

Charity Registration No. 1168469

Company Registration No. 09651107 (England and Wales)

**AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL**  
**STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Fawley Judge & Easton**  
**Chartered Certified Accountants**  
**1 Parliament Street**  
**Hull**  
**East Yorkshire**  
**HU1 2AS**

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Ms J P Cunningham Ms L M Hilder Ms S C Sedgwick
<b>Charity number</b>	1168469
<b>Company number</b>	09651107
<b>Registered office</b>	185 Preston Road Hull East Yorkshire England HU9 5UY
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Fawley Judge & Easton Chartered Certified Accountants 1 Parliament Street Hull East Yorkshire HU1 2AS
<b>Bankers</b>	Unity Bank 9 Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB

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# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

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# **AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

### **Objectives and activities**

In February 2016, we established Affordable Justice Ltd, a not for profit Family Law firm aimed at offering reasonably priced family law services to women fleeing violence and abuse who require legal advice and representation.

Arising from the need observed and expressed by women coming through the women's centre's specialist domestic violence and support service, the Trustees worked to develop a financially sustainable service to address this need.

Since the changes to Legal Aid entitlement which came into force in April 2013, many women attempting to flee violent relationships have been excluded from accessing vital legal advice and support to ensure their safety and the safety of their children.

Commercial Family Law solicitors' prices in Hull are typically £350 per hour plus VAT, meaning the cost of an injunction or an order for child arrangements can be up to £1800, well beyond the reach of women on benefits or on low incomes. More complex or lengthy matters can incur bills running into thousands of pounds for crucial advice, representation and legal protection.

Women are therefore forced into the choice of either:

- Dropping proceedings, placing themselves and their children at risk
- Taking on unmanageable debt (through credit cards, doorstep lenders or costly loans)
- Attempting to represent themselves in court (where their abuser has the right to cross examine them)

It is a social enterprise, operating on a not for profit basis, employing expert staff at market rates (so as not to compromise quality) and charging affordable hourly rates which are typically less than a third of commercial high street rates with options for payment plans and access to affordable borrowing through the local credit union. It is registered and regulated by the Solicitor's Regulation Authority and subject to all the same governance as any standard commercial law firm.

# **AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### ***It is the first and only one of its kind in the country***

As a result of this we have had significant levels of interest locally, regionally and nationally and have delivered seminars and presentations to Law Schools and conferences, particular around the subject of Access to Justice.

Affordable Justice Ltd is a separate company limited by guarantee, which is co-located at Winner, the Preston Road Women's Centre .

Affordable Justice was made possible by a start-up grant from the Tudor Trust to help us get established and begin to operate.

During 2023/24 the charity delivered its charitable objectives as the service was delivered to more than 200 women and was very well used. The practice has become established, even expanding to incorporate a related practice for divorce, separation and financial matters and employing an additional two fee earners and office administrator. It also attracted national grant funding and has expanded its geographical reach to cover the whole of England and Wales, supporting women as far south as Cornwall and as far North as Newcastle, made possible by the remote working which has become the norm since the COVID-19 pandemic.

During 2022, as part of our work to expand services we commissioned an external evaluation of Affordable Justice which demonstrates the value of the model of work and the outcomes achieved for women

Key points from the evaluation include

- Over 1,000 women living in 100 locations across England and Wales, have been supported
- Estimated total savings to women of over £1,340,000
- Women felt respected, believed, and that staff are on their side
- 96 percent of women achieved the legal outcomes they wanted in full or in part
- The pricing made a significant difference to 80 percent of women
- Rates of self-representation were reduced by 69 percent
- 90 percent of women found the service easy to access all or most of the time
- 87 percent of women felt supported to make the choices they wanted all or most of the time

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

# **AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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### **Financial review**

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to three month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees have a policy to keep no more than three months running costs (approximately £24 000) in reserves in order that the charity's funds can be applied to further its charitable purpose.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

### **Future developments**

In the upcoming year we will continue to expand the service across England and Wales and look at networking with other organisations who have expressed an interest in doing similar things.

We will also work with Winner, the Preston Road Women's Centre (where we are located) to expand our office space in order to accommodate our growing staff team

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms J P Cunningham

Ms L M Hilder

Ms S C Sedgwick

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Ms L M Hilder**

Trustee

Dated: 24 July 2024



# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Affordable Justice Limited (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



**Jonathan Leathley**  
**Fawley Judge & Easton**  
**Chartered/Certified Accountants**  
1 Parliament Street  
Hull  
East Yorkshire  
HU1 2AS

Dated: 24 July 2024

## AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Charitable activities	3	211,091	215,915
<b>Total income</b>		<u>211,091</u>	<u>215,915</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	4	245,567	217,250
Other expenditure	9	2,569	1,598
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>248,136</u>	<u>218,848</u>
<b>Net expenditure and movement in funds</b>		(37,045)	(2,933)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		3,578	7,251
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<u>(33,467)</u>	<u>4,318</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		1,093		1,041
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	5,036		5,036	
Debtors	13	3,505		4,028	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,105		4,641	
		10,646		13,705	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	(45,206)		(10,428)	
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>			(34,560)		3,277
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			(33,467)		4,318
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			(33,467)		4,318
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds			(33,467)		4,318
			(33,467)		4,318

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 24 July 2024

Ms L M Hilder  
Trustee



Company registration number 09651107 (England and Wales)

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Affordable Justice Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 185 Preston Road, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU9 5UY, England.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	20% on a straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	20% on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

#### 1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

#### 1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

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

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### **1.11 Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### **1.12 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
<b>Heading #ac989</b>		
Fees	194,924	106,805
Other income	16,167	109,110
	<u>211,091</u>	<u>215,915</u>

### 4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Core 2024 £	Core 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	169,467	134,816
Depreciation and impairment	208	260
Insurance	3,968	7,743
Telephone	487	-
Postage and stationery	1,728	1,854
Advertising	25,007	29,879
Sundries	3,823	3,919
Charitable expenditure heading 8	10,000	7,000
Bad debts	358	558
	<u>215,046</u>	<u>186,029</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 5)</b>		
Support	9,415	7,223
Governance	21,106	23,998
	<u>245,567</u>	<u>217,250</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	<u>245,567</u>	<u>217,250</u>

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 5 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Training	158	-
IT and Computer costs	9,257	7,223
Governance costs	21,106	23,998
	<u>30,521</u>	<u>31,221</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Core	<u>30,521</u>	<u>31,221</u>

### 6 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>208</u>	<u>260</u>

### 7 Trustees

Mrs S Sedgewick, trustee, was also a paid employee throughout the year, providing legal services.

There were no other trustee remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March.

### 8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>		
	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	152,133	120,274
Social security costs	14,273	11,992
Other pension costs	3,061	2,550
	<u>169,467</u>	<u>134,816</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 9 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2024	2023
		£
Financing costs	2,569	1,598
	<u>2,569</u>	<u>1,598</u>

### 10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2023	2,990	369	3,359
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,990</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>3,359</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 April 2023	1,690	368	2,058
Depreciation charged in the year	208	-	208
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,898</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>2,266</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,092</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,093</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,040</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,041</u>

### 12 Stocks

	2024 £	2023 £
Work in progress	<u>5,036</u>	<u>5,036</u>

### 13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	<u>3,505</u>	<u>4,028</u>

# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	15,659	3,763
Trade creditors	27,867	4,985
Accruals and deferred income	1,680	1,680
	<u>45,206</u>	<u>10,428</u>

### 15 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>3,061</u>	<u>2,550</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

### 16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	<u>3,578</u>	<u>211,091</u>	<u>(248,136)</u>	<u>(33,467)</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>				
	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	<u>7,251</u>	<u>215,915</u>	<u>(218,848)</u>	<u>4,318</u>

### 17 Related party transactions



# AFFORDABLE JUSTICE LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 17 Related party transactions

(Continued)

#### Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

	<b>Wages</b> <b>2024</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>
Winner, The preston Road Womens Centre Ltd	169,467	134,816
	<u>169,467</u>	<u>134,816</u>

