1,475)	(600)	(1,017)	3,905
Grants fund	2,593	-	(1,378)	-	-	861	2,076
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted Funds	7,481	3,034	(1,378)	(1,475)	(600)	-	7,062
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Other funds	156	43	(104)	-	-	-	95
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted Funds	156	43	(104)	-	-	-	95
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,866	75	-	(15)	(146)	-	1,780
Sobell fund	381	15	(25)	(3)	(30)	-	338
Watts fund	753	30	1	(6)	(60)	-	718
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment Funds	3,000	120	(24)	(24)	(236)	-	2,836
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	10,637	3,197	(1,506)	(1,499)	(836)	-	9,993
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Financial instruments measured at fair value through the SoFA (a)		
Listed investments	13,713	13,180
Financial assets measured at amortised cost (b)		
Cash	2,314	1,646
Debtors	764	999
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost (c)		
Creditors	(6,020)	(5,832)
	-----	-----
Net financial assets at amortised cost	10,771	9,993
	=====	=====

(a) Financial assets measured at fair value.

(b) Financial assets include cash, trade and staff loans and other debtors.

(c) Financial liabilities include trade creditors, other creditors, accruals and grants payable.

**17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS
BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Investment assets 2024 £'000	Fixed assets 2024 £'000	Other assets 2024 £'000	Total assets 2024 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds	9,844	3	(1,831)	8,016
Marks fund	2,399	-	(911)	1,488
Sobell fund	494	-	(121)	373
Watts fund	973	-	(181)	792
Restricted funds	-	-	102	102
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	13,710	3	(2,942)	10,771
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS –
2023 COMPARATIVES**

	Investment assets 2023 £'000	Fixed assets 2023 £'000	Other assets 2023 £'000	Total assets 2023 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds	9,461	3	(2,402)	7,062
Reserve				
Marks fund	2,306	-	(526)	1,780
Sobell fund	474	-	(136)	338
Watts fund	936	-	(218)	718
Restricted funds	-		95	95
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	13,177	3	(3,407)	9,993
	=====	=====	=====	=====

19 OPERATING LEASES

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Commitment expiring:		
Within one year	42	51
	-----	-----
	42	51
	=====	=====

At 31 March 2024, the Charity had the future minimum operating lease payments as set out above. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities is £40k (2023: £43k)

20 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operated a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity which amounted to £34k (2023: £28k). Contributions totalling £4k (2023: £2k) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

21 RELATED PARTY

The only related party transactions made in the period relate to payments made to key management personnel who are the senior management team (see note 6 for details).

22 GRANTS AWARDED IN 2023-24

<u>Description</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u> £
Project Grants (Grants Fund)		
Professor Rob Brownstone, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology <i>Plasticity of neural circuits for micturition following spinal cord injury</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	294,575
Professor Zameel Cader, University of Oxford <i>Elucidating a novel circadian coupled mechanism for treating headache and facial pain</i>	Headache and facial pain	298,805
Dr Natividad Gomez-Roman, University of Strathclyde Characterising cholesterol trafficking in glioblastoma and brain cells, and its contribution to tumour development, progression and treatment <i>Dr Daniel Williamson, Newcastle University</i>	Brain tumours	298,408
<i>A mouse single cell atlas modelling radiotherapy-induced brain injury and late-effects in children treated for brain tumours</i>	Brain tumours	299,014
Project Grants sub-total		1,190,802
Mr Ahmad Ali, The Walton Centre <i>Brain Research UK - Royal College of Surgeons Joint Research Fellowship</i> <i>Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for cognitive rehabilitation in brain tumour patients</i>		38,000
Other Research (Endowment & Restricted Funds)		
Dr Cristopher Black, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology Miriam Marks Fellowship: Identifying early disease markers of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.	ALS	242,147
Dr Jose Vargas, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology Miriam Marks Fellowship: The role of TDP-43 in frontotemporal dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	FTD & ALS	243,411
Professor Jonathan Schott, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology <i>Identifying the causes and evolution of pre-symptomatic Alzheimer's disease</i>	Alzheimer's disease	5,543
Other Research sub-total		491,101
Total grants awarded		1,719,903
Adjustments for underspends		(66,068)

Release of previous year's adjustment of the time value of grants payable after one year	82,710
Adjustment for the time value of grants payable after one year	(54,308)
Grand Total	<u>1,682,237</u>

Accounts

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023
Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

Registered Charity Number: 1137560
Registered Company Number: 07345516
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

Chairman's introduction

Our cause



1 in 6 of us

has a neurological condition



12,300

people are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour every year



2.6 million

people live with the effects of traumatic brain injury or stroke



65,000

people suffer from cluster headache, the 'suicide headache'

Brain Research UK funds essential research to discover the causes, develop new treatments and improve the lives of those affected by neurological conditions.

Within this broad remit, we aim to focus our funding in areas where research investment is needed most urgently. Since 2016, our focus has been on research into brain and spinal cord injury, brain tumours, and headache & facial pain. In each of these three areas, there is a large unmet patient need that is not reflected in current levels of research funding.

Our vision is a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.

Our income

Throughout the year, our supporters remained inspiring and humbling as they continued to raise vital funds.

Funds received during the period came from donations of £2,770,000 (2021/22: £1,608,000) and income from our investment portfolio of £427,000 (2021/22: £421,000). Donations included funding of £682,000 from the Medical Research Charities COVID Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers.

Our research

During the year, we awarded grants of £1,671,410 (2021/22: £2,203,046) to institutions throughout the UK.

We awarded three new PhD Studentships and four project grants in our priority areas of brain tumours, and brain and spinal cord injury. We collaborated with The Neurosciences Foundation to jointly fund one of the Studentships at the University of Dundee and, again, awarded joint funding with the Royal College of Surgeons to support a joint fellowship at the University of Nottingham.

With thanks to our supporters

It is only thanks to the generosity of all our supporters that we have been, and continue to be, able to fund vital life-changing, life-saving neurological research.

Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Review of the year

2022/23 was our first, post Covid-19, full fundraising year. In recent years, our fundraising programme has been impacted by repercussions from the pandemic. The greatest impact was on face to face events, most notably our flagship fundraising event, the London Marathon. However, this year, thanks to the enthusiasm and determination of our supporters, our fundraising income increased to £2.7 million, from £1.6 million in 2021/22; of this, our events income increased to £1.1 million, from £501,000 in 2021/22. This represents a 72% increase and higher than the income we were raising before the pandemic. In addition, work was completed on a Fundraising Strategy 2023-2026; this was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2023.

This year, we awarded research grants of £1.67 million, including £49,426 of pandemic related extension funding. We undertook a review of our Research Strategy, which resulted in an updated Research Strategy being approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2023.

Fundraising activities

Our flagship fundraising activity, the London Marathon, was again held in October as opposed to the traditional April date. Our team of 299 runners completed the 26.2 miles to raise a wonderful £635,000. We continued to work with four other neurological charities to help increase awareness; as in previous years, this included pre-race collaboration at the expo, and race day collaboration at cheering points along the course and at the finish.

Other runs and challenges continued to gain in popularity post-Covid with a number of supporters undertaking activities ranging from the Great North Run to climbing Kilimanjaro.

We were delighted to be chosen to work with The Syon Committee for Opera at Syon, a special event of two evenings of opera held at the Great Conservatory at Syon Park. Each evening, guests enjoyed a champagne reception and delicious supper before performances of Puccini's Tosca and Mozart's Così fan tutte. The evenings raised an impressive £89,000.

Income from trusts and major donors increased from 2021/22 by 32%.

We continued with our strategy to develop our communications activities and had a year-on-year increase in website traffic of 141.38% and an increase of 12% in our social media followers. In addition, we saw an increase of 34% in online donation.

We continued to increase engagement with our supporters, and with our digital stewardship activities for regular supporters.

Iorwerth ('Yog') was diagnosed with an apple-sized brain tumour in 2012.

Doctors initially attributed his worsening headaches to migraine. With the onset of other symptoms, including early morning vomiting and memory issues, his sister, an ex-nurse, intervened and an MRI scan revealed the presence of a tumour, a meningioma.

'Within hours the NHS machine kicked into action and my case was given urgent status. Within ten days I had further MRI scans, and a craniotomy to remove the tumour.'

In October 2022, he completed the London Marathon as part of Team #BrainResearchUK.

'As I approach 50 and have just marked the 10th anniversary of my craniotomy, I felt it was fitting to try and contribute more to the cause.'

All the money going into research has the potential to improve our understanding of what is basically a massively complicated bit of biological machinery. Without continued research we cannot make the further strides that will help others be diagnosed earlier and have better treatments available.'



Charitable activities

During the year, we continued to fund research in two of our priority areas: brain tumours, and brain and spinal cord injury. We repeated our annual national calls for applications for project grants and PhD studentships, once again funding exceptionally high-quality research in our priority areas.

Total research grant awards of £1,671,410 were funded, including £49,426 of extensions to existing grant-holders to help them mitigate the effects of Covid, unforeseen recruitment issues, and cost of living increases for PhD students.

We have reviewed our research strategy this year. We have determined to maintain our focus on the existing priority research areas, to continue to build momentum in these three areas. The major change is a shift away from funding PhD studentships, to fund post-doctoral fellowships instead. We believe this will enable us to fund more impactful research, and to more successfully build research capacity in these three key areas.

The new post-doctoral scheme will launch in spring 2024, with the first grants awarded in FY2024/25. Our project grant scheme will run as usual. We will also be funding a second round of Miriam Marks Fellowships at UCL Institute of Neurology, funded by the Miriam Marks Endowment for research into neurodegenerative conditions. We expect to grant new awards totalling around £2m in 2023/24.

The future

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, the on-going war in Ukraine and deepening economic challenges mean that uncertainty remains about the fundraising landscape. However, Brain Research UK remains nimble and adaptable to changing circumstances and committed to funding the best science to achieve the greatest impact for people affected by neurological conditions

Charitable objects

To promote and support by all available means for the public benefit research and investigation into and study of diseases of the nervous system and allied subjects, and particularly the causes, means of prevention, diagnosis, method of treatment and cure of such diseases and publication of such research, study and investigation which term shall include the promotion and support of University College London Institute of Neurology (Queen Square) and such other institutions in which such research investigation or study is or is to be pursued.

Objectives for 2023/24

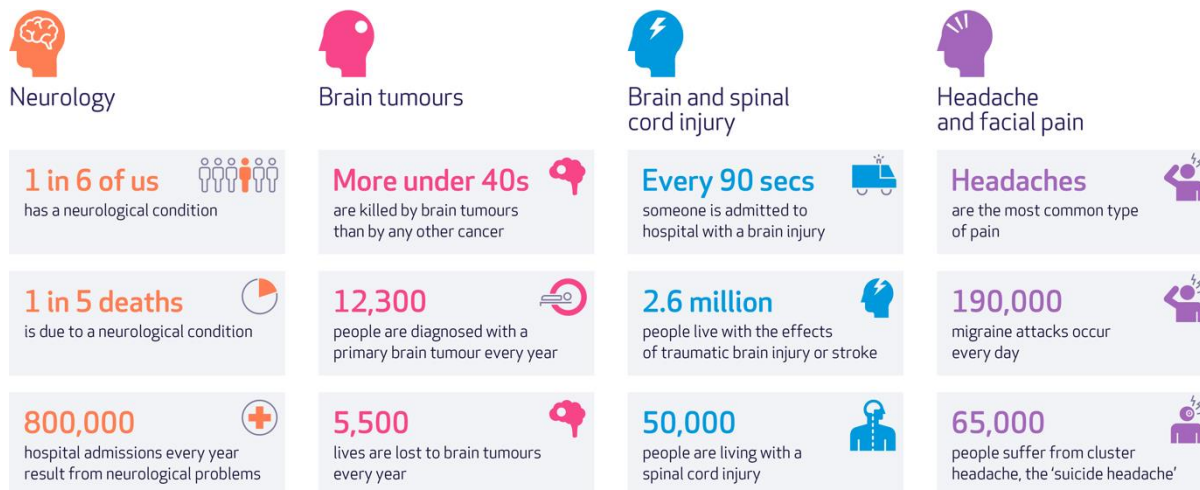
Our objectives for research activities in 2023/24 are:

- To sustain our core funding of a national call for Project Grant funding
- To finalise details for our national call for Post-doctoral funding, to replace our previous PhD Studentship funding
- To publish our Research Strategy, following the review undertaken in 2022/23

Our objectives for fundraising activities in 2023/24 are:

- To develop further our unique, as well as collaborative, event and challenge activities
- To develop further our major relationship and special event activities
- To evaluate a Community Fundraising initiative for schools

The Trustees understand that the benefit of neurological research is long-term but believe that the knowledge gained from each research project funded is a step towards understanding how these diseases happen and how to treat them. Trustees also understand that measuring the impact of their donations is an important consideration for those who give so generously to support the Charity's work.



Achievements and performance

The 12-month period to 31st March 2023 delivered the expected fundraising contribution. Specific fundraising highlights include the London Marathon and trusts fundraising.

As part of our strategic partnership plan, we continued with our collaboration with four other neurological charities for the London Marathon.

We continued to develop our major donor proposal and introduce a new special event, Opera at Syon, in June 2022.

Following two national calls, we awarded core funding as expected. Four new project grants were awarded, one in brain tumours and three in brain and spinal cord injury. We also awarded three new PhD studentships, two in brain tumours and one in brain and spinal cord injury.

As part of our collaborative approach, we funded a joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons of England and a joint studentship with the Neurosciences Foundation, in memory of Mrs Daphne Merrills.

In March 2023, the review of our Research Strategy was submitted to the Board of Trustees and an updated Research Strategy was approved.

In addition, we continued our operating model that helps to maximise fundraising income whilst keeping operational costs to a minimum.

Financial review

Results and review of the period under review	2022-23 £'000	2021-22 £'000
Total income	3,197	2,029
Expenditure on raising funds	(1,187)	(844)
	2,010	1,185
Expenditure on Research	(1,730)	(2,330)
Expenditure on Information & Awareness	(88)	(74)
Increase/(decrease) in investment values	(836)	283
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	(644)	(937)

Donations

Total income includes donations of £2,770,000 received during the 12 month period (£1,608,000 in 2021/22). These comprise: event income of £1,150,000 (2021/22: £501,000), individual giving income of £388,000 (2021/22: £372,000), legacies of £384,000 (2021/22: £437,000), grant income of £682,000 (2021/22: £184,000) and trusts, corporate, major donor income of £166,000 (2021/22: £114,000). The full breakdown of the donation categories can be seen in Note 2 of the accounts.

Investment performance

Our investment balances at 31st March 2023 are £13,177,000 (fixed assets) and £1,256,000 (current assets). This represents a fall in the balances from 2021/22 which were £14,041,000 and £1,385,000 respectively. The fall is due to the deficit of £644,000 during the year and notably the decrease in the value of our investment portfolio by £836,000.

Due to the size of the investment portfolio we hold, the volatility of the financial markets can have a significant impact on our year end position. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic the valuation of our investment portfolio has fluctuated significantly. The markets stabilised during 2021/22 after the initial shock of the pandemic, but 2022/23 has seen further volatility due to the war in Ukraine and rising inflation. This has led to the unrealised investment loss of £836,000 on our portfolio valuation and is also reflected in the income and expenditure account for the year.

Our investment income for the year is £427,000 compared to £421,000 for the previous year.

Further information about our investment performance is given in the investment policy section and note 8 of the accounts.

Research funded

Our aim is to improve the lives of those living with neurological conditions – to help people live better, longer. Our objects allow us to fund research into all neurological conditions. This is a broad remit, within which some disease areas have a higher profile and a higher level of research funding than others.

Since 2016, we have focused our research funding on three key disease areas where we have identified a particular disparity between the level of unmet need and the level of current research investment: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. By focusing our funding on these three areas, we can have a more significant impact.

This year, we awarded research grants totalling £1,671,410. This includes funding for four new project grants and three PhD studentships, focused on research in these three areas.

We provided an extra £49,426 of funding to existing grant-holders, to help mitigate the effects of Covid, unforeseen recruitment issues, and cost of living increases for PhD students. This additional funding is further to the £190,000 awarded for Covid extensions over the past two years.

In addition, we funded our third joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Their Surgical Research Fellowships offer junior trainee surgeons the opportunity to obtain research training, providing a year's salary and some research costs. We co-funded neurosurgical trainee Milo Hollingworth, whose research focuses on the challenge of getting drugs into brain tumours.

Note 22 in the accounts lists the awards made during the 12 month financial period to 31st March 2023.

Head injury is the leading cause of death and disability in people aged 1 to 40 years. Every year in the UK, there are around 4,000 deaths from traumatic brain injury (TBI). A further 1.3 million people are living with disabilities caused by TBI.

Dr Virginia Newcombe, an expert in neurocritical care, treats people with brain injuries and is leading a research team that aims to improve outcomes by enabling doctors to better characterise injuries. This will then guide the development of effective treatments.

One of the problems in treating brain injury lies in the complexity and diversity of the injuries. The nature of the damage varies greatly between patients who have overtly similar injuries.

It is increasingly apparent that injury to the brain's blood vessels contributes to the outcomes seen after TBI. It is also known that many patients with TBI are prone to bleeding. This is very important as continued bleeding in the brain causes irreversible damage and worse outcomes for patients.

The team will use imaging data and blood tests taken at different time points to understand more about the changes that take place in the brain following injury, and how these changes correlate with patient outcome. This will provide a better understanding of the extent and consequences of blood vessel injury following a TBI, enabling a better estimate of injury severity and potentially opening up trials of new treatments.



Information and awareness

During the period to 31st March 2023, our information and awareness expenditure was £88,000 (2021/22: £74,000); this reflected updates to our website and general communication activities.

Future plans

A new Fundraising Strategy 2023-2026 and an updated Research Strategy were approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2023.

Strategic highlights include the following:

- Research: we will continue to fund world class, impactful neurological research. We will introduce a new post-doctoral funding scheme to replace our PhD Studentship scheme. There is a bottleneck in funding for post-docs looking for independence. The post-doc fellowships will replace the PhD studentships and offer two significant advantages over the studentships: post-doctoral candidates will generally be in a better position to develop and deliver impactful research projects and will be more committed to their field of research. As such, they will help to build and retain capacity in the priority areas.
- Fundraising: we will focus on developing our existing flagship fundraising streams, such as the London Marathon, and will seek to diversify our income streams. We will strengthen the loyalty of our existing supporters and will invest in the acquisition of new supporters to ensure growth and longevity.
- Collaboration: we will work collaboratively, across both fund-seeking and grant-making activities, with likeminded organisations with shared purpose.
- Communications: we will continue to boost and diversify our communications activities to ensure that we retain existing, and attract new, supporters as well as increase brand awareness.
- Organisation: we will continue our focus on being a lean, agile, modern and adaptable organisation that can mobilise and respond quickly to changing circumstances.

Financial performance

The Charity received income of £3,197,000 during the financial year to 31st March 2023 (2021/22: £2,029,000). Notably we were able to increase our fundraising from £1,608,000 to £2,770,000 during the year and were able to benefit from sustained income from investments (£427,000, compared to £421,000 during 2021/22).

As can be seen in Notes 2 and 3, the Charity's income comes from a number of diverse sources. In recent years, our fundraising programme has been impacted by the repercussions of the pandemic with a number of income streams affected. The greatest impact was on our ability to fundraise from face-to-face events, in particular from our flagship fundraising event – the London Marathon.

The current financial year represents the first uninterrupted annual London Marathon programme for a number of years and as a result of this, and other smaller scale events becoming viable again, we were able to significantly increase our income from events from £501,000 to £1,150,000 this year. In addition, the Charity continued to benefit from funding from the Medical Research Charities COVID Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers and £682,000 income has been recognised in the 2022/23 financial year (£184,000 in 2021/22).

In total, we received net income of £2,010,000 this year (after taking into account the expenditure on raising funds) compared to £1,185,000 raised last year. This has been used to fund expenditure on our charitable activities of £1,730,000 during the year and contribute towards covering the unrealised investment loss of £836,000.

We ended the year with spending on our charitable activities of £1,818,000; this included direct research spend of £1,671,410. Therefore two-thirds of all our expenditure this year was spent directly on our charitable objects.

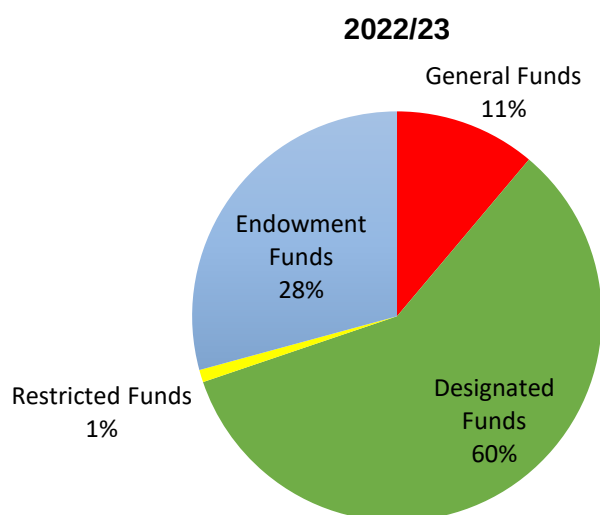
Prior to the inclusion of the unrealised investment deficit, we made a surplus of £192,000 this year compared to a deficit of £1,219,00 last year which demonstrates the progress we have made to rebound from the disruption caused by the pandemic to our income streams. After reflecting the change in investment values, the year-end position is a deficit of £644,000 (2021/22: £937,000). The impact of the deficit on our funds position can be seen below.

Funds

The Charity's total funds at 31st March 2023 were £9,993,000 (2021/22: £10,637,000).

The funds are split as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
General Funds	£1,081,000	£ 925,000
Designated Funds	£5,981,000	£ 6,556,000
Restricted Funds	£ 95,000	£ 156,000
Endowment Funds	£2,836,000	£ 3,000,000
	£9,993,000	£10,637,000



General funds

The general fund is used to provide a buffer for unforeseen activities and is maintained on the basis of being the higher of £750,000 or 9 months of non-grant expenditure (overheads and fundraising costs). 9 months of budgeted non-grant expenditure from our 2023/24 budget comes to £1,081,000 and this is therefore the balance reflected in our general funds.

Designated funds

The Charity holds two designated funds:

Grants Fund: This fund is in place to cover the next two years of expected unrestricted grant awards. The fund will be expended as the grant awards are made and then replenished in order to cover the planned future commitments.

Investment Fund: The Charity benefits from the income generated by its investment portfolio for a significant proportion of total income. As income and unrealised movements can change significantly from year to year, the investment fund was put in place to provide a cushion against these fluctuations. It is therefore the balance of the Unrestricted Funds after taking into account the General and Grant Fund.

Restricted funds

These funds have been donated for specific projects or research activities. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure restricted funds are utilised in accordance with the donors' wishes as soon as is practicable.

Endowment funds

These funds have been endowed for use on specific projects or research activities at the Institute of Neurology (IoN). All the endowment funds are expendable.

Balances and detailed movements on funds are detailed in Note 12.

Reserves policy

The Charity has developed a reserves policy that identifies and plans for the maintenance of essential activities and reflects the risks associated with the Charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts.

The policy is as outlined in the General Funds and Designated Funds sections above. It is devised with the intention of maintaining adequate funds within general funds to ensure that the Charity could operate effectively in the short term. Furthermore, adequate funds are to be kept aside for the continuity of grant funding.

The Board reviews the adequacy and relevance of the reserves policy periodically to assess its validity in light of changing circumstances. The policy was reviewed by the Trustees during the current financial period and was re-approved in June 2023.

Given the current uncertainty over the economy and the impact on financial performance, our reserves currently provide a sufficient buffer for the Charity to continue operations in the short to medium term.

Grant awarding policy

Brain Research UK funds research on a national basis into neurological conditions. Other than awards made from three restricted endowment funds, our research funding is awarded in open national competition.

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, our policy is to fund research that has been subject to rigorous assessment, including external peer review. Our grant-making processes were subject to audit by the AMRC in 2020, and we are pleased to report that we passed the audit and were awarded a certificate of best practice.

During the period under review, the Charity's Scientific Advisory Panel maintained its focus on the three priority research areas introduced during 2016: acquired brain and spinal cord injury, neuro-oncology, headache and facial pain. We issued two national calls for grant applications in these three areas – one for project grants and one for PhD studentships.

Outside of the three priority areas, we collaborated with UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology to issue a call for applications for research fellowships in neurodegenerative conditions, funded by the Miriam Marks Fund, and we collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons to fund a joint research fellowship.

Going concern

The accounts are approved during a period of financial and economic disruption. This has impacted the charity's fundraising performance in recent years and reduced the value of its investment portfolio.

The Charity, as a grant-making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. This is evidenced by this year's direct research spend amounting to £1,730,000 and a further £2,076,000 held in a designated fund for future research.

The Charity has assessed the on-going impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and formulated a budget for the forthcoming year, which has taken into account the environment of uncertainty. The budget for 2023/24, similar to the revised budget for this year, is cautious and reflects ongoing financial repercussions of the pandemic and the current economic uncertainty. Furthermore, the Trustees have reviewed the impact of a range of scenarios over the next 3 years on the reserve position.

The Trustees have also considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12 month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities remain unpredictable, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our annual and mid-year financial planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned expenditure. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Risk assessment

The Trustees review the risks facing the Charity every six months and consider the steps needed to mitigate them. The Board reviews an annual report of identified risks and the control systems designed to respond to them. The last review took place in June 2023.

The main risks facing the Charity are around financial stability and the sustainability of income. As we operate in an uncertain economic environment with rising costs, the viability of our fundraising has emerged as a major risk for the Charity to monitor. The Charity has responded to this risk by carrying out medium term financial modelling incorporating a number of scenarios. This has been to assess the sensitivity of certain factors and establish a minimum level of reserves that the Charity would plan to not go below.

Furthermore, the Charity operates with diversified income streams and this has proved to be important in recent years. Whilst we were prevented from carrying out fundraising from events during the pandemic we were able to rely on other fundraising streams to support us such as legacies, trusts and major donors. We plan on maintaining our income diversity to manage the income risk and are also implementing the principles of our recent fundraising strategy.

Our reserves policy is intended to give us continuity of operation in the short to medium term supplemented by a strong reserve position to give us stability. We review our reserve policy every year and have assessed the adequacy of our reserves against various scenarios.

The Charity holds a substantial investment portfolio of around £14 million from which regular income is received. Given its size, protection of the portfolio is vital and effective management of the portfolio constitutes a further risk. To mitigate this, the portfolio is closely managed in line with our investment policy with the investment manager's performance and asset allocation appraised quarterly by the Investment Committee.

Fundraising approach and performance

The Charity undertakes a range of fundraising activities, including direct mail and fundraising events. No fundraising activities were carried out by either a professional fundraiser or commercial participator. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. During the period, no complaints were received.

Investment policy

The articles of association provide the Trustees with the power to invest funds not immediately required. Given the long-term nature of the Charity's commitment to fund research, the Board aims to invest reserves so as to protect capital from inflation and generate additional returns for future disbursement. The investment portfolio, which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, is a diversified portfolio of UK and overseas equities, gilts, corporate bonds, property, hedge funds, commodities and cash deposits. The Investment Committee monitors the performance of investments and reviews social, environmental and ethical considerations on a quarterly basis.

Our intention is to achieve average returns over the long term of 2.5% per annum above UK CPI; in addition, to protect capital reserves from inflation and generate funds for disbursement in support of Brain Research UK's mission. However, during the financial period investment markets around the world have shown significant volatility and the Trustees recognise that these are challenging times for investment returns. The Trustees intentions are to protect asset valuations as far as possible during this economic uncertainty.

Over the 12 months to 31st March 2023, a negative return of (3.6%) was achieved against a composite benchmark of (5.4%). Despite the value of investments falling, the rate of reduction was still competitive against the market.

Structure, governance and management

Brain Research Trust is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 07345516; incorporated 13 August 2010) and a registered charity (registration number 1137560) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Jim Gollan, under powers defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association amended 21st December 2015 and 7th March 2019. Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust.

Name	Brain Research Trust; working name Brain Research UK
Charity registration number	1137560 (registered in England and Wales)
Company registration number	07345516 (registered in England and Wales)
Registered office	Fifth Floor, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London WC1V 7QH
Trustees	Jim Gollan, Chair of Trustees Jonathan Kropman, Deputy Chair of Trustees Jerry Storrs, Treasurer Professor John Pickard (resigned September 2022) Aoife Regan Professor Kevin Talbot (appointed December 2022) Professor Sir Doug Turnbull (resigned September 2022) Paul Wright Vijay Jassal (appointed March 2023) Professor Joanna Wardlaw
Scientific Advisory Panel	Professor Kevin Talbot, Chair of Panel (resigned September 2022) Professor Liam Gray (appointed Chair of Panel October 2022) Dr Faisal Amin Professor Khuloud Al-Jamal (appointed July 2022) Dr Anish Bahra Professor Elizabeth Bradbury (appointed May 2023) Professor Rob Brownstone (resigned September 2022) Professor Anthony Chalmers (appointed April 2023) Professor Oliver Hanemann (resigned February 2023) Professor Silvia Marino Professor Willie Stewart Professor Nick Ward (resigned December 2022)
Senior management	Caroline Blakely, Chief Executive Snezana Bjelogric, Head of Finance Pippa Ball, Head of Fundraising

Professional advisors

Auditors	Solicitors
Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG	Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR
Investment Managers	Bankers
Sarasin & Partners LLP Juxon House 100 St Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8BU	Clydesdale Bank PLC 30 St. Vincent Place Glasgow G1 2HL

Governance and management

The Charity's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents. Trustee indemnity insurance is in place together with a conflicts of interest policy.

In the period under review the management of the Charity was as follows:

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, currently comprises eight members (2021/22: nine) and meets quarterly. The Board is responsible for determining the overall strategy of the Charity and is accountable for its operational, financial and managerial performance.

There is one standing Committee of the Board that meets quarterly.

The **Investment Committee** monitors the Charity's investment performance, portfolio and policy recommending any changes in strategy to the Trustee Board. The terms of reference for this committee are regularly monitored and updated accordingly.

A **Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)** meets periodically and also communicates via email, to evaluate and rank research grant applications recommending to the Trustees which projects should be funded. The members of the SAP are independent, drawn from various neurological disciplines, and are actively involved in neurological research. SAP members are listed on page 13.

The Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), an umbrella organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. AMRC members aim to follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Day-to-day running of the Charity is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

IT, telephony, database management, fundraising, financial consultancy services and investment management services are provided by external service providers.

Trading subsidiaries

The Charity holds 100% of the share capital of Brain Research UK Limited (company number 14108655), which was incorporated on 16 May 2022. This company is currently dormant and there are no immediate plans for the company to trade.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by either invitation or recruitment to ensure the right balance of skills and experience on the Board and to stimulate the growth and development of the Charity. Selection is based on the ability to contribute to Charity management, business, and scientific, financial, investment, legal, fundraising, campaigning and marketing skills.

The term of appointment is three years, renewable twice in normal circumstances.

New trustees receive a thorough induction into the work of the Charity.

Two new trustees were appointed during the financial period.

Management

The Trustees exercise executive responsibility for the governance of the Charity and, through the Chairman, supervise the management of the Charity by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Chief Executive also task the Board with decision-making on strategic management issues as well as overseeing the research grants application process and monitoring the progress of awarded grants.

The day-to-day running of the Charity has been delegated to the Chief Executive and includes the operational running of the Charity and the coordinating of fundraising appeals.

All staff posts are periodically evaluated to ensure that salary levels are reflective of industry and organisational needs, as well as individual and charity performance. In recruitment of a new post, an assessment is made of the requirements of the role in terms of skills, experience, competency and urgency. The salary is then determined on the basis of this assessment and the current market conditions. The salary of the CEO is periodically reviewed by the Board.

Membership of Regulatory Bodies and other organisations

We are committed to the highest standards of fundraising and grant making as demonstrated by our membership of the following organisations

Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

- The AMRC is an umbrella organisation of leading medical and health research charities in the UK. As a member, we follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Fundraising Regulator (FR)

- The Fundraising Regulator is the UK's independent regulator of charitable fundraising that ensures public protection, accountability and excellence in fundraising. Their Code of Fundraising Practice sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK. As a member, we adhere to the highest standards and highlight our Supporter Charter.

Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CIOF)

- The CIOF is the professional membership body for UK fundraising; as a member, we follow its recommendations.

Neurological Alliance (NA)

- The NA is a coalition of more than 80 organisations working together to transform outcomes for the millions of people in England with a neurological condition. The NA keeps their members apprised of patients' survey outcomes, any and all public policy changes that affect our beneficiaries and strengthen the voice of people affected by the neurological conditions.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Research funded by the Charity meets the Charity Commission's test for Public Benefit. In addition, although only a small percentage of the population may suffer from a particular neurological disease, the application of the results of the research is not restricted by gender, ethnicity, religion or ability to pay and in that respect the public at large benefit.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we 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

The auditors, Haysmacintyre LLP, were re-appointed during the period in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 5 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Independent auditor's report to the members of Brain Research Trust**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brain Research Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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

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

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.

Based on our understanding of the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to data protection legislation and employment (including taxation), and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates]

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Siobhan Holmes (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor
10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1AG

Date: 17 October 2023

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	2	2,727	43	-	2,770	1,608
Investments	3	307	-	120	427	421
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total income		3,034	43	120	3,197	2,029
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure on						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs	4	60	-	24	84	88
Fundraising	4	1,103	-	-	1,103	756
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on funds	4	1,163	-	24	1,187	844
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Charitable activities:						
Research	4	1,603	104	24	1,730	2,330
Information & awareness	4	88	-	-	88	74
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on charitable activities		1,691	104	24	1,818	2,404
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure		2,854	104	48	3,005	3,248
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds before gains/(losses) on investment assets		180	(61)	72	192	(1,220)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	8	(600)	-	(236)	(836)	283
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure)		(420)	(61)	(164)	(644)	(937)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		(420)	(61)	(164)	(644)	(937)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as At 31 March 2022	14	7,481	156	3,000	10,637	11,574
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 March 2023	14	7,062	95	2,836	9,993	10,637
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

**BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Company registration No. 07345516 (England and Wales)
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain research Trust)

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		3	3
Investments	8	13,177	14,041
Total fixed assets		13,180	14,044
Current assets			
Sundry debtors	9	999	691
Investments		1,256	1,385
Cash at bank and in hand		390	445
Total current assets		2,645	2,521
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	(2,722)	(3,112)
Net current assets		(77)	(591)
Total assets less current liabilities		13,103	13,453
Creditors falling due after one year	11	(3,110)	(2,816)
Net assets		9,993	10,637
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted Funds			
Investment Fund	14	3,905	3,963
Grants Fund	14	2,076	2,593
		5,981	6,556
General Fund		1,081	925
		7,062	7,481
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	14	95	156
		95	156
Endowment Funds			
Marks Endowment Fund	14	1,780	1,866
Sobell Endowment Fund	14	338	381
Watts Endowment Fund	14	718	753
		2,836	3,000
		9,993	10,637

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 5 October 2023
and signed on its behalf by:

J Gollan

Jim Gollan (Chair)

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

	2023		2022	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:				
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(639)		(1,148)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	1		3	
Net proceeds from sale of investments and reinvestments	453		724	
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>		454		727
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Change in cash equivalent in the period		(184)		(421)
Cash and cash equivalent at start of period		1,830		2,251
Cash and cash equivalent at end of period		1,646		1,830
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Net income / (expenditure) for the period</i>		(644)		(937)
Adjust for:				
(Gains) / losses on investments		836		(283)
Dividends and interest from investments		(427)		(421)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		(308)		(264)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		(96)		757
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(639)		(1,148)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand		390		445
Cash equivalents on deposits		1,256		1,385
Total cash and cash equivalent		1,646		1,830
Analysis of changes in net debt				
	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	445	(55)	390	
Investment cash	1,385	(129)	1,256	
Total	1,830	(184)	1,646	

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 13. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Companies Act 2006, FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015") (Second edition effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. It has assessed the potential impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and has formulated a revised budget for the current year, which takes into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12 month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities will reduce in the short term, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts in wills which are recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of the gift is measurable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as soon as the related liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Expenditure on raising funds comprises fundraising costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure directly related to the awarding of grants to institutions, and provision of information and awareness.

Support costs represent indirect costs relating to raising funds and the Charity's charitable activities. Support costs, including governance costs, are allocated to activities on bases that represent the Trustees' best estimate of actual use. The bases used to allocate costs to the above categories of expenditure are set out in note 4.

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, auditors' remuneration, certain legal costs and all costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as costs of Board meetings and of preparing the statutory accounts.

Research grants

Grants payable are in respect of grants approved by the Trustees, having due regard for the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Panel. The full value of the grants approved is accounted for when the grant awards or commitments are made.

Investment income

Income from fixed interest stocks, loans and deposits is included in the accounts on an accrual basis.

Income from other securities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Office and computer equipment with a cost of £500 or more are capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis of 25% per annum.

Investments

The Charity's investments are of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Investments are included in the balance sheet at fair value (bid price).

Realised gains are the difference between sales proceeds and the carrying value of the investment. The carrying value is the fair value at the beginning of the period or the purchase cost where the investment was acquired during the period.

Unrealised gains are the change in value of investments after taking into account any movements in investment holdings such as purchases and disposals of investments.

Realised and unrealised gains are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable are accounted for on the following basis:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors are measured at the transaction price less any provision for impairment. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure

Grant commitments for awards with expected payments exceeding twelve months have been discounted using market rates for cash matching the term of the liabilities with rates between 2% - 5% p.a.

Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Staff benefits

The Charity makes pension provision for its employees by contributing to a personal pension scheme of their choice. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the Charity benefits from the employees' services. The Charity has no further liability under the scheme. In October 2016 all employees not already in an approved scheme were auto-enrolled into a multi-employer pension scheme administered by the Peoples Pension.

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Funds

Brain Research Trust consists of six funds as follows:

- General fund (unrestricted)
- Investment fund (designated)
- Grants fund (designated)
- Miriam Marks fund (expendable endowment)
- Sobell fund (expendable endowment)
- Watts fund (expendable endowment)

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted income funds comprise unexpended balances of donations and grants held in trust to be applied for specific purposes.

All the endowment funds are expendable. Each of the restricted and endowment funds are for the purpose of funding research into neurological conditions.

Allocation of costs to the Funds

Costs which are specific to an individual fund are charged to that fund. All other costs are charged to the unrestricted funds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of these accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

The preceding accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

2 DONATIONS and LEGACIES	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Individuals	388	-	388
Trusts, corporates & major donors	123	43	166
Income from events	1,150	-	1,150
Legacies	384	-	384
Grants	682	-	682
	-----	-----	-----
	2,727	43	2,770
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Individuals	372	-	372
Trusts, corporates & major donors	81	33	114
Income from events	501	-	501
Legacies	437	-	437
Grants	-	184	184
	-----	-----	-----
	1,391	217	1,608
	=====	=====	=====
3 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Restricted funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	307	121	427
	-----	-----	-----
	307	121	427
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	296	125	421
	-----	-----	-----
	296	125	421
	=====	=====	=====

4 EXPENDITURE	Direct 2023 £'000	Grants 2023 £'000	Support 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	84	-	-	84
Fundraising costs	1,038	-	65	1,103
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	1,122	-	65	1,187
Research	149	1,506	76	1,730
Information & awareness	80	-	8	88
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	228	1,506	84	1,818
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,350	1,506	149	3,005
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Direct costs 2022 £'000	Grants awarded 2022 £'000	Support costs 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	87	-	1	88
Fundraising costs	720	-	36	756
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	807	-	37	844
Research	155	2,121	54	2,330
Information & awareness	69	-	5	74
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	224	2,121	59	2,404
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,031	2,121	96	3,248
	=====	=====	=====	=====

See note 22 for details of grants awarded in 2022-23.

Support costs of £148k (2022: £96k) comprise of property and office costs and other sundry expenses and are allocated on the basis of staff costs. Governance costs of £69k (2022: £55k) are regarded as support costs and are apportioned to fundraising, research and charitable activity proportionately to the value attributed to each of these activities.

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	1	-	-	1
Telecomms and IT	46	25	6	77
Human resources	-	-	-	-
Governance	18	50	1	69
	<u>66</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>148</u>

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	1	-	-	1
Telecomms and IT	22	14	3	39
Human resources	-	-	-	-
Governance	15	39	1	55
	<u>39</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>96</u>

6 NET INCOME

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor remuneration - audit fees (excludes VAT)	17	13
- other fees (excludes VAT)	2	-
Operating lease charges	51	50
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period. Trustees were reimbursed £1,118 (2022: 0) for travel expenses. No amounts were paid to third parties on behalf of the trustees.

7 SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	345	287
Social security costs	36	29
Pension costs	28	24
Freelancers	87	111
	-----	-----
	496	451
	=====	=====

The average headcount of staff employed by the charity during the period was 6 (2021: 6)

	2023	2022	2023	2022
	Headcount	Headcount	FTE	FTE
Research	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.1
Information and awareness	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Raising funds	3.9	3.3	3.4	2.9
Governance	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.5</u>
	6.7	6.0	5.5	4.8

During the period, the number of senior employees who received emoluments falling within the following ranges was:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
£80,000 - £89,999	1	1
£60,000 - £69,999	1	-
	-----	-----
	2	1
	=====	=====

During the period, these staff received employer pension contributions of £12,036 (2022: £6,427).

Key management personnel

In 2023, 3 (2022: 3) members of staff formed the senior management team. Their remuneration amounted to £223,000 including social security and pension costs (£204,000 in 2022).

8 INVESTMENTS

(a) Equities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Endowment funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	4,637	5,271	9,908
Additions	508	200	708
Disposals	(1,201)	(472)	(1,673)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	(266)	(105)	(371)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2023	3,678	4,894	8,572
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2022	6,807	2,876	9,683
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2023	5,551	2,180	7,732
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Endowment Funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2021	5,069	5,454	10,523
Additions	390	165	555
Disposals	(1,176)	(497)	(1,673)
Increase in unrealised (losses)/gains	354	149	503
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2022	4,637	5,271	9,908
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2021	6,570	2,816	9,386
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2022	6,807	2,876	9,683
	=====	=====	=====

(b) Fixed interest securities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Endowment Funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	1,262	1,701	2,963
Additions	1,462	574	2,036
Disposals	(445)	(175)	(620)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(334)	(131)	(465)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2023	1,945	1,969	3,914
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2022	2,198	929	3,127
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2023	3,224	1,266	4,490
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Endowment funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2021	1,416	1,766	3,182
Additions	676	286	962
Disposals	(675)	(285)	(960)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(155)	(66)	(221)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2022	1,262	1,701	2,963
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2021	2,204	945	3,149
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2022	2,198	929	3,127
	=====	=====	=====

The total investment holding included unrealised investments losses of £371k (2022: gain £503k) on equities and £465k losses (2022: losses £221k) on fixed interest securities, a total unrealised loss of £836k (2022: gain £283k).

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
(c) Cash held for investment purposes	671	1,170
	=====	=====
(d) Unrealised forex gains/(losses)	-	-
	=====	=====
(e) Total at bid-price (including cash)	13,177	14,041
	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £'000	Endowment funds 2023 £'000	TOTAL 2023 £'000
(f) Gains/(losses) on investments			
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	(600)	(236)	(836)
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Endowment funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	198	85	283
	=====	=====	=====

9 SUNDRY DEBTORS	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Legacies and accrued income	505	23
Other debtors	24	28
Prepayments	470	640
	-----	-----
	999	691
	=====	=====

10 CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	72	205
Grants payable	2,580	3,112
Accruals	23	19
Social security and other taxes	11	10
Other creditors	10	119
Deferred income	26	17
	-----	-----
	2,722	3,482
	=====	=====

11 CREDITORS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Grants payable	3,110	2,816
	-----	-----
	3,110	2,816
	=====	=====

12 GRANTS PAYABLE

	2023		2022	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of period		5,558		5,021
Grants awarded in period	1,671		2,203	
Released prior year provision and underspends	(82)		40	
Adjustment for time value of money	(83)		(83)	
	-----		-----	
		1,506		2,160
Grant invoices paid in period		(1,374)		(1,623)
		-----		-----
Balance at end of period		5,690		5,558
		=====		=====
Payable within one year		2,580		2,742
Payable after one year		3,110		2,816
		-----		-----
		5,690		5,558
		=====		=====

Note 22 shows details of grants awarded in the period

During the period, grants totalling £1,671k were awarded to research institutions as per note 22. Each grant is made in accordance with the terms of the individual trust funds held by the charity. The total grants made during the period are analysed by fund in note 13.

13 -GRANTS AWARDED ANALYSED BY FUND

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Grants fund	1,646	1,576
Marks fund	-	-
Sobell fund	25	627
Watts	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	-
	-----	-----
	1,671	2,203
	=====	=====

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2022 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2023 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	925	-	-	-	-	156	1,081
Designated funds							
Investment fund	3,963	3,034	-	(1,475)	(600)	(1,017)	3,905
Grants fund	2,593	-	(1,378)	-	-	861	2,076
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted Funds	7,481	3,034	(1,378)	(1,475)	(600)	-	7,062
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Other funds	156	43	(104)	-	-	-	95
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted Funds	156	43	(104)	-	-	-	95
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,866	75	-	(15)	(146)	-	1,780
Sobell fund	381	15	(25)	(3)	(30)	-	338
Watts fund	753	30	1	(6)	(60)	-	718
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment Funds	3,000	120	(24)	(24)	(236)	-	2,836
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	10,637	3,197	(1,506)	(1,499)	(836)	-	9,993
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the Trustees as disclosed within the Trustees' Report.

All the Endowment funds are expendable. Each of the Restricted and Endowment Funds are for the purpose of funding research into Neurological Conditions.

The Marks fund is for research into the first causes of deterioration of memory.

The Sobell fund is for a chair of neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology.

The Watts fund is for research into motor neurone disease.

15 STATEMENT OF FUNDS – 2022 COMPARATIVES

	01 Apr 2021 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2022 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	1,000	-	-	-	-	(75)	925
Designated funds							
Investment fund	4,554	1,687		(1,102)	199	(1,375)	3,963
Grants fund	2,445	-	(1,302)	-	-	1,450	2,593
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted Funds	7,999	1,687	(1,302)	(1,102)	199	-	7,481
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Other funds	140	217	(201)	-	-	-	156
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted Funds	140	217	(201)	-	-	-	156
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,760	64	9	(13)	46	-	1,866
Sobell fund	958	35	(627)	(7)	22	-	381
Watts fund	717	26	-	(5)	15	-	773
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment Funds	3,435	125	(618)	(25)	83	-	3,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	11,574	2,029	(2,121)	(1,127)	282	-	10,637
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Financial instruments measured at fair value through the SoFA (a)		
Listed investments	13,180	12,874
Financial assets measured at amortised cost (b)		
Cash	1,646	3,000
Debtors	999	691
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost (c)		
Creditors	(5,832)	(5,928)
	-----	-----
Net financial assets at amortised cost	9,993	10,637
	=====	=====

(a) Financial assets measured at fair value.

(b) Financial assets include cash, trade and, staff loans and other debtors.

(c) Financial liabilities include trade creditors, other creditors, accruals and grants payable.

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

BETWEEN FUNDS	Investment assets 2023 £'000	Fixed assets 2023 £'000	Other assets 2023 £'000	Total assets 2023 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds	9,461	3	(2,402)	7,062
Marks fund	2,306	-	(526)	1,780
Sobell fund	474	-	(136)	338
Watts fund	936	-	(218)	718
Restricted funds	-	-	95	95
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	13,177	3	(3,187)	9,993
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS –
2022 COMPARATIVES**

	Investment assets 2022 £'000	Fixed assets 2022 £'000	Other assets 2022 £'000	Total assets 2022 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds Reserve	9,871	3	(2,393)	7,481
Marks fund	2,134	-	(268)	1,866
Sobell fund	1,165	-	(784)	381
Watts fund	871	-	(118)	753
Restricted funds	-	-	156	156
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	14,041	3	(3,407)	10,637
	=====	=====	=====	=====

19 OPERATING LEASES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Commitment expiring:		
Within one year	51	50
	-----	-----
	51	50
	=====	=====

At 31 March 2023, the Charity had the future minimum operating lease payments as set out above. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities is £43k (2022: £27k)

20 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operated a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity which amounted to £28k (2022: £23k). Contributions totalling £2k (2022: £2k) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

21 RELATED PARTY

The only related party transactions made in the period relate to payments made to key management personnel who are the senior management team (see note 6 for details).

22 GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022-23

<u>Description</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u> £
PhD Studentships (Grants Fund)		
Dr Kate Atkinson, University of Birmingham <i>Understanding the developmental origins of a childhood brain cancer</i>	Brain tumours	124,932
Giada Vanacore, University of Cambridge <i>Facilitating regeneration in the brain via stimulation of neural stem cells</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	125,000
Febe Ferro, University of Dundee <i>Joint BRUK-NF PhD studentship: Understanding the role of a secreted kinase in promoting myeloid signature of glioblastoma</i>	Brain tumours	124,989
PhD Studentship grant extensions		24,440
PhD sub-total		399,361
Project Grants (Grants Fund)		
Dr Dirk Sieger, University of Edinburgh <i>Investigating the radioprotective effects of ATM inhibition on the healthy brain</i>	Brain tumours	298,738
Dr Virginia Newcombe, University of Cambridge <i>Understanding the pathogenesis of traumatic vascular injury</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	292,069
Dr Lynsey Duffell, University College London <i>Epidural spinal cord stimulation for restoration of uro-genital function after SCI</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	294,732
Dr Philippa Warren, King's College London <i>Recovering locomotion after acute ischemic spinal cord injury</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	299,999
Project grant extension: Dr Zahraa Al-Ahmady, Nottingham Trent University		24,986
Project Grants sub-total		1,210,524
Mr Milo Hollingworth, University of Nottingham <i>Brain Research UK - Royal College of Surgeons Joint Research Fellowship</i>	Brain tumours	36,500

Other Research (Endowment & Restricted Funds)

Sobell Chair	Neuromuscular disease	25,025
Total grants awarded		<u>1,671,410</u>
Withdrawal of Ivain studentship		(110,278)
Adjustments for underspends		(56,128)
Release of previous year's adjustment of the time value of grants payable after one year		83,359
Adjustment for the time value of grants payable after one year		(82,710)
Grand Total		<u>1,505,652</u>

Accounts

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

Registered Charity Number: 1137560
Registered Company Number: 07345516
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

Chairman's introduction

Our cause



1 in 6 of us

has a neurological
condition



More under 40s

are killed by **brain
tumours** than by any
other cancer



Every 90 seconds

someone is admitted to
hospital with a **brain
injury**



£10 billion

is the annual cost of
migraines to the UK
economy

Brain Research UK funds essential research to discover the causes, develop new treatments and improve the lives of those affected by neurological conditions.

Within this broad remit, we aim to focus our funding in areas where research investment is needed most urgently. Since 2016, our focus has been on research into brain and spinal cord injury, brain tumours, and headache & facial pain. In each of these three areas, there is a large unmet patient need that is not reflected in current levels of research funding.

Our vision is a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.

Our income

Throughout the year, despite the challenges of Covid-19, our supporters remained determined to raise funds. The pandemic elicited a range of creative fundraising activities, enabling us to continue to fund vital neurological research.

Funds received during the period came from donations of £1,608,000 (2020/21: £1,383,000) and income from our investment portfolio of £421,000 (2020/21: £368,000). Donations included funding of £293,369 from the Medical Research Charities COVID Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers.

Our research

Again, this year, we were delighted to award more research funding than anticipated.

During the period, and notwithstanding the on-going Covid-19 challenges, we awarded grants of £2,203,000 (2020/21: £2,355,000) to institutions throughout the UK as part of our commitment to the funding of vital research.

We awarded three PhD Studentships and four Project Grants following national calls. We funded on-going grants to UCL Institute of Neurology from endowments and restricted funds, and awarded a new joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons.

In addition, given the interruption of research caused by the pandemic, we awarded over £64,000 to Covid-19 related extensions.

With thanks to our supporters

It is only thanks to the generosity of all our supporters that we have been, and continue to be, able to fund vital life-changing, life-saving neurological research.

Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Review of the year

Our 50th anniversary in October 2021 was cause for reflection, rather than celebration. Technological advances made during the last 50 years have driven remarkable progress in our understanding of the brain, in both health and disease. Since the very first CT scan of a human brain in 1971, continued advances in brain imaging have revolutionised our understanding of the living brain and the changes related to different diseases. However, despite the remarkable advances made, we are all too aware of just how much remains to be done as progress in some disease areas remains extremely limited.

Our determination remains as resolute today as it was in 1971, to help all those with a neurological condition to live better, longer. As a result of the on-going difficulties of Covid-19 throughout 2021-2022, like many charities, we continued to adapt our activities during the year.

Fundraising activities

Our fundraising plans were severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and this impact was particularly felt in our flagship fundraising stream, the London Marathon. The 2020 marathon was cancelled entirely and the 2021 event took place later in the year, October as opposed to the traditional April date. Despite the challenges faced by our 206 runners, the team completed the 26.2 miles raising an astounding £600,000. We increased our visibility and stewardship of our runners by working with four other neurological charities; this included pre-race collaboration at the expo, and race day collaboration at cheering points along the course and at the finish.

Additionally, we continued our partnership with three other charities on the virtual Brainathlon challenge, which involved a walk, run and climb that took place in October.

A number of other physical activities began to take place again, notably the Great North Run. We also had a number of people undertake challenges ranging from climbing Scafell Pike to completing a Tough Mudder in Yorkshire to cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats.

We started work on a major donor strategy with a view to events being held during 2022/23.

We continued with our strategy to develop our communications activities and had a year on year increase in website traffic of 107.15% and an increase of 19.64% in our social media followers. In addition we saw an increase of 12% in online donation.

We continued to increase engagement with our supporters, and with our digital stewardship activities for regular supporters.

In August 2019, at the age of 33, Louise suffered a seizure that led to the diagnosis of a brain tumour. The diagnosis was a grade 2/3 diffuse astrocytoma. Her world turned upside down. Being an A&E nurse, she fully understood that life can change at any moment, but never believed it would be her own life.

She had successful surgery that removed most of the tumour, but was told that around 20% of the tumour remained – and that the chances were high that this would eventually grow further and develop into a high-grade tumour.

Louise found it difficult to deal with the emotional aspects of her diagnosis, and her neuropsychologist recommended that she try running. During the first Covid lockdown, she thought she might as well give this a go and started the 'Couch to 5k' program. She continued from there and in October 2021, just 18 months after her first foray into running, she completed the London Marathon as part of Team #BrainResearch. She ran with friend Emma and together they raised the staggering sum of £10,500!



During the year, in light of the pandemic and exceptional applications, we again awarded more research funding than originally anticipated. We sustained our core funding of two national calls for PhD Studentships and Project Grant funding. In addition, we delivered an Impact Report to reflect the culmination of our 50 year anniversary in October 2021.

Our fundraising activity was particularly disrupted by the pandemic in 2020/21 with income falling by 24% compared to our budget for the year. As a result of this we were able to make revised plans for 2021/22 which has led to 16% increase in fundraising income compared to last year.

Further information on our financial performance is provided in the financial review section on page 6.

Charitable activities

During the year, in light of the pandemic and exceptional applications, we again awarded more research funding than originally anticipated. We sustained our core funding of two national calls for PhD Studentships and Project Grant funding. Research grants of £2,203,000 were awarded, which included £64,000 of Covid-19 related extension funding, representing an increase of 25% from the original budget set at the start of the year.

In addition, we delivered an Impact Report to reflect the culmination of our 50 year anniversary in October 2021.

For the year 2022/23, we hope to award grants of over £1,900,000. This will include our core funding plans that deliver a key strategic aim to support early career researchers: £800,000 in project grant funding and £240,000 in PhD studentship awards.

The future

As we continue to emerge from Covid-19, the ongoing war in Ukraine and deepening economic challenges mean that uncertainty remains about the fundraising landscape. However, Brain Research UK remains nimble and adaptable to changing circumstances and committed to funding the best science to achieve the greatest impact for people affected by neurological conditions

Charitable objects

To promote and support by all available means for the public benefit research and investigation into and study of diseases of the nervous system and allied subjects, and particularly the causes, means of prevention, diagnosis, method of treatment and cure of such diseases and publication of such research, study and investigation which term shall include the promotion and support of University College London Institute of Neurology (Queen Square) and such other institutions in which such research investigation or study is or is to be pursued.

Objectives for 2022/23

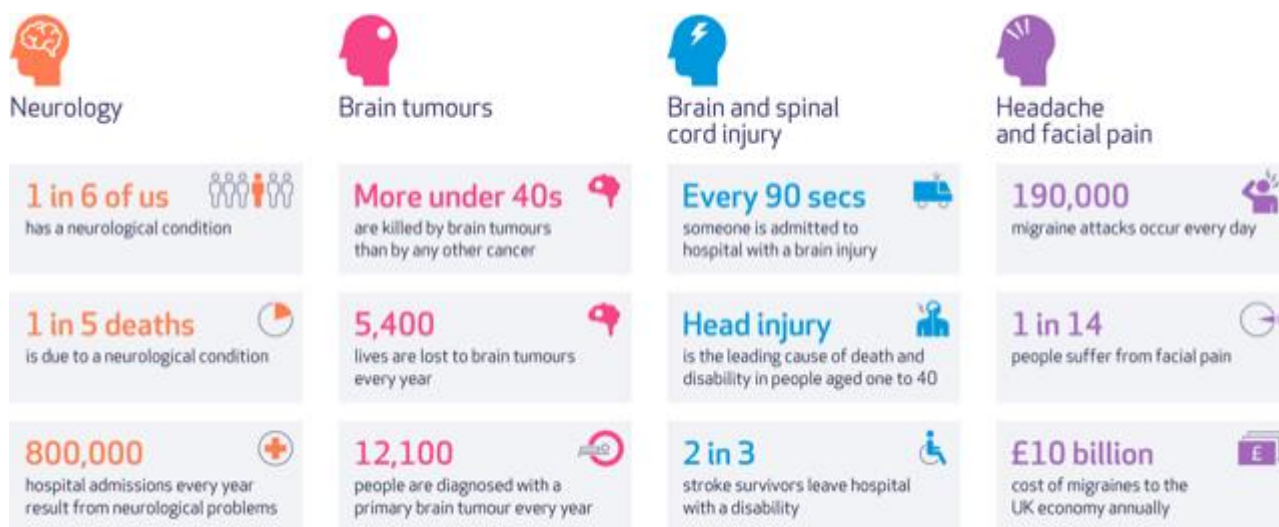
Our objectives for research activities in 2022/23 are:

- To sustain our core funding of two national calls for PhD Studentships and Project Grant funding
- To undertake a review of our Research Strategy to ensure we are funding the neurological areas with greatest unmet need

Our objectives for fundraising activities in 2022/23 are:

- To develop further our unique, as well as collaborative, event and challenge activities
- To develop our major donor and special event activities

The Trustees understand that the benefits of neurological research is long-term but believe that the knowledge gained from each research project funded is a step towards understanding how these diseases happen and how to treat them. Trustees also understand that measuring the impact of their donations is an important consideration for those who give so generously to support the Charity's work.



Achievements and performance

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the 12-month period to 31st March 2022 delivered in line with the original budget that included expected regular giving, a strong performance by our London Marathon runners and a solid contribution from our community fundraising.

In light of the pandemic, our plans to develop further our major donor fundraising activities focussed on developing plans for events in 2022/23, one of which is to take place in June 2022.

Following national calls, we awarded three PhD studentships, two in brain tumours and one in brain and spinal cord injury. We also awarded four project grants: two in brain tumours and one in each of brain and spinal cord injury and headache and facial pain.

In March 2022, our Impact Report was submitted to the Board of Trustees.

As part of our strategic partnership plan, we continued with our collaborative fundraising activities: the London Marathon and Brainathlon and the grant making initiative with the Royal College of Surgeons to fund a joint fellowship.

In addition, we continued our operating model that helps to maximise fundraising income whilst keeping operational costs to a minimum.

Financial review

Results and review of the period under review	2021-22 £'000	2020-21 £'000
Total income	2,029	1,751
Expenditure on raising funds	(844)	(722)
	1,185	1,029
Expenditure on Research	(2,330)	(2,526)
Expenditure on Information & Awareness	(74)	(63)
Increase/(decrease) in investment values	283	2,249
Net increase/(decrease) in funds	(937)	689

Donations

Total income includes donations of £1,608,000 received during the 12 month period (£1,383,000 in 2020/21). These comprise: event income of £501,000, individual giving income of £372,000, legacies of £437,000, grant income of £184,000 and trusts, corporate, major donor income of £114,000. The full breakdown of the donation categories can be seen in Note 2 of the accounts.

Investment performance

Our investment balances at 31st March 2022 are £14,041,000 (fixed assets) and £1,385,000 (current assets). This represents a fall in the balances from 2020/21 which were £14,067,000 and £1,844,000 respectively. The fall is due to the deficit of £937,000 during the year.

Our investment portfolio was heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in the early part of 2020 just prior to the start of the 2020-21 financial year. The recovery of the investment market during the 2020-21 period contributed to the significant increase in the valuation of £2,249,000 in the prior year.

During 2021-22 investment markets have steadied leading to an unrealised gain of £283,000 on our portfolio valuation and this is reflected in the income and expenditure account.

Our investment income for the year is £421,000 compared to £368,000 for the previous year.

Further information about our investment performance is given in the investment policy section and note 8 of the accounts.

Research funded

Our aim is to improve the lives of those living with neurological conditions – to help people live better, longer. Our objects allow us to fund research into all neurological conditions. This is a broad remit, within which some disease areas have a higher profile and a higher level of research funding than others.

Following a review in 2016, we identified three disease areas where there is a particular disparity between the level of unmet need and the level of current research investment: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. We determined to focus our research funding on these three areas in the short- to medium-term, rather than spreading our funding more thinly across the full range of neurological conditions

This year, we awarded research funding totalling £2,203,000.

We invested £1.5 million in research in these priority areas, in the form of four new project grants and three PhD studentships.

We also provided an extra £60,000 of funding to existing grant-holders, to help them overcome the disruption caused by Covid; this is further to the £130,000 awarded for Covid extensions last year.

In addition, we funded our second joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons. Their Surgical Research Fellowships offer junior trainee surgeons the opportunity to obtain research training, providing one year's salary and some research costs. We co-funded neurosurgical trainee Harsh Bhatt, who subsequently went on to receive one of our PhD studentships.

Through the Sobell Endowment, we continued to provide core funding to support what is now the Department of Neuromuscular Diseases and its Head, Professor Linda Greensmith and renewed our funding this year with a new three-year grant of £479,000.

Note 22 in the accounts details the extensive programme of research funded by the Charity during the 12 month financial period to 31st March 2022.

Around 4,300 people are diagnosed with a low-grade glioma (LGG) every year in the UK, predominantly teenagers and young adults.

Whilst low-grade glioma is a slow-growing tumour, it ultimately progresses to high-grade glioma (HGG). There is no treatment that can halt this deadly transformation. The only treatments available are surgery for diagnosis and to 'debulk' the tumour, followed by radiotherapy, and then a prolonged surveillance period using MRI to pick up tumour progression. When this progression occurs, the prognosis is around two years.

Neurosurgeon Richard Mair proposes that the prolonged surveillance period in people with low-grade glioma is the perfect time to intervene. He believes that patient prognosis could be extended significantly by intervening whilst the cancer remains low-grade, rather than waiting for it to progress.

The problem is that little is known about how and why LGG progresses to HGG and there are no treatments to block this progression. With our funding, Richard is investigating the changes that underlie tumour progression, with the ultimate aim of identifying new therapeutic targets so that drugs can be developed or repurposed to halt progression.

This represents a key step on the pathway towards the development of a treatment that could block the progression from low-grade to high-grade glioma and significantly improve the outlook for the young patients typically affected by this disease.



Information and awareness

During the period to 31st March 2022, our information and awareness expenditure was £74,000 (2020/21:£63,000) and this reflected updates to our website and general communication activities.

Future plans

Having approved our 2020-2023 Strategy in December 2019, Covid has meant that activities needed to be adapted if not curtailed. During 2022/23, we will revisit and adapt the strategy as we continue to emerge from the pandemic.

Our focus remains on how to deliver greater impact on those living with a neurological condition through the funding of more research, underpinned by stable, secure financial foundations.

Our key aim is to maximise fundraising income while keeping our operational costs low in order to fund essential research and accelerate its progress – ultimately making positive change for our beneficiaries and helping to realise our vision of a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.

Our strategy will continue to include the following:

- Research: we will continue to fund world class, impactful neurological research.
- Collaboration: we will work collaboratively, across both fund-seeking and grant-making activities, with likeminded organisations with shared purpose.
- Fundraising: we will focus on developing our existing flagship fundraising streams, such as the London Marathon, and will seek to grow sustainable income from major donor and corporate fundraising channels.
- Communications: we will diversify our communications activities to ensure that we retain existing, and attract new, supporters.
- Organisation: we will focus on being a lean, agile, modern and adaptable organisation that can mobilise and respond quickly to changing circumstances.

Financial performance

The Charity received income of £2,029,000 during the year to 31st March 2022 (2020/21: £1,751,000). Notably we were able to increase our income from fundraising from £1,383,000 to £1,608,000 during the year and were able to benefit from increased income from investments (£421,000, compared to £368,000 during 2020/21).

As can be seen in Notes 2 and 3, the Charity's income comes from a number of diverse sources. In the previous year the Charity was heavily impacted by the disruption caused to our events programme by the pandemic. The London Marathon represents our flagship fundraising event and the absence of this in 2020, and further disruption during 2021, caused our income to fluctuate year on year. With the most recent marathon taking place in October 2021, and other smaller scale events becoming viable again, we were able to significantly increase our income from events from £181,000 to £501,000 this year.

This increase in income has offset smaller falls in income from individuals, trusts and corporates with this fundraising stream becoming more challenging post lockdown. In addition, the Charity was successful in applying for funding from the Medical Research Charities COVID Support Fund for Early-Career Researchers and £184,098 of income has been recognised in the 2021/22 financial year.

Despite the fundraising challenges posed by the pandemic and economic uncertainty, we maintained our commitment to research by spending £2,404,000 on our charitable activities (2020/21: £2,589,000). This includes direct research spend of £2,351,000 (as outlined in Note 18). This means that for every pound we spent during 2021/22, 74 pence was spent on our charitable activities (2020/21: 78 pence).

Due to the increase in our investment portfolio valuation, an unrealised gain of £283,000 was recognised during the year (2020/21: £2,249,000), which leaves the year with a deficit of £937,000. This contrasts to 2020/21 where a surplus of £689,000 was recognised but this was largely due to the significant unrealised investment gains made during the year as the investments markers rebounded after the fall at the beginning of the pandemic.

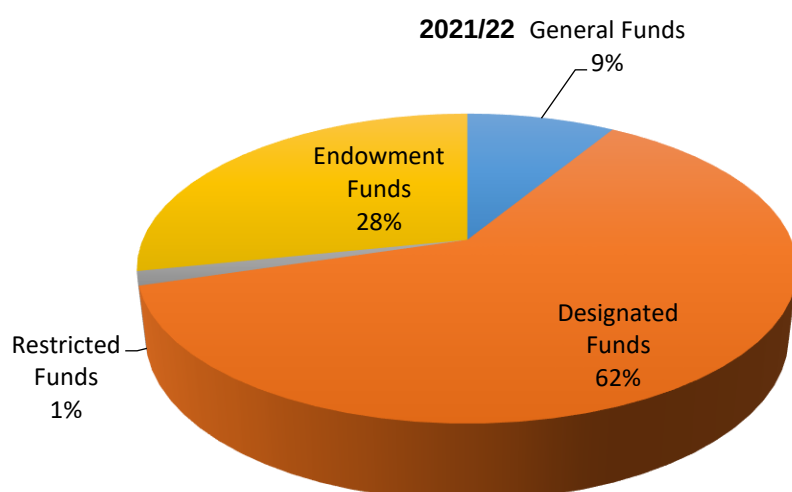
The impact of the deficit on our funds position can be seen below.

Funds

The Charity's total funds at 31st March 2022 were £10,637,000 (2020/21: £11,574,000).

The funds are split as follows:

	2021/22	2020/21
General Funds	£ 925,000	£ 1,000,000
Designated Funds	£ 6,556,000	£ 6,999,000
Restricted Funds	£ 156,000	£ 140,000
Endowment Funds	£ 3,000,000	£ 3,435,000
	£10,637,000	£11,574,000



General funds

The general fund is used to provide a buffer for unforeseen activities and is maintained on the basis of being the higher of £750,000 or 9 months of non-grant expenditure (overheads and fundraising costs). 9 months of budgeted non-grant expenditure from our 2022/23 budget comes to £925,000 and this is therefore the balance reflected in our general funds.

Designated funds

The Charity holds two designated funds:

Grants Fund: This fund is in place to cover the next two years of expected unrestricted grant awards. The fund will be expended as the grant awards are made and then replenished in order to cover the planned future commitments.

Investment Fund: The Charity benefits from the income generated by its investment portfolio for a significant proportion of total income. As income and unrealised movements can change significantly from year to year, the investment fund was put in place to provide a cushion against these fluctuations. It is therefore the balance of the Unrestricted Funds after taking into account the General and Grant Fund. The fund is held in an investment portfolio which has increased in value since last year.

Restricted funds

These funds have been donated for specific projects or research activities. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure restricted funds are utilised in accordance with the donors' wishes as soon as is practicable.

Endowment funds

These funds have been endowed for use on specific projects or research activities at the Institute of Neurology (IoN). All the endowment funds are expendable.

Balances and detailed movements on funds are detailed in Note 12.

Reserves policy

The Charity has developed a reserves policy that identifies and plans for the maintenance of essential activities and reflects the risks associated with the Charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts.

The policy is as outlined in the General Funds and Designated Funds sections above. It is devised with the intention of maintaining adequate funds within general funds to ensure that the Charity could operate effectively in the short term. Furthermore, adequate funds are to be kept aside for the continuity of grant funding.

The Board reviews the adequacy and relevance of the reserves policy periodically to assess its validity in light of changing circumstances. The policy was reviewed by the Trustees during the current financial period and remains unchanged. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic and the impact on financial performance, it provides a sufficient buffer for the Charity to continue operations in the short to medium term.

Grant awarding policy

Brain Research UK funds research on a national basis into neurological conditions. Other than awards made from three restricted endowment funds, our research funding is awarded in open national competition.

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, our policy is to fund research that has been subject to rigorous assessment, including external peer review. Our grant-making processes were subject to audit by the AMRC in 2020, and we are pleased to report that we passed the audit and were awarded a certificate of best practice.

During the period under review, the Charity's Scientific Advisory Panel maintained its focus on the three 'priority research areas introduced during 2016: acquired brain and spinal cord injury, neuro-oncology, headache and facial pain. We issued two national calls for grant applications in these three areas – one for project grants and one for PhD studentships.

Outside of the three priority areas, we collaborated with UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology to issue a call for applications for research fellowships in neurodegenerative conditions, funded by the Miriam Marks Fund, and we collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons to fund a joint research fellowship.

Going concern

The accounts are approved during a period where there is much uncertainty as a result of the emergence and international spread of Covid-19. The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. This is evidenced by this year's direct research spend amounting to £2,351,000 and a further £2,593,000 held in a designated fund for future research.

The Charity has assessed the on going impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and formulated a budget for the forthcoming year, which has taken into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual. The budget for 2022/23, similar to the revised budget for this year, is cautious and reflects financial repercussions of the pandemic and the current economic uncertainty.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12 month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities remain unpredictable, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our annual and mid-year financial planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned expenditure. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Risk assessment

The Trustees review the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them. The Board receives and discusses an annual report of identified risks and the control systems designed to respond to them.

The Charity is currently facing the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic with fundraising income significantly impacted. The Charity therefore operated with adapted budgets during 2020/21 and 2021/22 in order to maintain stability and take pragmatic actions. As part of its risk assessment process, the Charity had already altered its operating model to become leaner and more flexible to changing circumstances. This therefore helped to mitigate the income risk that was evident in the last two years.

Furthermore, the Charity operates with diversified income streams; this has proved to be important this year. Whilst many areas of fundraising saw income fall, we received additional legacy income and saw growth in trusts and major donors. We plan on maintaining our income diversity to manage the income risk.

Our reserves policy is intended to give us continuity of operation in the short to medium term and we are supplemented by a strong reserve position. There is a risk that research projects funded by us become delayed or unable to complete. As a result of this, the Charity awarded additional funding to grant recipients that were affected by the pandemic in 2021/22 and 2020/21.

Aside from the immediate risks posed by the current economic uncertainty, the Charity operates with the long-term risk of being able to raise and maintain sufficient income to fulfil our research aspirations. With the fundraising environment becoming particularly challenging due to a number of environmental and economic factors, the Charity is susceptible due to its reliance on voluntary and investment income. In order to manage this risk, the Charity approved a new fundraising strategy in December 2019 that aimed to build on our core London Marathon income stream and diversify into other income streams. The implementation of this strategy has had to be adapted due to the pandemic with the focus now being on maintaining our current income portfolio. However, the principles of the strategy remain, and 2022/23 will be year of consolidation as well as seeking alternative fundraising streams.

The Charity holds a substantial investment portfolio of over £14 million from which regular income is received. Given its magnitude, protection of the portfolio is vital and effective management of the portfolio constitutes a further risk. To mitigate this, the portfolio is closely managed in line with the investment policy below with the investment manager's performance and asset allocation appraised quarterly by the Investment Committee.

Fundraising approach and performance

The Charity undertakes a range of fundraising activities, including direct mail and fundraising events. No fundraising activities were carried out by either a professional fundraiser or commercial participator. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. During the period, no complaints were received.

Investment policy

The articles of association provide the Trustees with the power to invest funds not immediately required. Given the long-term nature of the Charity's commitment to fund research, the Board aims to invest reserves so as to protect capital from inflation and generate additional returns for future disbursement. The investment portfolio, which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, is a diversified portfolio of UK and overseas equities, gilts, corporate bonds, property, hedge funds, commodities and cash deposits. The Investment Committee monitors the performance of investments and reviews social, environmental and ethical considerations on a quarterly basis.

Our intention is to achieve average returns over the long term of 2.5% per annum above UK CPI; in addition, to protect capital reserves from inflation and generate funds for disbursement in support of Brain Research UK's mission. Over the 12 months to 31st March 2022, a rolling return of 4.4% was achieved against a composite benchmark of 5.9%.

Structure, governance and management

Brain Research Trust is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 07345516; incorporated 13 August 2010) and a registered charity (registration number 1137560) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Jim Gollan, under powers defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association amended 21st December 2015 and 7th March 2019. Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust.

Name	Brain Research Trust; working name Brain Research UK
Charity registration number	1137560 (registered in England and Wales)
Company registration number	07345516 (registered in England and Wales)
Registered office	Fourth Floor, 5 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LG
Trustees	Jim Gollan, Chair of Trustees Jonathan Kropman, Deputy Chair of Trustees Jerry Storrs, Treasurer Professor John Pickard MA, MChir, FRCS, FRCSEd, FMedSci Aoife Regan Professor Sir Doug Turnbull, MBBS, MD, PhD, FRCP, FMedSci Dr Allister Wilson (retired June 2021) Paul Wright Professor Joanna Wardlaw (appointed March 2022)
Scientific Advisory Panel	Professor Kevin Talbot, Chair of Panel Dr Faisal Amin Dr Anish Bahra (appointed January 2022) Professor Rob Brownstone Professor Alasdair Coles (resigned May 2021) Professor Liam Gray (appointed October 2021) Professor Oliver Hanemann Professor Henry Houlden (resigned May 2021) Professor Silvia Marino (appointed January 2022) Professor Simona Parrinello (resigned December 2021) Professor Alexandra Sinclair (resigned September 2021) Professor Willie Stewart (appointed January 2022) Professor Nick Ward
Senior management	Caroline Blakely, Chief Executive Snezana Bjelogrljic, Head of Finance Pippa Ball, Head of Fundraising

Professional advisors

Auditors	Solicitors
Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG	Stone King LLP Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR
Investment Managers	Bankers
Sarasin & Partners LLP Juxon House 100 St Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8BU	Clydesdale Bank PLC 30 St. Vincent Place Glasgow G1 2HL

Governance and management

The Charity's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents. Trustee indemnity insurance is in place together with a conflicts of interest policy.

In the period under review the management of the Charity was as follows:

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, currently comprises nine members (2020/21: eight) and meets quarterly. The Board is responsible for determining the overall strategy of the Charity and is accountable for its operational, financial and managerial performance.

There is one standing Committee of the Board that meets quarterly.

The **Investment Committee** monitors the Charity's investment performance, portfolio and policy recommending any changes in strategy to the Trustee Board. The terms of reference for this committee are regularly monitored and updated accordingly.

A **Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP)** meets periodically and also communicates via email, to evaluate and rank research grant applications recommending to the Trustees which projects should be funded. The members of the SAP are independent, drawn from various neurological disciplines, and are actively involved in neurological research. SAP members are listed on page 13.

The Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), an umbrella organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. AMRC members aim to follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Day-to-day running of the Charity is undertaken by the Chief Executive.

IT, telephony, database management, fundraising and financial consultancy services are provided by external service providers.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed by either invitation or recruitment to ensure the right balance of skills and experience on the Board and to stimulate the growth and development of the Charity. Selection is based on the ability to contribute to Charity management, business, and scientific, financial, investment, legal, fundraising, campaigning and marketing skills.

The term of appointment is three years, renewable twice in normal circumstances. As a result of the pandemic and the uncertainty it has created during the financial period, the Trustees agreed to appoint Jim Gollan and Jonathan Kropman for a further term even though they had already completed three terms. This was intended to provide stability while the Charity made the transition through the pandemic.

New trustees receive a thorough induction into the work of the Charity.

One new trustee was appointed during the financial period.

Management

The Trustees exercise executive responsibility for the governance of the Charity and, through the Chairman, supervise the management of the Charity by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Chief Executive also task the Board with decision-making on strategic management issues as well as overseeing the research grants application process and monitoring the progress of awarded grants.

The day-to-day running of the Charity has been delegated to the Chief Executive and includes the operational running of the Charity and the coordinating of fundraising appeals.

All staff posts are periodically evaluated to ensure that salary levels are reflective of industry and organisational needs, as well as individual and charity performance. In recruitment of a new post, an assessment is made of the requirements of the role in terms of skills, experience, competency and urgency. The salary is then determined on the basis of this assessment and the current market conditions. The salary of the CEO is periodically reviewed by the Board.

Membership of Regulatory Bodies and other organisations

We are committed to the highest standards of fundraising and grant making as demonstrated by our membership of the following organisations

Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

- The AMRC is an umbrella organisation of leading medical and health research charities in the UK. As a member, we follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Fundraising Regulator (FR)

- The Fundraising Regulator is the UK's independent regulator of charitable fundraising that ensures public protection, accountability and excellence in fundraising. Their Code of Fundraising Practice sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK. As a member, we adhere to the highest standards and highlight our Supporter Charter.

Institute of Fundraising (IoF)

- The IoF is the professional membership body for UK fundraising; as a member, we follow its recommendations.

Neurological Alliance (NA)

- The NA is a coalition of more than 80 organisations working together to transform outcomes for the millions of people in England with a neurological condition. The NA keeps their members apprised of patients survey outcomes, any and all public policy changes that affect our beneficiaries and strengthen the voice of people affected by the neurological conditions.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Research funded by the Charity meets the Charity Commission's test for Public Benefit. In addition, although only a small percentage of the population may suffer from a particular neurological disease, the application of the results of the research is not restricted by gender, ethnicity, religion or ability to pay and in that respect the public at large benefit.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we 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

The auditors, Haysmacintyre LLP, were re-appointed during the period in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 21 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Jim Gollan

Jim Gollan
(Chair of Trustees)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Brain Research Trust**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brain Research Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 25, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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

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

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.

Based on our understanding of the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to data protection legislation and employment (including taxation), and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Siobhan Holmes (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date: 21 June 2022

10 Queen Street Place

London EC4R 1AG

**BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Endowment Funds £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	2	1,391	217	-	1608	1,383
Investments	3	296	-	125	421	368
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total income		1,687	217	125	2,029	1,751
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Expenditure on						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs	4	62	-	26	88	38
Fundraising	4	756	-	-	756	684
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on funds	4	818	-	26	844	722
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Charitable activities:						
Research	4	1,511	201	619	2,330	2,526
Information & awareness	4	74	-	-	74	63
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on charitable activities		1,585	201	619	2,404	2,589
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure		2,403	201	645	3,248	3,311
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds before gains/(losses) on investment assets		(716)	16	(520)	(1,220)	(1,560)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	7	198	-	85	283	2,249
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income/(expenditure)		(518)	16	(435)	(937)	689
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		(518)	16	(435)	(937)	689
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as At 31 March 2021	12	7,999	140	3,435	11,574	10,885
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 March 2022	12	7,481	156	3,000	10,637	11,574
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

**BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Company registration No. 07345516 (England and Wales)
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain research Trust)

	Notes	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	7	3	-
Investments	7	14,041	14,067
Total fixed assets		14,044	14,067
Current assets			
Sundry debtors	8	691	427
Investments		1,385	1,844
Cash at bank and in hand		445	407
Total current assets		2,521	2,678
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	9	(3,112)	(2,582)
Net current assets		(591)	96
Total assets less current liabilities		13,453	14,163
Creditors falling due after one year	10	(2,816)	(2,589)
Net assets		10,637	11,574
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted Funds			
Investment Fund	12	3,963	4,554
Grants Fund	12	2,593	2,445
		6,556	6,999
General Fund		925	1,000
		7,481	7,999
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	12	156	140
		156	140
Endowment Funds			
Marks Endowment Fund	12	1,866	1,760
Sobell Endowment Fund	12	381	958
Watts Endowment Fund	12	753	717
		3,000	3,435
		10,637	11,574

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 21 June 2022
and signed on its behalf by:

Jim Gollan

.....
Jim Gollan (Chair)

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

	2022		2021	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:				
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(1,148)		(666)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	3			
Net proceeds from sale of investments and reinvestments	724		2,099	
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>		727		2,099
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Change in cash equivalent in the period		(421)		1433
Cash and cash equivalent at start of period		2,251		818
Cash and cash equivalent at end of period		1,830		2,251
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Net income / (expenditure) for the period</i>		(937)		689
Adjust for:				
(Gains) / losses on investments		(283)		(2,249)
Dividends and interest from investments		(421)		(368)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		(264)		284
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		757		978
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(1,148)		(666)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand		445		407
Cash equivalents on deposits		1,385		1,844
Total cash and cash equivalent		1,830		2,251
Analysis of changes in net debt				
	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	At 31 March 2022	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	407	38	445	
Investment cash	1,844	(459)	1,385	
Total	2,251	(421)	1,830	

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these accounts.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 13. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Companies Act 2006, FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015") (Second edition effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. It has assessed the potential impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and has formulated a revised budget for the current year, which takes into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12 month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities will reduce in the short term, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts in wills which are recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of the gift is measurable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as soon as the related liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Expenditure on raising funds comprises fundraising costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure directly related to the awarding of grants to institutions, and provision of information and awareness.

Support costs represent indirect costs relating to raising funds and the Charity's charitable activities. Support costs, including governance costs, are allocated to activities on bases that represent the Trustees' best estimate of actual use. The bases used to allocate costs to the above categories of expenditure are set out in note 4.

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, auditors' remuneration, certain legal costs and all costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as costs of Board meetings and of preparing the statutory accounts.

Research grants

Grants payable are in respect of grants approved by the Trustees, having due regard for the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Panel. The full value of the grants approved is accounted for when the grant awards or commitments are made.

Investment income

Income from fixed interest stocks, loans and deposits is included in the accounts on an accrual basis.

Income from other securities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Office and computer equipment with a cost of £500 or more are capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis of 25% per annum.

Investments

The Charity's investments are of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Investments are included in the balance sheet at fair value (bid price).

Realised gains are the difference between sales proceeds and the carrying value of the investment. The carrying value is the fair value at the beginning of the period or the purchase cost where the investment was acquired during the period.

Unrealised gains are the change in value of investments after taking into account any movements in investment holdings such as purchases and disposals of investments.

Realised and unrealised gains are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable are accounted for on the following basis:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors are measured at the transaction price less any provision for impairment. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure

Grant commitments for awards with expected payments exceeding twelve months have been discounted using market rates for cash matching the term of the liabilities with rates between 2% - 5% p.a.

Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Staff benefits

The Charity makes pension provision for its employees by contributing to a personal pension scheme of their choice. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the Charity benefits from the employees' services. The Charity has no further liability under the scheme. In October 2016 all employees not already in an approved scheme were auto-enrolled into a multi-employer pension scheme administered by the Peoples Pension.

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Funds

Brain Research Trust consists of six funds as follows:

- General fund (unrestricted)
- Investment fund (designated)
- Grants fund (designated)
- Miriam Marks fund (expendable endowment)
- Sobell fund (expendable endowment)
- Watts fund (expendable endowment)

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted income funds comprise unexpended balances of donations and grants held in trust to be applied for specific purposes.

All the endowment funds are expendable. Each of the restricted and endowment funds are for the purpose of funding research into neurological conditions.

Allocation of costs to the Funds

Costs which are specific to an individual fund are charged to that fund. All other costs are charged to the unrestricted funds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of these accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

The preceding accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

2 DONATIONS and LEGACIES	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Individuals	372	-	372
Trusts, corporates & major donors	81	33	114
Income from events	501	-	501
Legacies	437	-	437
Grants	-	184	184
	-----	-----	-----
	1,391	217	1,608
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Restricted funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Individuals	413	-	413
Trusts, corporates & major donors	178	54	232
Income from events	181	-	181
Legacies	480	77	557
	-----	-----	-----
	1,252	131	1,383
	=====	=====	=====
3 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Restricted funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	296	125	421
Deposit account interest			-
	-----	-----	-----
	296	125	421
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Restricted funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Dividends and interest on Investments	258	110	368
Deposit account interest			-
	-----	-----	-----
	258	110	368
	=====	=====	=====

4 EXPENDITURE	Direct 2022 £'000	Grants 2022 £'000	Support 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	87	-	1	88
Fundraising costs	720	-	36	756
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	807	-	37	844
Research	155	2,121	54	2,330
Information & awareness	69	-	5	74
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	224	2,121	59	2,404
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,031	2,121	96	3,248
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Direct costs 2021 £'000	Grants awarded 2021 £'000	Support costs 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	37	-	1	38
Fundraising costs	644	-	40	684
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	681	-	41	722
Research	118	2,351	57	2,526
Information & awareness	58	-	5	63
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	176	2,351	62	2,589
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	857	2,351	103	3,311
	=====	=====	=====	=====

See note 22 for details of grants awarded in 2021-22.

Support costs of £96k (2021: £103k) comprise of property and office costs and other sundry expenses and are allocated on the basis of staff costs. Governance costs of £55k (2021: £60k) are regarded as support costs and are apportioned to fundraising, research and charitable activity proportionately to the value attributed to each of these activities.

5 SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2022	2022	2022	2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	1	-	-	1
Telecomms and IT	22	14	3	39
Human resources	-	-	-	-
Governance	15	39	1	55
	<u>39</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>96</u>

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL
	2021	2021	2021	2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	5	4	1	10
Telecomms and IT	19	11	3	33
Human resources	-	1	-	1
Governance	15	43	2	60
	<u>40</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>105</u>

6 NET INCOME

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor remuneration - audit fees (excludes VAT)	13	13
- other fees (excludes VAT)	-	1
Operating lease charges	50	25
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period. No trustees were reimbursed (2021: 0) for travel expenses. No amounts were paid to third parties on behalf of the trustees.

7 SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	287	293
Social security costs	29	28
Pension costs	24	23
Freelancers	111	125
	-----	-----
	451	469
	=====	=====

The average headcount of staff employed by the charity during the period was 6 (2021: 6)

	2022	2021	2022	2021
	Headcount	Headcount	FTE	FTE
Research	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.1
Information and awareness	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Raising funds	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.8
Governance	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.4</u>
	6.0	5.9	4.8	4.6

During the period, the number of senior employees who received emoluments falling within the following ranges was:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
£120,000 - £129,999	-	-
£80,000 - £89,999	1	1
	-----	-----
	1	1
	=====	=====

During the period, these staff received employer pension contributions of £6,427 (2021: £6,720).

Key management personnel

In 2022, 3 (2021: 3) members of staff formed the senior management team. Their remuneration amounted to £204,000 including social security and pension costs (£207,000 in 2021).

8 INVESTMENTS

(a) Equities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Endowment funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2021	5,069	5,454	10,523
Additions	390	165	555
Disposals	(1,176)	(497)	(1,673)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	354	149	503
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2022	4,637	5,271	9,908
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2021	6,570	2,816	9,386
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2022	6,807	2,876	9,683
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Endowment Funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2020	4,029	5,007	9,036
Additions	3,128	1,341	4,469
Disposals	(3,643)	(1,561)	(5,204)
Increase in unrealised (losses)/gains	1,555	667	2,222
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2021	5,069	5,454	10,523
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2020	7,158	2,924	10,082
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2021	6,570	2,816	9,386
	=====	=====	=====

(b) Fixed interest securities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Endowment Funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2021	1,416	1,766	3,182
Additions	676	286	962
Disposals	(675)	(285)	(960)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	(155)	(66)	(221)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2022	1,262	1,701	2,963
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2021	2,204	945	3,149
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2022	2,198	929	3,127
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Endowment funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2020	1,840	1,947	3,787
Additions	743	319	1,062
Disposals	(1,185)	(508)	(1,693)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	18	8	26
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2021	1,416	1,766	3,182
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2020	2,610	1,066	3,676
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2021	2,204	945	3,149
	=====	=====	=====

The total investment holding included unrealised investments gain of £503k (2021: gain £2,222k) on equities and £221k losses (2021: gain £26k) on fixed interest securities, a total unrealised gain of £283k (2021: gain £2,249k).

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
(c) Cash held for investment purposes	1,170	362
	=====	=====
(d) Unrealised forex gains/(losses)	-	-
	=====	=====
(e) Total at bid-price (including cash)	14,041	14,067
	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £'000	Endowment funds 2022 £'000	TOTAL 2022 £'000
(f) Gains/(losses) on investments			
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	198	85	283
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Endowment funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	1,579	670	2,249
	=====	=====	=====

9 SUNDRY DEBTORS	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Legacies and accrued income	23	4
Other debtors	28	54
Prepayments	640	369
	-----	-----
	691	427
	=====	=====

10 CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	205	119
Grants payable	3,112	2,432
Accruals	19	20
Social security and other taxes	10	9
Other creditors	119	2
Deferred income	17	-
	-----	-----
	3,482	2,582
	=====	=====

11 CREDITORS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Grants payable	2,816	2,589
	-----	-----
	2,816	2,589
	=====	=====

12 GRANTS PAYABLE

	2022		2021	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of period		5,021		3,969
Grants awarded in period	2,203		2,351	
Released prior year provision	40		36	
Adjustment for time value of money	(83)		(40)	
	-----		-----	
		2,160		2,347
Grant Invoices paid in period		(1,623)		(1,295)
		-----		-----
Balance at end of period		5,558		5,021
		=====		=====
Payable within one year		2,742		2,432
Payable after one year		2,816		2,589
		-----		-----
		5,558		5,021
		=====		=====

Note 22 shows details of grants awarded in the period

During the period, grants totalling £2,203k were awarded to research institutions as per note 18. Each grant is made in accordance with the terms of the individual trust funds held by the charity. The total grants made during the period, as analysed by fund in note 12, were:

13 FUNDS

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Grants fund	1,576	1,608
Marks fund	-	535
Sobell fund	627	146
Watts	-	26
Other restricted funds	-	40
	-----	-----
	2,203	2,355
	=====	=====

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2021	Total	Grants	Other	Investment	Transfers	2022
	£'000	income	payable	expenditure	gains	£'000	£'000
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	1,000	-	-	-	-	(75)	925
Designated funds							
Investment fund	4,554	1,687	-	(1,102)	199	(1,375)	3,963
Grants fund	2,445	-	(1,302)	-	-	1,450	2,593
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted funds	7,999	1,687	(1,302)	(1,102)	199	-	7,481
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Marks income fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sobell income fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watts income fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other funds	140	217	(201)	-	-	-	156
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted funds	140	217	(201)	-	-	-	156
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,760	64	9	(13)	46	-	1,866
Sobell fund	958	35	(627)	(7)	22	-	381
Watts fund	717	26	-	(5)	15	-	753
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment funds	3,435	125	(618)	(25)	83	-	3,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	11,574	2,029	(2,121)	(1,127)	282	-	10,637
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the Trustees as disclosed within the Trustees' Report.

All the Endowment funds are expendable. Each of the Restricted and Endowment Funds are for the purpose of funding research into Neurological Conditions.

The Marks fund is for research into the first causes of deterioration of memory.
The Sobell fund is for a chair of neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology.
The Watts fund is for research into motor neurone disease.

15 STATEMENT OF FUNDS – 2021 COMPARATIVES

	01 Apr 2020 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2021 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	750	-	-	-	-	250	1,000
Designated funds							
Investment fund	4,457	1,511		(929)	1,579	(2,064)	4,554
Grants fund	2,145	-	(1,514)	-	-	1,814	2,445
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted funds	7,352	1,511	(1,514)	(929)	1,579	-	7,999
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Marks income fund	43	62	-	(6)	-	(99)	-
Sobell income fund	32	30	-	(3)	-	(59)	-
Watts income fund	34	19	-	(2)	-	(51)	-
Other funds	160	130	(130)	(20)	-	-	140
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted funds	269	241	(130)	(31)	-	(209)	140
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,846	-	(535)	-	350	99	1,760
Sobell fund	860	-	(146)	-	185	59	958
Watts fund	558	-	(26)	-	134	51	717
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment funds	3,264	-	(707)	-	669	209	3,435
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	10,885	1,752	(2,351)	(960)	2,248	-	11,574
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Financial instruments measured at fair value through the SoFA (a)		
Listed investments	12,874	13,705
Financial assets measured at amortised cost (b)		
Cash	3,000	2,613
Debtors	691	427
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost (c)		
Creditors	(5,928)	(5,171)
	-----	-----
Net financial assets at amortised cost	10,637	11,574
	=====	=====

(a) Financial assets measured at fair value.

(b) Financial assets include cash, trade and, staff loans and other debtors.

(c) Financial liabilities include trade creditors, other creditors, accruals and grants payable.

17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

BETWEEN FUNDS	Investment assets 2022 £'000	Fixed assets 2022 £'000	Other assets 2022 £'000	Total assets 2022 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds	9,871	3	(2,393)	7,481
Marks fund	2,134	-	(268)	1,866
Sobell fund	1,165	-	(784)	381
Watts fund	871	-	(118)	753
Restricted funds	-	-	156	156
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	14,041	3	(3,407)	10,637
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**18 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS – 2021
COMPARATIVES**

	Investment assets 2021 £'000	Other assets 2021 £'000	Total assets 2021 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds Reserve	9,903	(1,904)	7,999
Marks fund	2,124	(364)	1,760
Sobell fund	1,168	(210)	958
Watts fund	872	(155)	717
Restricted funds	-	140	140
	-----	-----	-----
	14,067	(2,493)	11,574
	=====	=====	=====

19 OPERATING LEASES

	2022 £'000	2021 £'000
Commitment expiring:		
Within one year	50	25
	-----	-----
	50	25
	=====	=====

At 31 March 2022, the Charity had the future minimum operating lease payments as set out above. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities is £27k (2021: £25k)

20 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operated a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity which amounted to £23k (2021: £23k). Contributions totalling £2k (2021: £2k) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

21 RELATED PARTY

The only related party transactions made in the period relate to payments made to key management personnel who are the senior management team (see note 6 for details).

22 GRANTS AWARDED IN 2021-22

<u>Description</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total</u> £
PhD Studentships (Grants Fund)		
Mr Harsh Bhatt, Cardiff University <i>A study of telomere biology in gliomas and drivers of genomic instability</i>	Brain tumours	119,618
Danielle Marsh, University of Hull <i>The epigenetic regulatory protein CBX2 as a novel therapeutic target for glioblastoma multiforme</i>	Brain tumours	106,581
Phoebe Ivain, Imperial College London <i>Fixel-based analysis for the evaluation of white matter injury in neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	110,278
Covid-19 grant extension		11,473
PhD sub-total		347,950
Project Grants (Grants Fund)		
Dr Dirk Sieger, University of Edinburgh <i>Analysing the impact of extracellular vesicles on the establishment of glioma promoting functions in microglia</i>	Brain tumours	298,427
Dr Zahraa Al-Ahmady, Nottingham Trent University <i>A targeted approach to inhibit ferroptosis in a rodent model of intracerebral haemorrhage</i>	Brain and spinal cord injury	272,137
Mr Richard Mair, University of Cambridge <i>Using a cross-species genomics approach to reveal the interplay between hypoxia and epigenomic deregulation in the transformation from low grade glioma to secondary glioblastoma</i>	Brain tumours	299,613
Dr Anna Andreou, King's College London <i>Hypothalamic and immune interactions in cluster headache</i>	Headache and facial pain	268,328
Covid-19 grant extensions		52,744
Project Grants sub-total		1,191,249

Mr Harsh Bhatt, Cardiff University <i>Brain Research UK - Royal College of Surgeons Joint Research Fellowship</i>	Brain tumours	36,500
Other Research (Endowment & Restricted Funds)		
Sobell Chair	Neuromuscular disease	627,347
Total grants awarded		2,203,046
Adjustment for underspends		(38,364)
Release of previous year's adjustment of the time value of grants payable after one year		40,171
Adjustment for the time value of grants payable after one year		(83,359)
Grand Total		2,121,494

Accounts

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1137560
Registered Company Number: 07345516
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

Chairman's introduction

Our cause



1 in 6 of us

has a neurological
condition



More under 40s

are killed by **brain**
tumours than by any
other cancer



Every 90 seconds

someone is admitted to
hospital with a **brain**
injury



£10 billion

is the annual cost of
migraines to the UK
economy

Brain Research UK funds essential research to discover the causes of, to develop new treatments for and to improve the lives of those affected by neurological conditions.

Within this broad remit, we aim to focus our funding in areas where research investment is needed most urgently. Since 2016, our focus has been on research into brain and spinal cord injury, brain tumours, and headache & facial pain. In each of these three areas, there is a large unmet patient need that is not reflected in current levels of research funding.

Our vision is a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.

Our income

Throughout the year, despite the challenges of Covid-19, our supporters remained determined to raise funds. The pandemic elicited a range of creative fundraising activities, enabling us to continue to fund vital neurological research.

Funds received during the period came from donations of £1,383,000 (2020/18: £1,820,000) and income from our investment portfolio of £368,000 (2020/18: £681,000).

Our research

During the period, we awarded grants of £2,355,458 (2020/18: £2,098,970) to institutions throughout the UK as part of our commitment to the funding of vital research.

We were delighted to award three PhD Studentships and four Project Grants following national calls. We funded two Brain Research UK Miriam Marks Fellowships as well as on-going grants to UCL Institute of Neurology from endowments and restricted funds and awarded a new joint fellowship with the Royal College of Surgeons.

In addition, given the interruption of research caused by the pandemic, we awarded over £140,000 to Covid-19 related extensions.

With thanks to our supporters

It is only thanks to the generosity of all our supporters that we have been, and continue to be, able to fund vital life-changing, life-saving neurological research.

Jim Gollan
Chair of Trustees

Impact of Covid-19

As a result of Covid-19, like many other charities, we had to adapt our activities during the year and to postpone the expected roll out of a new strategy, approved in 2019.

Fundraising activities

Due to the pandemic, the London Marathon – our flagship fundraising event – was initially postponed and then cancelled. Therefore, our key focus became stewardship, ensuring runners remained engaged, informed and updated at all times and working with those who were motivated to move from physical to virtual activities during the year. Consequently, 84% of our original 2020 team are taking part in the 2021 event. In addition, we also experienced reduced income from challenge events and community fundraising as an inevitable result of the three lockdowns.

As well as supporting The Virtual 2.6 Challenge in April and The Virtual Marathon in October, we launched two new virtual activities including a Weekly Lottery and the Brainathlon, a collaborative virtual challenge event involving a walk, run and climb organised with two other neurological charities.

On New Year's Eve 2018, Namita sustained a traumatic brain injury at her local gym that led to post-concussion syndrome and chronic migraine for over a year. The London Marathon 2019 was her first public outing after the injury and it inspired her to enter the ballot for the 2020 marathon, where she successfully gained her Own Place. In choosing to run for the charity, she wanted to help raise awareness of brain conditions.



We continued with the strategy to develop our communications activity, most notably our social media presence and the introduction of several new campaigns. These included the launch of our #OneForAll social media campaign highlighting stories of supporters touched by more than one neurological condition, one of the key factors that differentiate us from other neurological charities. In addition, we launched our #TeamBrainTuesday initiative to promote the work of other neurological charities, in line with our strategic aim to work collaboratively. As a result of this increased activity, we saw a growth in our online following and an increase in engagement across all of our social media channels and website: over 50% increase in website traffic and over 10% increase in Facebook and Instagram followers.

We maintained our digital stewardship activities for regular supporters and increased income from Trusts and Foundations activities.

Overall, compared to the pre-pandemic budget, we experienced a 24% drop in our fundraising income but were able to reduce expenditure in fundraising and overhead costs. Further information on our financial performance is provided in the financial performance section on page 7.

Charitable activities

According to an AMRC survey, the results of which were circulated in April 2021, 32% of AMRC charities had to cancel or delay research projects that are crucial to developing new treatments and 1 in 2 AMRC charities plan to cut their research spend over the next year by an average of 37%. In addition, the survey suggests that 56% of AMRC charities will have to cancel or delay funding for early career researchers and skilled research roles.

During the year, in light of the pandemic and exceptional applications, we awarded more research funding than originally anticipated. Research grants of £2,351,000 were awarded, which included £140,000 of Covid-19 related extension funding, representing an increase of 22% from the original budget.

For the year 2021/22, we hope to award grants of over £1,500,000. This will include our core funding plans that deliver a key strategic aim to support early career researchers: £800,000 in project grant funding and £240,000 in PhD studentship awards.

The future

As we start to exit lockdown, uncertainty remains about the fundraising landscape. However, as evidenced during 2020/21, Brain Research UK is well positioned to respond quickly and effectively to changing circumstances. We remain committed to funding the best science to achieve the greatest impact for people affected by neurological conditions. As soon as there is a clarity on future circumstances, we will deliver a revised post-Covid strategy.

Charitable objects

To promote and support by all available means for the public benefit research and investigation into and study of diseases of the nervous system and allied subjects, and particularly the causes, means of prevention, diagnosis, method of treatment and cure of such diseases and publication of such research, study and investigation which term shall include the promotion and support of University College London Institute of Neurology (Queen Square) and such other institutions in which such research investigation or study is being or is to be pursued.

Objectives for 2021/22:

As a result of on-going uncertainty around Covid-19, our objectives for 2021/22 are as follows:

Our objectives for research activities in 2021/22 are:

- To sustain our core funding of two national calls for PhD Studentships and Project Grant funding
- To deliver a meaningful Impact Report to reflect our 50 year anniversary in October 2021

Our objectives for fundraising in 2021/22 are:

- To develop further our unique, as well as collaborative, event and challenge activities
- To develop further our major donor fundraising activities

The Trustees understand that the benefits of neurological research are long-term but believe that the knowledge gained from each research project funded is a step towards understanding how these diseases happen and how to treat them. Trustees also understand that measuring the impact of donations is an important consideration for those who give so generously to support the Charity's work.



Brain tumours

More under 40s

are killed by brain tumours than by any other cancer



5,250

lives are lost to brain tumours every year



11,500

people are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour every year



Brain and spinal cord injury

Every 90 seconds

someone is admitted to hospital with a brain injury



Head injury

is the leading cause of death and disability in people aged one to 40



2 in 3

stroke survivors leave hospital with a disability



Headache and facial pain

190,000

migraine attacks occur every day



1 in 14

people suffer from facial pain



£10 billion

is the annual cost of migraines to the UK economy



Achievements and performance

As a result of Covid-19, the 12-month period to 31st March 2021 was not as expected, most notably with the cancellation of the London Marathon 2020. However, despite this, we invested in developing virtual events and virtual challenge activities, culminating in preparation for a new collaborative event, Brainathlon, in April 2021 in partnership with Brain Tumour Research and Epilepsy Research UK.

Our plans to develop further our major donor fundraising activities were delayed due to the pandemic.

Following national calls, we awarded three PhD studentships, one in each of our priority areas: brain tumours, brain and spinal cord injury, and headache and facial pain. We also awarded four project grants: three in brain tumours and one in headache and facial pain.

A draft Impact Report was submitted to the Board of Trustees, with a final Report due in 2021/22.

As part of our strategic partnership plan, we introduced two collaborative activities: a fundraising initiative, Brainathlon, as above, and a grant making initiative with the Royal College of Surgeons to fund a joint fellowship.

In addition, we continued our operating model that helps to maximise fundraising income whilst keeping operational costs to a minimum.

	12 month period 2020-21 £'000	18 month period 2018-20 £'000
Results and review of the period under review		
Total income	1,751	2,501
Expenditure on raising funds	(722)	(1,207)
	<u>1,029</u>	<u>1,294</u>
Expenditure on Research	(2,526)	(2,364)
Expenditure on Information & Awareness	(63)	(98)
Increase/(decrease) in investment values	2,249	(1,055)
	<u>689</u>	<u>(2,223)</u>

Donations

Total income includes donations of £1,383,000 received during the 12 month period (£1,820,000 in 2018/20). These comprise: event income of £181,000, individual giving income of £414,000, legacies of £557,000 and trusts, corporate, major donor income of £231,000. The full breakdown of the donation categories can be seen in Note 2 of the accounts.

Investment performance

Our investment balances at 31st March 2021 are £14,067,000 (fixed assets) and £1,844,000 (current assets). These balances reflect a significant gain in valuation since 31st March 2020, when the balances were £13,548,000 (fixed assets) and £582,000 (current assets). The investment portfolio was heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in the early part of 2020 and an investment loss of £1,055,000 was recorded in our previous accounts to 31st March 2020.

During the year investment markets have recovered and our portfolio has grown in value. An unrealised gain of £2,249,000 has been included within our portfolio valuation and is reflected in the income and expenditure account.

Our investment income for the year is £368,000 compared to £681,000 for the previous 18 month period.

Further information about our investment performance is given in the investment policy section and note 7 of the accounts.

Research funded

Neurosurgeon Ryan Mathew brings together a collaborative team from the Universities of Leeds, Nottingham and York to tackle the problematic cancer cells that remain in the so-called 'margin zone' following brain tumour surgery.

One of the main barriers to successful treatment of brain cancer is that the tumours do not have a clean boundary as they infiltrate the surrounding healthy brain. This means that cancer cells are left behind after surgery, in a margin zone that comprises both cancer cells and healthy brain tissue. The cells in this margin zone are the root of relapse and being able to eliminate them holds the key to treatment that is most likely to be successful in the long-term.

Very little is known about the way that the cells in the margin zone behave, as most research has focused on the main lump. This collaborative team is developing new tools to enable the study of these cells in a living system and work on better ways to eliminate them.

This will accelerate the development of effective treatments for these devastating tumours.



We received a strong response to this year's call for applications for PhD studentships. In response, we awarded £348,230 to fund three new PhD studentships at UCL Queen Square.

Institute of Neurology (two awards) and Imperial College London (one award) (2018/20: £360,000, three studentships).

We also ran our annual national call for project grant applications, resulting in the award of funding of £1,086,425 to fund four new projects at King's College London, the University of Strathclyde, the University of Cambridge and the University of Leeds (2018/20: £875,527 for three projects).

In collaboration with UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, we issued our first national call for applications for research fellowships in neurodegenerative conditions. We made two awards under the call, totalling £535,369, funded from the restricted Miriam Marks Fund.

We paid on-going grants to UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology from the Sobell Endowment totalling £145,937 (2018/20: £252,622).

We collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons for the first time to award a joint research fellowship to a neurosurgical trainee, at a cost of £32,500.

In addition, we agreed to consider requests for costed extensions to enable our grant-holders to overcome the disruption caused by Covid-19 and to successfully complete their research projects. We awarded 13 extensions at a total cost of £140,632.

Note 20 in the accounts details the extensive programme of research funded by the Charity during the 12 month financial period to 31st March 2021.

Information and awareness

During the period to 31st March 2021, our information and awareness expenditure was £63,000 (2018/20: £98,000) and this reflected updates to our website and general communication activities.

Future plans

As a result of the global pandemic, like many other organisations, our year 2020/21 was disrupted and fragmented. However, our strategy remains focused on how to deliver greater impact on those living with a neurological condition through the funding of more research, underpinned by stable, secure financial foundations.

Our key aim is to maximise fundraising income while keeping our operational costs low in order to fund essential research and accelerate its progress – ultimately making positive change for our beneficiaries and helping to realise our vision of a world where everyone with a neurological condition lives better, longer.

Highlights of our strategy are summarised below.

- Research: we will continue to fund world class, impactful neurological research.
- Collaboration: we will work collaboratively, across both fund-seeking and grant-making activities, with likeminded organisations with shared purpose.
- Fundraising: we will focus on developing our existing flagship fundraising streams, such as the London Marathon, and will seek to grow sustainable income from major donor and corporate fundraising channels.
- Communications: we will diversify our communications activities to ensure that we retain existing, and attract new, supporters.
- Organisation: we will focus on being a lean, agile, modern and adaptable organisation that can mobilise and respond quickly to changing circumstances.

Financial performance

The Charity received income of £1,751,000 during the 12 month financial period to 31st March 2021 (£2,501,000 in the 18 months to 31st March 2020). Our ability to fundraise during the year was significantly constrained by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As can be seen in Notes 2 and 3, the Charity's income comes from a number of sources. The Charity has been heavily impacted by the absence of the London Marathon during 2020 with this being our flagship fundraising event. In addition, the difficulty of being able to carry out community challenges and event fundraising, has contributed to the fall in events income to £181,000 (£853,000 in the 18 month period to 31st March 2020). For context, the budgeted income for London Marathon was £718,000 but we were only able to realise income of £130,000 from sponsorship received prior to the first lockdown and from the virtual event.

The fall in income has been partially offset by an increase in fundraising income from streams including trusts, and major donors amounting to £788,000 (£278,000 in the 18 month period to 31st March 2021).

As a result of the fall in fundraising income, the Charity scaled back much of its fundraising activity for the year and capitalised on opportunities to remain efficient. The change in operating model that was implemented in previous years meant that our operations remained lean and adaptable to change. A revised budget was put in place after the first lockdown started and our operating plan amended accordingly. Consequently, we were able to reduce our expenditure on raising funds to £722,000 (£1,207,000 in the 18 month period to 31st March 2020). This includes deferring expenditure for London Marathon places to 2021/22 when we expect the next event to take place. We were able to utilise some savings in our overheads without having to obtain government assistance on any emergency Covid-19 scheme. We did not furlough any staff.

Despite the fundraising challenges, we maintained our commitment to research by spending £2,589,000 on our charitable activities (£2,462,000 in the 18 month period to 31st March 2020). This includes direct research spend

A of £2,355,000 (as outlined in Note 18). This means that for every pound we spent during 2020/21, 78 pence was spent on our charitable activities.

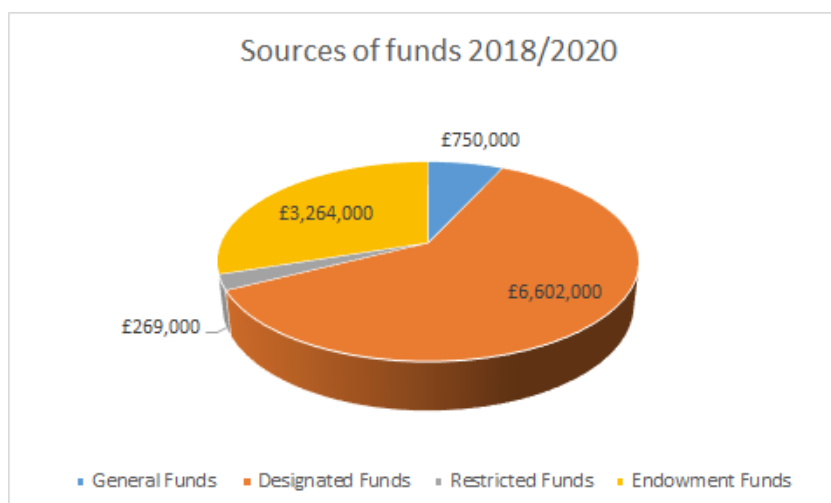
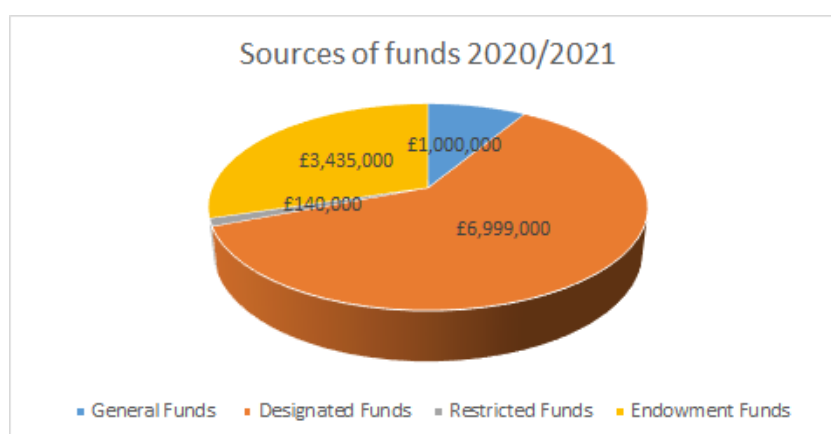
Due to the increase in our investment portfolio valuation, an unrealised gain of £2,249,000 was recognised during the year, which leaves the year with a surplus of £689,000 and increase in our funds position.

Funds

The Charity's total funds at 31st March 2021 were £11,574,000 (2018/20: £10,885,000).

The funds are split as follows:

	2020/21	2018/20
General Funds	£ 1,000,000	£ 750,000
Designated Funds	£ 6,999,000	£ 6,602,000
Restricted Funds	£ 140,000	£ 269,000
Endowment Funds	£ 3,435,000	£ 3,264,000
	£11,574,000	£10,885,000



General Funds

The general fund is used to provide a buffer for unforeseen activities and is maintained on the basis of being the higher of £750,000 or 9 months of non-grant expenditure (overheads and fundraising costs). 9 months of

budgeted non-grant expenditure from our 2021/22 budget comes to £1,000,000 and this is therefore the balance reflected in our general funds.

Designated Funds

The Charity holds two designated funds:

Grants Fund: This fund is in place to cover the next two years of expected unrestricted grant awards. The fund will be expended as the grant awards are made and then replenished in order to cover the planned future commitments.

Investment Fund: The Charity benefits from the income generated by its investment portfolio for a significant proportion of total income. As income and unrealised movements can change significantly from year to year, the investment fund was put in place to provide a cushion against these fluctuations. It is therefore the balance of the Unrestricted Funds after taking into account the General and Grant Fund. The fund is held in an investment portfolio which has increased in value since last year.

Restricted funds

These funds have been donated for specific projects or research activities. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure restricted funds are utilised in accordance with the donors' wishes as soon as is practicable.

Endowment funds

These funds have been endowed for use on specific projects or research activities at the Institute of Neurology (IoN). All the endowment funds are expendable.

Balances and detailed movements on funds are detailed in Note 12.

Reserves policy

The Charity has developed a reserves policy that identifies and plans for the maintenance of essential activities and reflects the risks associated with the Charity's business model, spending commitments, potential liabilities and financial forecasts.

The policy is as outlined in the General Funds and Designated Funds sections above. It is devised with the intention of maintaining adequate funds within general funds to ensure that the Charity could operate effectively in the short term. Furthermore, adequate funds are to be kept aside for the continuity of grant funding.

The Board reviews the adequacy and relevance of the reserves policy periodically to assess its validity in light of changing circumstances. The policy was reviewed by the Trustees during the current financial period and remains unchanged. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic and the impact on financial performance, it provides a sufficient buffer for the Charity to continue operations in the short to medium term.

Grant awarding policy

Brain Research UK funds research on a national basis into neurological conditions. Other than awards made from three restricted endowment funds, our research funding is awarded in open national competition.

As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, our policy is to fund research that has been subject to rigorous assessment, including external peer review. Our grant-making processes were subject to audit by the AMRC in 2020, and we are pleased to report that we passed the audit and were awarded a certificate of best practice.

During the period under review, the Charity's Scientific Advisory Panel maintained its focus on the three 'priority research areas introduced during 2016: acquired brain and spinal cord injury, neuro-oncology, headache and facial pain. We issued two national calls for grant applications in these three areas – one for project grants and one for PhD studentships.

Outside of the three priority areas, we collaborated with UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology to issue a call for applications for research fellowships in neurodegenerative conditions, funded by the Miriam Marks Fund, and we collaborated with the Royal College of Surgeons to fund a joint research fellowship.

Going concern

The accounts are approved during a period where there is much uncertainty as a result of the emergence and international spread of Covid-19. The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. This is evidenced by this year's research awards amounting to £2,355,000 and a further £2,445,000 held in a designated fund for future research.

The Charity has assessed the potential impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and formulated a revised budget for the year, which took into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual. The budget for 2021/22 is cautious and reflects financial repercussions of the ongoing pandemic.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12 month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities remain unpredictable, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our annual and mid-year financial planning processes take into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned expenditure. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Risk assessment

The Trustees review the risks facing the Charity and the steps needed to mitigate them. The Board receives and discusses an annual report of identified risks and the control systems designed to respond to them.

The Charity is currently facing the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic with fundraising income significantly impacted. The Charity therefore operated with a revised budget during 2020/21 and scaled back expenditure. As part of its risk assessment process, the Charity had already altered its operating model to become leaner and more flexible to changing circumstances. This therefore helped to mitigate the income risk that was evident this year.

Furthermore, the Charity operates with diversified income streams; this has proved to be important this year. Whilst many areas of fundraising saw income fall, we received additional legacy income and saw growth in trusts and major donors. We plan on maintaining our income diversity to manage the income risk.

Our reserves policy is intended to give us continuity of operation in the short to medium term and we are supplemented by a strong reserve position. There is a risk that research projects funded by us become delayed or unable to complete. As a result of this, the Charity awarded additional funding to grant recipients that were affected by the pandemic.

Aside from the immediate risks posed by the pandemic, the Charity operates with the long-term risk of being able to raise and maintain sufficient income to fulfil our research aspirations. With the fundraising environment becoming particularly challenging due to a number of environmental and economic factors, the Charity is susceptible due to its reliance on voluntary and investment income. In order to manage this risk, the Charity approved a new fundraising strategy in December 2019 that aimed to build on our core London Marathon income stream and diversify into other income streams. The implementation of this strategy has been delayed due to the pandemic with the focus now being on maintaining our current income portfolio. However, the principles of the strategy remain and we would hope to continue its implementation as the year progresses.

The Charity holds a substantial investment portfolio of over £14 million from which regular income is received. Given its magnitude, protection of the portfolio is vital and effective management of the portfolio constitutes a further risk. To mitigate this, the portfolio is closely managed in line with the investment policy below with the investment manager's performance and asset allocation appraised quarterly by the Investment Committee.

The risk register is reviewed annually by the Trustees and was last approved during their March 2021 meeting.

Fundraising approach and performance

The Charity undertakes a range of fundraising activities, including direct mail and fundraising events. No fundraising activities were carried out by either a professional fundraiser or commercial participator. The Charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the standards of the Fundraising Code of Practice. During the period, no complaints were received.

Investment policy

The articles of association provide the Trustees with the power to invest funds not immediately required. Given the long-term nature of the Charity's commitment to fund research, the Board aims to invest reserves so as to protect capital from inflation and generate additional returns for future disbursement. The investment portfolio, which is managed by Sarasin & Partners LLP, is a diversified portfolio of UK and overseas equities, gilts, corporate bonds, property, hedge funds, commodities and cash deposits. The Investment Committee monitors the performance of investments and reviews social, environmental and ethical considerations on a quarterly basis.

Our intention is to achieve average returns over the long term of 2.5% per annum above UK CPI; in addition, to protect capital reserves from inflation and generate funds for disbursement in support of Brain Research UK's mission. Over the 12 months to 31st March 2021, a rolling return of 20.5% was achieved against a composite benchmark of 19.8%.

Structure, governance and management

Brain Research Trust is a company limited by guarantee (registration number 07345516; incorporated 13 August 2010) and a registered charity (registration number 1137560) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Jim Gollan, under powers defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association amended 21st December 2015 and 7th March 2019. Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust.

Name	Brain Research Trust; working name Brain Research UK
Charity registration number	1137560 (registered in England and Wales)
Company registration number	07345516 (registered in England and Wales)
Registered office	BWB Charity Hub 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Trustees	Jim Gollan, Chair of Trustees Jonathan Kropman, Deputy Chair of Trustees Jerry Storrs, Treasurer Professor John Pickard MA, MChir, FRCS, FRCSEd, FMedSci Aoife Regan Professor Sir Doug Turnbull, MBBS, MD, PhD, FRCP, FMedSci Allister Wilson Paul Wright
Scientific Advisory Panel	Professor Kevin Talbot MBBS, DPhil, FRCP, Chair of Panel Dr Faisal Amin Professor Rob Brownstone MD, PhD, FRCSC, FCAHS Professor Alasdair Coles BM BCH, PhD, FRCP Professor Oliver Hanemann MD, PhD, FRCP Professor Henry Houlden MBBS, PhD Professor Simona Parrinello Professor Alexandra Sinclair MBChB (Hons) MRCP PhD Professor Nick Ward MD, FRCP
Senior management	Caroline Blakely, Chief Executive Snezana Bjelogrić, Head of Finance Pippa Ball, Head of Fundraising

Professional advisors

Auditors	Solicitors
Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1AG	Bates Wells & Braithwaite London LLP 10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Investment Managers	Bankers
Sarasin & Partners LLP Juxon House 100 St Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8BU	Clydesdale Bank PLC 30 St. Vincent Place Glasgow G1 2HL

Governance and management

The Charity's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents. Trustee indemnity insurance is in place together with a conflicts of interest policy.

In the period under review the management of the Charity was as follows:

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, currently comprises eight members (2018/20: eight) and meets quarterly. The Board is responsible for determining the overall strategy of the Charity and is accountable for its operational, financial and managerial performance.

There is one standing Committee of the Board that meets quarterly.

- The Investment Committee monitors the Charity's investment performance, portfolio and policy recommending any changes in strategy to the Trustee Board.
- The terms of reference for this committee are regularly monitored and updated accordingly.

A Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) meets periodically and also communicates via email, to evaluate and rank research grant applications recommending to the Trustees which projects should be funded. The members of the SAP are independent, drawn from various neurological disciplines, and are actively involved in neurological research. SAP members are listed on page 12.

- The Charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), an umbrella organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. AMRC members aim to follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.
- Day-to-day running of the Charity is undertaken by the Chief Executive.
- IT, telephony, database management, fundraising and financial consultancy services are provided by external service providers.

Appointment of trustees

- Trustees are appointed by either invitation or recruitment to ensure the right balance of skills and experience on the Board and to stimulate the growth and development of the Charity. Selection is based on the ability to contribute to Charity management, business, and scientific, financial, investment, legal, fundraising, campaigning and marketing skills.
- The term of appointment is three years, renewable twice in normal circumstances. As a result of the pandemic and the uncertainty it has created during the financial period, the Trustees agreed to appoint Jim Gollan and Jonathan Kropman for a further term even though they had already completed three terms. This was intended to provide stability while the Charity made the transition through the pandemic.
- New trustees receive a thorough induction into the work of the Charity.
- No new trustees were appointed during the financial period.

Management

The Trustees exercise executive responsibility for the governance of the Charity and, through the Chairman, supervise the management of the Charity by the Chief Executive. The Chairman and Chief Executive also task the Board with decision-making on strategic management issues as well as overseeing the research grants application process and monitoring the progress of awarded grants.

The day-to-day running of the Charity has been delegated to the Chief Executive and includes the operational running of the Charity and the coordinating of fundraising appeals.

All staff posts are periodically evaluated to ensure that salary levels are reflective of industry and organisational needs, as well as individual and charity performance. In recruitment of a new post, an assessment is made of the requirements of the role in terms of skills, experience, competency and urgency. The salary is then determined on the basis of this assessment and the current market conditions. The salary of the CEO is periodically reviewed by the Board.

Membership of Regulatory Bodies and other organisations

We are committed to the highest standards of fundraising and grant making as demonstrated by our membership of the following organisations

Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)

- The AMRC is an umbrella organisation of leading medical and health research charities in the UK. As a member, we follow the highest standards of accountability in medical and health research funding. Membership of AMRC requires the use of independent peer review in the allocation of all grants for research.

Fundraising Regulator (FR)

- The Fundraising Regulator is the UK's independent regulator of charitable fundraising that ensures public protection, accountability and excellence in fundraising. Their Code of Fundraising Practice sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK. As a member, we adhere to the highest standards and highlight our Supporter Charter.

Institute of Fundraising (IoF)

- The IoF is the professional membership body for UK fundraising; as a member, we follow its recommendations.

Neurological Alliance (NA)

- The NA is a coalition of more than 80 organisations working together to transform outcomes for the millions of people in England with a neurological condition. The NA keeps their members apprised of patients survey outcomes, any and all public policy changes that affect our beneficiaries and strengthen the voice of people affected by the neurological conditions.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity. Research funded by the Charity meets the Charity Commission's test for Public Benefit. In addition, although only a small percentage of the population may suffer from a particular neurological disease, the application of the results of the research is not restricted by gender, ethnicity, religion or ability to pay and in that respect the public at large benefit.

Change of financial year

In the prior year, the Trustees had resolved to change the Charity's financial year-end to 31st March from 30th September. The final statements of the prior year and disclosures were prepared on the basis of an 18 month accounting period to run from 1st October 2018 to 31st March 2020.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities:

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as we 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

The auditors, Haysmacintyre LLP, were re-appointed during the period in accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 25 June 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Jim Gollan
(Chair of Trustees)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Brain Research Trust**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Brain Research Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise of the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report and the Chair's statement. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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 or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 25, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the 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

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

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.

Based on our understanding of the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to data protection legislation and employment (including taxation), and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls). Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;
- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Siobhan Holmes (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditor

Date: 25 June 2021

10 Queen Street Place

London EC4R 1AG

BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain Research Trust)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 (12 mth) £'000	2020 (18 mth) £'000
		£'000	£'000	£'000		
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies	2	1,252	131	-	1,383	1,820
Investments	3	258	110	-	368	
Total income		1,510	241	-	1,751	2,501
Expenditure on						
Raising funds:						
Investment management costs	4	27	11	-	38	78
Fundraising	4	684	-	-	684	1,129
Total expenditure on funds	4	711	11	-	722	1,207
Charitable activities:						
Research	4	1,668	150	708	2,526	2,364
Information & awareness	4	63	-	-	63	98
Total expenditure on charitable activities		1,731	150	708	2,589	2,462
Total expenditure		2,442	161	708	3,311	3,669
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds before gains/(losses) on investment assets		(932)	80	(708)	(1,560)	(1,168)
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	7	1,579	-	670	2,249	(1,055)
Net income/(expenditure)		647	80	(38)	689	(2,223)
Transfers between funds			(209)	209	-	-
Net movement in funds		647	(129)	171	689	(2,223)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as						
At 31 March 2020	12	7,352	269	3,264	10,885	13,108
At 31 March 2021	12	7,999	140	3,435	11,574	10,885

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the above Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 21 to 36 form part of these accounts.

**BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Company registration No. 07345516 (England and Wales)
(Brain Research UK is the working name of Brain research Trust)

	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Fixed assets			
Investments	7	14,067	13,548
Total fixed assets		14,067	13,548
Current assets			
Sundry debtors	8	427	711
Investments		1,844	582
Cash at bank and in hand		407	236
Total current assets		2,678	1,529
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	9	(2,582)	(1,974)
Net current assets		96	(445)
Total assets less current liabilities		14,163	13,103
Creditors falling due after one year	10	(2,589)	(2,218)
Net assets		11,574	10,885
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted Funds			
Investment Fund	12	4,554	4,457
Grants Fund	12	2,445	2,145
		6,999	6,602
General Fund		1,000	750
		7,999	7,352
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	12	140	269
		140	269
Endowment Funds			
Marks Endowment Fund	12	1,760	1,846
Muller Endowment Fund	12	-	-
Sobell Endowment Fund	12	958	860
Watts Endowment Fund	12	717	558
		3,435	3,264
		11,574	10,885

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 25 June 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Jim Gollan (Chair)

The notes on pages 21 to 36 form part of these accounts.

	2021		2020	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:				
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(666)		(3,236)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Net proceeds from sale of investments and reinvestments	2,099		763	
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>		2,099		763
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Change in cash equivalent in the period		1,433		(2,473)
Cash and cash equivalent at start of period		818		3,291
Cash and cash equivalent at end of period		2,251		818
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Net income / (expenditure) for the period</i>		689		(2,223)
Adjust for:				
(Gains) / losses on investments		(2,249)		1,055
Dividends and interest from investments		(368)		(681)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		284		109
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		978		(1,496)
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		(666)		(3,236)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash in hand		407		236
Cash equivalents on deposits		1,844		582
Total cash and cash equivalent		2,251		818
Analysis of changes in net debt				
	At 1 April 2020	Cash flows	At 31 March 2021	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Cash and cash equivalents				
Cash	236	171	407	
Investment cash	582	1,262	1,844	
Total	818	1,433	2,251	

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 12. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified to include the revaluation of investments. The format of the financial statements has been presented to comply with the Companies Act 2006, FRS102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities ("SORP 2015") (Second edition effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS102.

Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties which would cast doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accounts are approved during a period where there continued to be uncertainty as a result of the emergence and international spread of a coronavirus (COVID-19). The Charity, as a grant making organisation, has continued to meet its strategy of supporting ongoing research. It has assessed the potential impact on its fundraising activities in the current climate and has formulated a revised budget for the current year, which takes into account the uncertainty of returning to business as usual.

The Trustees have considered different scenarios in the current climate; this has included forecasting and cash flow forecasts for a 12 month period from signing the accounts. Whilst fundraising activities will reduce in the short term, and investment markets are more volatile, the Trustees are confident that the financial forecasts prepared support the going concern assumption.

The Charity has a strong reserve position and has available resources, as demonstrated by the level of general funds outlined above and the robust reserve policy. Our cash deposits could easily be drawn down should working capital be required. We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue.

Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts in wills which are recognised where there is entitlement, probability of receipt and the amount of the gift is measurable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised as soon as the related liability is incurred and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to that category. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Employment benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised in the period in which they are earned. Termination benefits are recognised in the period in which the decision is made and communicated to the relevant employee(s).

Expenditure on raising funds comprises fundraising costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises expenditure directly related to the awarding of grants to institutions, and provision of information and awareness.

Support costs represent indirect costs relating to raising funds and the Charity's charitable activities. Support costs, including governance costs, are allocated to activities on bases that represent the Trustees' best estimate of actual use. The bases used to allocate costs to the above categories of expenditure are set out in note 4.

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, auditors' remuneration, certain legal costs and all costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as costs of Board meetings and of preparing the statutory accounts.

Research grants

Grants payable are in respect of grants approved by the Trustees, having due regard for the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Panel. The full value of the grants approved is accounted for when the grant awards or commitments are made.

Investment income

Income from fixed interest stocks, loans and deposits is included in the accounts on an accrual basis.

Income from other securities is accounted for on a cash received basis.

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Office and computer equipment with a cost of £500 or more are capitalised and depreciated on a straight-line basis of 25% per annum.

Investments

The Charity's investments are of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Investments are included in the balance sheet at fair value (bid price).

Realised gains are the difference between sales proceeds and the carrying value of the investment. The carrying value is the fair value at the beginning of the period or the purchase cost where the investment was acquired during the period.

Unrealised gains are the change in value of investments after taking into account any movements in investment holdings such as purchases and disposals of investments.

Realised and unrealised gains are accounted for within the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial instruments

Basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable are accounted for on the following basis:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors are measured at the transaction price less any provision for impairment. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure

Grant commitments for awards with expected payments exceeding twelve months have been discounted using market rates for cash matching the term of the liabilities with rates between 0.4% - 1% p.a.

Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Staff benefits

The Charity makes pension provision for its employees by contributing to a personal pension scheme of their

choice. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the Charity benefits from the employees' services. The Charity has no further liability under the scheme. In October 2016 all employees not already in an approved scheme were auto-enrolled into a multi-employer pension scheme administered by the Peoples Pension.

Short term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Funds

Brain Research Trust consists of six funds as follows:

- General fund (unrestricted)
- Investment fund (designated)
- Grants fund (designated)
- Miriam Marks fund (expendable endowment)
- Sobell fund (expendable endowment)
- Watts fund (expendable endowment)

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted income funds comprise unexpended balances of donations and grants held in trust to be applied for specific purposes.

All the endowment funds are expendable. Each of the restricted and endowment funds are for the purpose of funding research into neurological conditions.

Allocation of costs to the Funds

Costs which are specific to an individual fund are charged to that fund. All other costs are charged to the unrestricted funds.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of these accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

The preceding accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

2 DONATIONS and LEGACIES	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2021 (12 mth) £'000
	2021 £'000	2021 £'000	
Individuals	413	-	413
Trusts, corporates & major donors	178	54	232
Income from events	181	-	181
Legacies	480	77	557
	-----	-----	-----
	1,252	131	1,383
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2020 (18 mth) £'000
	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	
Individuals	689	-	689
Trusts, corporates & major donors	87	87	174
Income from events	853	-	853
Legacies	104	-	104
	-----	-----	-----
	1,733	87	1,820
	=====	=====	=====
3 INVESTMENT INCOME	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2021 (12 mth) £'000
	2021 £'000	2021 £'000	
Dividends and interest on Investments	258	110	368
Deposit account interest			-
	-----	-----	-----
	258	110	368
	=====	=====	=====
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2020 (18 mth) £'000
	2020 £'000	2020 £'000	
Dividends and interest on Investments	484	197	681
Deposit account interest			-
	-----	-----	-----
	484	197	681
	=====	=====	=====

4 EXPENDITURE	Direct costs 2021 £'000	Grants awarded 2021 £'000	Support costs 2021 £'000	TOTAL (12 mth) 2021 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	37	-	1	38
Fundraising costs	644	-	40	684
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	681	-	41	722
Research	118	2,351	57	2,526
Information & awareness	58	-	5	63
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	176	2,351	62	2,589
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	857	2,351	103	3,311
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	Direct costs 2020 £'000	Grants awarded 2020 £'000	Support costs 2020 £'000	TOTAL (18 mth) 2020 £'000
Raising funds				
Investment management fees	76	-	2	78
Fundraising costs	1,060	-	69	1,129
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure on raising funds	1,136	-	71	1,207
Research	165	2,115	84	2,364
Information & awareness	88	-	10	98
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total charitable activities	253	2,115	94	2,462
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	1,389	2,115	165	3,669
	=====	=====	=====	=====

See note 20 for details of grants awarded in 2021

Support costs of £45k (2020: £74k) comprise of property and office costs and other sundry expenses and are allocated on the basis of staff costs. Governance costs of £60k (2020: £91k) are regarded as support costs and are apportioned to fundraising, research and charitable activity proportionately to the value attributed to each of these activities.

SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL (12 mth)
	2021	2021	2021	2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	1	-	-	1
Legal and professional	5	4	1	10
Telecomms and IT	19	11	3	33
Human resources	-	1	-	1
Governance	15	43	2	60
	40	59	6	105

	Raising funds	Research	Information & awareness	TOTAL (18 mth)
	2020	2020	2020	2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	5	3	1	9
Legal and professional	1	1	-	2
Telecomms and IT	35	20	6	61
Human resources	1	1	-	2
Governance	29	59	3	91
	71	84	10	165

5 NET INCOME

	2021 (12 mth) £'000	2020 (18 mth) £'000
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor remuneration - audit fees (excludes VAT)	13	13
- other fees (excludes VAT)	1	1
Operating lease charges	25	25
	=====	=====

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration during the period. No trustees (2020; 3) were reimbursed (2020: £1,852) for travel expenses. No amounts were paid to third parties on behalf of the trustees.

6 SALARIES AND EMPLOYMENT COSTS

	2021 (12 mth) £'000	2020 (18 mth) £'000
Salaries	293	282
Social security costs	28	30
Pension costs	23	20
Freelancers	125	229
	-----	-----
	469	561
	=====	=====

The average headcount of staff employed by the charity during the period was 6 (2020: 4)

	2021 (12 months) Headcount	2020 (18 months) Headcount	2021 FTE	2020 FTE
Research	1.5	1.0	1.1	0.7
Information and awareness	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Raising funds	3.3	1.9	2.8	1.7
Governance	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.3</u>
	5.9	3.6	4.6	2.9

During the period, the number of senior employees who received emoluments falling within the following ranges was:

	2021 (12 months) No.	2020 (18 months) No.
£120,000 - £129,999	-	1
£80,000 - £89,999	1	-
	-----	-----
	1	1
	=====	=====

During the period, these staff received employer pension contributions of £6,720 (2020: £8,640).

Key management personnel

In 2021, 3 (2020: 3) members of staff formed the senior management team. Their remuneration amounted to £207,000 including social security and pension costs (£225,000 in the 18-month period 2018/2020).

7 INVESTMENTS

(a) Equities

Equities comprise ordinary shares quoted on recognised stock exchanges together with hedge fund investments in the alternative investment market.

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Endowment funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2020	4,029	5,007	9,036
Additions	3,128	1,341	4,469
Disposals	(3,643)	(1,561)	(5,204)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	1,555	667	2,222
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2021	5,069	5,454	10,523
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 April 2020	7,158	2,924	10,082
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2021	6,570	2,816	9,386
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £'000	Endowment funds 2020 £'000	TOTAL 2020 £'000
Brought forward at 1 October 2018	4,973	5,382	10,355
Additions	5,260	2,159	7,419
Disposals	(5,227)	(2,135)	(7,362)
Increase in unrealised (losses)/gains	(882)	(494)	(1,376)
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2020	4,124	4,912	9,036
	-----	-----	-----
Historical cost at 1 October 2018	5,376	2,304	7,680
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2020	7,158	2,924	10,081
	=====	=====	=====

(b) Fixed interest securities

Fixed interest securities are quoted on recognised stock exchanges

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Endowment funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
Brought forward at 1 April 2020	1,840	1,947	3,787
Additions	743	319	1,062
Disposals	(1,185)	(508)	(1,693)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	18	8	26
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2021	1,416	1,766	3,182
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 April 2020	2,610	1,066	3,676
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2021	2,204	945	3,149
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £'000	Endowment funds 2020 £'000	TOTAL 2020 £'000
Brought forward at 1 October 2018	1,801	1,929	3,730
Additions	844	346	1,190
Disposals	(1,033)	(422)	(1,455)
Increase in unrealised gains/(losses)	228	93	321
	-----	-----	-----
Market value at 31 March 2020	1,840	1,946	3,786
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 1 October 2018	2,414	1,093	3,507
	=====	=====	=====
Historical cost at 31 March 2020	2,610	1,066	3,676
	=====	=====	=====

The total investment holding included unrealised investments gain of £2,222k (2020: losses £1,376k) on equities and £26k gain (2020: gain £321k) on fixed interest securities, a total unrealised gain of £2,249k (2020: losses £1,055k).

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
(c) Cash held for investment purposes	362	726
	=====	=====
(d) Unrealised forex gains/(losses)	-	-
	=====	=====
(e) Total at bid-price (including cash)	14,067	13,548
	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £'000	Endowment funds 2021 £'000	TOTAL 2021 £'000
(f) Gains/(losses) on investments			
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	1,579	670	2,249
	=====	=====	=====

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £'000	Endowment funds 2020 £'000	TOTAL 2020 £'000
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets	(655)	(400)	(1,055)
	=====	=====	=====

8 SUNDRY DEBTORS	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Legacies	4	37
Other debtors	54	23
Prepayments	369	651
	-----	-----
	427	711
	=====	=====

9 CREDITORS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	119	200
Grants payable	2,432	1,751
Accruals	20	12
Social security and other taxes	9	9
Other creditors	2	2
	-----	-----
	2,582	1,974
	=====	=====

10 CREDITORS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
Grants payable	2,589	2,218
	-----	-----
	2,589	2,218
	=====	=====

11 GRANTS PAYABLE

	2021		2020
	(12 months)		(18 months)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance at start of period		3,969	5,377
Grants awarded in period	2,351		2,099
Released prior year provision	36		52
Adjustment for time value of money	(40)		(36)
	-----		-----
		2,347	2,115
Grant Invoices paid in period		(1,295)	(3,523)
		-----	-----
Balance at end of period		5,021	3,969
		=====	=====
Payable within one year		2,432	1,751
Payable after one year		2,589	2,218
		-----	-----
		5,021	3,969
		=====	=====

Note 20 shows details of grants awarded in the period

During the period, grants totalling £2,351k were awarded to research institutions as per note 20. Each grant is made in accordance with the terms of the individual trust funds held by the charity. The total grants made during the period, as analysed by fund in note 12, were:

	£'000	£'000
Grants fund	1,608	1,235
Marks fund	535	-
Sobell fund	146	213
Watts	26	611
Other restricted funds	40	40
	-----	-----
	2,355	2,099
	=====	=====

12 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2020 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2021 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	750	-	-	-	-	250	1,000
Designated funds							
Investment fund	4,457	1,511	-	(929)	1,579	(2,064)	4,554
Grants fund	2,145	-	(1,514)	-	-	1,814	2,445
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted funds	7,352	1,511	(1,514)	(929)	1,579	-	7,999
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Marks income fund	43	62	-	(6)	-	(99)	-
Sobell income fund	32	30	-	(3)	-	(59)	-
Watts income fund	34	19	-	(2)	-	(51)	-
Other funds	160	130	(130)	(20)	-	-	140
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted funds	269	241	(130)	(31)	-	(209)	140
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,846	-	(535)	-	350	99	1,760
Sobell fund	860	-	(146)	-	185	59	958
Watts fund	558	-	(26)	-	134	51	717
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment funds	3,264	-	(707)	-	669	209	3,435
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	10,885	1,752	(2,351)	(960)	2,248	-	11,574
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the Trustees as disclosed within the Trustees' Report.

All the Endowment funds are expendable. Each of the Restricted and Endowment Funds are for the purpose of funding research into Neurological Conditions.

The Marks fund is for research into the first causes of deterioration of memory.

The Sobell fund is for a chair of neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology.

The Watts fund is for research into motor neurone disease.

13 STATEMENT OF FUNDS – 2020 COMPARATIVES

	01-Oct 2017 £'000	Total income £'000	Grants payable £'000	Other expenditure £'000	Investment gains £'000	Transfers £'000	2020 £'000
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS							
General fund	750	-	-	-	-	-	750
Designated funds							
Investment fund	5,334	2,217		(1,430)	(655)	(1,009)	4,457
Grants fund	2,388	-	(1,252)	-	-	1,009	2,145
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total unrestricted funds	8,472	2,217	(1,252)	(1,430)	(655)	-	7,352
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
RESTRICTED FUND							
Marks income fund	-	73	-	(30)	-	-	43
Sobell income fund	-	61	-	(29)	-	-	32
Watts income fund	-	63	-	(29)	-	-	34
Other funds	149	87	(40)	(36)	-	-	160
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total restricted funds	149	284	(40)	(124)	-	-	269
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ENDOWMENT FUNDS							
Marks fund	1,990	-	-	-	(144)	-	1,846
Sobell fund	1,198	-	(212)	-	(126)	-	860
Watts fund	1,299	-	(611)	-	(130)	-	558
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total endowment funds	4,487	-	(823)	-	(400)	-	3,264
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total funds	13,108	2,501	(2,115)	(1,554)	(1,055)	-	10,885
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

14 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Financial instruments measured at fair value through the SoFA (a)		
Listed investments	13,705	12,822
Financial assets measured at amortised cost (b)		
Cash	2,613	1,544
Debtors	427	711
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost (c)		
Creditors	(5,171)	(4,192)
	-----	-----
Net financial assets at amortised cost	11,574	10,885
	=====	=====

(a) Financial assets measured at fair value.

(b) Financial assets include cash, trade and, staff loans and other debtors.

(c) Financial liabilities include trade creditors, other creditors, accruals and grants payable.

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

BETWEEN FUNDS	Investment assets 2021 £'000	Other assets 2021 £'000	Total assets 2021 £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds Reserve	9,903	(1,904)	7,999
Marks fund	2,124	(364)	1,760
Sobell fund	1,168	(210)	958
Watts fund	872	(155)	717
Restricted funds	-	140	140
	-----	-----	-----
	14,067	(2,493)	11,574
	=====	=====	=====

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS – 2020

16 COMPARATIVES

	Investment assets £'000	Other assets £'000	Total assets £'000
Investment, Grants and General funds Reserve	9,620	(2,268)	7,352
Marks fund	1,490	356	1,846
Sobell fund	1,219	(359)	860
Watts fund	1,219	(661)	558
Restricted funds	-	269	269
	-----	-----	-----
	13,548	(2,663)	10,885
	=====	=====	=====

17 OPERATING LEASES

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Commitment expiring:		
Within one year	25	25
	-----	-----
	25	25
	=====	=====

At 31 March 2021, the Charity had the future minimum operating lease payments as set out above. The charge to the Statement of Financial Activities is £25k (2020: £25k)

18 PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity operated a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity which amounted to £23k (2020: £21k). Contributions totalling £2k (2020: £2k) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

19 RELATED PARTY

The only related party transactions made in the period relate to payments made to key management personnel who are the senior management team (see note 6 for details) and reimbursement to Trustees (see note 5 for details).

20 GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020-21

<u>Description</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total £</u>
PhD Studentships (Grants Fund)		
Isobel Chick, UCL Queen Square IoN <i>Face-to-face comprehension and production in aphasia: do multimodal non-arbitrary cues play a role?</i>	ABI	108,313
Lauren Gay, Imperial College London <i>Defining mechanisms and new treatments for headache and raised intracranial pressure</i>	Neuro-oncology	120,000
Clarissa Rocca, UCL Institute of Neurology <i>Investigating channel and pump genes in cluster headache</i>	HFP (Cluster headache)	119,917
		59,950
Covid-19 grant extension		
PhD sub-total		408,180
Project Grants (Grants Fund)		
Mr Ryan Mathew, University of Leeds <i>Characterising and therapeutically targeting the margin zone of infiltrative glioma using new in vivo patient-derived craniotomy orthotopic models</i>	Brain tumours	296,355
Dr Manav Pathania, University of Cambridge <i>Adaptive immune responses in traumatic brain injury</i>	Brain tumours (DIPG)	297,918
Dr Megan Crawford, University of Strathclyde <i>Manipulating microglial/macrophage function via CSF1R to improve functional recovery and neuroplasticity after stroke</i>	Headache (migraine)	192,806
Professor Khuloud Al-Jamal, King's College London <i>Can immunogenic cell death be exploited in brain cancer?</i>	Brain tumours	299,346
		80,682
Covid-19 grant extensions		
Project Grants sub-total		1,167,107

Yizhou Wan, RCS/University of Cambridge Other Research (Endowment & Restricted Funds)	Fellowship	32,500
Sobell 'Chair of Neurophysiology'	Neurophysiology	145,937
Professor Antonella Spinazzola, UCL Institute of Neurology <i>Brain Research UK Miriam Marks Professorial Research Fellow in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Mitochondrial DNA dysfunction at the nexus of organelle interactions causing PD</i>	Parkinson's disease	230,438
Dr jonathan Rohrer, UCL Institute of Neurology	Frontotempor al dementia	304,931
Sobell Department of Motor Neuroscience & Movement Administration support costs (Restricted Fund)		40,000
Covid-19 grant extension		26,365
Other Research sub-total		747,671
Total grants awarded		2,355,458
Release of previous year's adjustment of the time value of grants payable after one year		35,485
Adjustment for the time value of grants payable after one year		(40,171)
Grand Total		2,350,772

The details of grant awards made in previous years can be found in the annual accounts available at:
<https://www.brainresearchuk.org.uk/annual-review-and-accounts>