



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025

Charity name: Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Scunthorpe)

Charity registration number: 1155573

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Scunthorpe) "GNST" objectives are to advance the Sikh religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the religious tenets and doctrines attached thereto and the GNST shall have the following powers exercisable in the furtherance of its said objectives but not otherwise, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To work for the spiritual uplift and mental purity of those who have faith in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and the Ten Gurus.2) To hold congregations for the worship and teachings of religious tenets and doctrines.3) To arrange marriage ceremonies according to the rites and rituals of the Sikh religion and the prevailing law of England and Wales.4) To arrange ceremonial baptism (Amrit/Khande di Pahul)5) To organise special religious functions on important occasions like Birthdays and Martyrdom days (Shahidi Gurburbs) of the Sikh Gurus.6) To the preach the message to the non-Sikh community on the Sikh way of worship and life by distributing literature in English and other languages on the lives and teachings of the Sikh Gurus.7) To arrange and provide facilities for the education of the community interested in Punjabi and English.8) To encourage and provide financial support for the community to participate in religious sports and social activities organised by the committee.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>During the period under review the temple operated effectively to deliver and meet all of its stated objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly worship services, Kirtan and Langar seva.• Celebrated key birthdays, Sahidi Gurburbs, events etc.• Performed Wedding Ceremonies.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed Baptisms. • Performed Funeral Services and supported bereaved families. • Provided pastoral care. • Provided religious educational entertainment e.g. Jatha's, visits etc. • Provided Panjabi classes for children. • Provided sports and other activities. • Celebrated the New Year. • Engaged with the local community including hosting school visits, community leaders, the local Dignitaries, senior Police Officer, other faiths etc.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have regard to guidance and are satisfied that the Charity is fully compliant with the spirit of the Public Benefit Guidance, but work continues to further improve understanding.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	No applicable
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	No applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All contributions are voluntary
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The main achievements and the difference the work of the GNST made are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A congregation point for the Sikh Community in the local area. It was encouraging to see the attendance grow including many Sikh's who are new to the Town. • The wellbeing, pastoral care and support to the Sikh Community in the local area. • The spiritual education of children. • Provision of activities for children. • Reaching out to the local non-Sikh community including participation in local areas community organisation activities, provision of meals to the homeless and poor. • Supporting the aged and needy. • Health and wellbeing awareness activities. • Community engagement to raise awareness of the Sikh faith and the GNST including hosting school visits, community leaders, senior police officer, other faiths etc.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	The Trustees are satisfied the GNST met all of its stated objectives during the year. Furthermore, a full property refurbishment and improvement plan is being implemented with the purpose of improving the facilities for the Sangat and making the property sustainable for the long term.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	With legal case decided in favour of the GNST and agreement reached with Balbir Singh regarding legal fees awarded by the Court and Wilkin Chapman regarding historical legal fees, the Trustees are pleased to report that the underlying fund raising continued to increase year on year.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	The three rental properties generated £16,982 lower net rental income compared with 2023-24 due to Tenant rent arrears and investment in improving the properties including the roof, heating etc. The Management Committee and Trustees will be reviewing the management of the properties.
Other		<i>The Trustees would like to record their grateful appreciation and thank the Sevadars, Kitchen Team and other volunteers for their seva, which keeps the Temple functioning and enables it to serve, engage and support the Sangat and local community during challenging and changing times. THANK YOU.</i>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>During the period under review the Charity income was £115,616 (<i>Donations £90,712, Property Rent £14,850, Giftaid £10,010, and Interest £44</i>) and expenditure £139,463 including legal fees and dispute costs of £1,728 in respect of property ownership dispute with the previous Trustees, recovery of £80,000 from Balbir, £83 interest received from Wilkin Chapman, Sangat Loan repayments of £87,500 resulted in a net deficit of £31,264.</p> <p>The underlying position excluding non-recurring legal fees, legal cost recovery from Balbir Singh; loan repayment and one off major refurbishment costs was a surplus of circa £50,000.</p> <p>In addition to donation income the Charity received property rental income of £14,850 and incurred costs of £14,873, producing in net rental property expenditure of £23. The Trustees are satisfied the expenditure was necessary to improve the properties for the Tenant's.</p> <p>Giftaid claim was submitted and paid respect of 2023-24 totalling £10,010.</p> <p>The Trustees are pleased to report that the underlying financial strength and position of the Charity continued to improve in the year under review.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Charity does not hold reserves other than any cash in hand, a current account and a small balance in a deposit account.

		<p>Expenditure is covered by regular income and any deficit covered from the operating reserves held in cash.</p> <p>If funds are required for any special purpose, these are raised from the members through a special appeal or loans.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£61,220 in Cash and Current/Deposit Accounts
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Some reserves held in cash to support ongoing operations and provision of services. The Trustees are content that sufficient reserves are held to cover any foreseeable operating expenses.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	<p>No funds in deficit or variable investments.</p> <p>The Charity has loans totalling £11,700 to cover the trading deficits up to 2020-21 year end due to exceptional legal fees and mortgage redemption costs associated with a fraudulent mortgage taken out by Surjit Singh, a previous property Trustee, who has been removed by order of a High Court Judgement. These loans are interest free and no repayment date has been agreed.</p> <p>Sangat loan repayments totalled £87,500 during the year and the outstanding Loans have been reduced from £99,200 to £11,700.</p>
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<p>The legal case relating to a property ownership dispute with the previous Trustees was decided by the Leeds High Court in favour of the GNST and costs awarded in September/ October 2019.</p> <p>The only uncertainty is the recovery of these costs from the defendants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surjit Singh, £132k+ (£95k + £37k + rental income), has been declared bankrupt. <i>Sadly, Surjit Singh has passed away and it is unlikely any of monies due will be recovered. The Trustees and Management Committee continue to remain in contact and liaise with the Trustee in Bankruptcy.</i> • Balbir Singh, circa £130k (£95k plus interest and costs), who financial status was unclear. As result of an application to the High Court, judgement was granted to take possession of 48 Taylor Road and the order executed by Bailiff's. Following protracted negotiations Balbir Singh and his son agreed to pay £80,000 to release them from their obligations in respect legal costs awarded by the High Court to the GNST. In light of Balbir Singh's financial position and age, the Management Committee and Trustees accepted the proposal and concluded the negotiations. <p><i>The Management Committee and Trustees are satisfied that with the historical legal fees issue resolved, the £80,000 received from Balbir Singh, only £11,700 of Sangat Loans outstanding and £61,220 in funds the GNST is now on a sound financial footing for it continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.</i></p>

		Any legal fees and property dispute related costs continue to be paid when incurred.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Funds are generated from donations and the provision of pastoral services to the local Sikh Community. Property rental income from the letting of three domestic properties on 22 Dale Street and 209a & 209b Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe. Giftaid income. Deposit account interest.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The GNST continues to let the rental properties with the objective of achieving a market rental returns.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The only risk that remains is the recovery of legal costs awarded by the Leeds High Court from the deceased defendant, Surjit Singh's Trustee in Bankruptcy.. The Management Committee and Trustees are confident, given the GNST's financial resources, this risk is manageable..
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed and Written Constitution. The document was updated, streamlined and approved by the Management Committee and Trustees during the year. The key objectives and purpose of the Charity remains unchanged.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated religious organisation.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	New Property Trustees were appointed through an election process by the Sangat (members). Kulwinder Kaur Athwal Sukhjinder Kaur Chatha Taranpreet Singh Nijjar

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Induction by the Management Committee with reference to the written Constitution, guidance from legal advisors and Charity Commission information. <i>Work continues to improve policies, processes and understanding.</i>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Other Sikh Temples in the UK and India

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	No formal relationship with any other parties.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Scunthorpe)
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1155573
Charity's principal address	207 Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN15 7NS

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Sukhdev Singh	Trustee	3 January 2020	GNST Sangat/Members
2	Kulwinder K Athwal	Trustee	19 October 2023	GNST Sangat/Members
3	Sukhjinder K Chatha	Trustee	19 October 2023	GNST Sangat/Members
4	Taranpreet S Nijjar	Trustee	19 October 2023	GNST Sangat/Members

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
Not applicable		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Sukhdev Singh		Confirmed by Leeds HC
Kulwinder Kaur Athwal		Elected by Sangat
Sukhjinder Kaur Chatha		Elected by Sangat
Taranpreet Singh Nijjar		Elected by Sangat

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Nil Property held on behalf the GNST only. 207 Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe. 209A & B Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe. 22 Dale Street, Scunthorpe.
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	Nil
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Nil

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable.

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

The Leeds High Court awarded costs to the **GNST** and ordered the defendants, the previous Trustees, Surjit Singh and Balbir Singh, to contribute £95k each towards the legal costs incurred by the **GNST**. In addition, Surjit Singh was ordered to repay the £36,611 paid by the **GNST** to the LPA acting for the Lancashire Mortgage Corporation to redeem the fraudulent mortgage taken out by him secured against 209 Frodingham Road and property rent collected by him.

Surjit Singh, who sadly has passed away, was declared bankrupt and the latest statement of affairs received from his Trustee in Bankruptcy ("**TIB**") shows there may be insufficient funds to pay anything towards the costs awarded and owed to the **GNST**. The bankruptcy process is ongoing and the **TIB** continues with his enquiries and **GNST** continue to liaise with **TIB**.

Following a petition to the High Court in Wolverhampton, Judgement was issued in favour of the **GNST** to award it control of Balbir Singh's property at 48 Taylor Road, Wolverhampton, and the adjacent plot of land. Following protracted negotiations, Balbir Singh and his son paid **£80,000** in settlement of his liability. The Management Committee and Trustees feel under the circumstances this was fair and reasonable outcome for both parties.

As result of the £80,000 payment received from Balbir Singh, the **GNST** repaid Members loans totalling £87,500. *The small amount, £11,700, outstanding is being checked with the intention to resolve as soon as possible,*

A new Management Committee and Holding Trustees were elected and it was agreed that in future the Property Trustees will also act as the Charity Trustees and continue to work closely with the Management Committee to ensure compliance with Charity Objectives.

Furthermore, with the financial position continuing to improve, attendances increasing and with the support of the Sangat, the Management Committee and Trustees have decided to develop and implement a more comprehensive refurbishment programme to improve facilities and make the property sustainable for the long term.

The Management Committee and Trustees continue to work on and ensure compliance with Health, Safety, Environmental and Legal obligations.



The Management Committee and Trustees developed and approved a reference document outlining the Strategic Goals and Objectives for the **GNST**.

In January 2025, the **GNST** was approached by the Trustees and Management Committee of the Singh Sabha Gurdwara ("**SSG**"), charity number 1185927 on 39a/41 Normanby Road, Scunthorpe, DN15 7AS, to discuss the closure of the **SSG** and transfer of its assets, the main asset being the property, to **GNST**. Following detailed discussions between the Trustees and Management Committees of both Charities, it was agreed and approved that a single Sikh Gurdwara/Temple was the best long term option for the local Sangat and Sikh Community. An integration subcommittee was formed to deal with the merger and integration issues. The process is expected to be concluded during 2025 including the removal of the **SSG** Charity from the Charity's Commission register and transfer of the title of property to the **GNST** Trustees.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Sukhdev Singh	K. ATHWAL
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	Trustee

Date

24/11/2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Scunthorpe)

On accounts for the year
ended

31/01/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1155573

Set out on pages

Charities Commission format Pages 1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

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

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

13-11-2025

Name:

Mark Jackson-Stapleton

Relevant professional

MAAT

**qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

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Address:

1-3 Laneham Street

Scunthorpe

DN15 6LJ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here details of any
items that the examiner
wishes to disclose.**

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Guru Nanak Sikh Temple (Scunthorpe)

1155573

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/02/2023

To

31/01/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Congregation Donations	90,712	-	-	90,712	56,609
Includes Insurance claim & scrap sales	-	-	-	-	-
Rent	14,850	-	-	14,850	17,370
Giftaid	10,010	-	-	10,010	10,517
Deposit Account Interest	44	-	-	44	35
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	115,616	-	-	115,616	84,531
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Other - Balbir Singh Legal Fees / WC	80,083	-	-	80,083	-
Sangat Repayment - Legal Case	87,500	-	-	87,500	13,500
Sub total	7,417	-	-	7,417	13,500
Total receipts	108,199	-	-	108,199	71,031
A3 Payments					
Total Utilities	6,244	-	-	6,244	6,423
Total Other Property Occupancy Costs	92,127	-	-	92,127	12,007
Total employment & Travel costs	19,719	-	-	19,719	16,556
Total Food and Beverages	3,464	-	-	3,464	2,174
Total Legal Fees & Dispute Costs	1,728	-	-	1,728	8,288
Total Postage and Stationery	-	-	-	-	229
Total Bank Charges	602	-	-	602	341
Total Rental Property Costs	14,873	-	-	14,873	411
Total Other/Misc Costs	706	-	-	706	902
Sub total	139,463	-	-	139,463	47,331
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	139,463	-	-	139,463	47,331
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 31,264	-	-	- 31,264	23,700
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	92,484	-	-	92,484	68,784
Cash funds this year end	61,220	-	-	61,220	92,484

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in hand	-	-	-
	Bank	57,420	-	-
	Bank	3,800	-	-
	Total cash funds	61,220	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	No applicable		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Members Loans		11,700	To be agreed
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Sukhdev Singh

24 | 11 | 25

24/11/28