

CHARITY NUMBER: 1173492

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Administrative information	1 - 2
Report of the Trustees	3 – 9
Auditors' Report	10 – 12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 – 29

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Administrative Information

Charitable Status: The Union of Brunel Students is an incorporated charity established under the Education Act 1994. The Union is registered with the Charity Commission under the s.11(9), Charities Act and is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Charity number 1173492.

Principal Address

Cleveland Road
Uxbridge
Middlesex
UB8 3PH

Chief Executive

Craig Lithgow

Charity Trustees

	2022/2023	2023/2024
VP College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences*	Archan Raval	Ana Monica Pereira
VP College of Health, Life Sciences*	Wiktorja Swoboda	Naveed Sabugar Medicine and
VP College of Design, Engineering and Physical Sciences*	Suraj Shaw	Suraj Shaw
Student Trustee	Mohammad Khalifa	Fabyeon BurgessYearwood
Student Trustee	Ravina Jignesh	Ravina Jignesh
Student Trustee	Krison Kirit	Florence Goodyale
External Trustee	Nathan Townsend	Nathan Townsend
External Trustee	Julie Atherton	Julie Atherton
External Trustee	Peter Smallwood	Peter Smallwood
*denotes full-time sabbatical officers		

Senior Management Team

Craig Lithgow	Chief Executive
Francesca Stirling	Head of Communications and Student Engagement
Ruth Sharma	Head of Advice and Student Representation

Auditors

Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
49-51 Blagrove Street
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 1PL

Bankers

HSBC
PO Box 41
High Street
Uxbridge
UB8 1BY

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

Solicitors

Blandy and Blandy
1 Friar Street,
Reading
Berkshire RG1 1DA

Solicitors (licencing)

Poppleton Allen
37 Stoney Street
The Lace Market
Nottingham
NG1 1LS

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

The Charity Trustees present their annual report for the year ended 31 July 2023, which includes the administrative information set out on page 1, together with the audited financial statements for that year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Union is structured by its Constitution & Governing Bye-Laws. The Union of Brunel Students is a democratic student led organisation which exists to represent its members to the University, the media and to other external organisations and bodies such as the National Union of Students. In addition, we provide key support, various welfare services and a variety of sporting, cultural and development opportunities for all our members. Student democracy lies at the heart of all that we do but alongside this, we are a 'not for profit' organisation with all surpluses generated from various commercial activities committed and invested into providing and improving our services to our members. We are a registered charity primarily funded by an annual block grant to help us ensure that we can work together to provide a diverse and exciting array of support, services and development opportunities for the mutual benefit of our membership.

The President and four Vice-Presidents (Student officers) are annually elected and mandated to create and set union policy whilst also being strategically responsible for the direction and lead of all union activity. The Trustee Board, which is currently made up of the President, four Vice-Presidents, three elected Student Trustees and four External Trustees have responsibilities for the financial and legal compliance of the Union. The various members of staff employed by the union are so employed to help, support and advise the officers so that they can fulfil their specific duties within their various roles/portfolios.

Charity law requires the Trustee Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Union and of the surplus or deficit for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustee Board is required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The Trustee Board must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Union will continue to operate.

The Trustee Board is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Union. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the union and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Key Management remuneration

The remuneration of key management personnel is set by the Board, with the policy objective of ensuring that they are provided with appropriate incentives to encourage enhanced performance and are, in a fair and responsible manner, rewarded for their individual contributions to the Union's success. The appropriateness and relevance of such remuneration reviewed annually, including reference to comparisons with other Unions to ensure that the Union remains sensitive to the broader issues of pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

Relationship with Brunel University

The relationship between the University and the Union is recorded in the regulations of the University and detailed in the Union constitution; both approved by both organisations. This relationship is legally complied by a Memorandum of Understanding, where both parts agree on the terms of the partnership. The Union receives a block grant from the University and part-occupies a building owned by the University. Various Union Officers hold seats on several University governing committees, including University Council and Senate, thus ensuring the voices of students are represented at the top-level meetings. There is no reason to believe that any sort of support will cease to exist from the University for the foreseeable future not only due to the imposed duty as outlined in the Education Act of 1994 on Universities safeguarding Student Unions, but also due to the healthy working relationship which exists and constantly is being developed between the University and the Union.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Risk Management

The Trustees have undertaken to examine the major risks that the Union faces. That review is an integral part of the annual planning cycle. The Union has, and continues to develop, systems to monitor and control these risks in order to mitigate any impact that they have on the Union and its operations.

The principal risks and uncertainties currently facing the Union are considered to be:

- Risk of cuts to University funding of the Union, caused by either perception of value of the Union or the universities own financial sustainability.
- The financial health of the University is itself dependent on government funding, which in turn is susceptible to factors beyond the control of the Union, such as academic offering, NSS survey results, affordability driven by fees level, numbers of students and other demographic factors.
- Significantly increasing pension liabilities that the Union has no control over.
- Reputational damage in the unlikely event of a high-profile activity by a student, officer or trustee.
- Failure to be seen by students or the university as the voice of students
- Supply chain concerns following significant and sustained high levels of inflation through 2022.

Our plans and strategies for managing risk include maintaining effective internal controls, risk registers, incident-reporting and monitoring systems and insurance cover wherever appropriate.

Method of appointment of Trustees

The governance and management of the Union is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected or appointed under the terms of the constitution. Student Officers are elected annually for a one-year term, and able to serve a second term if re-elected. They provide invaluable insight from their own experiences as a student and their daily interactions with the management of the union and the university. Independent Trustees apply and are appointed by the Student Assembly following recommendation from the appointment committee, for a term of up to three years and can serve a maximum of two terms. Our Independent Trustees provide wider skillsets and experience from outside the Student Union. Student Trustees apply and are approved by the appointment committee to be put forward for election by the membership. They are elected for a period of up to two years and can serve a second term if re-elected. The student trustees provide valuable experience and insight as current beneficiaries of union activities.

Upon appointment all Trustees are briefed on their legal obligations and other Trustee responsibilities. All Trustees receive an induction information pack which includes their role responsibilities, their legal responsibilities, historical and current information about The Student Union, information on its Strategic Plan and how to deal with potential conflicts of interest.

Key Challenges and activity in 2022-23

The University and the Union faced real challenges as we emerged from the Covid Pandemic, with teaching and campus living changed for the long term. We have seen significant reductions in student footfall and spend within the commercial business and alongside the backdrop of inflation levels not seen in generations, our financial outturn has fallen short of our budgetary expectations. This year for the first-time overseas student numbers exceeded those of home students and the steady growth of Post Graduate students continues to change the student demographic.

We have continued in planning and developing how we represent and engage with this changing demographic and we agreed the introduction of a new part time volunteer representation role specifically for Post Graduate students. We have also spent the year planning the introduction of a new digital engagement platform for academic representation at Course level. This platform has been agreed to launch in September 23 with level 1 students as a trial, with the aspiration that if successful we can roll out through the rest of the student population through 2024.

Our advice service continued to see greater demand from students in need with, academic issues dominating and a significant increase in support to Post Graduate students whereas historically undergraduate students were by far the majority of students we engaged directly with from the service. We continued to deliver small scale emergency hardship grants to complement the university Hardship service and have agreed with the

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

university a fast track access to their service for those most in need, as a response to students being hit disproportionately harder during this period of high inflation.

Our campaign to tackle sexual violence, particularly against women continued to gather pace, with Sexual Violence liaison officers being appointed within the university structure. We also encouraged for the first time, consent training to be delivered as a mandatory part of every student's induction.

Our Period poverty campaign also took a step forward from free products being supplied within the Union bathrooms, to a campus wide provision within key bathrooms across the entire site.

Our sport has continued to grow from being decimated through 2020-21 with a further increase in active memberships of 21% to 2137 members. Our aspiration is this year to exceed pre-pandemic levels for the first time. We have also introduced alongside the university, the Brunel Moves App, which rewards people being active to promote a more active and healthy campus. Brunel Moves has seen more than 2000 people sign up with 72% of them not active in sport in any other way. We hope to further develop the rewards and recognition through 2023.

Our one Brunel cultural celebration programme continued to develop with more events than in the previous year. Our feedback suggested that we were also hitting our key project targets of the events providing a positive experience, those in attendance feel like the event improved their cultural awareness and enhancing the Unions reputation amongst international students.

In December we saw the departure of one of our longer serving senior managers, and this gave us the opportunity to reconsider our structure and processes to tackle modernising our infrastructure and tackling our representation and engagement challenges, particularly within our commercial arena. We employed services of finance, commercial and union specific consultancies with the result in a restructure to create a new Chief of Operations overseeing finance, commercial and compliance. To make this change there needed to be restructuring within the commercial and finance teams, which should be concluded by Christmas 2023.

We were assessed for the first time under the NUS Quality Assurance Accreditation and are delighted to have achieved an accreditation standard of 'Good' in 10 of the 12 categories and 'very good' in the remaining 2. We will be reassessed in October 2024 and have ambition to be accredited as Very Good in more than 50% of the categories available.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Our Purpose

Every student Thrives at Brunel

Our Mission

To positively impact our members' university experience through:

1. High quality, value for money services
2. Championing and challenging the student voice
3. Supporting and growing Inclusive and welcoming communities

Our Values

- Driven by you
- Open to all
- Passionately positive
- Integrity

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

2023-24 operation Priorities

Student Support and representation

- Develop a welcoming and accessible reception for our main office environment
- Develop our data capturing provision to better access students' needs , track engagement and seek member feedback
- Prioritise time to fully embed and engage with our new Digital platform for course reps developing demonstrable change and impact
- Initiate and test recommendations from our democracy review and develop comprehensive future change recommendations to be agreed this year.
- Support and develop our officers' campaigns portfolio helping maximise impact and reach.
- Work with the Student activities team to ensure the new role of Community Living Officer is properly supported to deliver success and effectively engage across its wide and varied portfolio.
- Absorb the work Advent Advocacy has been delivering on our behalf into the department workload now we have a full, stable, experienced and highly functioning departmental team.

Culture and attitude

- Demonstrate our value of Passionately Positive in all our interactions by empowering and supporting staff and elected representatives to have a can- do attitude to all we do, to seek out alternatives and to overcome or side step barriers, and to work on activities, interactions and celebrations that make the Union a fun and exciting place for staff and students alike
- Ensure our value of Open to All is clearly demonstrated in our planning and delivery of all of our activities, including an ED&I Accessibility assessment for all major events
- To re-engage with our Environmental policy, engaging students and staff alike to ensure our sustainability message is embedded and delivered, and we are in a position to consider applying for green impact accreditation.

Communications and Marketing

- Investigate and develop a model that enables us to segment our members along activities and interests not just ethnicity or course, and encourages targeted language and information
- To build a structured and documented service collaboration with the university communications departments, enabling better reach for each of our marketing initiatives when relevant and appropriate.
- To support the commercial business by ensuring analytics are used to maximise and target advertising campaigns, with events live on our website and social media a minimum of three weeks in advance.
- Do develop with the new Head of Privacy at the University, a comprehensive, robust and valuable single data sharing agreement that is fit for purpose all of our departments needs and uses. We will ensure we have all the data on our members we need, it is safe, secure, monitored and used appropriately and delivers against the university expectations as well as ours.

Commercial Operations and Events

- Develop an abundance of opportunities for members and elected representatives to help influence and shape the activities and offer we present, with the aim of our club to deliver on average 3 profitable sessions per week.
- Improve the reporting of commercial performance to enable managers to make timely, relevant and valuable interventions to keep the business thriving, welcoming and 1st choice to the membership and on budget.
- Return a commercial operating surplus to the organisation in year in excess of £200,000
- To generate venue specific menu, service standard, marketing strategy and footfall initiatives to deliver catering sales in Locos in excess of £100,000 by June 2024
- Deliver cost effective on campus events with clear measurable goals and outcomes.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Student activities

- Work with the officers to deliver a raft of clear inclusion campaigns in sport clubs to widen their engagement footprint and increase health and wellbeing activity throughout all campus communities
- Redefine the offer in Active@brunel to include experiences and adventure, and introduce nominal single event fees to introduce members and avoid the need for membership payments before engagement.
- Introduce and monitor new systems to streamline transport efficiencies, student expense reimbursement and accommodation booking, meeting the members needs and expectations and protecting the business form waste.
- Develop the Brunel moves concept, helping shape incentives and rewards to be more representative of the target audience.
- Improve engagement in our celebratory events by hosting on campus and minimising overheads, and ticket price barriers.
- Continue development of the one Brunel concept, with specific focus on delivering at least 2 core events focused on currently underrepresented cultures.
- Increase engagement statistics: Freshers fair – 4250, Team Brunel – 2700, societies –4500, Brunel moves – 3000 new sign ups.

Back of house and organisational infrastructure

- Write and publish a clear and accessible ED&I policy identifying how we recognise, support and encourage diversity and inclusion in all of our activities.
- Publish a people plan that identifies the support, development, engagement and feedback opportunities all staff have, with particular focus on developing our student staff team experience to feel as inclusive and valuable as our career team experience.
- Implement a straight forward and safe policy and document control process to ensure compliance, accuracy and transparency.
- Develop our skills and qualifications within the finance team to match their experience, and structure workload to better support a part time or contracted Head of function.
- To develop detailed, accurate, timely and informative management information relevant to key stakeholder needs.

Financial Review

The Union's gross income from all sources this year totalled £3,075,235 (2022: £2,849,113) the increase being predominantly from grant income. Total expenditure was £3,219,136 (2022: £2,785,785) back in line with a full program of union activity and significant inflationary pressures on costs. Ignoring the movement on the pension deficit contributions creditor, a deficit of £143,901 (2022: £63,328 surplus) was achieved. In 2023 the pension deficit contributions creditor decreased by £331,200, resulting in a surplus for the year of £187,299. In 2022 there had been a decrease in the pension deficit contributions creditor of £542,490 resulting in an overall surplus of £605,818.

The Union has continued to benefit from the recognition and support of Brunel University with an annual block grant of £1,295,970 plus further grants as disclosed in note 4.

Reserves level and policy

We have reviewed the Union's reserves requirements. Excluding the pension deficit, free reserves stood at £775,202 (2022: £893,304) at the year-end. This position is after deducting from total unrestricted funds (excluding the pension scheme liability) of £845,542 the amount of £70,340 invested in our existing tangible fixed assets.

The Union is currently affiliated to many organisations, our largest single subscription cost amounted to £32,940 (2021: £33,165 to the NUS) and no donations were made during the year to any external institutions out of the Union's own resources.

The Risk committee conducted a detailed review in 2023 of the free reserves requirement and concluded that the 2 months operating costs (circa £500,000) is a sufficient amount to set aside to cope

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

with any unexpected downturn in funding or additional calls upon cash resources without immediately curtailing existing activities. Current total funds of the Union stand at negative £1,368,131. This is comprised of negative £1,401,136 unrestricted funds and £32,905 in restricted funds. As per the Trustee's policy, the Union considers its reserves position against 'cash in hand' balance (bank & cash balances minus current liabilities), and this stood at £665,323 at the year-end. In respect of any surplus or deficit recognised in relation to the Union's share of the SUSS Pension Scheme, this would generally result in a cash flow effect for the Union in the form of an increase or decrease in employer's pension contributions over a number of years. The deficit of £2,246,578 recognised in this year's accounts does not represent an immediately realisable liability that requires payment but will be funded over 13 years from the Union's future incomes.

Custodian Activities: Clubs' and Societies' Funds and the annual RAG

The Union acts as custodian for funds raised by the students' many Clubs & Societies themselves, amounting to £nil (2022: £23,004) at the year-end, in addition to the grant-support funds it disburses to them as shown in the accounts. The Union is also custodian of the annual RAG proceeds from fundraising events organised by the students under the Union's auspices for distribution to the intended charities. Funds raised by this year's RAG amounting to £15,155 (2022: £5,027) less costs of £65 (2022: £0) were added to the undistributed balance of £3,563 (2022: £1,344) from the previous year, out of which £12,697 (2022: £2,808) was distributed among the charities nominated by the respective fundraising societies, leaving a balance of £5,956 (2022: £3,563) in hand for next year's RAG. No funds have subsequently been donated after the year end to charities. The remaining cash funds are held by the Union.

Future Funding

The Charity Trustees confirm that the union has sufficient funds to meet all its obligations. The core Block Grant for 2023/24 has been confirmed at £1,242,862 plus a further £224,656 in respect of the SUSS pension scheme deficit payments and the associated PFF Levy. A restricted grant of £215,000 has been agreed to facilitate free sport club memberships and free Active@Brunel fitness and introductory sports sessions for staff and students on campus. Additionally, catering compensation of £113,520 and other smaller grants of £99,675 have been agreed with the University.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The law applicable to charities in England and 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:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions, 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 charity's constitution. 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.

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

The Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved have confirmed that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Union's auditors are unaware, and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as the Trustees in order to be aware of any information needed by the Union's auditors in connection with preparing their report and to establish that the Union's auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the board on 23 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

23.11.23 *Martina Calore*

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Union of Brunel Students

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Union of Brunel Students for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and the 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 charity's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the period 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 charitable company 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Union of Brunel Students continued

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011 and Charities SORP (FRS102) 2019.

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of the Union of Brunel Students continued

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud. The laws and regulations we considered in this context for the Union were Health and Safety and General Data Protection Regulations. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases and reviewing board meeting minutes for any issues we need to be aware of.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations. These inherent limitations are particularly significant in the case of misstatement resulting from fraud as this may involve sophisticated schemes designed to avoid detection, including deliberate failure to record transactions, collusion or the provision of intentional misrepresentations.

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 charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's Trustees 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 charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor

Reading
Berkshire

Date: 28 November 2023

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR
(including income and expenditure account)**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income						
Donations:						
- Grant income	4	1,720,499	-	555,037	2,275,536	1,910,333
Other trading activities:						
- Advertising & marketing		80,700	-	-	80,700	101,443
Investment income		3,072	-	-	3,072	248
Charitable activities for students:						
- Bar & catering		470,276	-	-	470,276	601,606
- Entertaining		124,359	-	-	124,359	145,376
- Societies & clubs		-	-	113,458	113,458	89,407
- Other		7,834	-	-	7,834	700
Total income		2,406,740	-	668,495	3,075,235	2,849,113
Expenditure						
Raising Funds:						
- Advertising and marketing		21,593	-	-	21,593	32,941
Charitable Activities for students:						
- Advice, welfare & representation		627,724	-	12,260	639,984	612,779
- Student activities		261,590	-	-	261,590	348,902
- Bar & catering		934,880	-	-	934,880	779,092
- Entertainment		237,700	-	-	237,700	211,695
- Transport		1,299	-	-	1,299	726
- Societies & clubs		515,841	-	606,249	1,122,090	799,650
Total expenditure	5	2,600,627	-	618,509	3,219,136	2,785,785
Decrease in pension deficit		331,200	-	-	331,200	542,490
Net income/(expenditure)		137,313	-	49,986	187,299	605,818
Transfer between funds	12	47,877	-	(47,877)	-	-
Net incoming resources after transfers		185,190	-	2,109	187,299	605,818
Fund balances brought forward		(1,586,226)	-	30,796	(1,555,430)	(2,161,248)
Fund balances carried forward	12	(1,401,036)	-	32,905	(1,368,131)	(1,555,430)

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these accounts

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

BALANCE SHEET
Charity number: 1173492

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
	Notes				
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	8		70,340		98,248
Current assets					
Stocks	9	32,551		15,979	
Debtors	10	110,233		72,480	
Cash at bank & in hand		<u>844,056</u>		<u>1,005,973</u>	
		986,840		1,094,432	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts due within one year	11	<u>(178,733)</u>		<u>(170,332)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>808,107</u>		<u>924,100</u>
Net assets excluding pension liabilities			878,447		1,022,348
Pension scheme funding deficit	16		<u>(2,246,578)</u>		<u>(2,577,778)</u>
Total net liabilities			<u>(1,368,131)</u>		<u>(1,555,430)</u>
Representing Charitable Funds:					
Restricted income funds					
Students' Societies & Club funds	12	-		23,004	
Other restricted grants	12	29,111		2,760	
Sports fund	12	-		-	
Hardship fund	12	<u>3,794</u>		<u>5,032</u>	
			32,905		30,796
Unrestricted income funds					
General reserves (Undesignated)		845,542		991,552	
Pension reserve		<u>(2,246,578)</u>		<u>(2,577,778)</u>	
Special projects reserve		-		-	
	12		<u>(1,401,036)</u>		<u>(1,586,226)</u>
Total deficit	13		<u>(1,368,131)</u>		<u>(1,555,430)</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 23rd November 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:

DocuSigned by:

 930EF53E5D8D48D...
Peter Smallwood
 Deputy Chair

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these accounts.

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

		2023 £	2022 £
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income/(expenditure)		187,299	605,818
Depreciation		42,331	41,161
Interest received		(3,072)	(248)
(Increase)/decrease in stock		(16,572)	3,409
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(37,753)	(32,827)
Revaluation of pension deficit		(331,200)	(542,490)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		<u>8,401</u>	<u>38,710</u>
Net cash generated by operating activities		<u>(150,566)</u>	<u>113,533</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable		3,072	248
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(14,423)</u>	<u>(84,145)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(11,351)</u>	<u>(83,897)</u>
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	17	(161,917)	29,636
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>1,005,973</u>	<u>976,337</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	18	<u>£ 844,056</u>	<u>£ 1,005,973</u>
		2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>£ 844,056</u>	<u>£ 1,005,973</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 29 form part of these accounts.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Charity Information

The Union's principal activities are campaigning, representation, provision of social activities and the organisation of sporting and recreational activities and opportunities. Union of Brunel Students is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registered in the UK (Charity registration no. 1173492). The address of the principal office is Cleveland Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH.

2 Accounting Policies

(a) Accounting convention

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of these accounts is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS102 "the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and the 2015 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice based thereon – the Charities SORP and the Companies Act 2006. Union of Brunel Students meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102

(b) Going concern

At the time of approval of the annual report and accounts, the Trustees have reviewed the Going Concern position carefully with a view to ensuring the ongoing provision of student representation and services as well as employment of staff. The Union has cash resources and net current assets currently well in excess of stipulated minimum levels. The pension scheme funding deficit represents amounts payable by the Union for the next 13 years and will be paid out of future income, and the Union are working closely in conjunction with the university in respect of funding this deficit. University grant funding remains increased year on year which reflects the importance of the union's work despite challenging economic factors. Conservative cash flow modelling with sensitivity analysis indicates that the cash reserves of the Union are adequate to meet its obligations as they fall due. Accordingly, the Trustees believe the Union's financial resources are sufficient to ensure the Union will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future, being at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and have therefore prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

(c) Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Students' Union is legally entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Students' Union where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Donated services or facilities, which comprise donated services, are included in income at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised where there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

(d) **Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT. Charitable expenditure comprises the direct and indirect costs of delivering public benefit. Governance costs are those incurred for compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the annual audit, annual elections and training for sabbatical officers. The value of free serviced campus accommodation is apportioned on estimated floor space occupied. Other central overhead costs are apportioned to charitable and other projects/activities on a usage basis, pro rata to the total costs of each project or activity undertaken.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

(e) **Tangible fixed assets**

Fixed assets are capitalised if over £500 and are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write the cost of assets off over their estimated useful lives:-

Fixtures and Fittings	-	20-25%	per annum straight line.
IT & Hi-tec equipment	-	33%	per annum straight line.
Motor vehicles	-	33%	per annum straight line.

(f) **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(g) **Debtors**

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment.

(h) **Creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price.

(i) **Pension costs**

The Charity participates in the Student Union Superannuation Scheme (SUSS), a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme whose membership consists of employees of students' unions and related bodies throughout the country. The Charity is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other employers' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the schemes on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the Charity therefore accounts for the schemes as if they were wholly defined contribution schemes. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the Charity has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determine how each employer within the schemes will fund the overall deficit, the Charity recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

The Union now operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Union to the fund in respect of the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and paid are shown as accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- (j) **Leased assets**
Rentals payable under operating leases are charged as expenditure on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.
- (k) **Stock**
Stock is valued at the lower of the cost and its net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.
- (l) **Fund accounting**
 - (i) **Unrestricted Funds** General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the Students' Union and which have not been designated for other purposes
 - (ii) **Designated Funds** Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustee for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements
 - (iii) **Restricted Funds** raised and administered by the Union for specific purposes as determined by students, such as Club and Societies Accounts, as well as revenue received for purposes specified by the donor. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
- (m) **Taxation**
No provision is made in these accounts for corporation tax as the Union is exempt from such taxes as a result of its charitable status.
- (n) **Termination benefits**
Termination benefits are accounted following a commitment by legislation, by contractual or other agreements with employees to make payments (or provide other benefits) to employees when the Union terminates their employment.
- (o) **Financial instruments**
The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. The present value of the pension deficit is measured at fair value.

3 **Critical areas of judgement**

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements and estimates.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control such as the Student Union Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Trustees are satisfied that SUSS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and the Charity has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

**UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4 Voluntary Income

	2023 £	2022 £
Block grant	1,295,970	1,146,072
Grant for rent in kind	424,529	300,000
Free sport grant	210,000	185,000
Other restricted grants	91,485	50,691
Hardship fund	11,022	15,950
SUSS Pension deficit contributions & PFF Levy	220,626	210,120
External grant	<u>21,904</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>2,275,536</u>	<u>1,910,333</u>

The University provides rent-free accommodation to the Union. Under the Charities SORP the 'donations in kind' must be valued and included within the accounts. The value to the Union is considered to be £424,529 and is included as 'Grant for rent' above.

5(a) Total expenditure - charitable and other activity costs

	Cost of sales £	Staff costs £	Rent £	Other costs £	Total £	Total 2023 £
Activities for generating funds						
Advertising & marketing	-	5,372	2,848	13,373	21,593	32,941
Charitable activities						
Advice, welfare & representation	-	457,770	84,398	97,816	639,984	612,779
Student activities	-	159,737	34,498	67,355	261,590	348,902
Bars & catering	204,261	305,489	123,289	301,841	934,880	779,092
Entertainment	-	120,388	31,347	85,965	237,700	211,695
Transport	-	1,025	171	103	1,299	726
Societies & clubs	-	<u>343,774</u>	<u>147,978</u>	<u>630,338</u>	<u>1,122,090</u>	<u>799,650</u>
Total costs	<u>204,261</u>	<u>1,393,555</u>	<u>424,529</u>	<u>1,196,791</u>	<u>3,219,136</u>	<u>2,785,785</u>

Included in the above costs is the fee for the preparation and audit of the statutory accounts of £18,690 (2022: £16,450)

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5(a) Total expenditure - charitable and other activity costs (continued)

2022	Cost of sales £	Staff costs £	Rent £	Other costs £	Total £	Total 2022 £
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
Advertising & marketing	-	6,685	3,547	22,709	32,941	9,168
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Advice, welfare & representation	-	464,151	65,990	82,638	612,779	557,697
Student activities	-	222,260	37,573	89,069	348,902	399,059
Bars & catering	216,111	230,719	83,900	248,362	779,092	464,886
Entertainment	-	103,592	22,797	85,306	211,695	159,208
Transport	-	593	79	54	726	-
Societies & clubs	-	216,439	86,114	497,097	799,650	520,893
Total costs	<u>216,111</u>	<u>1,244,439</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>1,025,235</u>	<u>2,785,785</u>	<u>2,110,911</u>

Affiliation fees are:

	2023 £	2022 £
BUCS	32,940	33,165
NUS	<u>12,024</u>	<u>8,049</u>
	<u>44,964</u>	<u>41,214</u>

5(b) Central overhead costs included in Note 5(a)

2023		Staff £	Rent £	Other £	Total £
	Usage				
Activities for generating funds					
Advertising & marketing	0.7%	5,371	2,848	1,707	9,926
Charitable activities					
Advice, welfare & representation	19.9%	159,208	84,398	50,604	294,210
Student Activities	8.1%	65,075	34,498	20,684	120,257
Bar & catering	29.0%	232,568	123,289	73,921	429,778
Entertainments	7.4%	59,132	31,347	18,795	109,274
Transport	0.04%	323	171	103	597
Societies & Clubs	34.9%	279,140	147,978	88,724	515,842
Totals	100%	<u>800,817</u>	<u>424,529</u>	<u>254,538</u>	<u>1,479,884</u>

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5(b) Central overhead costs included in Note 5(a) (continued)

2022		Staff	Rent	Other	Total
	Usage	£	£	£	£
Activities for generating funds					
Advertising & marketing	1.2%	6,685	3,547	2,508	12,740
Charitable activities					
Advice, welfare & representation	22.0%	124,353	65,990	46,655	236,998
Student Activities	12.5%	70,803	37,573	26,564	134,940
Bar & catering	27.8%	158,103	83,900	59,318	301,321
Entertainments	7.6%	42,960	22,797	16,118	81,875
Transport	0.03%	149	79	55	283
Societies & Clubs	28.7%	<u>162,275</u>	<u>86,114</u>	<u>60,883</u>	<u>309,272</u>
Totals	100%	<u>565,328</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>212,101</u>	<u>1,077,429</u>

6 Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,062,772	915,085
Social security	96,177	109,945
Pension costs	<u>234,606</u>	<u>219,409</u>
	<u>1,393,555</u>	<u>1,244,439</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments (gross pay plus taxable benefits) exceeded £60,000 during the year were as follows:

£70,001 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
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Pension contributions totalled £4,707 for the above higher paid employee.

The key management personnel of the Union are the Trustees and the Senior Management Team, listed on page 1. The aggregate remuneration (including employer NI and employer pension contributions) of key management personnel was £266,533 (2022: £275,291). The average staffing was as follows:-

Permanent staff		27	28
Students – term time only		<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>

There was one redundancy in the year totalling £10,000 (Nil in 2022).

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Sabbatical officers are paid as authorised in the Union's governing document, for the representation, campaigning and support work they undertake as distinct from their trustee responsibilities. This work included voicing student opinion with the University and local community, defending and extending the rights of students through petitions etc. and also organising and supporting student volunteers and service provision for them.

The total salary and social security costs for the sabbatical officers in post in the year was as follows:

	Total remuneration £
VP College of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences	27,742
VP College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences	28,453
VP College of Design, Engineering and Physical Sciences	26,140
Community Living officer	2,059

Eleven trustees were reimbursed (2021/2022: Four) with a total of £2,832 (2021/2022: £2,006) in connection with their duties during the period. The expenses reimbursed during the year related to training and attendance at conferences and meetings.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	IT and Hi-tec equipment £	Total £
COST			
At 1 August 2022	298,275	138,864	437,139
Additions	<u>9,369</u>	<u>5,054</u>	<u>14,423</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>307,644</u>	<u>143,918</u>	<u>451,562</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 August 2022	222,759	116,132	338,891
Charge for the year	<u>29,728</u>	<u>12,603</u>	<u>42,331</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>252,487</u>	<u>128,735</u>	<u>381,222</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 July 2023	<u>55,157</u>	<u>15,183</u>	<u>70,340</u>
<i>At 31 July 2022</i>	<u>75,516</u>	<u>22,732</u>	<u>98,248</u>

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

9	Stock	2023 £	2022 £
	Bar and shop stock	<u>32,551</u>	<u>15,979</u>
10	Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
	Trade debtors	41,445	38,083
	Other debtors	5,315	5,369
	VAT debtor	9,254	794
	Prepayments & accrued income	<u>54,219</u>	<u>28,234</u>
		<u>110,233</u>	<u>72,480</u>
11	Creditors:	2023	2022
	amounts due within one year	£	£
	Trade creditors	50,222	47,505
	Social security & other taxes	51,877	22,029
	Other creditors	6,862	3,544
	Accruals & deferred income	<u>69,772</u>	<u>97,254</u>
		<u>178,733</u>	<u>170,332</u>
	Deferred income	2023 £	2022 £
	Balance as at 1 st August 2022	2,600	2,150
	Amounts released to income in the year	(2,600)	(2,150)
	Amounts deferred in the year	<u>2,825</u>	<u>2,600</u>
	Balance at 31 July 2023	<u>2,825</u>	<u>2,600</u>

Deferred income includes receipts relating to the subsequent period, being income received in advance for events taking place after the year end.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

12 Fund analysis

	<i>As at 31 July 2022 £</i>	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	<i>As at 31 July 2023 £</i>
Unrestricted Funds					
General reserves (Undesignated)	991,552	2,406,740	(2,600,627)	47,877	845,542
Pension Reserve	<u>(2,577,778)</u>	<u>331,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,246,578)</u>
	<u>(1,586,226)</u>	<u>2,737,940</u>	<u>(2,600,627)</u>	<u>47,877</u>	<u>(1,401,036)</u>
Restricted Funds					
Students' Societies & Clubs Funds	23,004	113,458	(309,211)	172,749	-
Hardship Fund	5,032	11,022	(12,260)	-	3,794
SUSS Pension deficit contribution	-	220,626	-	(220,626)	-
Other restricted grants	2,760	113,389	(87,038)	-	29,111
Sports Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>210,000</u>	<u>(210,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>30,796</u>	<u>668,495</u>	<u>(618,509)</u>	<u>(47,877)</u>	<u>32,905</u>
Total Funds	<u>(1,555,430)</u>	<u>3,406,435</u>	<u>(3,219,136)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,368,131)</u>

The transfer of £220,626 from the SUSS pension deficit restricted fund to unrestricted funds is to reimburse the Union for the SUSS pension deficit contributions and PPF levy it has made during the year.

The transfer of £172,749 from the Students' Societies & Clubs Funds to unrestricted funds represents the additional costs absorbed by the Union.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

12 Fund Analysis (continued)
2022

	As at 31 July 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	As at 31 July 2022 £
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>					
General reserves (Undesignated)	767,360	2,295,445	(2,281,373)	210,120	991,552
Pension Reserve	(3,120,268)	542,490	-	-	(2,577,778)
Special projects reserve	<u>1,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,285)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(2,351,623)</u>	<u>2,837,935</u>	<u>(2,282,658)</u>	<u>210,120</u>	<u>(1,586,226)</u>
<i>Restricted Funds</i>					
Students' Societies & Clubs Funds	124,356	89,407	(190,759)	-	23,004
Hardship Fund	1,831	15,950	(12,749)	-	5,032
SUSS Pension deficit contribution	-	210,120	-	(210,120)	-
Other restricted grants	24,254	53,191	(74,685)	-	2,760
Sports Fund	<u>39,934</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>(224,934)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>190,375</u>	<u>553,668</u>	<u>(503,127)</u>	<u>(210,120)</u>	<u>30,796</u>
Total Funds	<u>(2,161,248)</u>	<u>3,391,603</u>	<u>(2,785,785)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,555,430)</u>

13 Analysis of net deficit between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Income Funds £	Total £
At 31 July 2023			
Fixed Assets	70,340	-	70,340
Current assets	953,935	32,905	986,840
Current liabilities	(178,733)	-	(178,733)
Pensions	<u>(2,246,578)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,246,578)</u>
	<u>(1,401,036)</u>	<u>32,905</u>	<u>(1,368,131)</u>
2022			
At 31 July 2022			
Fixed Assets	98,248	-	98,248
Current assets	1,023,126	71,306	1,094,432
Current liabilities	(170,332)	-	(170,332)
Pensions	<u>(2,577,778)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,577,778)</u>
	<u>(1,626,736)</u>	<u>71,306</u>	<u>(1,555,430)</u>

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

14 Control Relationship

The Union is controlled by the Board of Trustees which is subject to democratic election by the voting membership of the Union. The ultimate control of the Union is vested under the constitution in the membership in General meeting. As such no single person or entity controls the Union.

15 Related Parties

The Union is in receipt of a recurrent grant from Brunel University of £1,295,970 (2022: £1,146,072). A further grant of £210,000 (2022: £185,000) has been received to facilitate free sport club membership and £220,626 (2022: £210,120) was received as a contribution towards the SUSS pension deficit payments. Smaller restricted grants are made as the need arises; in 2023 these totalled £124,411 (2022: £69,141).

In addition, the Union occupies its building on a rent free basis under an informal license subject to the union maintaining the building in a good state of repair. A notional value for rent in kind is included in the accounts and amounted to £424,529 (2022: £300,000).

The Union received catering compensation from the University of £108,114 (2022: £96,426). This is included within bars and catering income on the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Sabbaticals of the Union are the members of the Trustee Board and receive remuneration for their services as provided for within the Constitution. Whilst basic pay is consistent for these 4 paid Trustees, the amounts paid are variable due to holiday pay. The remuneration included in the accounts are noted in note 7.

The amount due from Brunel University at the year-end was £13,316 (2022: £31,337 was due to Brunel University).

16 Pension Costs

Student Union Superannuation Scheme

	2023	2022
	£	£
Provision as at 1 August	(2,577,778)	(3,120,268)
Unwinding and impact of change of discount rate	134,568	362,128
Deficit contributions paid	196,632	180,362
Provision as at 30 July	(2,246,578)	(2,577,778)

The Union participates in the Student Union Superannuation Scheme, a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme whose membership consists of employees of students' unions and related bodies throughout the country. Benefits in respect of service up to 30 September 2003 are accrued for on a "final salary" basis, with benefits in respect of service from 1 October 2003 accruing on a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) basis. With effect from 30 September 2011 the scheme closed to future accrual. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rate of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary.

The employers share the actuarial risks associated with all members of the scheme. The Union is not legally responsible for the scheme and does not have sufficient information to use defined benefit accounting. Accordingly the scheme is accounted for as if it is a defined contribution scheme.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Pension Costs (continued)

The most recent valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 30 June 2022 and showed that the market value of the Scheme's assets was £106,697,000 with these assets representing 44% of the value of benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings. The deficit on an ongoing funding basis amounted to £127,640,000. The assumptions which have the most significant effect upon the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the yield on government bonds.

The following assumptions applied at 30 June 2022:

- Discount rate – Gilts curve + 1.5% pa, linearly changing over a term of 13 years to gilts curve + 0.25% pa
- Retail price inflation (RPI) – Merrill Lynch swap-implied inflation curve
- Consumer price inflation pre 2030 (CPI) – RPI inflation less 0.7% pa
- Consumer price inflation post 2030 (CPI) – RPI inflation less 0.1% pa
- Pension increases – A model of each increase, allowing for insurers' relative pricing of different caps and collars

The 2022 Valuation recommended a monthly contribution requirement by each Participating Employer expressed in monetary terms intended to clear the ongoing funding deficit over a period of 13 years 7 months and will increase by at least 5% each year.

Surpluses or deficits which arise at future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. In addition to the above contributions, the Union also pays its share of the Scheme's Levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

FRS102 and the Charities SORP (FRS102), require that the charitable company share of past service shortfall is reflected in the financial statements. Based on the most recent valuation, the charitable company contribution to eliminating the shortfall was £196,632 for the year ended 2023 (2022: £180,362).

At 31 July 2023, the balance sheet of the Charitable company includes a liability of £2,246,578 (2022: £2,577,778), which represents the net present value of all future contributions towards eliminating this shortfall.

The discount rate used is 5.2% (2022: 3.7%) which is comparable to that of the Bank of England Gilt Curve plus 1.5% per annum, changing over a term of 13 years + 0.25% per annum. The estimated liability is based on the 2022 triannual valuation of the Scheme and will necessarily require revision after subsequent revaluations.

In addition, the Charitable company paid Pension Protection Fund Levy of £15,192 (2022: £12,221) during the year.

Defined Contribution Pension Costs

The Union also operates two defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Union in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the funds and amounted to £37,974 (2022: £39,107). Contributions are accounted for as part of the Union's unrestricted funds.

Pension costs as disclosed in staff costs note (note 6) also include Death in Service premiums.

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

17 RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET FUNDS

	2023 £	2022 £
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and net funds in the year	(161,917)	29,636
Net funds at 1 August	<u>1,005,973</u>	<u>976,337</u>
NET FUNDS AT 31 JULY	<u>£ 844,056</u>	<u>£ 1,005,973</u>

18 ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN NET FUNDS

	<i>Net funds as At 1 August 2022 £</i>	Cash Change £	Net funds as at 31 July 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£ 1,005,973</u>	<u>£ 161,917</u>	<u>£ 844,056</u>

UNION OF BRUNEL STUDENTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

19 Comparative Statement of Financial Position

	<i>Unrestricted Fund £</i>	<i>Designated Fund £</i>	<i>Restricted Fund £</i>	<i>Total 2022 £</i>
<i>Income</i>				
<i>Donations:</i>				
- Grant income	1,446,072	-	464,261	1,910,333
<i>Other trading activities:</i>				
- Advertising & marketing	101,443	-	-	101,443
<i>Investment income</i>	248	-	-	248
<i>Charitable activities for students:</i>				
- Bar & catering	601,606	-	-	601,606
- Entertaining	145,376	-	-	145,376
- Societies & clubs	-	-	89,407	89,407
- Other	700	-	-	700
<i>Covid Job Retention Scheme</i>				
<i>Total income</i>	<u>2,295,445</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>553,668</u>	<u>2,849,113</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>				
<i>Raising Funds:</i>				
- Advertising and marketing	32,941	-	-	32,941
<i>Charitable Activities for students:</i>				
- Advice, welfare & representation	598,745	1,285	12,749	612,779
- Student activities	348,902	-	-	348,902
- Bar & catering	779,092	-	-	779,092
- Entertainment	211,695	-	-	211,695
- Transport	726	-	-	726
- Societies & clubs	309,272	-	490,378	799,650
<i>Total expenditure</i>	<u>2,281,373</u>	<u>1,285</u>	<u>503,127</u>	<u>2,785,785</u>
<i>Decrease in pension deficit</i>	542,490	-	-	542,490
<i>Net income/(expenditure)</i>	556,562	(1,285)	50,541	605,818
<i>Transfer between funds</i>	210,120	-	(210,120)	-
<i>Net incoming resources after transfers</i>	766,682	(1,285)	(159,579)	605,818
<i>Fund balances brought forward</i>	<u>(2,352,908)</u>	<u>1,285</u>	<u>190,375</u>	<u>(2,161,248)</u>
<i>Fund balances carried forward</i>	<u>(1,586,226)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,796</u>	<u>(1,555,430)</u>