

Charity Registration No: 1161692

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust

**Report of the trustees and
audited financial statements
for the year ended 5th April 2023**

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust
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Hertford Gospel Hall Trust
Reference and administrative details
for the year ended 5th April 2023

Charity name: Hertford Gospel Hall Trust

Registered charity number: 1161692

Trustees:

Mr David Fox

Mr Antony Price (Chair)

Mr Clive A Roberts

Mr Glen J Stacey

Mr Guy Walton

Treasurer: Mr Antony Price

Principal address:

9 Coulter Close
Cuffley
Herts.
EN6 4RR

Independent auditor:

Julian Remmington
4cast
Heritage House
Woodside Lane
Bell Bar
Hertfordshire
AL9 6DE

Bankers:

HSBC
36 Fore Street
Hertford
SG14 1BS

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust

Report of the trustees for the year ended 5th April 2023

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 5th April 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 9 and comply with the Trust Deed and applicable law.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust is an unincorporated trust constituted by Deed of Trust dated 12th March 2007, most recently amended by Deed of Variation dated 8th August 2014. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 15th May 2015 under Charity Registration Number: 1161692.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The names of the Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1. None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity in the year ended 5 April 2023 (2022: £nil).

The Trust operates a Gospel hall and Trustees are chosen from among the regular congregation of the hall. New Trustees are nominated by the existing Trustees or by the congregation and must be appointed by unanimous resolution of the congregation. They are selected according to their skills and experience and are expected to use both in furthering the objects of the Charity. Checks are made to ensure the Trustees' eligibility to act and incoming Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities by the existing Trustees, who ensure that new Trustees read the Trust Deed and relevant Charity Commission guidance.

Wider network

The Trustees maintain informal links with similar charities with a view to pooling experience considered useful in pursuing the objects of the Charity.

The charity also maintains particular links with; Barnet, East Herts, Enfield, Goffs Oak, Mays Lane and Molewood Gospel Hall Trusts with which it shares members of its congregation.

Risk management

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that they have established systems or procedures to manage and mitigate those risks.

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The trust has the following charitable purposes:

The charitable purposes of the Charity are the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit, including by the carrying on of the service of God in accordance with the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as followed by those Christians forming part of the world-wide fellowship known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (the "Brethren") and any other charitable purposes connected with the Brethren. The core doctrine of the Brethren and proper practices in furtherance of certain aspects of doctrine are summarised in two schedules to the Trust Deed.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit.

Since the restrictions that were imposed by the global pandemic have been lifted, our committal to the open air preaching in town centres has resumed. Here, tracts are handed out by members of the congregation, as well as neighbours and people in need. The Trust has been involved in supporting several events run by a separate charity; The Rapid Relief Team (RRT). Members of the congregation have volunteered to assist RRT with the packaging of food boxes that have been sent to Ukraine, to help those who have been affected by the current war in that country.

Main activities and achievements

The Trust provides and maintains a Gospel hall where religious meetings are held by the local Brethren community. Details of the origins, teachings and way of life of the Brethren can be found on the website - www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org and in the schedules to the Trust Deed.

Plans for future periods

Despite the increased cost of energy, the trustees feel that these increased costs are not significantly impacting on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Meetings

Meetings held at the gospel hall include the Lord's Supper (Communion), Gospel preachings, Bible readings and Bible addresses. There is a structured weekly schedule of meetings and, depending on the particular meeting, approximately 40 to 700 people would normally attend these occasions.

The meetings are attended by the regular congregation and most are open to other properly disposed visitors. Gospel tracts, which are distributed by street preachers would have contact details to help any wishing to be aware of meeting times.

Bibles and an extensive range of other Christian reading material are on display at the hall and visitors are free to help themselves.

Spreading the Gospel message and the life of a Christian

The Gospel hall is a base from which the regular congregation and others who attend the meetings are encouraged to spread the Christian Gospel, in word and deed.

Members of the congregation participate in a programme of street preaching and Gospel tracts are provided free of charge by the Charity to such preachers to be handed out to interested members of the public.

In carrying out this work, the congregation considers itself to be living out its faith in practice, as particularly exemplified in the following extract from the schedule to the Trust Deed on living a Christian life:

1. We seek and are encouraged to live exemplary lives in all our relationships with others in the wider community (including former Brethren), in accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture (1 Tim 2:2)
2. We regularly go out from our homes to preach on the streets, to distribute Christian literature and engage with the wider community (including former Brethren) in order to present eternal salvation, available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 4:2).

Objectives and activities

Spreading the Gospel message and the life of a Christian contd.

3. We seek as members of the public to lead Christian lives as husbands and wives, parents, children, employers, employees and neighbours. (Col 3:22-25, Col 4:1).
4. The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental and children are prized as a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5). The elderly are valued members of the community, for whom both their family and the wider community are expected to care.
5. Holy Scripture commands us to be good neighbours to others, and deal with all other people (including former Brethren) openly, honestly and fairly and consistent with these principles, we should give our time, talents and money to assist those in need in the wider community, in so far as reasonable given our abilities and our available resources. (Matt 7:12, Matt 22:39, Eph 4:28).

Funding

Funding is sought through gifts and donations from the congregation. Grants are sometimes received from other charitable trusts with congruent objectives. Gift aid is also claimed on relevant gifts.

Financial review

Financial position

In the year ended 5 April 2023 the Trust had a deficit of incoming resources over resources expended. This was due to using funds for an affiliated trust to purchase a new hall and also due to a high depreciation charge i.e. non cash item. Total voluntary income received this year was £117,000.00 compared to £1,120,098 in the previous year.

The trust has converted a property it owned into two houses which have been marketed and both sales are expected to take place in 23/24. This will yield the trust around £1,650,000.

The trust also expects a further £1,000,000 to be granted from an affiliated trust for a property it sold in 2018/19 that awaits successful permission being obtained by the buyer.

All funds held were unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of financial commitments. The Trustees aim to ensure that the charity will be able to continue to fulfill its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure.

Free reserves at the year end were £ 0.

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 5th April 2023**

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

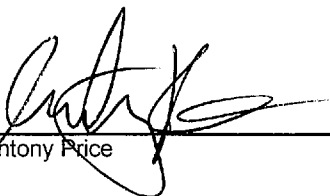
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- c) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- d) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial;
- e) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. All transactions have been reviewed and approved by two trustees.

On behalf of the board:


Antony Price

18 JAN 2024
Date

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HERTFORD GOSPEL HALL TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Hertford Gospel Hall trust (the trust) for the year ended 5 April 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

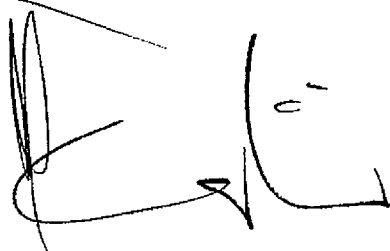
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do 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 no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

17.1.24

Name: Julian Remmington

4cast, Heritage House, Woodside Lane, Bell Bar, Herts., AL9 6DE

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust
Statement of financial activities
(including income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 5th April 2023

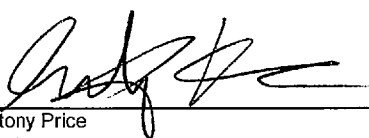
	NOTES	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies:						
Collections		117,000	-	-	117,000	52,500
Contributions from the congregation		-	-	-	-	6,900
Gift Aid donations		-	-	-	-	-
Other donations		-	-	-	-	-
Income tax refunds		-	-	-	-	-
Donated services	4.	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll giving		-	-	-	-	-
Grants received affiliated trusts	5.	-	-	-	-	1,060,698
Legacies received		-	-	-	-	-
Investment income and interest						
Rents receivable		4,030	-	-	4,030	42,090
Bank interest		-	-	-	-	-
Other income						
Other		-	-	-	-	-
Total		121,030	-	-	121,030	1,162,188
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities						
Running of meeting halls	6.	58,520	-	-	58,520	250,005
Wider community outreach		-	-	-	-	-
Congregation support		20,215	-	-	20,215	7,650
Cost of donated services	4.	926,054	-	-	926,054	46,602
Transfers to affiliated trusts	5.	-	-	-	-	1,244,188
Other costs		-	-	-	-	-
Governance and support costs						
Computer costs		1,216	-	-	1,216	1,284
Printing, postage and stationery		-	-	-	-	-
Legal & professional costs		11,257	-	-	11,257	5,330
Independent Examiner's fee/Audit fees		1,000	-	-	1,000	800
Bank charges		60	-	-	60	22
Depreciation- Office equipment (Admin)		67	-	-	67	90
Profit/Loss on sale of assets (Admin)		-	-	-	-	-
Total		1,018,389	-	-	1,018,389	1,555,971
Net income/(expenditure)		- 897,359	-	-	- 897,359	- 393,783
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		- 897,359	-	-	- 897,359	- 393,783
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds at 6th April 2022		8,876,626	-	-	8,876,626	9,270,409
Total funds at 5th April 2023	8.	7,979,267	-	-	7,979,267	8,876,626

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements. All of the above activities are classed as continuing and there are no gains and losses other than those included above.

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust
Balance sheet
As at 5th April 2023

	NOTES	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	7.		9,129,373		10,386,068
			<u>9,129,373</u>		<u>10,386,068</u>
Current assets					
Debtors:					
Sundry loans		114,964		92,939	
Prepayments & accrued income		2,732		19,113	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>572,333</u>		<u>57,439</u>	
		690,029		169,491	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:					
Other creditors and loans	10.	1,834,000		1,625,000	
Accruals and deferred income		<u>6,135</u>		<u>53,933</u>	
		1,840,135		1,678,933	
Net current assets			- 1,150,106		- 1,509,442
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>7,979,267</u>		<u>8,876,626</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year:			-		-
Net assets		£	<u>7,979,267</u>	£	<u>8,876,626</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted income fund			7,979,267		8,876,626
Restricted funds			-		-
Total Funds	9.	£	<u>7,979,267</u>	£	<u>8,876,626</u>

The audited financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustee of Hertford Gospel Hall Trust on 18/01/24 and signed on their behalf by


 Antony Price
 Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and incorporating update bulletins 1 and 2, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The functional currency of the charity is sterling (£).

The Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Income

Donations are recognised in the year in which there is entitlement and probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future year. Gift aid is added to the value of the donation to which it relates.

Donated services are recognised as income and expenditure in the financial statements when organisations or individuals offer their services and support pro bono. The value of these donated services to Hertford Gospel Hall Trust is considered to be equal to market value which would be paid were the service formally procured. This includes services paid for by other trusts.

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Charitable activities comprise those costs directly attributable to the fulfilment of the charitable objects.

1.4 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and costs related to statutory requirements. Governance and support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of capacity used.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets (costing more than £150) are stated at cost less depreciation. Freehold land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

New build costs	2%- Straight line method
Building refurbishments	20%- Reducing balance method
Equipment	25%- Reducing balance method

1.6 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income or corporation tax on charitable activities, provided income falls within the charitable exemptions and is spent on charitable purposes.

1.7 Funds

The general unrestricted fund is free for the Trustees to use for any purposes in furtherance of the trust's charitable objects.

Restricted funds arise from donations to the trust which are made for a specific purpose. Restricted funds can only be used for the purpose for which funds were given.

1.8 Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The Charity does not have a trading subsidiary and there is no requirement to prepare consolidated accounts.

1.9 Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Significant estimates and judgements

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits from an employment with the charity and no Trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2022: None).

3. Wages and salaries

There are no employees (2022: none).

4. Donated services

Income	2023 £	2022 £
	-	-
	-	-
Expenditure	2023 £	2022 £
Barnet Gospel Hall Trust	10,830	6,923
Brookhill Gospel Hall Trust	-	205
East Herts Gospel Hall Trust	908,258	20,507
Enfield Gospel Hall Trust	288	810
Goffs Oak Gospel Hall Trust	1,911	5,434
Mays Lane Gospel Hall Trust	1,010	5,163
Molewood Gospel Hall Trust	3,757	7,560
	926,054	46,602

5. Grants

Grants from affiliated trusts:	2023 £	2022 £
Barnet Meeting Room Trust	-	1,060,698
	-	1,060,698
Grants to affiliated trusts:		
East Herts Gospel Hall Trust	-	1,244,188
	-	1,244,188

6. Running of meeting halls and trust property

	Meeting rooms £	Other charitable activities £	2023 £	2022 £
Repairs and maintenance of buildings	21,809	-	21,809	50,515
Grounds maintenance	17,697	-	17,697	6,701
Maintenance- Recording equipment	314	-	314	-
Light and heat	30,288	-	30,288	21,324
Rates and water rates	35	-	35	3,075
Telephone & broadband at hall(s)/trust property	774	-	774	598
Insurance- Public liability	3,831	-	3,831	2,954
Legal & professional- specific to halls	565	-	565	32,022
Cleaning	4,907	-	4,907	1,014
Sundry	-	-	-	-
Depreciation- Freehold property	137,852	-	137,852	129,342
Depreciation- Equipment	2,264	-	2,264	2,460
Profit(-)/loss on sale of assets	- 161,816	-	- 161,816	-
	58,520	-	58,520	250,005

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property* and Refurbishment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 6th April 2022	10,757,967	20,048	10,778,015
Disposals	1,543,736	-	1,543,736
Additions	425,545	1,679	427,224
At 5th April 2023	9,639,776	21,727	9,661,503
Depreciation			
At 6th April 2022	379,544	12,403	391,947
Disposals	-	-	-
Charge for the year	137,852	2,331	140,183
At 5th April 2023	517,396	14,734	532,130
Net Book Value			
At 5th April 2023	9,122,380	6,993	9,129,373
At 6th April 2022	10,378,423	7,645	10,386,068

* Land Registry title numbers are; HD514681, HD250148, HD134232, HD504513 and HD352472

8. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
8.1 Current year				
Tangible fixed assets	9,129,373	-	-	9,129,373
Currents assets	690,029	-	-	690,029
Current liabilities	1,840,135	-	-	1,840,135
Total funds	7,979,267	-	-	7,979,267
8.2 Prior year				
Tangible fixed assets	10,386,068	-	-	10,386,068
Currents assets	169,491	-	-	169,491
Current liabilities	1,678,933	-	-	1,678,933
Total funds	8,876,626	-	-	8,876,626

9. Movement in funds

	Balance at 6 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Realised/ unrealised gain and losses £	Balance at 5 April 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	8,876,626	121,030	1,018,389	-	7,979,267
Total funds	8,876,626	121,030	1,018,389	-	7,979,267

9. Movement in funds contd.

9.2 Prior year

	Balance at 6 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Realised/ unrealised gain and losses £	Balance at 5 April 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Designated funds	750	6,900	7,650	-	-
Unrestricted funds	9,269,659	1,155,288	1,548,321	-	8,876,626
Total funds	9,270,409	1,162,188	1,555,971	-	8,876,626

10. Loans received

The short term loans are free of interest and have no fixed date for repayment.

11. Transactions with related parties

Clive Roberts is a director of East Herts Developments Limited to which company the Trust has advanced £430,751.00 (2022: £786,121.04) during the period to fund the development of new halls/developments, set against construction invoices for work completed during the period amounting to £527,772.34 (2022: £897,153.88) and leaving a balance at the year end of £98,144.48 (2022: £92,938.60). A property owned by the trust was let out to Clive Roberts, trustee at a market rate for £4,030 (2022 - £43,590). Upkeep charges of a property owned by the trust was invoiced from Blue Bury Farm Limited, a company owned by Clive Roberts, for £5,718 (2022 - £37,082). Rent is owed to the trust from Clive Roberts, trustee for £16,820 (2022 - £14,990).

12. Volunteers

Hertford Gospel Hall Trust relies on volunteers to carry out the management, administration and general maintenance work. The Trust has no paid staff or paid Trustees.

13 Full comparison of Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies:				
Collections	52,500	-	-	52,500
Contributions from the congregation	-	6,900	-	6,900
Gift Aid donations	-	-	-	-
Other donations	-	-	-	-
Income tax refunds	-	-	-	-
Donated services	-	-	-	-
Payroll giving	-	-	-	-
Grants received affiliated trusts	1,060,698	-	-	1,060,698
Legacies received	-	-	-	-
Investment income and interest				
Rents receivable	42,090	-	-	42,090
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Other income				
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	1,155,288	6,900	-	1,162,188
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities				
Running of meeting halls	250,005	-	-	250,005
Wider community outreach	-	-	-	-
Congregation support	-	7,650	-	7,650
Cost of donated services	46,602	-	-	46,602
Transfers to affiliated trusts	1,244,188	-	-	1,244,188
Other costs	-	-	-	-
Governance and support costs				
Computer costs	1,284	-	-	1,284
Printing, postage and stationery	-	-	-	-
Legal & professional costs	5,330	-	-	5,330
Independent Examiner's fee/Audit fees	800	-	-	800
Bank charges	22	-	-	22
Depreciation- Office equipment (Admin)	90	-	-	90
Profit/Loss on sale of assets (Admin)	-	-	-	-
Total	1,548,321	7,650	-	1,555,971
Net income/(expenditure)	- 393,033	- 750	-	- 393,783
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	- 393,033	- 750	-	- 393,783
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	9,269,659	750	-	9,270,409
Total funds carried forward	8,876,626	-	-	8,876,626