

THE UNION, MMU

England & Wales · Charity number 1191269

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	12714026
Registered	2020-09-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Union Manchester Metropolitan University 21 Higher Cambridge Street Manchester M15 6AD
Phone	01612471162
Email	s.u.reception@mmu.ac.uk
Website	www.theunionmmu.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE UNION ARE THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION OF STUDENTS AT THE MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY:-1) PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EXPRESSION OF STUDENT OPINION AND ACTIVELY REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS;2) ACTING AS A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION IN DEALING WITH THE MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY AND OTHER EXTERNAL BODIES;3) PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF STUDENTS AT THE MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY;4) FACILITATING THE SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL, POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS, THROUGH PROVIDING SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR ITS MEMBERS; AND5) WORKING WITH OTHER STUDENTS' UNIONS AND AFFILIATED BODIES.

Activities: 1) REPRESENTING STUDENT INTERESTS 2) COMMUNICATING ON STUDENT BEHALF WITH EXTERNAL BODIES; 3) PROMOTING STUDENT WELFARE AT MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY; 4) FACILITATING SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL, POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF MEMBERS, THROUGH SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS 5) WORKING WITH OTHER STUDENTS' UNIONS AND AFFILIATED BODIES.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Manchester City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£4,062,091	£4,394,154	£1,288,084	110
2024-07-31	£8,671,748	£4,516,522	£1,620,147	129
2023-07-31	£4,569,799	£4,253,290	£-3,011,622	128
2022-07-31	£4,342,982	£3,905,421	£-3,807,485	59
2021-07-31	£3,223,683	£7,490,712	£-4,267,029	59

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Evelyn Asante-Mensah OBE		2025-07-01
Forum Yadav		2024-07-01
Geoffrey Thomas Cawley		2025-07-01
George William Charlton		2025-07-01
Georgina Blakeley		2025-01-31
Hannah Gail Jordan		2025-01-31
Imogen Holland		2025-07-01
Komal Ashfaq		2025-07-01
Matt Winterbottom		2022-09-01
Sara Shanab		2022-09-01
Vanessa Nongo		2024-07-01

THE UNION, MMU

England & Wales - Charity number 1191269

Accounts

Registered number: 12714026
Charity number: 1191269

The Union, MMU

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 July 2025



The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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The Union, MMU
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Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Trustees	S Campbell (resigned 13 June 2025) J Killick (resigned 1 July 2025) M Winterbottom N Ahmed (resigned 31 January 2025) S Shanab S Dodsworth (resigned 30 June 2025) L Enoki (resigned 30 June 2025) F Yadav V Nongo G Otley (resigned 30 June 2025) G Charlton (appointed 1 July 2025) I Holland (appointed 1 July 2025) K Ashfaq (appointed 1 July 2025) G Cawley (appointed 1 July 2025) E Asante-Mensah (appointed 13 June 2025) G Blakeley (appointed 31 January 2025) H Coleman (appointed 31 January 2025)
Company registered number	12714026
Charity registered number	1191269
Registered office	21 Higher Cambridge Street Manchester M15 6AD
Chief executive officer	R Roberts
Senior leadership team	R Roberts, Chief Executive Officer (appointed 19 February 2024) P Norman, Head of Membership Development S Taylor-Wren, Head of Insight L White, Head of Finance & Performance (resigned 31/10/2024) L Edwards, Head of People J Stafford, Head of Marketing and Communications M Short, Head of Business Operations (appointed 07/04/2025)

The Union, MMU

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Independent auditors	Dains Audit Limited Statutory Auditor Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST1 5RQ
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The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the group and the Company qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Union's articles of association identify its charitable objectives as the advancement of education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for the public benefit by:

- Providing opportunities for the expression of student opinion and actively representing the interests of Students;
- Acting as a channel of communication in dealing with The Manchester Metropolitan University and other external bodies;
- Promoting the welfare of Students at The Manchester Metropolitan University;
- Facilitating the social, recreational, political and educational interests of its members, through providing services and support for its members; and
- Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Union's vision is to support every student at Manchester Metropolitan University in achieving personal success. The Union has a new 2025-2030 strategy focused on two key organisational goals: Student Experience; and Student Voice. In preparing the strategy, a comprehensive 'theory of impact' project was undertaken to identify opportunities for maximising impact on students' lives. The ToI has now formed the basis for how the Union will resource and evaluate activity that achieves the strategy. The two key threads are:

Student Experience: The Union will focus resource on activities that enhance the student experience outside of the academic curriculum. These include extra and co-curricular activities like society engagement, events and a new vision for academic communities.

Student Voice: The Union will focus resource on ensuring student voice – through both representative structures and insight/ feedback mechanisms is used to design and shape both Union and University decision making.

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The Union MMU exists to represent all students at Manchester Metropolitan University. It strives to ensure that the needs and views of students are at the heart of everything the University does, and provides a wide range of services, activities, and opportunities to offer the best possible student experience for all our members. The Union employs a core team of career staff and a flexible cohort of part time student staff and volunteers to assist the Trustee Board in its mission, all of whom are dedicated to helping The Union and students succeed.

Student Representation

The Union engages in a variety of activities that amplify student voice in the University, the Union, the city and in national arenas. Every year students elect five Union officers who sit on all major decision-making committees of the University, and local community partnerships. Ensuring student voice influences every level of University decision making. Consultative use of social media, online focus groups, survey, and open pulse surveys have strengthened the Unions student voice toolkit.

The Union's approach to the annual elections in March was consistent with prior year, and the five-day voting period resulted in a turnout of 6573 voters an increase on 2024. There were 35 candidates running for the five full-time positions, all of which were contested.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued) For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

The Union Course Representative structure empowers student representatives to work with academics to improve the course experience for themselves and peers. 1,787 Course Reps were trained by the Union team, the highest number in five years. Each of these Reps plays a key role in ensuring student needs and issues are dealt with quickly and at the appropriate level; working closely with academic and professional services staff. Increases in awareness of the Rep system among students also continues to grow and recorded the highest ever levels this year (42% awareness).

The Union uses its Research and Insight capability to maintain a current understanding of its membership, including an annual membership survey, induction survey and detailed segmentation modelling. The department carries out inhouse research projects; analysis of existing student data; social policy review; and dissemination of student insight to staff and volunteers of The Union and the University ensure that nobody knows its members better. The partnership work with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) on Theory of Impact has continued throughout the year, and has been showcased by NCVO in their own literature and via a conference sector session.

Advice

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union provide a specialist advice service to help our students with practical issues they might face whilst at University. The main areas are financial, academic issues and housing. They also provide representation at meetings such as disciplinary action and benefit tribunals. The Advice Centre holds an Advice Quality Standard (AQS) award to confirm the advisers work to professional standards and provide a high-quality service to students.

During the 2024/25 academic year, the Advice Centre delivered advice services to 2150 students, from an overall enquiry base of over 7500 queries. This advice ranges from housing, finance and academic issues and the team are particularly effective in ensuring students receive the correct financial support. During the year, £194,959 was won for students through Student Finance England corrections or via other funds.

The Advice team continue to offer tailored housing advice to students; provide expert feedback on changes in university policy in year and were able to support the SU Officers with their voice work by meeting regularly to discuss common matters arising for students.

Commercial activity and student-focused spaces

Our Manchester home in 21 Higher Cambridge Street has some fantastic spaces for our members. Facilities include a multi-functional hall space; large conference rooms; balcony space; 5 meeting rooms; two mirrored studio spaces; digital and radio media suite; quiet study space; and plenty of break out areas for students to use as they want.

Union space in Manchester includes opportunities for mutual trading during term time, and wider conferencing and events out of term time. The Union operate food and beverage service in the main building in Manchester; a retail outlet; provide ad hoc media sales activity; run a public house; and operate conferencing in its spaces outside of term time. As well as supporting the social activity of The Union, our commercial activity generates funds for charitable use.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

The recommendations from the commercial review undertaken in the latter part of the 2023/24 financial year have now been implemented, which included Trustees releasing reserves funds for capital investment in the building. Key changes include:

- Updating the sound and lighting system in the Union's large event space (the Hall). The 10-year old system was no longer fit for purpose, and the updated system will allow the Union to deliver a broader range of events, including live music.
- A full refurbishment of the two commercial outlets on the ground floor – creating a new bar 'Boundary', designed as a traditional campus bar with competitive socialising embedded in the model
- The Union's coffee offer has now been consolidated into the space previously used for retail; resulting in a mixed cold food/ hot food/ coffee offer that also boasts significant seating for students looking for social areas away from licensed trade.
- A new 'Living Room' with soft furnishings and a kitchenette on floor 2 of the building; offering additional social seating and 'heat and eat' options for students without requiring any purchases.

Student Opportunities

The Union provides a range of student led activities for members to try out, join and enjoy. These include Clubs, Societies, and charity fundraising and volunteering. The Union staff team supports course representatives, campaigners, volunteers, student captains, society chairs and their respective committee members. As well as excellent social opportunities, these roles offer students valuable employability skills, leadership development and a chance to contribute positively to the student experience at Manchester Met.

There were 7,129 club and society members during the year, a huge increase of almost 2,000 students on 2024. As per the new strategy, new options are being developed to ensure greater diversity of options for students to engage, including within academic communities (similar to academic societies) so that this number can continue to grow.

Contribution to Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union by volunteers.

Thousands of our members give their time on a voluntary basis to contribute to The Union through their leadership activities in Societies, clubs, volunteering, course representation and committee membership.

- Students form the committees of The Union that direct activity and address the needs of specific student communities.
- Course representatives work to promote the views and interests of their peers to the University.
- Society and Sport committee members organise activities for other students and ensure the Union remains vibrant and deliver a diverse range of accessible activities for students

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities (continued)

d. Main activities undertaken to further the Company's purposes for the public benefit

1. Representing student interests
2. Communicating on student behalf with external bodies
3. Promoting student welfare at Manchester Metropolitan University
4. Facilitating social, recreational, political, and educational interests of members through services and support for members
5. Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the key financial performance indicators are total incoming resources of £4,062,091 (2024: £8,671,748) and net expenditure of £4,394,154 (2024: £4,516,522). The Union has unrestricted funds of £1,288,084 (2024: £1,620,147).

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**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025**

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Review of activities

Student Experience:

The Union continued to focus on events and activities that deliver excellent student experiences; particularly tailored for those students for whom 'traditional' activity may not appeal.

In a continuing narrative following the pandemic, the need to ensure a strong sense of community and belonging for students was paramount in our planning. The cost of living crisis was compounded by the lack of increase in maintenance funding available to home undergraduate students, resulting in significant financial shortfalls for students. The Union addressed this in a number of ways:

- Ensuring activity and events that were free or very low-cost throughout the year
- Signposting and supporting students with financial difficulties via the Advice service
- Working closely with the University on strategies for improving student financial health.
- Alongside the National Union of Students, lobbying for improvements to the student financial support packages.

Give it a go activities and events took place throughout the year, offering students the opportunity to try new things, gain skills and meet other students in a low-commitment environment.

Additionally, a number of events were marked for their inclusivity benefits, some examples include: International Women's Day, Black History month, World Mental Health Day and Holocaust Memorial Day. Student leadership in these areas is critical to their impact, so student volunteers, staff and placement staff ensure events and activities are delivered from a student perspective.

Welcome week activities engaged over 20,000 students in diverse events that included a roller disco, nightclub events, bingo, karaoke, chat and chill sessions for commuters and mature students, an ever-popular 'culture fest' event and of course, the classic Freshers Fair. The welcome week of fun is unashamedly designed to make meeting people as easy as possible, but care and attention is given to ensuring the programme caters for those who find social activity more challenging. Low-key and small scale activities were popular among less 'traditional' groups of students, including those commuting from within the city region, mature and postgraduate students, and those who simply prefer the quieter side of social interaction.

A staff restructure was implemented in the Spring of 2025 to deliver budgetary savings and align resource with the new strategy. A key element of the new staffing structure was the expansion of the 'events' team, extra capacity now available to deliver a breadth of activity to suit our student members' needs.

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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

Student Voice:

Elected Student Officers focused on a number of key campaigns during the year; prioritising student financial support, the visibility of campus services, personal development and community/ belonging.

Activity during the year included the 'Self-care movement'; a hugely successful campaign focused on supporting students to develop themselves personally and professionally which was shortlisted for the 'Student Experience' award in the Educate North Awards 2025.

A pilot of a new Student Voice platform is planned for launch in September 2025, enabling students, Reps and staff to collaborate easily and raise and resolve concerns together without the need to wait for meetings. Partnership working with the University is critical to the success of the Union's ambitions in voice work, and we benefit enormously from a positive working relationship with key stakeholders across the institution.

Work on supporting students in financial difficulties has continued during the year, with a full review of the way the University disburses hardship funds. Staff and Officers have been deeply involved in the conversations and will continue to lobby to ensure timely and sufficient funds are available for students in need.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. The Union gratefully recognises the income received in the form of grants from the University and various sources of fundraising income as detailed in the notes to these accounts.

d. Investment policy and performance

The trustees are mindful of their obligations to seek to protect the long-term value of the assets they administer, whilst maximising income. To this end, the trustees have a policy of placing cash in a combination of current and deposit accounts to meet the working capital requirements of the Union whilst maximising interest returns.

Financial review

a. Going concern

The Charity has net assets on 31 July 2025 of £1,288,084 (2024: £1,620,147)

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

General reserves stand at a surplus of £1,288,084 (2024: £1,620,147). The aim of the reserves policy is to maintain a level of unrestricted general funds, which are not designated and excluding tangible fixed assets of £750,000.

c. Principal funding

The Union's funding comes principally from grants and various sources of fund-raising income as detailed in notes to these accounts.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Union MMU is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a trust deed.

The principal object of the Students' Union remains the advancement of the education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for public benefit.

The Students' Union's governing document is its constitution comprising the articles of association and byelaws. Any amendment to the articles of association being subject to the approval of company law members and, for major changes, a referendum of students and only valid once approved by the University Board of Governors.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and financial and strategic management of the Students' Union. The board is comprised of the five Students' Union Officers and up to six independent Trustees. The full members of the Students' Union elect the Students' Union officers each year, through a secret cross campus ballot. Officers serve in office for one year and may stand for election for a maximum term of two years.

An appointments committee, following a process of open advertisement and application, nominates the independent Trustees for a term of office of up to three years or reappointment for a second term. Appointments are subject to the approval of the whole Trustee Board by a simple majority of those present and voting. A subcommittee of the Trustee Board selects the external Trustees based on their skills, knowledge, experience, and characteristics, considering the current composition of the Board. Independent trustees bring their professional experience to the board.

During the 24/25 financial year, a number of new independent Trustees joined the Board including a new Chair.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustee Board meets five times a year and is supported by sub committees. The Trustee Board delegated authority to the Appointments sub-Committee and Finance committee in year ending July 2025. Each of these committees reported their activity to the Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board delegates more day-to-day decisions to The Union Officer Group (comprising all the elected officers), Union Leadership Group (Comprising the Elected Officers and the Senior Leadership Team), Human Resources Committee, or Senior Leadership Team. The Union Leadership Group and Union Officer Group meet formally every month during term time to receive reports from individual Officers, sub committees and the Chief Executive. They also review the charities performance and administration generally and to decide operational issues arising. The Union employs circa 60 non-student staff for the sake of continuity in the management of its many duties. All staff are accountable to the Chief Executive for the performance of their duties.

The Students' Union operates a representative democracy with its five elected officers elected by and from the current student population of the University. All full-time members of The Union can activate and agree Union policy through secure petition resulting in a referendum of all members. Any student can influence the work of The Union by submitting ideas in person or online to one of our subgroups dedicated to discussing improvements to the student experience in a particular area of activity. Student insight informs the work of The Union through delivery of an annual engagement plan, which ensures that The Union's priorities and provision meets the needs of the diverse student population of Manchester Metropolitan University. Whenever possible, the Students Union seek to act in response to student influence, insight, and referendum, although the Trustee Board does have supervisory power to veto any decision which is in breach of charity or education law or other legal requirements, or which is considered not to be in the best interests of the Students' Union or its charitable objectives.

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Upon appointment, all trustees receive an induction, which includes their legal obligations and other trustee responsibilities, and is adapted according to their prior knowledge and experience. The Students' Union Officers receive a more in-depth induction and training programme incorporating their responsibilities as a trustee and the skills and knowledge required to perform their other duties in addition to their trustee roles.

e. Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. The remuneration of the trustees and senior management team is reviewed at intervals of not more than every three years.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Related party relationships

Relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University

The Union MMU has a formal relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University. The Union and University express this through a jointly endorsed relationship agreement, formally adopted in 2012, and by the constitutional provisions, which governs the formal interaction between the two organisations. Under the 1994 Education Act, University governing bodies must take all reasonably practical steps to ensure that students' unions operate fairly and democratically and is responsible in the management of its finances. The Manchester Metropolitan University Constitutional provisions outline how this statutory obligation is met. In addition, changes to The Union's articles of association require the approval of the University Board of governors.

Relationship with Subsidiary companies

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited is a limited liability company wholly owned by The Union MMU. The company provides services to a mix of students and non-students including a public house and some entertainments provision.

Relationship with the National Union of Students

The Students' Union is an affiliated member of the National Union of Students, a National federation of Students' Unions. The Students' Union works with other students' unions and NUS in pursuit of its charitable objects. This cooperation extends mainly to influencing and campaigning on national issues that affect students and support from NUS with organisational development.

Factors Outside of The Union's Control

The Students' Union seeks to influence its key partner, the University, on issues relating to its members educational, welfare, sustainability, employment, and community experience at Manchester Met as well as social policy issues locally and nationally. The Union can influence at a regional level through participation in the Greater Manchester Student Partnership (GMSP), a joint venture with the other students' unions in the devolved Greater Manchester region. The primary areas of focus for the partnership have been safety, mental health and housing; specific areas where the combined authority and elected Mayor have budgetary responsibility. However, most of these issues are out of the Union's direct control. The Students' Union has a complex relationship with its beneficiaries who are members of The Union, significant customers of the company, and in many cases supported volunteers or employees of The Union. Further, the organisation operates democratically to take account of student views.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Financial risk management

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the annual review of major risks to which The Union MMU is exposed. Systems have been established to mitigate or minimise these risks. The Trustee Board of the Students' Union has examined the major strategic, Financial, Human Resource, legal and regulatory, Governance and Management, business and operational, technological, and external risks faced by The Union MMU. A live risk register is used and updated after every trustee board. Current significant risks are reported to the board at every meeting, and the full risk register is reviewed at least annually detailing where appropriate systems or procedures are in place to mitigate the risks the Students' Union faces. Budgetary and internal control risks have been minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety for staff, volunteers and participants in all activities organised by The Union. The Union regularly reviews its procedures to ensure that they are compliant and continue to meet the needs of the Students' Union.

Plans for future periods

In the coming financial period, the Union will:

- publish the refreshed strategy for 2025-2030 strategy
- report on new impact indicators, as identified by the impact project
- review and update internal governance practice
- consider investment opportunities to diversify commercial income generation opportunities

Funds held as custodian

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union acts as a custodian for activities associated with its opportunities department, namely:

- Funds raised by the many clubs and societies run by its members – these funds are separately identified in the finance system, £110,355 (2024: £98,093).

Information on Fundraising Practices

Student groups raise funds through the charitable activity for distribution to nominated charities. After deduction of appropriate fundraising costs, £19,383 was raised in the year and was distributed.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Trustee Indemnities

Every trustee or other officer of The Union MMU shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Union in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Act.

The trustees maintain an appropriate indemnity policy brokered by Endsleigh insurance that covers the liability of trustees or another officer of The Union in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the charities act 2011 (provided that in the case of an officer who is not a trustee, the second and third references to charity trustees in section 189 shall be treated at references to officers of the charity.)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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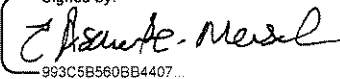
Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:


993C5B560BB4407...
E Asante-Mensah

Chair of Trustees

Date: 14.11.25

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union, MMU (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation:

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the charitable company's legal advisors.

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

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

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Dains Audit Ltd

Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Date: *16-11-25*

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	2,925,655	2,925,655	3,250,124
Exceptional funding	4	-	-	4,145,000
Other trading activities	5	1,133,696	1,133,696	1,273,642
Investments	6	2,740	2,740	2,982
Total income		4,062,091	4,062,091	8,671,748
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	8	1,512,331	1,512,331	1,571,142
Charitable activities	7	2,881,823	2,881,823	2,945,380
Total expenditure		4,394,154	4,394,154	4,516,522
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		(332,063)	(332,063)	4,155,226
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains on revaluation of pension scheme		-	-	476,543
Net movement in funds		(332,063)	(332,063)	4,631,769
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		1,620,147	1,620,147	(3,011,622)
Net movement in funds		(332,063)	(332,063)	4,631,769
Total funds carried forward		1,288,084	1,288,084	1,620,147

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 28 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2025

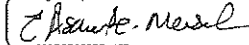
	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	224,430	280,178
Investments	14	1,824	1,824
		<u>226,254</u>	<u>282,002</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	59,540	88,206
Debtors	16	265,920	271,883
Cash at bank and in hand		1,298,029	1,381,941
		<u>1,623,489</u>	<u>1,742,030</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(561,659)	(403,885)
		<u>1,061,830</u>	<u>1,338,145</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	19	224,430	-
General funds	19	1,063,654	1,620,147
		<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Total unrestricted funds	19	<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Total funds		<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>

Registered number: 12714026

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Balance Sheet (continued)
As at 31 July 2025

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

E Asante-Mensah
Chair of Trustees
Date: 14.11.25

The notes on pages 28 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

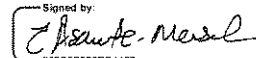
Company Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	224,430	80,728
Investments	14	1,825	1,825
		<u>226,255</u>	<u>82,553</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	52,293	77,944
Debtors	16	522,941	621,711
Cash at bank and in hand		1,134,132	1,193,882
		<u>1,709,366</u>	<u>1,893,537</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(516,838)	(358,021)
		<u>1,192,528</u>	<u>1,535,516</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,192,528</u>	<u>1,535,516</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,418,783</u>	<u>1,618,069</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,418,783</u></u>	<u><u>1,618,069</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	19	1,194,353	1,618,069
Designated funds	19	224,430	-
		<u>1,418,783</u>	<u>1,618,069</u>
Total unrestricted funds	19	<u>1,418,783</u>	<u>1,618,069</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,418,783</u></u>	<u><u>1,618,069</u></u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company Statement of financial position (continued)
As at 31 July 2025

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:


E Asante-Mensah

Chair of Trustees

Date: 14.11.25

The notes on pages 28 to 61 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities	(15,538)	(288,109)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	2,740	-
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	13,379	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(84,493)	(251,428)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(68,374)	(251,428)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(83,912)	(539,537)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,381,941	1,921,478
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,298,029	1,381,941

The notes on pages 28 to 61 form part of these financial statements

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of The Union, MMSU and its subsidiary undertaking ('subsidiary').

The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the charity was a deficit of £195,788 (2024: surplus of £4,631,769).

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs 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.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Going concern

The Trustees believe there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the group's ability to continue as a going concern and the accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed the group's finances considering the current climate and consider cash holdings to be sufficient to ensure adequate cashflow for the foreseeable future.

1.5 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Company's accounting policies.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Company which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	-
Plant and machinery and other fixed assets	- 25 - 33% straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% straight line
Office and computer equipment	- 20 - 33% straight line basis
Assets under construction	- Not depreciated
Other fixed assets	- 33% straight line basis

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1.9 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.10 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.12 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.13 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.14 Financial instruments

The Group 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

The company participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary. The Scheme operates as a pooled arrangement, with contributions paid at a centrally agreed rate. As a consequence, no share of the underlying assets and liabilities can be directly attributed to the charity. Under the terms of the charity SORP, in these circumstances contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme based on actual contributions paid through the year.

Where the company has entered into an agreement to fund a deficit in the scheme, the company recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement and recognise the resulting expense in the statement of financial activities.

The company also participates in the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS), a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are accounted for as paid throughout the year.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Pension scheme discount rate

As previously explained a pension liability has been previously recognised in the accounts for the present value of contributions payable to fund the deficit in the defined benefit scheme (see note 23 to the accounts). A key estimate made when calculating the present value of future payments is the discount rate applied. The trustees have approved a rate of 5.1% as recommended by the advisors of the NUS. However, a change in the rate applied could have a material impact on the calculated liabilities and therefore a material impact on the balance sheet and statement of financial activities.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Block grant	2,341,268	2,341,268
Top up grant	584,387	584,387
	<u>2,925,655</u>	<u>2,925,655</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Block Grant	2,633,949	2,633,949
Top up grant	616,175	616,175
	<u>3,250,124</u>	<u>3,250,124</u>

4. Income from exceptional funding

	Total funds 2025 £
Pension settlement donation	<u>-</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

4. Income from exceptional funding (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Pension settlement donation	4,145,000	4,145,000

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Commercial	461,118	461,118
Media	104,796	104,796
Trading Subsidiary	567,782	567,782
	<u>1,133,696</u>	<u>1,133,696</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Commercial	599,734	599,734
Media	86,810	86,810
Trading Subsidiary	587,098	587,098
	<u>1,273,642</u>	<u>1,273,642</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Investment income	2,740	2,740

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	2,982	2,982

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Advancement of education	2,881,823	2,881,823

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Advancement of education	2,945,380	2,945,380

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

8. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Bar, shop and building support	314,072	314,072
Freshers costs	21,681	21,681
Trading subsidiary costs	493,658	493,658
Ambassador costs	4,541	4,541
Voluntary income staff costs	669,203	669,203
Voluntary income depreciation	9,176	9,176
	<u>1,512,331</u>	<u>1,512,331</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bar, shop and building support	412,216	412,216
Freshers costs	23,348	23,348
Trading subsidiary costs	328,588	328,588
Ambassador costs	4,015	4,015
Voluntary income staff costs	794,934	794,934
Voluntary income depreciation	8,041	8,041
	<u>1,571,142</u>	<u>1,571,142</u>

The Union, MMU
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Total direct costs	2,881,823	2,881,823

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Total direct costs	2,945,380	2,945,380

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	1,832,183	1,715,313
Depreciation	35,125	26,313
Staff travel & hospitality	18,065	20,781
Training	20,877	35,274
SUSS pension costs	-	198,630
Printing, postage and stationary	11,890	13,817
Banking and transaction charges	7,228	9,847
Legal and professional fees	69,945	92,190
Campaigns	10,837	15,967
Welcome costs	12,926	24,046
Insurance	48,011	47,247
Computer and office equipment	2,557	9,811
Licenses, subscriptions and affiliations	67,322	63,173
Student experience	24,676	27,472
Marketing and research	13,412	18,329
Website costs	12,601	12,001
Opportunities and volunteering	37,724	20,902
Project funding	20,615	27,461
Staff recruitment	14,299	20,680
Staff OSPS & DIS	7,800	13,722
Repairs, maintenance and premises costs	536,724	539,472
Other direct costs	62,814	(26,374)
Governance costs	14,192	19,306
	<u>2,881,823</u>	<u>2,945,380</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs (continued)

Included within licences, subscriptions and affiliation costs of £67,322 (2024: £63,173) is NUS Affiliation costs of £37,500 (2024: £37,500) and license and subscription costs of £29,822 (2024: £25,673).

10. Net income/(expenditure)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
-owned by the charitable group	51,361	46,783
Other operating leases	535,476	535,476
	<u>586,837</u>	<u>582,259</u>

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's annual accounts	14,875	14,500
Fees payable to the Company's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	900	600
All assurance services not included above	3,500	3,250
	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,250</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

12. Staff costs

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Company 2025 £	Company 2024 £
Wages and salaries	2,211,817	2,245,175	2,004,916	1,988,743
Social security costs	204,137	177,382	204,137	177,382
Other pension costs	85,432	87,690	85,432	87,690
	<u>2,501,386</u>	<u>2,510,247</u>	<u>2,294,485</u>	<u>2,253,815</u>

During the period, sabbatical officer trustees received remuneration of £128,548 (2024: £125,351).

During the year, 5 (2024: 0) trustees received expense reimbursements of £1,234 (2024: £nil) in respect of their role as trustees.

Sabbatical officer trustees enter into, and are remunerated by the Union under a contract of employment once elected to office in accordance with the Articles of Governance of The Union, MMU.

During the period, 4 employees received redundancy payments to a total cost to the Group of £59,017 and PILON payments to a total of £31,053.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

12. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Group and Company during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.
Central	9	10
Shop	6	10
Student Membership	9	9
Officers	5	5
Media	2	3
Cafe	2	8
Building support	11	9
Marketing	9	9
Insight	4	3
Academic Rep	6	6
Other cafe	1	2
Advice	9	10
Salvation	17	15
F&B	13	21
International Organisers	2	2
BAME Ambassadors	3	2
Unit One	2	3
Independent Panel Member	-	1
YGAM Ambassadors	-	1
	110	129

The Union, MMU
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

12. Staff costs (continued)

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	-
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	1	-

During the period, remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel, as listed on page 1, totalled £453,577 (2024: £353,591).

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 August 2024	101,672	212,805	12,319	44,433	24,637	-	395,866
Additions	25,433	-	1,075	10,580	-	158,322	195,410
Disposals	(7,407)	(211,805)	-	-	-	-	(219,212)
At 31 July 2025	119,698	1,000	13,394	55,013	24,637	158,322	372,064

The Union, MMU

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Group (continued)

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Depreciation							
At 1 August 2024	53,674	13,355	7,972	31,912	8,775	-	115,688
Charge for the year	24,342	7,060	2,132	10,524	7,303	-	51,361
On disposals	-	(19,415)	-	-	-	-	(19,415)
At 31 July 2025	78,016	1,000	10,104	42,436	16,078	-	147,634
Net book value							
At 31 July 2025	41,682	-	3,290	12,577	8,559	158,322	224,430
At 31 July 2024	47,998	199,450	4,347	12,521	15,862	-	280,178

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 August 2024	101,672	1,000	12,319	44,433	24,637	-	184,061
Additions	25,433	-	1,075	10,580	-	158,322	195,410
Disposals	(7,407)	-	-	-	-	-	(7,407)
At 31 July 2025	119,698	1,000	13,394	55,013	24,637	158,322	372,064
Depreciation							
At 1 August 2024	53,674	1,000	7,972	31,912	8,775	-	103,333
Charge for the year	24,342	-	2,132	10,524	7,303	-	44,301
At 31 July 2025	78,016	1,000	10,104	42,436	16,078	-	147,634

The Union, MMU

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company (continued)

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Net book value							
At 31 July 2025	<u>41,682</u>	-	<u>3,290</u>	<u>12,577</u>	<u>8,559</u>	<u>158,322</u>	<u>224,430</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>47,998</u>	-	<u>4,347</u>	<u>12,521</u>	<u>15,862</u>	-	<u>80,728</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

14. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 August 2024	1,824
At 31 July 2025	<u>1,824</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2025	<u>1,824</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>1,824</u>

Company	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2024	1	1,824	1,825
At 31 July 2025	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
Net book value			
At 31 July 2025	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>

All fixed asset investments are held in the UK.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

14. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Company:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	09188480	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Income £	Expenditure £	Net assets £
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	567,782	(700,559)	(130,698)

15. Stocks

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Company 2025 £	Company 2024 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>59,540</u>	<u>88,206</u>	<u>52,293</u>	<u>77,944</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

16. Debtors

	Group	Group	Company	Company
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	81,629	42,044	57,777	31,314
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	291,501	386,069
Other debtors	45,696	40,468	45,626	40,398
Prepayments and accrued income	138,595	189,371	128,037	163,930
	265,920	271,883	522,941	621,711

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Company 2025 £	Company 2024 £
Trade creditors	96,237	118,547	88,062	97,803
Other taxation and social security	55,561	58,267	40,050	40,142
Other creditors	120,926	109,919	120,926	109,919
Accruals and deferred income	288,935	117,152	267,800	110,157
	<u>561,659</u>	<u>403,885</u>	<u>516,838</u>	<u>358,021</u>
	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Company 2025 £	Company 2024 £
Deferred income at 1 August	19,880	36,933	19,880	36,933
Resources deferred during the year	82,708	19,880	73,472	19,880
Amounts released from previous periods	(19,880)	(36,933)	(19,880)	(36,933)
	<u>82,708</u>	<u>19,880</u>	<u>73,472</u>	<u>19,880</u>

Deferred income relates to invoices raised in advance of when the service will be performed.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

18. Financial instruments

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Company 2025 £	Company 2024 £
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	127,325	82,512	394,904	459,676
	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Company 2025 £	Company 2024 £
Financial liabilities				
Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure	366,712	382,288	332,449	338,141

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade debtors, amounts owed from group undertakings and other debtors.

Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade creditors, other creditors (including the pension liability) and accruals and deferred income.

The Union, MMU
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

19. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 July 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Development and Improvement	-	-	-	224,430	224,430
General funds					
General Funds	1,620,147	4,062,091	(4,394,154)	(224,430)	1,063,654
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>1,620,147</u>	<u>4,062,091</u>	<u>(4,394,154)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,288,084</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Development and Improvement	240,000	-	-	(240,000)	-	-
General funds						
General Funds	1,526,497	4,526,748	(4,317,892)	(115,206)	-	1,620,147
Pension Reserve	(4,778,119)	4,145,000	(198,630)	355,206	476,543	-
	(3,251,622)	8,671,748	(4,516,522)	240,000	476,543	1,620,147
Total Unrestricted funds	(3,011,622)	8,671,748	(4,516,522)	-	476,543	1,620,147

The specific purpose for which funds have been designated are as follows:

Designated Fund

Relates solely to the net book value of the fixed assets.

Development and Improvement Fund

This fund represents monies set aside for the investment in the Union building in order to improve the student experience.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	224,430	224,430
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	1,623,489	1,623,489
Creditors due within one year	(561,659)	(561,659)
Total	<u>1,288,084</u>	<u>1,288,084</u>

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	280,178	280,178
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	1,742,030	1,742,030
Creditors due within one year	(403,885)	(403,885)
Total	<u>1,620,147</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(332,063)	4,155,226
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	51,361	46,783
Interest received	(2,740)	-
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	186,418	-
Decrease in stocks	28,666	23,308
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	16,521	(191,843)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	36,299	(4,321,583)
Net cash used in operating activities	(15,538)	(288,109)

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £
Cash in hand	1,298,029	1,381,941
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,298,029	1,381,941

The Union, MMU
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 August 2024	Cash flows	At 31 July 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,381,941	(83,912)	1,298,029
	<u>1,381,941</u>	<u>(83,912)</u>	<u>1,298,029</u>

24. Capital commitments

	Group 2025	Group 2024	Company 2025	Company 2024
	£	£	£	£
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements				
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	<u>187,220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>187,220</u>	<u>-</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

25. Pension commitments

NEST Scheme

The Union operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Union to the fund and amounted to £4,914 (2024: £6,229). Contributions totalling £nil (2024: £9) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

SUSS Scheme (closed to future accrual in 2011)

The Union participated in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, which is a defined benefit 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 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 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 £106,700,000 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 £136,600,000.

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 rates of increase in salaries and pensions.

The following assumptions applied at 30 June 2022:

1. The return on investment would be 4.0% per annum before and 2.0% per annum after retirement.
2. Pensions accruing on the CARE basis would revalue at 3.6%.
3. Present and future pensions would increase at rates specified by Scheme rules where appropriate where these are dependent on inflation.

The 2022 valuation recommended a monthly contribution requirement by each participating employer expressed in monetary terms to clear the ongoing funding deficit over a period of 14 years and will increase at 5% per year. These contributions also include an allowance for the cost of the ongoing administrative and operational expenses of running the scheme. These rates applied from 1 October 2023 and will be formally reviewed following the completion of the next valuation due with an effective date of 30 June 2025. Surpluses and deficits which arise with future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. See Notes 15 and 16 for the liability recognised under the currently agreed deficit funding plan expiring September 2037. Liabilities are shown on a discounted present value basis. In addition to the above contributions, the Union pays its share of the scheme's levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

25. Pension commitments (continued)

In July 2024, The Union, MMU exited the SUSS scheme, following a complete buyout funded by the Manchester Metropolitan University.

NUSPS Scheme

The closed SUSS Pension has been replaced with a new scheme provided by Aegon on behalf of NUS. All existing members of the SUSS scheme have been transferred to the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS) following consultation with Unison. NUSPS is a defined contribution scheme. Contributions to this scheme commenced in October 2011. Contributions paid into the scheme by the Union for the period amounted to £80,518 (2024: £81,461). Contributions totalling £10,571 (2024: 11,817) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

26. Operating lease commitments

At 31 July 2025 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group	Group	Company	Company
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Not later than 1 year	214,440	558,818	213,000	535,476
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,880	293,625	-	213,000
	217,320	852,443	213,000	748,476

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2025

27. Related party transactions

The following transactions occurred during the year with Manchester Metropolitan University:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Recurrent Grant Receivable	2,341,268	2,633,949
Sale of Goods and Services	110,775	70,392
Purchase of Goods and Services	574,429	546,350
Rent	213,000	213,000
Service Charge	322,476	322,476
Amounts due from the University	-	3,641
Amounts due to the University	128	-
Pension donation	-	4,145,000
	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

28. Controlling party

The Students' Union is controlled by the Board of Trustees some of whom are subject to democratic election by the voting membership of the Students' Union. As such no single person or entity controls the Students' Union.

THE UNION, MMU

England & Wales - Charity number 1191269

Accounts

Registered number: 12714026
Charity number: 1191269

The Union, MMU

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 July 2024



The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Trustees	S Campbell J Killick S Islam (resigned 30 June 2024) M Winterbottom N Ahmed S Shanab E Romer (resigned 30 June 2024) I Nadeem (resigned 30 June 2024) S Punhani (resigned 30 June 2024) S Dodsworth L Enoki (appointed 1 July 2024) F Yadav (appointed 1 July 2024) V Nongo (appointed 1 July 2024) G Otley (appointed 1 July 2024)
Company registered number	12714026
Charity registered number	1191269
Registered office	21 Higher Cambridge Street Manchester M15 6AD
Chief executive officer	R Roberts
Senior leadership team	R Roberts, Chief Executive Officer (appointed 19 February 2024) M Robinson, Chief Executive Officer (resigned 5 January 2024) P Norman, Head of Membership Development S Taylor-Wren, Head of Insight L White, Head of Finance & Performance L Edwards, Head of People J Stafford, Head of Marketing and Communications

The Union, MMU

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Independent auditors Dains Audit Limited
Statutory Auditor
Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the group and the Company qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Union's articles of association identify its charitable objectives as the advancement of education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for the public benefit by:

- Providing opportunities for the expression of student opinion and actively representing the interests of Students;
- Acting as a channel of communication in dealing with The Manchester Metropolitan University and other external bodies;
- Promoting the welfare of Students at The Manchester Metropolitan University;
- Facilitating the social, recreational, political and educational interests of its members, through providing services and support for its members; and
- Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Union's vision is to support every student at Manchester Metropolitan University in achieving personal success. The Union's strategy has been reviewed and refreshed in year with a renewed focus on two key organisational goals: Student Experience; and Student Voice.

Student Experience: The Union will focus resource on those activities that enhance the student experience outside of the academic curriculum. These include extra and co-curricular activities like society engagement, events and volunteering.

Student Voice: The Union will focus resource on ensuring student voice – through both representative structures and insight/ feedback mechanisms is used to design and shape both Union and University decision making.

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The Union MMU exists to represent all students at Manchester Metropolitan University. It strives to ensure that the needs and views of students are at the heart of everything the University does, and provides a wide range of services, activities, and opportunities to offer the best possible student experience for all our members. The Union employs a core team of career staff and a flexible cohort of part time student staff and volunteers to assist the Trustee Board in its mission, all of whom are dedicated to helping The Union and students succeed.

Student Representation

The Union engages in a variety of activities that amplify student voice in the University, the Union, the city and in national arenas. Every year students elect five Union officers who sit on all major decision-making committees of the University, and local community partnerships. Ensuring student voice influences every level of University decision making. The lessons learnt from digital lobbying and influencing during the height of the pandemic were not lost. Consultative use of social media, online focus groups, survey, and open pulse surveys have strengthened the Unions student voice toolkit.

The Union's approach to the annual elections in March was consistent with prior year, and the five-day voting period resulted in a turnout of 6378 voters (31,804 total votes), a slight decrease on 2023. There were 37 candidates running for the five full-time positions, all of which were contested.

The Union Course Representative structure empowers student representatives to work with academics to improve the course experience for themselves and peers. 1610 Course Reps were trained by the Union team, the highest number in five years. Each of these Reps plays a key role in ensuring student needs and issues are dealt with quickly and at the appropriate level; working closely with academic and professional services staff.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

The Union uses its Research and Insight capability to maintain a current understanding of its membership, including an annual membership survey, induction survey and detailed segmentation modelling. The department carries out inhouse research projects; analysis of existing student data; social policy review; and dissemination of student insight to staff and volunteers of The Union and the University ensure that nobody knows its members better. A specific piece of work on theory of change and impact was carried out in partnership with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) – detailed later in this report.

Advice

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union provide a specialist advice service to help our students with practical issues they might face whilst at University. The main areas are financial, academic issues and housing. They also provide representation at meetings such as disciplinary action and benefit tribunals. The Advice Centre holds an Advice Quality Standard (AQS) award to confirm the advisers work to professional standards and provide a high-quality service to students.

During the 2023/24 academic year, the Advice Centre delivered advice services to 2497 students, from an overall enquiry base of over 8000 queries. This advice ranges from housing, finance and academic issues and the team are particularly effective in ensuring students receive the correct financial support. During the year, £276,612 was won for students through Student Finance England corrections or via other funds. The Advice team continue to offer tailored housing advice to students; provide expert feedback on changes in university policy in year and were able to support the SU Officers with their voice work by meeting regularly to discuss common matters arising for students.

Physical Space and commercial activity

Our Manchester home in 21 Higher Cambridge Street has some fantastic spaces for our members. Facilities include a multi-functional hall space; large conference rooms; balcony space; 5 meeting rooms; two mirrored studio spaces; digital and radio media suite; quiet study space; and plenty of break out areas for students to use as they want.

Union space in Manchester includes opportunities for mutual trading during term time, and wider conferencing and events out of term time. The Union operate food and beverage service in the main building in Manchester; a retail outlet; provide ad hoc media sales activity; run a public house; and operate conferencing in its spaces outside of term time. As well as supporting the social activity of The Union, our commercial activity generates funds for charitable use. The Union continues to experience a significant decline in commercial revenue, driven partly by changes in student behaviour (cost of living playing a major role in this) and the impact of changes to the University's hardship disbursement. A full review of the commercial portfolio of the Union has resulted in some restructuring of the food and beverage operations, and further work is planned for the coming financial year to address this decline.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

Student Opportunities

The Union provides a range of student led activities for members to try out, join and enjoy. These include Clubs, Societies, and charity fundraising and volunteering. The Union staff team supports course representatives, campaigners, volunteers, student captains, society chairs and their respective committee members. As well as excellent social opportunities, these roles offer students valuable employability skills, leadership development and a chance to contribute positively to the student experience at Manchester Met. There were 3612 society members during the year, and of these students 460 took leadership roles on committees and undertook training and development for their roles. Society membership continues to grow, and the team are exploring opportunities for new models for academic or course-based societies in the coming year.

Contribution to Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union by volunteers.

Thousands of our members give their time on a voluntary basis to contribute to The Union through their leadership activities in Societies, clubs, volunteering, course representation and committee membership.

- Students form the committees of The Union that direct activity and address the needs of specific student communities.
- Course representatives work to promote the views and interests of their peers to the University.
- Society and Sport committee members organise activities for other students and ensure the Union remains vibrant and deliver a diverse range of accessible activities for students

d. Main activities undertaken to further the Company's purposes for the public benefit

1. Representing student interests
2. Communicating on student behalf with external bodies
3. Promoting student welfare at Manchester Metropolitan University
4. Facilitating social, recreational, political, and educational interests of members through services and support for members
5. Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the key financial performance indicators are total incoming resources of £8,671,748 (2023: £4,569,799) and net expenditure of £4,516,522 (2023: £4,253,290). The Union has unrestricted funds of £1,620,147 (2023: £1,766,497 excluding pension liability).

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Review of activities

The Impact project (partnered with NCVO) has allowed Trustees to identify priority areas for resource and evaluation. As the project drew to a close in September 2024, the following review is based on previous aims.

Student Experience:

The Union continued to focus on events and activities that deliver excellent student experiences; particularly tailored for those students for whom 'traditional' activity may not appeal.

In a continuing narrative following the pandemic, the need to ensure a strong sense of community and belonging for students was paramount in our planning. The cost of living crisis was compounded by the lack of increase in maintenance funding available to home undergraduate students, resulting in significant financial shortfalls for students. The Union addressed this in a number of ways:

- Ensuring activity and events that were free or very low-cost throughout the year
- Signposting and supporting students with financial difficulties via the Advice service
- Working closely with the University on strategies for improving student financial health.
- Alongside the National Union of Students, lobbying for improvements to the student financial support packages

Participation in societies continues to increase and is close to pre-pandemic levels. It is widely understood that feelings of community and belonging such as in society participation aid student academic success, particularly in terms of continuation and progression. Coupled with the general wellbeing and personal development benefits of society engagement, this activity is central to the Union's purpose. In the coming year, the Union will focus resource on those societies where the curriculum and the social sphere meet i.e. academic or course-based societies.

Give it a go activities and events took place throughout the year, offering students the opportunity to try new things, gain skills and meet other students in a low-commitment environment.

Additionally, a number of events were marked for their inclusivity benefits, some examples include: International Women's Day, Black History month, World Mental Health Day and Holocaust Memorial Day. Student leadership in these areas is critical to their impact, so student volunteers, staff and placement staff ensure events and activities are delivered from a student perspective.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

Welcome week activities engaged over 20,000 students in diverse events that included a roller disco, nightclub events, bingo, karaoke, chat and chill sessions for commuters and mature students, an ever-popular 'culture fest' event and of course, the classic Freshers Fair! The welcome week of fun is unashamedly designed to make meeting people as easy as possible, but care and attention is given to ensuring the programme caters for those who find social activity more challenging. Low-key and small scale activities were popular among less 'traditional' groups of students, including those commuting from within the city region, mature and postgraduate students, and those who simply prefer the quieter side of social interaction. The team recorded over 8000 unique and meaningful conversations with students and also reached over 5000 students via our induction/ welcome talk programme. The Union prides itself on meeting the needs of all our students.

Student Voice:

Elected Student Officers focused on a number of key campaigns during the year; prioritising student financial hardship and growing participation in Union societies and activities.

During the year, the University made a significant change to the disbursement of bursary funding, supported by the elected Officers. In previous years, student bursary funding (most of it, universally received) was provided to students via a pre-paid card (the 'Met card') which could only be spent in campus outlets, including the Union's own commercial services. In order to ensure students could spend their bursary funds on what they really needed or required, the funds were offered in cash instead of via the card. This means students have much more freedom to spend their funding in the most cost- efficient manner e.g. on food, travel, necessities etc.

Ethan (SU President) led the Union's work on the creation of the University's new Access and Participation plan. This involved exploring options for bursary funds, and has now resulted in the creation of a much expanded hardship fund which will allow for flexibility and targeted interventions.

The Union responded to a number of consultations in the year and contributed to the University's Teaching Excellence Framework submission. The Office for Students requirement for a 'student submission' resulted in significant opportunity for students to comment and feedback on the quality of their student experience at Manchester Met. Officers, staff and students compiled the student submission, which was submitted alongside the Institutional submission. The University was recognised with an overall Gold rating in the TEF, the highest overall rating possible.

The Representation team also responded to consultations on sexual harassment requirements, Freedom of speech legislation and the Access and Participation Plan institutional submission. There has been considerable work alongside the university on FoS. This has included the review of the FoS code of practice. Although the Act is in stasis, the overarching issue remains alive on campuses and we will be continuing to work with the university on how we enable respectful disagreement and educational discourse.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

Achievements and performance (continued)

Officers and staff delivered a panel debate and presentation at the University's Professional Services Leadership Conference this year, an event that has been extremely positively received. The purpose of the presentation was to provide senior leaders with an insight into both the Union and student experiences here at Manchester Met.

Key Topics discussed were:

Sense of Belonging: Importance of fostering a sense of community and belonging among students, and its impact on student retention and success.

Academic Misconduct: Challenges and approaches to managing academic integrity, and how students perceive and experience academic misconduct issues.

Rising Cost of Living: Impact of Manchester's increasing living costs on students' wellbeing, access to education, and overall university experience.

The event has proved successful in identifying areas for collaboration and ensuring that student experiences/ student voice is used effectively by the senior decision makers at the University.

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. The Union gratefully recognises the income received in the form of grants from the University and various sources of fundraising income as detailed in the notes to these accounts.

d. Investment policy and performance

The trustees are mindful of their obligations to seek to protect the long-term value of the assets they administer, whilst maximising income. To this end, the trustees have a policy of placing cash in a combination of current and deposit accounts to meet the working capital requirements of the Union whilst maximising interest returns.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Financial review

a. Going concern

The Charity has net assets on 31 July 2024 of £1,620,147 (2023: net liability £3,011,622 due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS 102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan.)

The major change to the Union's liabilities this year is due to the removal of the SUSS pension liability. The Union is grateful to the University for their support in paying the section 75 debt figure on behalf of the Union (£4,145,000) which now removes any future liability from the organisation.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

General reserves stand at a surplus of £1,620,147 following the repayment of the pension liability. The aim of the reserves policy is to maintain a level of unrestricted general funds, which are not designated and excluding tangible fixed assets, which will enable The Union to continue for at least a three-month period.

c. Principal funding

The Union's funding comes principally from grants and various sources of fund-raising income as detailed in notes to these accounts.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Union MMU is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a trust deed.

The principal object of the Students' Union remains the advancement of the education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for public benefit.

The Students' Union's governing document is its constitution comprising the articles of association and byelaws. Any amendment to the articles of association being subject to the approval of company law members and, for major changes, a referendum of students and only valid once approved by the University Board of Governors.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and financial and strategic management of the Students' Union. The board is comprised of the five Students' Union Officers and up to six independent Trustees. The full members of the Students' Union elect the Students' Union officers each year, through a secret cross campus ballot. Officers serve in office for one year and may stand for election for a maximum term of two years.

An appointments committee, following a process of open advertisement and application, nominates the independent Trustees for a term of office of up to three years or reappointment for a second term. Appointments are subject to the approval of the whole Trustee Board by a simple majority of those present and voting. A subcommittee of the Trustee Board selects the external Trustees based on their skills, knowledge, experience, and characteristics, considering the current composition of the Board. Independent trustees bring their professional experience to the board.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustee Board meets five times a year and is supported by sub committees. The Trustee Board delegated authority to the Appointments sub-Committee and Finance committee in year ending July 2024. Each of these committees reported their activity to the Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board delegates more day-to-day decisions to The Union Officer Group (comprising all the elected officers), Union Leadership Group (Comprising the Elected Officers and the Senior Leadership Team), Human Resources Committee, or Senior Leadership Team. The Union Leadership Group and Union Officer Group meet formally every month during term time to receive reports from individual Officers, sub committees and the Chief Executive. They also review the charities performance and administration generally and to decide operational issues arising. The Union employs circa 60 non-student staff for the sake of continuity in the management of its many duties. All staff are accountable to the Chief Executive for the performance of their duties.

The Students' Union operates a representative democracy with its five elected officers elected by and from the current student population of the University. All full-time members of The Union can activate and agree Union policy through secure petition resulting in a referendum of all members. Any student can influence the work of The Union by submitting ideas in person or online to one of our subgroups dedicated to discussing improvements to the student experience in a particular area of activity. Student insight informs the work of The Union through delivery of an annual engagement plan, which ensures that The Union's priorities and provision meets the needs of the diverse student population of Manchester Metropolitan University. Whenever possible, the Students Union seek to act in response to student influence, insight, and referendum, although the Trustee Board does have supervisory power to veto any decision which is in breach of charity or education law or other legal requirements, or which is considered not to be in the best interests of the Students' Union or its charitable objectives.

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Upon appointment, all trustees receive an induction, which includes their legal obligations and other trustee responsibilities, and is adapted according to their prior knowledge and experience. The Students' Union Officers receive a more in-depth induction and training programme incorporating their responsibilities as a trustee and the skills and knowledge required to perform their other duties in addition to their trustee roles.

e. Pay policy for key management personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. The remuneration of the trustees and senior management team is reviewed at intervals of not more than every three years.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Related party relationships

Relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University

The Union MMU has a formal relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University. The Union and University express this through a jointly endorsed relationship agreement, formally adopted in 2012, and by the constitutional provisions, which governs the formal interaction between the two organisations. Under the 1994 Education Act, University governing bodies must take all reasonably practical steps to ensure that students' unions operate fairly and democratically and is responsible in the management of its finances. The Manchester Metropolitan University Constitutional provisions outline how this statutory obligation is met. In addition, changes to The Union's articles of association require the approval of the University Board of governors.

Relationship with Subsidiary companies

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited is a limited liability company wholly owned by The Union MMU. The company provides services to a mix of students and non-students including a public house and some entertainments provision.

Relationship with the National Union of Students

The Students' Union is an affiliated member of the National Union of Students, a National federation of Students' Unions. The Students' Union works with other students' unions and NUS in pursuit of its charitable objects. This cooperation extends mainly to influencing and campaigning on national issues that affect students and support from NUS with organisational development.

Factors Outside of The Union's Control

The Students' Union seeks to influence its key partner, the University, on issues relating to its members educational, welfare, sustainability, employment, and community experience at Manchester Met as well as social policy issues locally and nationally. The Union can influence at a regional level through participation in the Greater Manchester Student Partnership (GMSP), a joint venture with the other students' unions in the devolved Greater Manchester region. The primary areas of focus for the partnership have been safety, mental health and housing; specific areas where the combined authority and elected Mayor have budgetary responsibility. However, most of these issues are out of the Union's direct control. The Students' Union has a complex relationship with its beneficiaries who are members of The Union, significant customers of the company, and in many cases supported volunteers or employees of The Union. Further, the organisation operates democratically to take account of student views.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Financial risk management

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the annual review of major risks to which The Union MMU is exposed. Systems have been established to mitigate or minimise these risks. The Trustee Board of the Students' Union has examined the major strategic, Financial, Human Resource, legal and regulatory, Governance and Management, business and operational, technological, and external risks faced by The Union MMU. A live risk register is used and updated after every trustee board. Current significant risks are reported to the board at every meeting, and the full risk register is reviewed at least annually detailing where appropriate systems or procedures are in place to mitigate the risks the Students' Union faces. Budgetary and internal control risks have been minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety for staff, volunteers and participants in all activities organised by The Union. The Union regularly reviews its procedures to ensure that they are compliant and continue to meet the needs of the Students' Union.

Plans for future periods

In the coming financial period, the Union will:

- publish the refreshed strategy for 2025-2030
- report on new impact indicators, as identified by the impact project
- review and update internal governance practice
- consider investment opportunities to diversify commercial income generation opportunities

Funds held as custodian

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union acts as a custodian for activities associated with its opportunities department, namely:

- Funds raised by the many clubs and societies run by its members – these funds are separately identified in the finance system, £92,530

Information on Fundraising Practices

Student groups raise funds through the charitable activity for distribution to nominated charities. After deduction of appropriate fundraising costs, £24,026 was raised in the year and was distributed.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Trustee Indemnities

Every trustee or other officer of The Union MMU shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Union in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Act.

The trustees maintain an appropriate indemnity policy brokered by Endsleigh insurance that covers the liability of trustees or another officer of The Union in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the charities act 2011 (provided that in the case of an officer who is not a trustee, the second and third references to charity trustees in section 189 shall be treated at references to officers of the charity.)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Union, MMU
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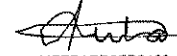
Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

447EEAE0FB2469...

L Enoki

Trustee

Date: 14.11.24

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union, MMU (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation:

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the charitable company's legal advisors.

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

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

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Date: 16.11.24

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	3,250,124	3,250,124	2,821,946
Exceptional funding	4	4,145,000	4,145,000	-
Other trading activities	5	1,273,642	1,273,642	1,740,580
Investments	6	2,982	2,982	7,273
Total income		8,671,748	8,671,748	4,569,799
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	8	1,571,142	1,571,142	1,748,454
Charitable activities	7	2,945,380	2,945,380	2,504,836
Total expenditure		4,516,522	4,516,522	4,253,290
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		4,155,226	4,155,226	316,509
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains on revaluation of pension scheme		476,543	476,543	479,354
Net movement in funds		4,631,769	4,631,769	795,863
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		(3,011,622)	(3,011,622)	(3,807,485)
Net movement in funds		4,631,769	4,631,769	795,863
Total funds carried forward		1,620,147	1,620,147	(3,011,622)

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 28 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	280,178	75,533
Investments	14	1,824	1,824
		<u>282,002</u>	<u>77,357</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	88,206	111,514
Debtors	16	271,883	80,040
Cash at bank and in hand		1,381,941	1,921,478
		<u>1,742,030</u>	<u>2,113,032</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(403,885)	(581,894)
Net current assets		<u>1,338,145</u>	<u>1,531,138</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,620,147</u>	<u>1,608,495</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	-	(4,620,117)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		<u><u>1,620,147</u></u>	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	20	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	20	-	240,000
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	20	1,620,147	1,526,497
Pension reserve	20	-	(4,778,119)
Total unrestricted funds	20	<u>1,620,147</u>	<u>(3,011,622)</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,620,147</u></u>	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>

Registered number: 12714026

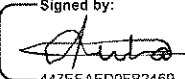
The Union, MMU

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Balance Sheet (continued)

As at 31 July 2024

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

447EEAEED0FB2469...
L Enoki

Trustee

Date: 16.11.24

The notes on pages 28 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

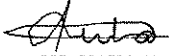
Company Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	80,728	27,346
Investments	14	1,825	1,825
		<u>82,553</u>	<u>29,171</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	15	77,944	102,563
Debtors	16	621,711	134,013
Cash at bank and in hand		1,193,882	1,886,752
		<u>1,893,537</u>	<u>2,123,328</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(358,021)	(544,004)
Net current assets		<u>1,535,516</u>	<u>1,579,324</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,618,069</u>	<u>1,608,495</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	-	(4,620,117)
Total net assets		<u><u>1,618,069</u></u>	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	20	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	20	240,000	240,000
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	20	1,378,069	1,526,497
Pension reserve	20	-	(4,778,119)
Total unrestricted funds	20	<u>1,618,069</u>	<u>(3,011,622)</u>
Total funds		<u><u>1,618,069</u></u>	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company Statement of financial position (continued)
As at 31 July 2024

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

447EEAED0FB2469...

L Enoki

Trustee

Date: 14.11.24

The notes on pages 28 to 59 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities	(288,109)	25,204
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(251,428)	(75,129)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(251,428)	(75,129)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(539,537)	(49,925)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,921,478	1,971,403
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,381,941	1,921,478

The notes on pages 28 to 59 form part of these financial statements

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of The Union, MMSU and its subsidiary undertaking ('subsidiary').

The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the charity was a surplus of £4,631,769 (2023: £795,863).

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs 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.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Going concern

The Trustees believe there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the group's ability to continue as a going concern and the accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have reviewed the group's finances considering the current climate and consider cash holdings to be sufficient to ensure adequate cashflow for the foreseeable future.

1.5 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Company's accounting policies.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Company which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	-
Plant and machinery and other fixed assets	- 25 - 33% straight line basis
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% straight line
Office and computer equipment	- 25 - 33% straight line basis
Assets under construction	- Not depreciated
Other fixed assets	- 33% straight line basis

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1.9 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.10 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.12 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.13 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.14 Financial instruments

The Group 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.15 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

The company participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary. The Scheme operates as a pooled arrangement, with contributions paid at a centrally agreed rate. As a consequence, no share of the underlying assets and liabilities can be directly attributed to the charity. Under the terms of the charity SORP, in these circumstances contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme based on actual contributions paid through the year.

Where the company has entered into an agreement to fund a deficit in the scheme, the company recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement and recognise the resulting expense in the statement of financial activities.

The company also participates in the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS), a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are accounted for as paid throughout the year.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Pension scheme discount rate

As previously explained a pension liability has been previously recognised in the accounts for the present value of contributions payable to fund the deficit in the defined benefit scheme (see note 23 to the accounts). A key estimate made when calculating the present value of future payments is the discount rate applied. The trustees have approved a rate of 5.1% as recommended by the advisors of the NUS. However, a change in the rate applied could have a material impact on the calculated liabilities and therefore a material impact on the balance sheet and statement of financial activities.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Block grant	2,633,949	2,633,949
Top up grant	616,175	616,175
	<u>3,250,124</u>	<u>3,250,124</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Block Grant	2,208,590	2,208,590
Top up grant	613,356	613,356
	<u>2,821,946</u>	<u>2,821,946</u>

4. Income from exceptional funding

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Pension settlement donation	4,145,000	4,145,000	-
	<u>4,145,000</u>	<u>4,145,000</u>	<u>-</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Commercial	599,734	599,734
Media	86,810	86,810
Trading Subsidiary	587,098	587,098
	<u>1,273,642</u>	<u>1,273,642</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Commercial	1,233,794	1,233,794
Totum Card	1,874	1,874
Media	53,702	53,702
Trading Subsidiary	451,210	451,210
	<u>1,740,580</u>	<u>1,740,580</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	<u>2,982</u>	<u>2,982</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	<u>7,273</u>	<u>7,273</u>

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Advancement of education	<u>2,945,380</u>	<u>2,945,380</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Advancement of education	<u>2,504,836</u>	<u>2,504,836</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

8. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	2024	2024
	£	£
Bar, shop and building support	412,216	412,216
Freshers costs	23,348	23,348
Trading subsidiary costs	585,020	585,020
Ambassador costs	4,015	4,015
Voluntary income staff costs	538,502	538,502
Voluntary income depreciation	8,041	8,041
	<u>1,571,142</u>	<u>1,571,142</u>
	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	2023	2023
	£	£
Bar, shop and building support	775,362	775,362
Freshers costs	22,781	22,781
Trading subsidiary costs	405,875	405,875
Ambassador costs	4,119	4,119
Voluntary income staff costs	532,172	532,172
Voluntary income depreciation	8,145	8,145
	<u>1,748,454</u>	<u>1,748,454</u>

The Union, MMU
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Total direct costs	2,945,380	<u>2,945,380</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Total direct costs	2,504,836	<u>2,504,836</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	1,715,313	1,419,267
Depreciation	26,313	8,045
Staff travel & hospitality	20,781	13,150
Training	35,274	36,792
SUSS pension costs	198,630	78,273
Printing, postage and stationary	13,817	5,738
Banking and transaction charges	9,847	9,557
Legal and professional fees	92,190	74,851
Campaigns	15,967	17,400
Welcome costs	24,046	15,572
Insurance	47,247	40,890
Computer and office equipment	9,811	18,277
Licenses, subscriptions and affiliations	63,173	64,319
Student experience	27,472	-
Marketing and research	18,329	9,336
Website costs	12,001	9,153
Opportunities and volunteering	20,902	20,932
Project funding	27,461	10,412
Staff recruitment	20,680	43,886
Staff OSPS & DIS	13,722	10,493
Repairs, maintenance and premises costs	539,472	538,174
Other direct costs	(26,374)	50,059
Governance costs	19,306	10,260
	2,945,380	2,504,836

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs (continued)

Included within licences, subscriptions and affiliation costs of £63,173 (2023: £64,319) is NUS Affiliation costs of £37,500 (2023: £37,500) and license and subscription costs of £25,673 (2023: £26,819).

10. Net income/(expenditure)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
-owned by the charitable group	46,783	16,857
Other operating leases	535,476	535,476
	582,259	552,333

11. Auditors' remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's annual accounts	14,500	10,125
Fees payable to the Company's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	600	375
All assurance services not included above	3,250	2,275

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

12. Staff costs

	Group	Group	Company	Company
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,988,743	1,719,366	1,988,743	1,719,366
Social security costs	177,382	150,047	177,382	150,047
Other pension costs	87,690	82,027	87,690	82,027
	<u>2,253,815</u>	<u>1,951,440</u>	<u>2,253,815</u>	<u>1,951,440</u>

During the period, sabbatical officer trustees received remuneration of £125,351 (2023: £104,795).

During the year, 0 (2023: 0) trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £nil (2023: £nil).

Sabbatical officer trustees enter into, and are remunerated by the Union under a contract of employment once elected to office in accordance with the Articles of Governance of The Union, MMU.

During the period, redundancy payments of £4,009 were made to 2 employees, and PILON of £7,720 to 3 employees. Ex-gratia payments of £351 were made to 1 employee.

**Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

12. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Group and Company during the year was as follows:

	Group 2024 No.	Group 2023 No.
Central	10	9
Shop	10	17
Student Membership	9	7
Officers	5	5
Media	3	3
Cafe	8	9
Building support	9	6
Marketing	9	9
Insight	3	3
Events	-	1
Academic Rep	6	4
Other cafe	2	2
Advice	10	9
Saluation	15	12
F&B	21	25
International Organisers	2	2
BAME Ambassadors	2	5
Unit One	3	-
Independent Panel Member	1	-
YGAM Ambassadors	1	-
	129	128

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

12. Staff costs (continued)

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2024 No.	Group 2023 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	-	1

During the period, remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel, as listed on page 1, totalled £353,591 (2023: £358,681).

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

13. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Cost or valuation							
At 1 August 2023	51,904	1,000	6,730	33,887	2,729	48,188	144,438
Additions	49,768	-	5,589	10,546	21,908	163,617	251,428
Transfers between classes	-	211,805	-	-	-	(211,805)	-
At 31 July 2024	101,672	212,805	12,319	44,433	24,637	-	395,866
Depreciation							
At 1 August 2023	35,485	926	6,661	23,104	2,729	-	68,905
Charge for the year	18,189	12,429	1,311	8,808	6,046	-	46,783
At 31 July 2024	53,674	13,355	7,972	31,912	8,775	-	115,688

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Group (continued)

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Net book value							
At 31 July 2024	<u>47,998</u>	<u>199,450</u>	<u>4,347</u>	<u>12,521</u>	<u>15,862</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>280,178</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>16,419</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>10,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,188</u>	<u>75,533</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 August 2023	51,904	1,000	6,730	33,887	2,729	96,250
Additions	49,768	-	5,589	10,546	21,908	87,811
At 31 July 2024	101,672	1,000	12,319	44,433	24,637	184,061
Depreciation						
At 1 August 2023	35,485	926	6,661	23,104	2,729	68,905
Charge for the year	18,189	74	1,311	8,808	6,046	34,428
At 31 July 2024	53,674	1,000	7,972	31,912	8,775	103,333

The Union, MMU
 (A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
 For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company (continued)

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Net book value						
At 31 July 2024	<u>47,998</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,347</u>	<u>12,521</u>	<u>15,862</u>	<u>80,728</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>16,419</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>10,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,345</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

14. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 August 2023	1,824
	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	<u>1,824</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2024	1,824
	<hr/>
At 31 July 2023	<u>1,824</u>

Company	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2023	1	1,824	1,825
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
Net book value			
At 31 July 2024	1	1,824	1,825
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2023	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>

All fixed asset investments are held in the UK.

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Company:

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

14. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	09188480	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Income £	Expenditure £	Net assets £
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	587,098	(585,020)	1

15. Stocks

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	88,206	111,514	77,944	102,563

16. Debtors

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	42,044	13,700	31,314	7,103
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	386,069	70,645
Other debtors	40,468	22,992	40,398	22,989
Prepayments and accrued income	189,371	43,348	163,930	33,276
	271,883	80,040	621,711	134,013

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Trade creditors	118,547	75,258	97,803	59,659
Other taxation and social security	58,267	48,310	40,142	36,494
Other creditors	109,919	319,066	109,919	318,987
Accruals and deferred income	117,152	139,260	110,157	128,864
	403,885	581,894	358,021	544,004
	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Deferred income at 1 August	36,933	49,428	36,933	49,428
Resources deferred during the year	19,880	36,933	19,880	36,933
Amounts released from previous periods	(36,933)	(49,428)	(36,933)	(49,428)
	19,880	36,933	19,880	36,933

Deferred income relates to invoices raised in advance of when the service will be performed.

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Other creditors	-	4,620,117	-	4,620,117

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Payable or repayable by instalments	-	3,879,951	-	3,879,951

19. Financial instruments

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £	Company 2024 £	Company 2023 £
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	82,512	36,692	459,676	100,737
Financial liabilities				
Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure	382,288	5,153,701	338,141	5,124,627

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade debtors, amounts owed from group undertakings and other debtors.

Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade creditors, other creditors (including the pension liability) and accruals and deferred income.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

20. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Development and Improvement	240,000	-	-	(240,000)	-	-
General funds						
General Funds	1,526,497	4,526,748	(4,317,892)	(115,206)	-	1,620,147
Pension Reserve	(4,778,119)	4,145,000	(198,630)	355,206	476,543	-
	<u>(3,251,622)</u>	<u>8,671,748</u>	<u>(4,516,522)</u>	<u>240,000</u>	<u>476,543</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>	<u><u>8,671,748</u></u>	<u><u>(4,516,522)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>476,543</u></u>	<u><u>1,620,147</u></u>

The specific purpose for which funds have been designated are as follows:

Development and Improvement Fund

This fund represents monies set aside for the investment in the Union building in order to improve the student experience.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

20. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Development and Improvement	240,000	-	-	-	-	240,000
General funds						
General Funds	1,470,009	4,569,799	(4,175,017)	(338,294)	-	1,526,497
Pension Reserve	(5,517,494)	-	(78,273)	338,294	479,354	(4,778,119)
	<u>(4,047,485)</u>	<u>4,569,799</u>	<u>(4,253,290)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>479,354</u>	<u>(3,251,622)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>	<u><u>4,569,799</u></u>	<u><u>(4,253,290)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>479,354</u></u>	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>



The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	280,178	280,178
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	1,742,030	1,742,030
Creditors due within one year	(403,885)	(403,885)
	<u>1,620,147</u>	<u>1,620,147</u>
Total	1,620,147	1,620,147

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	75,533	75,533
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	2,113,032	2,113,032
Creditors due within one year	(581,894)	(581,894)
Creditors due in more than one year	(4,620,117)	(4,620,117)
	<u>(3,011,622)</u>	<u>(3,011,622)</u>
Total	(3,011,622)	(3,011,622)

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

22. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	4,155,226	316,509
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	46,783	16,857
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	23,308	(9,335)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(191,843)	13,946
Decrease in creditors	(4,321,583)	(312,773)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(288,109)	25,204

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2024 £	Group 2023 £
Cash in hand	1,381,941	1,921,478
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,381,941	1,921,478

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 August 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 July 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,921,478	(539,537)	1,381,941
	1,921,478	(539,537)	1,381,941

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

25. Pension commitments

NEST Scheme

The Union operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Union to the fund and amounted to £6,229. Contributions totalling £9 (2023: £486) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

SUSS Scheme (closed to future accrual in 2011)

The Union participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, which is a defined benefit 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 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 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 £106,700,000 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 £136,600,000.

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 rates of increase in salaries and pensions.

The following assumptions applied at 30 June 2022:

1. The return on investment would be 4.0% per annum before and 2.0% per annum after retirement.
2. Pensions accruing on the CARE basis would revalue at 3.6%.
3. Present and future pensions would increase at rates specified by Scheme rules where appropriate where these are dependent on inflation.

The 2022 valuation recommended a monthly contribution requirement by each participating employer expressed in monetary terms to clear the ongoing funding deficit over a period of 14 years and will increase at 5% per year. These contributions also include an allowance for the cost of the ongoing administrative and operational expenses of running the scheme. These rates applied from 1 October 2023 and will be formally reviewed following the completion of the next valuation due with an effective date of 30 June 2025. Surpluses and deficits which arise with future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. See Notes 15 and 16 for the liability recognised under the currently agreed deficit funding plan expiring September 2037. Liabilities are shown on a discounted present value basis. In addition to the above contributions, the Union pays its share of the scheme's levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

25. Pension commitments (continued)

In July 2024, The Union, MMU exited the SUSS scheme, following a complete buyout funded by the Manchester Metropolitan University.

NUSPS Scheme

The closed SUSS Pension has been replaced with a new scheme provided by Aegon on behalf of NUS. All existing members of the SUSS scheme have been transferred to the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS) following consultation with Unison. NUSPS is a defined contribution scheme. Contributions to this scheme commenced in October 2011. Contributions paid into the scheme by the Union for the period amounted to £81,461. Contributions totalling £11,817 (2023: 10,757) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

26. Operating lease commitments

At 31 July 2024 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group	Group	Company	Company
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Not later than 1 year	558,818	535,476	535,476	535,476
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	293,625	748,476	213,000	748,476
	852,443	1,283,952	748,476	1,283,952

27. Related party transactions

The following transactions occurred during the year with Manchester Metropolitan University:

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Recurrent Grant Receivable	2,633,949	2,151,274
Sale of Goods and Services	70,392	124,545
Purchase of Goods and Services	546,350	651,562
Rent	213,000	213,000
Service Charge	322,476	322,476
Amounts due from the University	3,641	-
Amounts due to the University	-	9,452
Pension donation	4,145,000	-

28. Controlling party

The Students' Union is controlled by the Board of Trustees some of whom are subject to democratic election by the voting membership of the Students' Union. As such no single person or entity controls the Students' Union.

THE UNION, MMU

England & Wales - Charity number 1191269

Accounts

Registered number: 12714026

Charity number: 1191269

The Union, MMU

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 July 2023



The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, Its Trustees and Advisers
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Trustees	L Jones (resigned 30 June 2023) S Campbell J Killick I Iftikhar (resigned 30 June 2023) S E Ibifunmilola (resigned 30 June 2023) S Islam P B Crewe (resigned 22 February 2023) J Coe (resigned 31 August 2023) M Winterbottom (appointed 1 September 2022) N Ahmed (appointed 1 September 2022) S Shanab (appointed 1 September 2022) E Romer (appointed 1 July 2023) I Nadeem (appointed 1 July 2023) S Punhani (appointed 1 July 2023) S Dodsworth (appointed 1 July 2023)
Company registered number	12714026
Charity registered number	1191269
Registered office	21 Higher Cambridge Street Manchester M15 6AD
Chief executive officer	M Robinson
Senior leadership team	M Robinson, Chief Executive Officer P Norman, Head of Membership Development S Taylor-Wren, Head of Insight L White, Head of Finance & Performance L Edwards, Head of People J Stafford, Head of Marketing and Communications
Independent auditors	Dains Audit Limited Statutory Auditor Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST1 5RQ

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the group and the Company qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Union's articles of association identify its charitable objectives as the advancement of education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for the public benefit by:

- Providing opportunities for the expression of student opinion and actively representing the interests of Students;
- Acting as a channel of communication in dealing with The Manchester Metropolitan University and other external bodies;
- Promoting the welfare of Students at The Manchester Metropolitan University;
- Facilitating the social, recreational, political and educational interests of its members, through providing services and support for its members; and
- Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Union's vision is to support every student at Manchester Metropolitan University in achieving personal success at university. The Union's strategy 2022-27 operates across three pillars of student experience. Life, Learning and Belonging:

- **Supporting Student Life:**
Our students have full and busy lives. We help them balance learning at Manchester Met with the myriad other things happening beyond the classroom to help them get the most out of their time at university through
 - o Helping students integrate their study with their everyday lives.
 - o Supporting them if things don't go to plan.
- **Supporting Learning:**
We are committed to making sure that students have access to the best teaching, facilities and academic support they need to get the most out of their course. Learning opportunities also extend beyond the classroom and include extracurricular activities, which enable students to develop new skills and grow as people. We work to:
 - o Help students to get the most out of their studies
 - o Provide opportunities for them to try new things and develop
- **Facilitating Belonging**
Students who develop a strong sense of belonging at university are more likely to achieve success. Membership of The Union gives students access to hundreds of opportunities to share common interests, connect with people, try new experiences, and work with others to secure change for a group or community. We work to
 - o Help students make connections whilst at university.
 - o Provide student owned spaces at university

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The Union MMU exists to represent all students at Manchester Metropolitan University. It strives to ensure that the needs and views of students are at the heart of everything the University does, and provides a wide range of services, activities, and opportunities to offer the best possible student experience for all our members. The Union employs a core team of career staff and a flexible cohort of part time student staff and volunteers to assist the Trustee Board in its mission, all of whom are dedicated to helping The Union and students succeed.

Student Voice

The Union engages in a variety of activities that amplify student voice in the University, the Union, the city and nationally. Every year students elect five Union officers who sit on all major decision-making committees of the University, and local community partnerships. Ensuring student voice influences every level of university decision making.

This year, along with representatives from all active students' unions in the Manchester area, The Union formally organised as the Greater Manchester Students' Assembly. The GMS Assembly meets regularly with the elected Manchester mayor, to influence thinking about the needs of students in the city.

Advice

The Union provide a specialist advice service to help our students with practical issues they might face whilst at University. The main areas are financial, academic issues and housing. They also provide representation at meetings such as disciplinary action and benefit tribunals. The Advice Centre is accredited with the Advice Quality Standard (AQS) award. This confirms to students the advisers work to a higher professional standard and provide a high-quality service. The Advice Centre has 8 trained advisers and has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which enables them to support students on both sides of a case without breaching confidentiality.

The Advice team offer tailored housing advice to students; provide expert feedback on changes in university policy in year and were able to support the SU Officers with their voice work by meeting regularly to discuss common matters arising for students.

Physical Space

Our Manchester home in 21 Higher Cambridge Street has some fantastic spaces for our members. Facilities include a multi-functional hall space; large conference rooms; balcony space; 5 meeting rooms; two mirrored studio spaces; digital and radio media suite; quiet study space; and plenty of break out areas for students to use as they want.

Union space in Manchester includes opportunities for mutual trading during term time, and wider conferencing and events out of term time. The Union operate food and beverage service in the main building in Manchester; a retail outlet; provide ad hoc media sales activity; run a public house; and operate conferencing in its spaces outside of term time.

We also utilise the building out of term time to generate income to support our charitable activity.

Student Opportunities

The Union provides a range of student led activities for members to try out, join and enjoy. These include Clubs, Societies, Charity fundraising and volunteering.

We also run the international group, BAME ambassadors project and collaborative projects with the university that are targeted to support specific communities of students at Manchester Met.

The Union staff team supports course representatives, campaigners, volunteers, student captains, society chairs and their respective committee members. The Union connects students to opportunities via our volunteering brokerage service, as well as organising and running its own volunteering events through the year.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

Contribution to Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union by volunteers.

Thousands of our members give their time on a voluntary basis to contribute to The Union through their leadership activities in Societies, clubs, volunteering, course representation and committee membership.

- Students form the committees of The Union that direct activity and address the needs of specific student communities.
- Course representatives work to promote the views and interests of their peers to the University.
- Society and Sport committee members organise activities for other students and ensure the Union remains vibrant and deliver a diverse range of accessible activities for students.

In addition to internal volunteering opportunities, student volunteers donate their time and energy to support charitable activity across Manchester, brokered by The Union. We had 542 new students register on the Union volunteering portal looking for volunteering opportunities. The brokerage portal offered over 700 volunteering opportunities in the local community. We successfully ran our second year of our big school project, with a local CE primary school, where sports and societies volunteers provided taster activities for school children to provide an early positive engagement of university and union life. The school have enthusiastically agreed to run the project again in the coming year.

Through various events organised in year by volunteers, over £15,000 was raised for Charity. Notable Raising and Giving activity include the Islamic Society Charity Dinner; Volleyball Movember event; Netballs charity Disco Dodgeball; Dance held a Battle of the Brains Fundraiser; Cheerleading organised a Charity Showcase and Pole Dancing Society ran its Annual Springo Bingo event.

d. Main activities undertaken to further the Company's purposes for the public benefit

1. Representing student interests
2. Communicating on student behalf with external bodies
3. Promoting student welfare at Manchester Metropolitan University
4. Facilitating social, recreational, political, and educational interests of members through services and support for members
5. Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the key financial performance indicators are total incoming resources of £5,049,153 and net expenditure of (£4,253,290.) The Union has unrestricted funds excluding pension liability of £1,766,497.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Review of activities

The new strategic framework was implemented from 1 August 2022. We report against the three key focus areas in the strategy below:

Building Strong Communities

Every student should have the opportunity to connect with each other, the University and the city. This helps to build friendships, belonging and a sense of purpose. We have started to see students reconnect to the union, and we're already on track to reach pre-pandemic levels of participation in our traditional services.

We supported 91 societies and 44 clubs this year comprising 6,003 members (socs: 4,131; clubs 1,872.) 490 student leaders of clubs, societies and course reps took part in our new Leadership development program in year. A series of ten bespoke accelerated learning courses for student leaders including financial management, building a fan base for their club or society, health and safety training, being a great representative and more. The training was developed to be peer delivered by student trainers in person during the first term of the 2022/23 academic year and as required throughout the year.

In addition to our core offering of clubs, societies and volunteering we have run a variety of projects that enable students to find their community in year:

The BAME Ambassador Scheme is a student-led collaboration between The Union and Manchester Met to improve the student experience and close the awarding gap for Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) students. BAME Ambassadors develop and deliver campaigns and events for students and share student views with university staff and The Union to influence positive change on campus. The project wrapped up its Award-Winning Big Change Campaign in year, celebrating the 50 transformational commitments made by 14 departments in the University to improve the experience of students of colour on campus. The Ambassadors played a pivotal role in the unions celebration of Black history month organising six events including the black marketplace; an alumni event of former BAME students speaking of their post MMU experience; an evening with Lemn Sissay; supported the As I Am exhibition led by the Inclusive Learning Communities Project team; and an ambassador hosted games night.

The Union International group was set up to create an internationalised campus that encourages cultural connections and allows International and UK students to celebrate being a student at Manchester Met. It welcomes all Manchester Met students to attend events and meet new people through cultural activities. Over 2,800 students took part in the 50 student events run by the group in year, which included talks, meet-ups, field trips and culture fest.

Building on the work of 2021, the voice team have continued to support PGR student community. Representing the PGR voice at University and Faculty meetings; facilitating communication between PGR students, the University and The Union to help make changes to the PGR experience.

The Union organised its Big Union Christmas to ensure all students remaining on campus over the Christmas period had the chance to enjoy a warming meal, spend time with others, and have some fun on Christmas day. We served a hot roast dinner and provided a host of activities, such as board games, a film, crafts, and Bingo. Everyone who attended received a small gift for everyone attending.

Feel Good Fridays were organised by the student officer team to focus on education, creating conversations, and raising awareness for Manchester Met students around important topics, in a fun and enjoyable way – in a post-pandemic world.

The Union delivers year-round inclusivity events, ensuring that The Union supports and celebrates all major annual events related to the lives and interests of our broad membership. We employ dedicated project staff to work with students to deliver meaningful activity at key events across the calendar year. This ranges from simple

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

reference to religious holidays via our communications channels, right up to more focussed campaigns linked to days of action.

Events marked by significant activity this year included Black history month; LGBT history month; Transgender Awareness Day; Holocaust memorial; International day for persons with disability; International Women's Day; Islamophobia Awareness month; National Care Leavers week.

Amplifying Student Voice

Every student should have the opportunity to shape their experience at university. Good student voice mechanisms help The Union to understand the needs and views of students and articulate them to decision-makers. Developing our insight capability and leveraging technology will allow us to provide an even stronger evidence-base when representing and advocating for students. Advances in technology and modern methods of consultation also give us the opportunity to reach wider communities of students, in real-time to strengthen representation and accelerate the pace of change.

A visible form of student voice in the student's union is the annual election of The Union's student Leaders and Course Representatives. The Union elects its five sabbatical leaders via cross campus ballot in accordance with the Education act and its articles of governance. The Union achieved its highest election turnout in history, with 7,108 students selecting their next student leaders (2022:3,799.) The Union Course Representative structure empowers student representatives to work with academics to improve the course experience for themselves and peers. 937 Course representatives were elected in year and the voice team worked hard to train and support them in their roles.

The Union uses its Research and Insight capability to maintain a current understanding of its membership, including an annual membership survey, induction survey and detailed segmentation modelling. The department carries out inhouse research projects; analysis of existing student data; social policy review; and disseminates insight to staff at The Union and the University. Staffing investment was made in the insight department, through the addition of 2 new professional researchers in year. This extends The Union's capability and capacity to support insight driven representation in The Union. Further investment in insight and research techniques promise to deliver new methods of representative student consultation in the coming year.

The inclusion of an independent Student written submission was reintroduced as part of the assessment of the Teaching Excellence Framework this year. The Union Education officer and voice team coordinated the submission, articulating student views on the quality of their educational experience and outcomes. The result of the TEF is pending at the time of publication of this report.

The Union voice team drafted students' response to the Office for Students consultation on Harassment and Sexual misconduct. The Union and University response were closely aligned, strengthening students voice in this important consultation.

Cost of living was perhaps the widest felt issue for students in year. In a single-issue voice report The Union identified the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on students at Manchester Met and shared our understanding of student concerns with the university. The University responded positively to the report and created a joint cost of living response group to assess and act on the recommendations and approaches recommended in the Union report. The outputs of the group were broad and by example included an additional circa 1.5 million pounds added to the hardship fund in year, increased warm spaces on campus, creation of new microwave cooking facilities, food subsidies across all catering services as well as targeted food vouchers for local supermarkets; introduction of too good to throw free food service, introduction of free sanitary products across university buildings, and lobbying via university representative groups for more student support. The approach ensured that appropriate support was targeted at individual students, and not diluted by a one size fits all approach.

When a group of new students couldn't find accommodation in Manchester, The Union and the university worked together to maintain a sense of community for students housed in nearby Liverpool and Huddersfield. The University and Union worked to provide students with financial support for travel and subsistence, pastoral

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

support and ensured that students had access to students' union facilities run by sister organisation in the respective cities.

The Union worked collaboratively with the university on the Student Futures project, culminating in our Student Futures Commitment. The project was borne out of the UPP Foundation Student Futures Commission encouraging joint action between universities and students to tackle problems caused by the pandemic. The commitment sets out concrete actions to improve students' experience of university.

The Union oversaw the opening of the newly refurbished prayer space on campus. The project was initiated following a Union student voice report in 2020 detailing the importance of excellent prayer space and community space on campus. Students and faith groups were involved in the design and creation of the new space. Further space is to be incorporated in the new Science and Engineering facilities currently under construction.

During the 2022/23 academic year, the Advice Centre retained its hybrid service offering a combination of in person and online appointments utilising email, phone, and face to face over video call. It helped with 7,443 queries and supported 2,322 individual students across a wide range of subjects including housing, finance, and academic issues. Over the last couple of years, the Advice Centre has seen an increase in academic cases compared to earlier years. Our advisers are supporting more students going through the Fitness to Practise Procedures and Stage 2 Disciplinary hearings than previously. Therefore, the advisers undertook Discipline Proceedings Training (with a focus on sexual misconduct) by Lime Culture to ensure we can support our students through Disciplinary processes effectively.

The Advice Centre has helped students to gain an additional £1.86 million in the last five years. Over this year we have helped students to gain £119,626. This is through helping them apply for benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (disability benefit), correcting Universal Credit calculations by the DWP, helping students apply for repeat Tuition Fee Loans and referring students to external grants and trusts such as the Vicars Relief Fund to prevent homelessness.

Delivering Excellent Experiences

A good study/life balance is essential. Every student should have the opportunity to have fun, create great memories and enjoy their time at university. Our shops, bars, cafes, Advice Centre, social spaces and events programme all play a role in creating a great student experience at Manchester Met. Our Advice Centre and work on student safety and wellbeing ensure we support students to be safe, who they want to be and are part of an inclusive community. Our services are often the way in which students first come into contact with us, and every interaction should be a positive one.

From freebies at Freshers Fair, to bringing a festival-feel to the universities inaugural Future Me programme—we had some fun this year. Including 40 Give-it-a-Go sessions; 26 board game nights; 7 Black History Month events; 5 Big Balls Bingo sessions; and a years' worth of 'I love Wednesdays' club nights to name just a few—not forgetting a programme of events at our Salutation Public House.

We reintroduced Membership services conference in year, which involved staff representatives from over 50 students' unions in the delivery of a two-day peer led conference and welcomed back Punkfest for its second successful year.

As well as supporting the social activity of The Union, our commercial activity generates funds for charitable use. Significant pressure on students finances due to cost-of-living crisis and a change in the distribution method of student bursaries both impacted on commercial sales in terms two and three. An agreement is in place to mitigate the impact of the change in bursary distribution in the coming financial year.

The Union carried out a review of its digital spaces this year, recognising that for many students this is a key route to experience the union and keep in touch. The project resulted in a new website design informed by student feedback.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. The Union gratefully recognises the income received in the form of grants from the University and various sources of fundraising income as detailed in the notes to these accounts.

d. Investment policy and performance

The trustees are mindful of their obligations to seek to protect the long-term value of the assets they administer, whilst maximising income. To this end, the trustees have a policy of placing cash in a combination of current and deposit accounts to meet the working capital requirements of the Union whilst maximising interest returns.

Financial review

a. Going concern

The Charity has net liabilities on 31 July 2023 of £3,011,622 (2022: net liability £3,807,485) due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS 102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan.

Whilst this liability is significant, the SUSS pension is not an immediate liability. This long-term commitment ends in 2037. The trustees are confident that annual payments towards this plan will be met out of income for the year

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

General reserves stand at a deficit of £3,011,622 due to the pension funding liability. Unrestricted general funds excluding the pension liability stand at positive £1,526,497. An additional £240,000 was designated for building development to improve student experience and service offer. The aim of the reserves policy is to maintain a level of unrestricted general funds, which are not designated and excluding tangible fixed assets, which will enable The Union to continue for at least a three-month period.

c. Principal funding

The Union's funding comes principally from grants and various sources of fund-raising income as detailed in notes to these accounts.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Union MMU is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a trust deed.

The principal object of the Students' Union remains the advancement of the education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for public benefit.

The Students' Union's governing document is its constitution comprising the articles of association and byelaws. Any amendment to the articles of association being subject to the approval of company law members and, for major changes, a referendum of students and only valid once approved by the University Board of Governors.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and financial and strategic management of the Students' Union. The board is comprised of the five Students' Union Officers and up to six independent Trustees. The full members of the Students' Union elect the Students' Union officers each year, through a secret cross campus ballot. Officers serve in office for one year and may stand for election for a maximum term of two years.

An appointments committee, following a process of open advertisement and application, nominates the independent Trustees for a term of office of up to three years or reappointment for a second term. Appointments are subject to the approval of the whole Trustee Board by a simple majority of those present and voting. The appointments committee recommends the external Trustees based on their skills, knowledge, experience, and characteristics, considering the current composition of the Board. Independent trustees bring their professional experience to the board.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustee Board meets five times a year and is supported by sub committees. The Trustee Board delegated authority to the Appointments sub-Committee and Finance committee in year ending July 2023. Each of these committees reported their activity to the Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board delegates more day-to-day decisions to The Union Officer Group (comprising all the elected officers), Union Leadership Group (Comprising the Elected Officers and the Senior Leadership Team), Human Resources Committee, or Senior Leadership Team. The Union Leadership Group and Union Officer Group meet formally every month during term time to receive reports from individual Officers, sub committees and the Chief Executive. They also review the charities performance and administration generally and to decide operational issues arising. The Union MMU employs circa 60 non-student staff for the sake of continuity in the management of its many duties. All staff are accountable to the Chief Executive for the performance of their duties.

The Students' Union operates a representative democracy with its five elected officers elected by and from the current student population of the University. All full-time members of The Union can activate and agree Union policy through secure petition resulting in a referendum of all members. Any student can influence the work of The Union by submitting ideas in person or online to one of our subgroups dedicated to discussing improvements to the student experience in a particular area of activity. Student insight informs the work of The Union through delivery of an annual engagement plan, which ensures that The Union's priorities and provision meets the needs of the diverse student population of Manchester Metropolitan University. Whenever possible, the Students Union seek to act in response to student influence, insight, and referendum, although the Trustee Board does have supervisory power to veto any decision which is in breach of charity or education law or other legal requirements, or which is considered not to be in the best interests of the Students' Union or its charitable objectives.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Upon appointment, all trustees receive an induction, which includes their legal obligations and other trustee responsibilities, and is adapted according to their prior knowledge and experience. The Students' Union Officers receive a more in-depth induction and training programme incorporating their responsibilities as a trustee and the skills and knowledge required to perform their other duties in addition to their trustee roles.

e. Pay policy for key management personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. The remuneration of the trustees and senior management team is reviewed at intervals of not more than every three years.

f. Related party relationships

The Union MMU has a formal relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University. The Union and University express this through a jointly endorsed relationship agreement, formally adopted in 2012, and by the constitutional provisions, which governs the formal interaction between the two organisations. Under the 1994 Education Act, University governing bodies must take all reasonably practical steps to ensure that students' unions operate fairly and democratically and is responsible in the management of its finances. The Manchester Metropolitan University Constitutional provisions outline how this statutory obligation is met. In addition, changes to The Union's articles of association require the approval of the University Board of governors.

Relationship with Subsidiary companies

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited is a limited liability company wholly owned by The Union MMU. The company provides services to a mix of students and non-students including a public house and some entertainments provision.

Relationship with the National Union of Students

The Students' Union is an affiliated member of the National Union of Students, a National federation of Students' Unions. The Students' Union works with other students' unions and NUS in pursuit of its charitable objects. This cooperation extends mainly to influencing and campaigning on national issues that affect students and support from NUS with organisational development.

The Union made membership contributions to NUS UK of £30,000 and to NUS SU Charitable Services of £7,500.

Factors Outside of The Union's Control

The Students' Union seeks to influence its key partner, the University, on issues relating to its members educational, welfare, sustainability, employment, and community experience at Manchester Met as well as social policy issues locally and nationally. The Union can influence. However, most of these issues are out of the Union's direct control. The Students' Union has a complex relationship with its beneficiaries who are members of The Union, significant customers of the company, and in many cases supported volunteers or employees of The Union. Further, the organisation operates democratically to take account of student views.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Financial risk management

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the annual review of major risks to which The Union MMU is exposed. Systems have been established to mitigate or minimise these risks. The Trustee Board of the Students' Union has examined the major strategic, Financial, Human Resource, legal and regulatory, Governance and Management, business and operational, technological, and external risks faced by The Union MMU. A live risk register is used and updated after every trustee board. Current significant risks are reported to the board at every meeting, and the full risk register is reviewed at least annually detailing where appropriate systems or procedures in place to mitigate the risks the Students' Union faces. Budgetary and internal control risks have been minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety for staff, volunteers and participants in all activities organised by The Union. The Union regularly reviews its procedures to ensure that they are compliant and continue to meet the needs of the Students' Union.

Plans for future periods

The strategic plan sets out the key areas of focus for The Union in achieving its vision to support every student at Manchester Met in achieving their personal goals and ambitions. A new strategic framework 2022-2027 was implemented from 1 August 2022.

The strategy continues to challenge the Union to positively affect the life, learning and belonging of our members to enable them to achieve personal success. In 2023/24 The Union will focus resources on three key areas to achieve its strategy

1. **Building strong communities. We will achieve success by:**
 - + Strengthening current services to remove barriers to involvement.
 - + Innovating to engage new communities of students.
 - + Facilitating accessible opportunities for students to participate and come together.
 - + Partnering with local organisations to strengthen opportunities for students.
 - + Moving from a service-led to an organising approach to achieve scale
2. **Amplifying Student Voice. We will achieve success by:**
 - + Creating new mechanisms for constant conversations with members and customers.
 - + Strengthening the evidence-base for action and decision-making in The Union
 - + Joining up representation and consultation across Union departments to deliver insight-based student research when advocating for students.
 - + Leveraging the power of technology and data to support course representation and improve responsiveness to student needs
3. **Delivering excellent Student Experiences. We will achieve success by:**
 - + Curating an experience-led programme of events and activity that appeals to the diversity of students at Manchester Met.
 - + Collaborating with partners to provide novel experiences not provided by The Union.
 - + Leveraging our assets to create great Union experiences for students during term-time and increasing revenues out of term-time, including rethinking our physical and digital spaces to deliver maximum value for students.
 - + Demonstrating the quality of our services through the achievement of accreditation awards, quality marks and customer satisfaction scores.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Funds held as custodian

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union acts as a custodian for activities associated with its opportunities department, namely:

- Funds raised by the many clubs and societies run by its members – these funds are separately identified in the finance system, £123,601

Information on Fundraising Practices

Student groups raise funds through the charitable activity for distribution to nominated charities. After deduction of appropriate fundraising costs, £15,284 was raised in the year and was distributed. Charities supported in year included Human Appeal, Red Cross, Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital, 42nd Street, Water Aid Gaza, Save Our World, Mind Manchester and Movember.

Trustee Indemnities

Every trustee or other officer of The Union MMU shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Union in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Act.

The trustees maintain an appropriate indemnity policy brokered by Endsleigh insurance that covers the liability of trustees or another officer of The Union in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the charities act 2011 (provided that in the case of an officer who is not a trustee, the second and third references to charity trustees in section 189 shall be treated as references to officers of the charity.)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

447EEAED0FB2469

E Romer
Trustee
Date: 20 October 2023

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union, MMU (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the charitable company's legal advisors.

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

20 October 2023

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	2,821,946	2,821,946	2,793,101
Other trading activities	4	1,740,580	1,740,580	1,571,179
Investments	5	7,273	7,273	685
Total income		4,569,799	4,569,799	4,364,965
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	1,748,454	1,748,454	1,559,468
Charitable activities	6	2,504,836	2,504,836	2,345,953
Total expenditure		4,253,290	4,253,290	3,905,421
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains		316,509	316,509	459,544
Other recognised gains:				
Gains on revaluation of pension scheme		479,354	479,354	-
Net movement in funds		795,863	795,863	459,544
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		(3,807,485)	(3,807,485)	(4,267,029)
Net movement in funds		795,863	795,863	459,544
Total funds carried forward		(3,011,622)	(3,011,622)	(3,807,485)

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

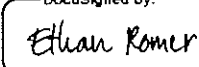
The notes on pages 23 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	75,533	17,260
Investments	13	1,824	1,824
		<u>77,357</u>	<u>19,084</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	14	111,514	102,180
Debtors	15	80,040	93,984
Cash at bank and in hand		1,921,478	1,971,403
		<u>2,113,032</u>	<u>2,167,567</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(581,894)	(738,023)
Net current assets		<u>1,531,138</u>	<u>1,429,544</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,608,495</u>	<u>1,448,628</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(4,620,117)	(5,256,113)
Total net liabilities		<u>(3,011,622)</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	19	240,000	240,000
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	19	1,526,497	1,470,009
Pension reserve	19	(4,778,119)	(5,517,494)
Total unrestricted funds	19	<u>(3,011,622)</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>
Total funds		<u>(3,011,622)</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 447EEAED0FB2469
E Romer
 Trustee
 Date: 20 October 2023

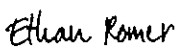
The notes on pages 23 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	27,346	17,260
Investments	13	1,825	1,825
		<u>29,171</u>	<u>19,085</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	14	102,563	96,390
Debtors	15	134,013	169,229
Cash at bank and in hand		1,886,752	1,875,394
		<u>2,123,328</u>	<u>2,141,013</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(544,004)	(711,470)
Net current assets		<u>1,579,324</u>	<u>1,429,543</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,608,495</u>	<u>1,448,628</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(4,620,117)	(5,256,113)
Total net assets		<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>	<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	19	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	19	240,000	240,000
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	19	1,526,497	1,470,009
Pension reserve	19	(4,778,119)	(5,517,494)
Total unrestricted funds	19	<u>(3,011,622)</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>
Total funds		<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>	<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

E Romer

Trustee
Date: 20 October 2023

The notes on pages 23 to 46 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities	25,204	355,960
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(75,129)	(16,073)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(75,129)	(16,073)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(49,925)	339,887
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,971,403	1,631,516
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,921,478	1,971,403

The notes on pages 23 to 46 form part of these financial statements

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of The Union, MMSU and its subsidiary undertaking ('subsidiary').

The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the charity was a surplus of £795,863 (2022: £459,545).

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs 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.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Going concern

The Group and Company have net liabilities at 31 July 2023 of £3,011,622 due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan. Further information is detailed in note 23 to the accounts. This is a long term commitment which ends in 2035 and the trustees are confident that annual payments towards this plan will be met out of income for each year.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.5 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Company's accounting policies.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Company which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Plant and machinery and other - 25 - 33% straight line basis
fixed assets
Office and computer equipment - 25 - 33% straight line basis

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.11 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.12 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.14 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.15 Financial instruments

The Group 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

The company participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary. The Scheme operates as a pooled arrangement, with contributions paid at a centrally agreed rate. As a consequence, no share of the underlying assets and liabilities can be directly attributed to the charity. Under the terms of the charity SORP, in these circumstances contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme based on actual contributions paid through the year.

Where the company has entered into an agreement to fund a deficit in the scheme, the company recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement and recognise the resulting expense in the statement of financial activities.

The company also participates in the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS), a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are accounted for as paid throughout the year.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Pension scheme discount rate

As previously explained a pension liability is recognised in the accounts for the present value of contributions payable to fund the deficit in the defined benefit scheme (see note 23 to the accounts). A key estimate made when calculating the present value of future payments is the discount rate applied. The trustees have approved a rate of 5.1% as recommended by the advisors of the NUS. However, a change in the rate applied could have a material impact on the calculated liabilities and therefore a material impact on the balance sheet and statement of financial activities.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Block grant	2,208,590	-	2,208,590
Top up grant	613,356	-	613,356
	<u>2,821,946</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,821,946</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Block Grant	2,145,138	-	2,145,138
Top up grant	625,980	-	625,980
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	21,983	21,983
	<u>2,771,118</u>	<u>21,983</u>	<u>2,793,101</u>

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Commercial	1,233,794	1,233,794
Totum Card	1,874	1,874
Media	53,702	53,702
Trading Subsidiary	451,210	451,210
	<u>1,740,580</u>	<u>1,740,580</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

4. Income from other trading activities (continued)

Income from fundraising events (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Commercial	1,328,972	1,328,972
Totum Card	1,729	1,729
Media	56,856	56,856
Trading Subsidiary	183,622	183,622
	<u>1,571,179</u>	<u>1,571,179</u>

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Investment income	<u>7,273</u>	<u>7,273</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Investment income	<u>685</u>	<u>685</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Advancement of education	2,504,836	2,504,836

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Advancement of education	2,345,953	2,345,953

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bar, shop and building support	775,362	775,362
Freshers costs	22,781	22,781
Trading subsidiary costs	405,875	405,875
Ambassador costs	4,119	4,119
Voluntary income staff costs	532,172	532,172
Voluntary income depreciation	8,145	8,145
	<u>1,748,454</u>	<u>1,748,454</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

7. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

Costs of raising voluntary income (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bar, shop and building support	802,732	802,732
Freshers costs	31,794	31,794
Trading subsidiary costs	132,251	132,251
Ambassador costs	13,412	13,412
Voluntary income staff costs	570,444	570,444
Voluntary income depreciation	8,835	8,835
	<u>1,559,468</u>	<u>1,559,468</u>

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Total direct costs	<u>2,504,836</u>	<u>2,504,836</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Total direct costs	<u>2,345,953</u>	<u>2,345,953</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	1,419,267	1,320,018
Depreciation	8,045	15,598
Staff travel & hospitality	13,150	8,946
Training	36,792	27,676
SUSS pension costs	78,273	81,812
Printing, postage and stationary	5,738	5,535
Banking and transaction charges	9,557	4,823
Legal and professional fees	74,851	63,719
Campaigns	17,400	6,712
Welcome costs	15,572	8,176
Insurance	40,890	31,739
Computer and office equipment	18,277	11,596
Licences, subscriptions and affiliations	64,319	58,069
Marketing and research	9,336	4,383
Website costs	9,153	9,147
Opportunities and volunteering	20,932	14,864
Project funding	10,412	50,590
Staff recruitment	43,886	14,436
Staff OSPS & DIS	10,493	12,237
Repairs, maintenance and premises costs	538,174	536,992
Other direct costs	50,059	50,181
Governance costs	10,260	8,704
	2,504,836	2,345,953

Included within licences, subscriptions and affiliation costs of £64,319 (2022: £58,069) is NUS Affiliation costs of £37,500 (2022: £37,500) and license and subscription costs of £26,819 (2022: £20,569).

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

9. Net income/(expenditure)

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: -owned by the charitable group	16,857	24,692
Other operating leases	535,476	535,476
	<u>552,333</u>	<u>560,168</u>

10. Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's annual accounts	10,125	8,840
Fees payable to the Company's auditor in respect of:		
All taxation advisory services not included above	375	335
All assurance services not included above	2,275	2,000
	<u>2,275</u>	<u>2,000</u>

11. Staff costs

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,719,366	1,689,131	1,719,366	1,689,131
Social security costs	150,047	131,254	150,047	131,254
Other pension costs	82,027	70,077	82,027	70,077
	<u>1,951,440</u>	<u>1,890,462</u>	<u>1,951,440</u>	<u>1,890,462</u>

During the period, sabbatical officer trustees received remuneration of £104,795 (2022: £104,688).

During the year, 0 (2022: 0) trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £nil (£nil).

Sabbatical officer trustees enter into, and are remunerated by the Union under a contract of employment once elected to office in accordance with the Articles of Governance of The Union, MMU.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

11. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Group and Company during the year was as follows:

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.
Central	9	16
Shop	17	15
Student Membership	7	9
Officers	5	5
Media	3	3
Cafe	9	20
Building support	6	7
Marketing	9	9
Insight	3	1
Events	1	1
Academic Rep	4	4
Other cafe	2	1
Advice	9	9
Saluation	12	6
F&B	25	16
International Organisers	2	-
BAME Ambassadors	5	-
	<u>128</u>	<u>122</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

During the period, remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel, as listed on page 1, totalled £358,681 (2022: £329,239).

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

12. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 August 2022	39,903	1,000	6,730	18,947	2,729	69,309
Additions	12,001	-	-	14,940	48,188	75,129
At 31 July 2023	<u>51,904</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>6,730</u>	<u>33,887</u>	<u>50,917</u>	<u>144,438</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 August 2022	27,288	259	4,364	17,522	2,616	52,049
Charge for the year	8,197	667	2,297	5,582	113	16,856
At 31 July 2023	<u>35,485</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>6,661</u>	<u>23,104</u>	<u>2,729</u>	<u>68,905</u>
Net book value						
At 31 July 2023	<u><u>16,419</u></u>	<u><u>74</u></u>	<u><u>69</u></u>	<u><u>10,783</u></u>	<u><u>48,188</u></u>	<u><u>75,533</u></u>
At 31 July 2022	<u><u>12,615</u></u>	<u><u>741</u></u>	<u><u>2,366</u></u>	<u><u>1,425</u></u>	<u><u>113</u></u>	<u><u>17,260</u></u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 August 2022	39,903	1,000	6,730	18,947	2,729	69,309
Additions	12,001	-	-	14,940	-	26,941
At 31 July 2023	<u>51,904</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>6,730</u>	<u>33,887</u>	<u>2,729</u>	<u>96,250</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 August 2022	27,288	259	4,364	17,522	2,616	52,049
Charge for the year	8,197	667	2,297	5,582	113	16,856
At 31 July 2023	<u>35,485</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>6,661</u>	<u>23,104</u>	<u>2,729</u>	<u>68,905</u>
Net book value						
At 31 July 2023	<u>16,419</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>10,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,345</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>12,615</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>2,366</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>17,260</u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

13. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 August 2022	1,824
At 31 July 2023	<u>1,824</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2023	<u>1,824</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>1,824</u>

Company	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2022	1	1,824	1,825
At 31 July 2023	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
Net book value			
At 31 July 2023	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>

All fixed asset investments are held in the UK.

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Company:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	09188480	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

13. Fixed asset investments (continued)

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Income £	Expenditure £	Net assets £
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	451,210	(405,875)	1

14. Stocks

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	111,514	102,180	102,563	96,390

15. Debtors

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	13,700	40,280	7,103	34,653
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	70,645	87,309
Other debtors	22,992	3,663	22,989	3,641
Prepayments and accrued income	43,348	50,041	33,276	43,626
	80,040	93,984	134,013	169,229

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Trade creditors	75,258	120,019	59,659	100,080
Other taxation and social security	48,310	38,199	36,494	34,290
Other creditors	319,066	425,711	318,987	425,631
Accruals and deferred income	139,260	154,094	128,864	151,469
	581,894	738,023	544,004	711,470
	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Deferred income at 1 August	49,428	-	49,428	-
Resources deferred during the year	36,933	49,428	36,933	49,428
Amounts released from previous periods	(49,428)	-	(49,428)	-
	36,933	49,428	36,933	49,428

Deferred income relates to invoices raised in advance of when the service will be performed.

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Other creditors	4,620,117	5,256,113	4,620,117	5,256,113

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Payable or repayable by instalments	3,879,951	3,988,581	3,879,951	3,988,581

18. Financial instruments

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	36,692	43,943	100,737	125,603
Financial liabilities				
Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure	5,153,701	5,955,936	5,124,627	5,933,292

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade debtors, amounts owed from group undertakings and other debtors.

Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade creditors, other creditors (including the pension liability) and accruals and deferred income.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

19. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Development and Improvement	240,000	-	-	-	-	240,000
General funds						
General Funds	1,470,009	4,569,799	(4,175,017)	(338,294)	-	1,526,497
Pension Reserve	(5,517,494)	-	(78,273)	338,294	479,354	(4,778,119)
	<u>(4,047,485)</u>	<u>4,569,799</u>	<u>(4,253,290)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>479,354</u>	<u>(3,251,622)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>	<u><u>4,569,799</u></u>	<u><u>(4,253,290)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>479,354</u></u>	<u><u>(3,011,622)</u></u>

The specific purpose for which funds have been designated are as follows:

Development and Improvement Fund

This fund represents monies set aside for the investment in the Union building in order to improve the student experience.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

19. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 July 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Development and Improvement	240,000	-	-	-	240,000
General funds					
General Funds	1,238,278	4,342,982	(3,823,609)	(287,642)	1,470,009
Revaluation reserve	(5,745,307)	-	(81,812)	309,625	(5,517,494)
	<u>(4,507,029)</u>	<u>4,342,982</u>	<u>(3,905,421)</u>	<u>21,983</u>	<u>(4,047,485)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>(4,267,029)</u>	<u>4,342,982</u>	<u>(3,905,421)</u>	<u>21,983</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>
Restricted funds					
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	21,983	-	(21,983)	-
Total of funds	<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>	<u><u>4,364,965</u></u>	<u><u>(3,905,421)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	75,533	75,533
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	2,113,032	2,113,032
Creditors due within one year	(581,894)	(581,894)
Creditors due in more than one year	(4,620,117)	(4,620,117)
Total	(3,011,622)	(3,011,622)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	17,260	17,260
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	2,167,567	2,167,567
Creditors due within one year	(738,023)	(738,023)
Creditors due in more than one year	(5,256,113)	(5,256,113)
Total	(3,807,485)	(3,807,485)

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	316,509	459,544
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	16,857	24,692
Increase in stocks	(9,335)	(11,016)
Decrease in debtors	13,946	46,653
(Decrease) in creditors	(312,773)	(163,914)
Net cash provided by operating activities	25,204	355,959

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Cash in hand	1,921,478	1,971,403
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,921,478	1,971,403

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 August 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 July 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,971,403	(49,925)	1,921,478
	1,971,403	(49,925)	1,921,478

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

24. Pension commitments

NEST Scheme

The Union operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Union to the fund and amounted to £6,339. Contributions totalling £486 (2022: £789) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

SUSS Scheme (closed to future accrual in 2011)

The Union participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, which is a defined benefit 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 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 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 £106,700,000 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 £136,600,000.

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 rates of increase in salaries and pensions.

The following assumptions applied at 30 June 2022:

1. The return on investment would be 4.0% per annum before and 2.0% per annum after retirement.
2. Pensions accruing on the CARE basis would revalue at 3.6%.
3. Present and future pensions would increase at rates specified by Scheme rules where appropriate where these are dependent on inflation.

The 2022 valuation recommended a monthly contribution requirement by each participating employer expressed in monetary terms to clear the ongoing funding deficit over a period of 14 years and will increase at 5% per year. These contributions also include an allowance for the cost of the ongoing administrative and operational expenses of running the scheme. These rates applied from 1 October 2023 and will be formally reviewed following the completion of the next valuation due with an effective date of 30 June 2025. Surpluses and deficits which arise with future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. See Notes 15 and 16 for the liability recognised under the currently agreed deficit funding plan expiring September 2037. Liabilities are shown on a discounted present value basis. In addition to the above contributions, the Union pays its share of the scheme's levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

NUSPS Scheme

The closed SUSS Pension has been replaced with a new scheme provided by Aegon on behalf of NUS. All existing members of the SUSS scheme have been transferred to the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS) following consultation with Unison. NUSPS is a defined contribution scheme. Contributions to this scheme commenced in October 2011. Contributions paid into the scheme by the Union for the period amounted to £82,026. Contributions totalling £10,757 (2022: £9,330) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023

25. Operating lease commitments

At 31 July 2023 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Not later than 1 year	535,476	538,728	535,476	538,728
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	748,476	1,283,952	748,476	1,283,952
	<u>1,283,952</u>	<u>1,822,680</u>	<u>1,283,952</u>	<u>1,822,680</u>

26. Related party transactions

The following transactions occurred during the year with Manchester Metropolitan University:

	2023 £	2022 £
Recurrent Grant Receivable	2,151,274	2,088,615
Sale of Goods and Services	124,545	112,484
Purchase of Goods and Services	651,562	540,926
Rent	213,000	213,000
Service Charge	322,476	322,476
Amounts due from the University	-	1,056
Amounts due to the University	9,452	-

27. Controlling party

The Students' Union is controlled by the Board of Trustees some of whom are subject to democratic election by the voting membership of the Students' Union. As such no single person or entity controls the Students' Union.

THE UNION, MMU

England & Wales - Charity number 1191269

Accounts

Registered number: 12714026
Charity number: 1191269

The Union, MMU

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 July 2022



The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Trustees	L Jones S Campbell J Killick I Iftikhar (appointed 1 July 2022) S E Ibifunmilola (appointed 1 July 2022) S Islam (appointed 1 July 2022) P B Crewe (appointed 1 July 2022) J Coe (resigned 31 August 2022) H Maryam (resigned 30 June 2022) Z Sutton (resigned 30 June 2022) M Searle (resigned 23 August 2021) F Robertson-Barnett (resigned 30 June 2022) P Orton (resigned 30 June 2022)
Company registered number	12714026
Charity registered number	1191269
Registered office	21 Higher Cambridge Street Manchester M15 6AD
Chief executive officer	Matt Robinson
Senior leadership team	Matt Robinson, Chief Executive Officer Paul Norman, Head of Membership Development Stephanie Taylor-Wren, Head of Insight Louise White, Head of Finance & Performance Lesley Edwards, Head of People Jo Stafford, Head of Marketing and Communications
Independent auditors	Dains Audit Limited Statutory Auditor Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST1 5RQ

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the group and the Company qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Union's articles of association identify its charitable objectives as the advancement of education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for the public benefit by:

- Providing opportunities for the expression of student opinion and actively representing the interests of Students;
- Acting as a channel of communication in dealing with The Manchester Metropolitan University and other external bodies;
- Promoting the welfare of Students at The Manchester Metropolitan University;
- Facilitating the social, recreational, political and educational interests of its Members, through providing services and support for its Members; and
- Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Unions' vision is to support every student at Manchester Metropolitan University in achieving their personal goals and ambitions. The Unions strategy was revised and approved by the Trustee Board in year. The Union operates across three pillars of student experience. Life, Learning and Belonging:

Life:

- Helping students integrate their study with their everyday lives
- Supporting students if things don't go to plan

Learning: Supporting students to improve their confidence, skills, and academic outcomes

- Helping students get the most out of their studies
- Providing opportunities to try new things and develop

Belonging: Ensuring students form social connections and support networks

- Helping students make connections whilst at university
- Providing student owned spaces at university

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The Union MMU exists to represent all students at Manchester Metropolitan University. It strives to ensure that the needs and views of students are at the heart of everything the University does, and provides a wide range of services, activities, and opportunities to offer the best possible student experience for all our members. The Union employs a core team of career staff and a flexible cohort of part time student staff and volunteers to assist the Trustee Board in its mission, all of whom are dedicated to helping The Union and students succeed. Following the pandemic restrictions of the previous year, The Union returned to face-to-face delivery of all services. Learning from online experience of service delivery, the union maintained a hybrid Advice Service approach and encouraged hybrid working of teams where it benefitted the organisation and the individual.

Student Voice

The Union engages in a variety of activities that amplify student voice in the University, the Union, the city and in national arenas. Every year students elect five Union officers who sit on all major decision-making committees of the University, and local community partnerships. Ensuring student voice influences every level of University decision making. Most formal decision making in the Union and the University transitioned to in person as the year progressed. However, we also retained the agility of new technologies and informal relationships forged during the pandemic to strengthen student voice within the university. The lessons learnt from digital lobbying and influencing during the height of the pandemic were not lost. Consultative use of social media, online focus groups, survey, and open pulse surveys have strengthened the Unions student voice toolkit.

In March, COVID deregulation allowed us to return to in person elections. With some students still choosing to limit their time on campus, we adopted a hybrid approach to the elections. We supported candidates to campaign in person and digitally. Again, applying the lessons learnt from a successful all digital election in 2021. This year the returning officer took the decision to reduce the number of voting days from seven to four days and to remove the additional pre-voting campaigning week. The reduction in voting days was requested following a review with 2021 election candidates. Changes were implemented to help manage the negative impact of a previously long campaigning period on candidate mental health, and to provide a better balance of elections with study commitments of students. The election turnout was reduced as anticipated from 4322 in 2021, to 3799 in 2022. A reduction in numbers of candidates following a covid 'candidate pipeline' disconnect will also have influenced the result. A similar decline was experienced by the majority of students' unions in the North West region. Outliers in two northeast unions offer future opportunities to grow voter numbers, without having to increase voting days again.

The Union Course Representative structure empowers student representatives to work with academics to improve the course experience for themselves and peers. Course representatives were elected in year, and the voice team worked hard to reach out and support them in their roles. When in person training of representatives was still restricted, the Union adapted it's student leadership program for online delivery. As students returned to campus, Student course and faculty representatives returned to more face-to-face collection and representation of student voice across the university.

The Union uses its Research and Insight capability to maintain a current understanding of its membership, including an annual membership survey, induction survey and detailed segmentation modelling. The department carries out inhouse research projects; analysis of existing student data; social policy review; and dissemination of student insight to staff and volunteers of The Union and the University ensure that nobody knows its members better. In addition to in house research, the Union invested in a large piece of syndicated work exploring student mental health across the sector.

Objectives and activities (continued)

Advice

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union provide a specialist advice service to help our students with practical issues they might face whilst at University. The main areas are financial, academic issues and housing. They also provide representation at meetings such as disciplinary action and benefit tribunals. The Advice Centre holds an Advice Quality Standard (AQS) award to confirm the advisers work to professional standards and provide a high-quality service to students.

During the 2021/22 academic year, the Advice Centre moved from an entirely online pandemic service to a hybrid service with a combination of in person and online service. Offering their service via email, phone, and face to face over video call. It helped with 9,898 queries and supported 2,623 individual students across a wide range of subjects including housing, finance, and academic issues. Academic queries totalled 5,200, almost 2,000 more than the previous academic year. This was largely due to the impact of restoring pre pandemic regulations, after a sustained period of flexibility during online learning.

The Advice team continue to offer tailored housing advice to students; provide expert feedback on changes in university policy in year and were able to support the SU Officers with their voice work by meeting regularly to discuss common matters arising for students.

The Advice Centre has helped students to gain an additional £1.74 million in the last four years (2021/22: £286,000) through correcting Student Finance applications, appealing funding decisions or helping them apply for Compelling Personal Reasons (repeat student) funding. This is in addition to supporting students access the university and union hardship funds, extended by £500,000 in year for pandemic purposes.

Physical Space

Our Manchester home in 21 Higher Cambridge Street has some fantastic spaces for our members. Facilities include a multi-functional hall space; large conference rooms; balcony space; 5 meeting rooms; two mirrored studio spaces; digital and radio media suite; quiet study space; and plenty of break out areas for students to use as they want. We were pleased to introduce a second studio space in 2021/22 following significant student demand. This has allowed us to increase the number of sports and societies sessions in the union as well as provide additional conferencing space during the summer period.

Union space in Manchester includes opportunities for mutual trading during term time, and wider conferencing and events out of term time. The Union operate food and beverage service in the main building in Manchester; a retail outlet; provide ad hoc media sales activity; run a public house; and operate conferencing in its spaces outside of term time. As well as supporting the social activity of The Union, our commercial activity generates funds for charitable use. Despite a slow start from August to January, and significant difficulties in recruiting key commercial staff, the Union services grew in strength in terms 2 and 3 and made a positive contribution to the unions overall surplus.

We were able to reintroduce several of our flagship in person events, including an in person Welcome program; the return of the Teaching awards; our own volunteers awards, sports awards and society awards; an Iftar event and a number of student-led fundraising and inclusivity events.

Student Opportunities

The Union provides a range of student led activities for members to try out, join and enjoy. These include Clubs, Societies, and charity fundraising and volunteering. The Union staff team supports course representatives, campaigners, volunteers, student captains, society chairs and their respective committee members.

Objectives and activities (continued)

As well as connecting students to opportunities via our volunteering brokerage service, the Union organised and ran its own events through the year. This year we introduced a brand new volunteering 'schools project'. Partnering with a local school, our active sports and societies volunteers provided taster activities for school children to provide an early positive engagement of university and union life.

The numbers of active societies had dropped during covid restrictions, and as planned the Union focussed on restoring numbers of active clubs and societies in year. We grew our activity back to 90 live societies last year equating to 4,472 memberships. Whilst individual membership of societies was strong, we found it difficult to translate that into committee membership (372 committee members) The pipeline of committee succession appears to have been broken by the lack of in person activity in the past two years. We are addressing the issue with the launch of our new Leadership development program in year. A series of ten bespoke accelerated learning courses for student leaders including financial management, building a fan base for their club or society, health and safety training, being a great representative and more. The training has been developed to be peer delivered by student trainers in person during the first term of the 2022/23 academic year and as required throughout the year.

Contribution to Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union by volunteers.

Thousands of our members give their time on a voluntary basis to contribute to The Union through their leadership activities in Societies, clubs, volunteering, course representation and committee membership.

- Students form the committees of The Union that direct activity and address the needs of specific student communities.
- Course representatives work to promote the views and interests of their peers to the University.
- Society and Sport committee members organise activities for other students and ensure the Union remains vibrant and deliver a diverse range of accessible activities for students
- Volunteers donate their time and energy to support charitable activity across Manchester, brokered by The Union.

We had 360 new students register on the Union volunteering portal logging 8,848 hours of volunteering. The brokerage portal offered over 170 volunteering opportunities in the local community. Multiple volunteering events were put on to support children and young people such as Play Day and the Schools Project – with over 90 local children and 35 students getting involved. Through various volunteering activities, a further £1,600 was raised for charities including Ronald McDonald House, Manchester Children's Hospital and British Ukrainian Aid.

d. Main activities undertaken to further the Company's purposes for the public benefit

1. Representing student interests
2. Communicating on student behalf with external bodies
3. Promoting student welfare at Manchester Metropolitan University
4. Facilitating social, recreational, political, and educational interests of members through services and support for members
5. Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the key financial performance indicators are total incoming resources of £4,364,965 and net expenditure of £3,905,421. The Union has unrestricted funds excluding pension liability of £1,710,009.

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Review of activities

The new strategic framework was approved by the board in May, for implementation from 1 August 2022. For this reason the key goals and successes are reported against the five key focus areas in the previous strategy.

Goal 1: Increasing Inclusivity and Participation.

Our aim is to enable more of our students to feel that "the Union is for people like me." Whilst participation in activities such as clubs & societies, volunteering, course representatives and elections is significant, we continually seek greater inclusivity from our membership.

Successes in 21/22

The Union delivers year-round inclusivity events, ensuring that The Union supports and celebrates all major annual events related to the lives and interests of our broad membership. We employ dedicated project staff to work with students to deliver meaningful activity at key events across the calendar year. This ranges from simple reference to religious holidays via our communications channels, right up to more focussed campaigns linked to days of action.

Events marked by significant activity this year included:

- World Mental Health day, which coincided with the Union officers first Feel Good Friday event starting with a deep dive into mens mental health.
- Transgender Day of Visibility. Working with The Proud Trust to deliver an event in the union that provided space to meet like-minded people, and talk about trans empowerment.
- Estranged Students Solidarity Week. The Union signposted and promoted services provided by the university and the union for students who are estranged from their families, as well as care leavers, students with caring responsibilities, pregnant students and under 18s.
- International Women's Day. As well as promoting IWD activity happening in the local Hulme and Manchester Community, The Union partnered with Pen Fights Distro to celebrate IWD with a zine making event. Pen Fights Distro is a queer and feminist zine and book shop, and tiny press company. The day concluded with a free screening of *Feminists: What Were They Thinking* for students to enjoy.
- Holocaust Memorial Day. The Union promoted ways for students to learn and educate themselves about those who have been killed or have faced genocides that have taken place around the world - from the Nazi persecution of Jewish people in World War Two, to the atrocities committed in Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur, and Cambodia. We curated informative documentaries, podcasts as well as signposting students to the amazing virtual and in person events provided by the holocaust memorial trust.
- Black History Month. The Union is honoured the month with a range of events in hope to celebrate Black History and bring students together. Activity included a documentary and discussion exploring Black Mental Health, an evening and Q&A with Lemm Sissay, film screenings and more.

The Union passed its first race equity plan, and as part of the plan it co-opted an independent trustee to support black history month activity and race equity on the board. The resultant 'See My World' festival was delivered with Big People Community over 5 days in October and combined speakers, art, film and dance exploring black history and celebrating pan African influence in Manchester.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Projects

Big Change: The Union BAME ambassadors developed their sector leading "Big Change Project" in year, winning the Think Student award for best campaign supporting diversity in year. The project is a form of Participative Action Research, modelled on the UK select committee method of public investigation. The project centres around a series of public conversations between BAME ambassadors and university decision makers, leading to published commitments of changes the university will make to improve the lives of BAME students because of the conversation and training.

The project trained university senior leaders to have confidence in having race sensitive conversations and then positions the black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) ambassadors as interviewers and coaches to influence the efforts of departments to reduce the awarding gap. This year we interviewed five departments and published the interviews. We secured 20 commitments for change that will be revisited by the next team of ambassadors. The project has already received thirteen requests from senior teams in the university to be part of the next cohort of the project and we are hoping to secure a further 50 commitments to change.

International Group: It didn't take International Students long to return to in person events. Welcome Week attracted over 680 sign ups to our new international group.

The new cultural connections programme incentivises students to connect with others from different nationalities/heritage. These are student-led events and activities that allow international students to showcase their nationality and share their culture with home and international students alike. The first event we celebrated was Roshni, a Diwali celebration which attracted over 150 people, and included food, performances, a DJ and a henna artist.

This year the project established the International Student Council to support students in improving their experience at Manchester met through strong student voice.

The council represents the views of other international students. They run student-led campaigns for the improvement of the international student experience; they support students in faculty to launch campaigns or connect them with staff who can help; they represent student voice at monthly internationalisation committee meetings with international faculty leads.

Goal 2: Personal Growth

The Unions educational purpose extends to the development of persons, as well as intellect. Student employment, fundraising, committee membership, campaigning and volunteering opportunities are vehicles that help students develop confidence and new skills. We focus on increasing the support and training we provide as well as widening the range of opportunities to allow more members to benefit from personal development.

Successes in 2021/22

Our strategy supports students to grow and develop in a way that is meaningful to them through a wide range of supported opportunities. Our activity broadly fits under the umbrellas of membership of Clubs and Societies, Student leadership, Volunteering, and student employment.

The Union employs students in delivery of all its services. The pandemic removed the opportunity for much student employment in the union, and so we were especially pleased this year to be able to offer student job opportunities again. The Union preferences employment of students in as many roles across its operation as possible, including supervisory and project manager roles. As well as providing work experience, students are given development opportunities that include becoming a licence holder, accredited barista training, first aid training, fire marshal training and catering qualifications.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Goal 3: Making Change and Goal 4 responding to the needs of our members.

We support students to change their individual and group circumstances through direct representation and empowering students to campaign and act on their own behalf. Our representation and advocacy are effective, and we have focussed on strengthening the way we identify and tackle student issues to widen our reach and influence.

Successes in 2021/22

Elected Officers represent students at every level of decision making in the University. Campaigning and representation work in year included:

- Reaching agreement with the University to invest more than £650,000 into the prayer space, expected to be welcoming students in the new academic year. Students have been at the forefront of the planning process, with their thoughts and ideas being incorporated into the final decision, after being invited to view the plans and add their comments.
- Working closely with the university to shape the structure of the new academic year. Moving from block teaching to a more suitable semesterisation model;
- Running the Feelgood Friday Campaign, created to focus on education, creating conversations, and raising awareness for Manchester Met students around important topics, in a fun and enjoyable way.
- Working on projects including Sexual Misconduct, Trans Visibility and Black History Month.
- Ensuring that the University mitigate the impact of lecturer strikes on campus, and that there was no lost learning as a result;

As well as the sabbatical officer representation, students register and are trained as volunteer course representatives. Working with academic colleagues and supported by staff in The Union, the course representatives advocate for continuous improvement at a course level.

During the pandemic, the union implemented pulse surveys and broad mechanisms to gauge student feeling about the pandemic. Post Pandemic, and as we returned to in person teaching, student issues became more granular and course specific again. The Union prioritised the rebuilding of in classroom course representation. Overall, we have seen a significant number of students register to be a course representative (1014), but did not see as many course representative opt for in person training. We hope to address this with the delivery of a newly created Leadership Course module for course representatives in the next academic year.

Post Graduate Representation: We know that courses with high post graduate (PG) population can return lower levels of course representatives, despite national research published in year by Advance HE finding that post graduate experience of study was at an all-time low. To counter this we created a new program of dedicated student voice events for PG students including discussion panels, Q&A's with senior university leaders, a PG conference and PG forum events.

Student satisfaction: After a disappointing 2 percent below sector result for NSS question 26 in 2021, the Union bounced back to a 2.8 percent above sector performance. Whilst a step in the right direction, and reflective of the University's own overall NSS direction of travel, improving student satisfaction with the union and university will remain a priority for 2022/23.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Toward the latter half of the year we joined a national student life pulse benchmarking group to provide some lead indication of our student satisfaction. The Student Life Pulse is a large scale quantitative survey, running throughout the university academic year. It is based around four core SU impact measures: employability, academic life, wellbeing, social life, and six core SU metrics: overall satisfaction and perceptions, representation and democracy, support and advice, activities, communications and commercial services. The Union MMU ranked above benchmark in 12 of the 15 metrics. Including highest overall satisfaction of the benchmark group (12% above sample) and highest satisfaction with commercial service in a benchmarked union. The report provided areas for improvement including support for employability, social life, and variety of sports provision. We anticipate the revised strategy will help us focus efforts on improving in these areas for members in the coming year.

Goal 5: Delivering Excellent Services

Our strategy is to provide vibrant and sector-recognised services for our members whilst generating funds to reinvest in their student experience. Our services are often the way in which students first interact with The Union. We must ensure that we offer the highest-quality customer service and experience whilst also making them aware of the range of opportunities that we offer our members.

Successes in 2021/22

Achieving or retaining awards and accreditations are shorthand ways to demonstrate quality in our services. This year we achieved the following accreditations:

- Retained Best Bar Non-Gold award, promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises.
- Retained 'Green Impact Students' Unions accreditation
- Reaccredited with the Responsible Futures Award, improving scores on previous submission
- We retain the AQS advice service accreditation

A slow start to trading in September was hindered further by difficulty with recruitment to key hospitality posts. The savings in salaries offset the quieter trade in term one, with students gradually increasing use of union commercial services from January, following a concerted campaign to promote our commercial portfolio

The Union responded to reports of drinks spiking across the country in October. Further demonstrating its commitment to responsible management and operation of alcohol licenced premises. Led by the student officer team we increased communication about the risks of drinks spiking with students, promoted safe nights out and provided anti drinks spiking equipment for use by students through elected officer campaigning.

Alongside student officers, our advice service worked closely with the university to understand and help shape changes to the academic regulations following temporary pandemic regulations.

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. The Union gratefully recognises the income received in the form of grants from the University and various sources of fundraising income as detailed in the notes to these accounts.

The Union is also grateful for continued access to the government furlough scheme for the early part of this year during a difficult trading period.

Achievements and performance (continued)

d. Investment policy and performance

The trustees are mindful of their obligations to seek to protect the long-term value of the assets they administer, whilst maximising income. To this end, the trustees have a policy of placing cash in a combination of current and deposit accounts to meet the working capital requirements of the Union whilst maximising interest returns.

Financial review

a. Going concern

The Charity has net liabilities on 31 July 2022 of £3,807,485 (2021: net liability £4,267,029) due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS 102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan.

Whilst this liability is significant, the SUSS pension is not an immediate liability. This long-term commitment ends in 2035. The trustees are confident that annual payments towards this plan will be met out of income for the year.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

General reserves stand at a deficit of £3,807,484 due to the pension funding liability. Unrestricted general funds excluding the pension liability stand at positive £1,470,010. An additional £240,000 was designated in 2021/22 for building development to improve student experience and service offer. The aim of the reserves policy is to maintain a level of unrestricted general funds, which are not designated and excluding tangible fixed assets, which will enable The Union to continue for at least a three-month period.

c. Principal funding

The Union's funding comes principally from grants and various sources of fund-raising income as detailed in the notes to these accounts.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Union, MMU is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a trust deed.

The principal object of the Students' Union remains the advancement of the education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for public benefit.

The Students' Union's governing document is its' constitution comprising the articles of association and byelaws. Any amendment to the articles of association being subject to the approval of company law members and, for major changes, a referendum of students and only valid once approved by the University Board of Governors.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and financial and strategic management of the Students' Union. The board is comprised of the five Students' Union Officers and up to six independent Trustees. The full members of the Students' Union elect the Students' Union officers each year, through a secret cross campus ballot. Officers serve in office for one year and may stand for election for a maximum term of two years.

An appointments committee, following a process of open advertisement and application, nominates the independent Trustees for a term of office of up to three years or reappointment for a second term. Appointments are subject to the approval of the whole Trustee Board by a simple majority of those present and voting. A subcommittee of the Trustee Board selects the external Trustees based on their skills, knowledge, experience, and characteristics, considering the current composition of the Board. Independent trustees bring their professional experience to the board.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustee Board meets five times a year and is supported by sub committees. The Trustee Board delegated authority to the Appointments sub-Committee and Finance committee in year ending July 2022. Each of these committees reported their activity to the Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board delegates more day-to-day decisions to The Union Officer Group (comprising all the elected officers), Union Leadership Group (Comprising the Elected Officers and the Senior Leadership Team), Human Resources Committee, or Senior Leadership Team. The Union Leadership Group and Union Officer Group meet formally every month during term time to receive reports from individual Officers, sub committees and the Chief Executive. They also review the charities performance and administration generally and to decide operational issues arising. The Union MMU employs circa 60 non-student staff for the sake of continuity in the management of its many duties. All staff are accountable to the Chief Executive for the performance of their duties. Filling vacancies post pandemic has been difficult, particularly in areas of hospitality. The Union has carried higher salary savings percentage throughout the year because of delayed recruitment and staff churn.

The Students' Union operates a representative democracy with its five elected officers elected by and from the current student population of the University. All full-time members of The Union can activate and agree Union policy through secure petition resulting in a referendum of all members. Any student can influence the work of The Union by submitting ideas in person or online to one of our subgroups dedicated to discussing improvements to the student experience in a particular area of activity. Student insight informs the work of The Union through delivery of an annual engagement plan, which ensures that The Union's priorities and provision meets the needs of the diverse student population of Manchester Metropolitan University. Whenever possible, the Students Union seek to act in response to student influence, insight, and referendum, although the Trustee Board does have supervisory power to veto any decision which is in breach of charity or education law or other legal requirements, or which is considered not to be in the best interests of the Students' Union or its charitable objectives.

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Upon appointment, all trustees receive an induction, which includes their legal obligations and other trustee responsibilities, and is adapted according to their prior knowledge and experience. The Students' Union Officers receive a more in-depth induction and training programme incorporating their responsibilities as a trustee and the skills and knowledge required to perform their other duties in addition to their trustee roles.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Pay policy for key management personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. The remuneration of the trustees and senior management team is reviewed at intervals of not more than every three years.

f. Related party relationships

Relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University

The Union MMU has a formal relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University. The Union and University express this through a jointly endorsed relationship agreement, formally adopted in 2012, and by the constitutional provisions, which governs the formal interaction between the two organisations. Under the 1994 Education Act, University governing bodies must take all reasonably practical steps to ensure that students' unions operate fairly and democratically and is responsible in the management of its finances. The Manchester Metropolitan University Constitutional provisions outline how this statutory obligation is met. In addition, changes to The Union's articles of association require the approval of the University Board of governors.

Relationship with Subsidiary companies

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited is a limited liability company wholly owned by The Union MMU. The company provides services to a mix of students and non-students including a public house and some entertainments provision.

Relationship with the National Union of Students

The Students' Union is an affiliated member of the National Union of Students, a National federation of Students' Unions. The Students' Union works with other students' unions and NUS in pursuit of its charitable objects. This cooperation extends mainly to influencing and campaigning on national issues that affect students and support from NUS with organisational development.

Factors Outside of The Union's Control

The Students' Union seeks to influence its key partner, the University, on issues relating to its members educational, welfare, sustainability, employment, and community experience at Manchester Met as well as social policy issues locally and nationally. The Union can influence. However, most of these issues are out of the Union's direct control. The Students' Union has a complex relationship with its beneficiaries who are members of The Union, significant customers of the company, and in many cases supported volunteers or employees of The Union. Further, the organisation operates democratically to take account of student views.

The Union, MMU
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Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Financial risk management

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the annual review of major risks to which The Union MMU is exposed. Systems have been established to mitigate or minimise these risks.

The Trustee Board of the Students' Union has examined the major strategic, Financial, Human Resource, legal and regulatory, Governance and Management, business and operational, technological, and external risks faced by The Union MMU. A live risk register is used and updated after every trustee board. Current significant risks are reported to the board at every meeting, and the full risk register is reviewed at least annually detailing where appropriate systems or procedures in place to mitigate the risks the Students' Union faces. Budgetary and internal control risks have been minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety for staff, volunteers and participants in all activities organised by The Union. The Union regularly reviews its procedures to ensure that they are compliant and continue to meet the needs of the Students' Union.

h. Funds held as custodian

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union acts as a custodian for activities associated with its opportunities department, namely:

- Funds raised by the many clubs and societies run by its members – these funds are separately identified in the finance system, £154,131.

Plans for future periods

a. Future developments

The strategic plan sets out the key areas of focus for The Union in achieving its vision to support every student at Manchester Met in achieving their personal goals and ambitions. A new strategic framework was approved in May 2022, for implementation from 1 August 2022.

The strategy continues to challenge the Union to positively affect the life, learning and belonging of our members to enable them to achieve their personal goals and belongings. In 2022/23 The Union will focus resources on four key levers to achieve its strategy:

1. Ensuring action and decision making is evidence based
2. Inclusive models of participation and development
3. Delivering a compelling union offer everyday
4. Using our resources to deliver maximum impact for students

Information on fundraising practices

Student groups raise funds through the charitable activity for distribution to nominated charities. After deduction of appropriate fundraising costs, £6,193 was raised in the year and was distributed.

Trustee Indemnities

Every trustee or other officer of The Union MMU shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Union in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Act.

The trustees maintain an appropriate indemnity policy brokered by Endsleigh insurance that covers the liability of trustees or another officer of The Union in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the charities act 2011 (provided that in the case of an officer who is not a trustee, the second and third references to

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Plans for future periods (continued)

charity trustees in section 189 shall be treated at references to officers of the charity.)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

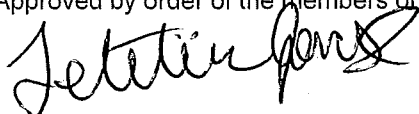
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L Jones
Trustee

Date: 26.10.22

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union, MMU (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The Union, MMU
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Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors.

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Simon Hawkins (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Dains Audit Limited

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Date: 26-10-22

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	2,771,118	21,983	2,793,101	2,815,248
Other trading activities	4	1,571,179	-	1,571,179	408,314
Investments	5	685	-	685	121
Total income		4,342,982	21,983	4,364,965	3,223,683
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	1,559,468	-	1,559,468	406,265
Charitable activities	6	2,345,953	-	2,345,953	7,084,447
Total expenditure		3,905,421	-	3,905,421	7,490,712
Net income/(expenditure)		437,561	21,983	459,544	(4,267,029)
Transfers between funds	18	21,983	(21,983)	-	-
Net movement in funds		459,544	-	459,544	(4,267,029)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		(4,267,029)	-	(4,267,029)	-
Net movement in funds		459,544	-	459,544	(4,267,029)
Total funds carried forward		(3,807,485)	-	(3,807,485)	(4,267,029)

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

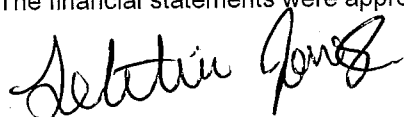
The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	17,260	25,879
Investments	12	1,824	1,824
		<u>19,084</u>	<u>27,703</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	13	102,180	91,163
Debtors	14	93,984	102,052
Cash at bank and in hand		1,971,403	1,631,516
		<u>2,167,567</u>	<u>1,824,731</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(738,023)</u>	<u>(607,448)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,429,544</u>	<u>1,217,283</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,448,628</u>	<u>1,244,986</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>(5,256,113)</u>	<u>(5,512,015)</u>
Total net liabilities		<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>	<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	18	240,000	240,000
General funds	18	1,470,009	1,238,278
Pension reserve		<u>(5,517,494)</u>	<u>(5,745,307)</u>
Total unrestricted funds	18	<u>(3,807,485)</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Total funds		<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>	<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L Jones
Trustee

Date: 26.10.22

The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

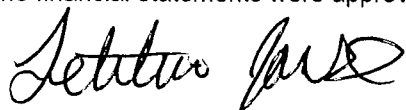
The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company Statement of financial position
As at 31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	17,260	25,879
Investments	12	1,825	1,825
		<u>19,085</u>	<u>27,704</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	13	96,390	86,671
Debtors	14	169,229	267,085
Cash at bank and in hand		1,875,394	1,467,342
		<u>2,141,013</u>	<u>1,821,098</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(711,470)	(603,816)
Net current assets		<u>1,429,543</u>	<u>1,217,282</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,448,628</u>	<u>1,244,986</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(5,256,113)	(5,512,015)
Total net assets		<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>	<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	18	1,470,009	1,238,278
Designated funds	18	240,000	240,000
Pension reserve	18	(5,517,494)	(5,745,307)
Total unrestricted funds	18	<u>(3,807,485)</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Total funds		<u><u>(3,807,485)</u></u>	<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>

The Company's net movement in funds for the year was £459,544 (2021 - £(4,267,029)).

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L Jones
Trustees

Date: 26.10.22

The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>355,960</u>	<u>19,364</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(16,073)	(1,849)
Cash donated from predecessor charity	-	1,614,001
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>(16,073)</u>	<u>1,612,152</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	339,887	1,631,516
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>1,631,516</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u><u>1,971,403</u></u>	<u><u>1,631,516</u></u>

The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of The Union, MMSU and its subsidiary undertaking ('subsidiary').

The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the charity was a surplus of £459,545 (2021: £4,267,029).

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs 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.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Going concern

The Group and Company have net liabilities at 31 July 2022 of £3,807,484 due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS 102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan. Further information is detailed in note 23 to the accounts. This is a long term commitment which ends in 2035 and the trustees are confident that annual payments towards this plan will be met out of income for each year.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.5 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Company's accounting policies.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Company which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

- Plant and machinery and other - 25 - 33% straight line basis
fixed assets
- Office and computer equipment - 25 - 33% straight line basis

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.11 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.12 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.14 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.15 Financial instruments

The Group 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Pensions

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Group to the fund in respect of the year.

The company participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary. The Scheme operates as a pooled arrangement, with contributions paid at a centrally agreed rate. As a consequence, no share of the underlying assets and liabilities can be directly attributed to the charity. Under the terms of the charity SORP, in these circumstances contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme based on actual contributions paid through the year.

Where the company has entered into an agreement to fund a deficit in the scheme, the company recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement and recognise the resulting expense in the statement of financial activities.

The company also participates in the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS), a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are accounted for as paid throughout the year.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Pension scheme discount rate

As previously explained a pension liability is recognised in the accounts for the present value of contributions payable to fund the deficit in the defined benefit scheme (see note 23 to the accounts). A key estimate made when calculating the present value of future payments is the discount rate applied. The trustees have approved a rate of 1.45% as recommended by the advisors of the NUS. However, a change in the rate applied could have a material impact on the calculated liabilities and therefore a material impact on the balance sheet and statement of financial activities.

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Block grant	2,145,138	-	2,145,138
Top up grant	625,980	-	625,980
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	21,983	21,983
	<u>2,771,118</u>	<u>21,983</u>	<u>2,793,101</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Block Grant	1,937,149	-	1,937,149
Top up grant	550,296	-	550,296
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	327,803	327,803
	<u>2,487,445</u>	<u>327,803</u>	<u>2,815,248</u>

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Commercial	1,328,972	1,328,972
Totum Card	1,729	1,729
Media	56,856	56,856
Trading Subsidiary	183,622	183,622
	<u>1,571,179</u>	<u>1,571,179</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

4. Income from other trading activities (continued)

Income from fundraising events (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Commercial	337,575	337,575
Totum Card	2,180	2,180
Media	(2,794)	(2,794)
Other	50,000	50,000
Trading Subsidiary	21,353	21,353
	<u>408,314</u>	<u>408,314</u>

5. Investment income

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Investment income	<u>685</u>	<u>685</u>

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Investment income	<u>121</u>	<u>121</u>

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Advancement of education	2,345,953	2,345,953
	<u>2,345,953</u>	<u>2,345,953</u>
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Advancement of education	2,106,206	2,106,206
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union	4,978,241	4,978,241
	<u>7,084,447</u>	<u>7,084,447</u>

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bar, shop and building support	802,732	802,732
Freshers costs	31,794	31,794
Trading subsidiary costs	132,251	132,251
Ambassador costs	13,412	13,412
Voluntary income staff costs	570,444	570,444
Voluntary income depreciation	8,835	8,835
	<u>1,559,468</u>	<u>1,559,468</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

7. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

Costs of raising voluntary income (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Bar, shop and building support	278,268	278,268
Freshers costs	1,463	1,463
Trading subsidiary costs	9,781	9,781
Ambassador costs	10,929	10,929
Voluntary income staff costs	92,889	92,889
Voluntary income depreciation	12,935	12,935
	<u>406,265</u>	<u>406,265</u>

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Total direct costs	<u>2,345,953</u>	<u>2,345,953</u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Total direct costs	2,106,206	2,106,206
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union	4,978,241	4,978,241
	<u>7,084,447</u>	<u>7,084,447</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Staff costs	1,320,018	1,294,963
Depreciation	15,598	14,424
Staff travel & hospitality	8,946	1,212
Training	27,676	42,471
SUSS pension costs	81,812	49,727
Printing, postage and stationary	5,535	5,411
Banking and transaction charges	4,823	5,816
Legal and professional fees	63,719	73,603
Campaigns	6,712	2,694
Welcome costs	8,176	1,813
Insurance	31,739	-
Computer and office equipment	11,596	25,074
Licences, subscriptions and affiliations	58,069	58,041
Marketing and research	4,383	(2,756)
Website costs	9,147	6,875
Opportunities and volunteering	14,864	8,196
Project funding	50,590	11,420
Staff recruitment	14,436	4,354
Staff OSPS & DIS	12,237	2,432
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union	-	4,978,241
Repairs, maintenance and premises costs	536,992	492,942
Other direct costs	50,181	(2,712)
Governance costs	8,704	10,206
	<u><u>2,345,953</u></u>	<u><u>7,084,447</u></u>

Included within licences, subscriptions and affiliation costs of £58,069 (2021: £58,041) is NUS Affiliation costs of £37,500 (2021: £37,500) and licence and subscription costs of £20,569 (2021: £20,541).

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

9. Net income/(expenditure)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: -owned by the charitable group	24,692	27,357
Auditor's remuneration - audit	7,700	7,610
Other operating leases	535,476	535,476
	<u>567,868</u>	<u>570,443</u>

10. Staff costs

	Group	<i>Group</i>	Company	<i>Company</i>
	2022	<i>2021</i>	2022	<i>2021</i>
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,689,131	1,220,942	1,689,131	1,220,942
Social security costs	131,254	107,376	131,254	107,376
Other pension costs	70,077	59,535	70,077	59,535
	<u>1,890,462</u>	<u>1,387,853</u>	<u>1,890,462</u>	<u>1,387,853</u>

During the period, sabbatical officer trustees received remuneration of £104,688 (2021: £88,517).

During the year, 0 (2021: 0) trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £nil (£nil).

Sabbatical officer trustees enter into, and are remunerated by the Union under a contract of employment once elected to office in accordance with the Articles of Governance of The Union, MMU.

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

10. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	Group 2022 No.	<i>Group 2021 No.</i>
Central	16	16
Shop	15	14
Student Membership	9	10
Officers	5	4
Media	3	-
Cafe	20	13
Building support	7	7
Marketing	9	9
Insight	1	2
Events	1	-
Academic Rep	4	-
Other cafe	1	-
Advice	9	6
Saluation	6	-
F&B	16	3
	<u>122</u>	<u>84</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2022 No.	<i>Group 2021 No.</i>
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

During the period, remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel, as listed on page 1, totalled £329,239 (2021: £285,753).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group and Company

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation						
At 1 August 2021	25,880	-	6,729	17,898	2,729	53,236
Additions	14,024	1,000	-	1,049	-	16,073
At 31 July 2022	<u>39,904</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>6,729</u>	<u>18,947</u>	<u>2,729</u>	<u>69,309</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 August 2021	14,929	-	2,067	9,110	1,251	27,357
Charge for the year	12,359	259	2,297	8,412	1,365	24,692
At 31 July 2022	<u>27,288</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>4,364</u>	<u>17,522</u>	<u>2,616</u>	<u>52,049</u>
Net book value						
At 31 July 2022	<u>12,616</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>2,365</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>17,260</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>10,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,662</u>	<u>8,788</u>	<u>1,478</u>	<u>25,879</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

12. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 August 2021	1,824
At 31 July 2022	<u>1,824</u>
Net book value	
At 31 July 2022	1,824
At 31 July 2021	<u>1,824</u>

Company	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 August 2021	1	1,824	1,825
At 31 July 2022	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
Net book value			
At 31 July 2022	1	1,824	1,825
At 31 July 2021	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>

All fixed asset investments are held in the UK.

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Company:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	09188480	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Name	Income £	Expenditure £	Net assets £
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	183,622	(183,622)	1

13. Stocks

	Group 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Company 2022 £	Company 2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	102,180	91,163	96,390	86,671

14. Debtors

	Group 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Company 2022 £	Company 2021 £
Trade debtors	40,280	16,365	34,653	16,365
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	87,309	165,430
Other debtors	3,663	29,558	3,641	29,161
Prepayments and accrued income	50,041	29,117	43,626	29,117
Grants receivable	-	27,012	-	27,012
	<u>93,984</u>	<u>102,052</u>	<u>169,229</u>	<u>267,085</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Company 2022 £	Company 2021 £
Trade creditors	120,019	26,697	100,080	25,555
Other taxation and social security	38,199	30,277	34,290	30,277
Other creditors	425,711	400,068	425,631	399,988
Accruals and deferred income	154,094	150,406	151,469	147,996
	<u>738,023</u>	<u>607,448</u>	<u>711,470</u>	<u>603,816</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Group 2022	<i>Group 2021</i>	Company 2022	<i>Company 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£
Resources deferred during the year	49,428	-	49,428	-

Deferred income relates to invoices raised in advance of when the service will be performed.

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2022	<i>Group 2021</i>	Company 2022	<i>Company 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£
Other creditors	5,256,113	5,512,015	5,256,113	5,512,015

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	Group 2022	<i>Group 2021</i>	Company 2022	<i>Company 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£
Payable or repayable by instalments	3,988,581	4,335,997	3,988,581	4,335,997

17. Financial instruments

	Group 2022	<i>Group 2021</i>	Company 2022	<i>Company 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	43,943	45,923	125,603	210,986
Financial liabilities				
Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure	5,955,936	6,089,186	5,933,292	6,085,554

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade debtors, amounts owed from group undertakings and other debtors.

Other financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise trade creditors, other creditors (including the pension liability) and accruals & deferred income.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 July 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Development and Improvement	240,000	-	-	-	240,000
General funds					
General Funds	1,238,278	4,342,982	(3,823,609)	(287,642)	1,470,009
Pension reserve	(5,745,307)	-	(81,812)	309,625	(5,517,494)
	<u>(4,507,029)</u>	<u>4,342,982</u>	<u>(3,905,421)</u>	<u>21,983</u>	<u>(4,047,485)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>(4,267,029)</u>	<u>4,342,982</u>	<u>(3,905,421)</u>	<u>21,983</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>
Restricted funds					
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	21,983	-	(21,983)	-
Total of funds	<u>(4,267,029)</u>	<u>4,364,965</u>	<u>(3,905,421)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>

The specific purposes for which funds has been designated are as follows:

Development and improvement fund

This fund represents monies set aside for the investment in the Union building in order to improve the student experience.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 July 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Development and Improvement	-	-	240,000	240,000
General funds				
General Funds	2,895,880	(7,420,326)	5,762,724	1,238,278
Pension reserve	-	(70,386)	(5,674,921)	(5,745,307)
	<u>2,895,880</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>87,803</u>	<u>(4,507,029)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>2,895,880</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>327,803</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Restricted funds				
Coronavirus job retention scheme	327,803	-	(327,803)	-
Total of funds	<u>3,223,683</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	17,260	17,260
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	2,167,567	2,167,567
Creditors due within one year	(738,022)	(738,022)
Creditors due in more than one year	(5,256,113)	(5,256,113)
Difference	(1)	1
Total	<u>(3,807,485)</u>	<u>(3,807,485)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

19. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2021 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	25,879	-	25,879
Fixed asset investments	1,824	-	1,824
Current assets	1,824,731	-	1,824,731
Creditors due within one year	(607,448)	-	(607,448)
Creditors due in more than one year	(5,512,015)	-	(5,512,015)
Total	(4,267,029)	-	(4,267,029)

20. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<i>Group 2021 £</i>
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	459,544	(4,267,029)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	24,692	27,357
Decrease in stocks	(11,016)	33,576
Decrease in debtors	46,653	156,603
(Decrease) in creditors	(163,914)	(909,385)
Assets donated from predecessor charity	-	(2,050,607)
Liabilities inherited from predecessor charity	-	7,028,848
Net cash provided by operating activities	355,959	19,363

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	<i>Group 2022 £</i>	<i>Group 2021 £</i>
Cash in hand	1,971,403	1,631,516
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,971,403	1,631,516

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 August 2021	Cash flows	At 31 July 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,631,516	339,887	1,971,403
	<u>1,631,516</u>	<u>339,887</u>	<u>1,971,403</u>

23. Pension commitments

NEST Scheme

The Union operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Union to the fund and amounted to £9,102. Contributions totalling £789 (2021: £432) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

SUSS Scheme (closed to future accrual in 2011)

The Union participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, which is a defined benefit 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 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 most recent Valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 30 June 2019 and showed that the market value of the Scheme's assets was £119,000,000 with these assets representing 46% 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 £141,000,000.

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 rates of increase in salaries and pensions.

The following assumptions applied at 30 June 2019:

1. The return on investment would be 4.0% per annum before and 2.0% per annum after retirement.
2. Pensions accruing on the CARE basis would revalue at 3.6%.
3. Present and future pensions would increase at rates specified by Scheme rules where appropriate where these are dependent on inflation.

The 2019 valuation recommended a monthly contribution requirement by each participating employer expressed in monetary terms to clear the ongoing funding deficit over a period of 15 years and will increase at 5% per year. These contributions also include an allowance for the cost of the ongoing administrative and operational expenses of running the scheme. These rates applied from 1 October 2020 and will be formally reviewed following the completion of the next valuation due with an effective date of 30 June 2022. Surpluses and deficits which arise with future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. See Notes 15 and 16 for the liability recognised under the currently agreed deficit funding plan expiring September 2035. Liabilities are shown on a discounted present value basis. In addition to the above contributions, the Union pays its share of the scheme's levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2022

23. Pension commitments (continued)

NUSPS Scheme

The closed SUSS Pension has been replaced with a new scheme provided by Aegon on behalf of NUS. All existing members of the SUSS scheme have been transferred to the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS) following consultation with Unison. NUSPS is a defined contribution scheme. Contributions to this scheme commenced in October 2011. Contributions paid into the scheme by the Union for the period amounted to £60,975. Contributions totalling £9,330 (2021: £9,306) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

24. Operating lease commitments

At 31 July 2022 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Company 2022 £	Company 2021 £
Not later than 1 year	538,728	535,476	538,728	535,476
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,283,952	1,606,248	1,283,952	1,606,248
	<u>1,822,680</u>	<u>2,141,724</u>	<u>1,822,680</u>	<u>2,141,724</u>

25. Related party transactions

The following transactions occurred during the year with Manchester Metropolitan University:

	2022 £	2021 £
Recurrent Grant Receivable	2,088,615	1,858,800
Sale of Goods and Services	112,484	80,173
Purchases of Goods and Services	540,926	488,787
Rent	213,000	213,000
Service Charge	322,476	322,476
Amounts due from the University	<u>1,056</u>	<u>-</u>

26. Controlling party

The Students' Union is controlled by the Board of Trustees some of whom are subject to democratic election by the voting membership of the Students' Union. As such no single person or entity controls the Students' Union.

THE UNION, MMU

England & Wales - Charity number 1191269

Accounts

Registered number: 12714026
Charity number: 1191269

The Union, MMU

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

 **DAINS**
ACCOUNTANTS

**The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Reference and Administrative Details of the Company, its Trustees and Advisers
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

Trustees	S Campbell (appointed 2 July 2020) C Catron (appointed 20 July 2020, resigned 1 July 2021) J Coe (appointed 2 July 2020) A Delap (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 28 January 2021) L Follon (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 20 July 2020) A Gomez (appointed 20 July 2020, resigned 30 June 2021) A Harmon (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 20 July 2020) L Jones (appointed 1 July 2021) J Killick (appointed 2 July 2020) H Maryam (appointed 1 July 2021) S Middleton (appointed 20 July 2020, resigned 30 June 2021) P Orton (appointed 1 July 2021) F Robertson-Barnett (appointed 20 July 2020) M Robinson (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 20 July 2020) M Searle (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 23 August 2021) Z Sutton (appointed 1 July 2021) E Sweeney (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 30 June 2021) A Welsh (appointed 2 July 2020, resigned 20 July 2020)
Company registered number	12714026
Charity registered number	1191269
Registered office	21 Higher Cambridge Street Manchester M15 6AD
Chief executive officer	Matt Robinson
Senior leadership team	Matt Robinson, Chief Executive Officer Paul Norman, Head of Membership Development Stephanie Taylor-Wren, Head of Insight Louise White, Head of Finance & Performance Lesley Edwards, Head of People Jo Stafford, Head of Marketing and Communications
Independent auditors	Dains LLP Statutory Auditor Chartered Accountants Suite 2, Albion House 2 Etruria Office Village Forge Lane Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST1 5RQ

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the period 2 July 2020 to 31 July 2021. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the group and the Company qualify as small under section 383 of the Companies Act 2006, the Group Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

The charitable company was incorporated on 2 July 2020, and on 15 September 2020 received the assets and liabilities of its predecessor charity, The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union for nil consideration and commenced to operate. These financial statements show the performance of the charitable company for the 10 1/2 months ending 31 July 2021.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The Union's articles of association identify its charitable objectives as the advancement of education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for the public benefit by:

- Providing opportunities for the expression of student opinion and actively representing the interests of Students;
- Acting as a channel of communication in dealing with The Manchester Metropolitan University and other external bodies;
- Promoting the welfare of Students at The Manchester Metropolitan University;
- Facilitating the social, recreational, political and educational interests of its Members, through providing services and support for its Members; and
- Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Union's vision is to support every student at Manchester Metropolitan University in achieving their personal goals and ambitions. The Union's rolling strategy operates across three pillars of student experience:

- Everyday Life: Helping students remove non-academic barriers to learning
- Learning: Supporting students to improve their confidence, skills, and academic outcomes
- Belonging: Ensuring students form social connections and support networks

The strategy details five areas The Union has chosen to focus resources on to deliver its vision:

1. Increasing Inclusivity and Participation
2. Responding to the needs of our members
3. Making change
4. Personal Growth
5. Delivering excellent services

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

The Union MMU exists to represent all students at Manchester Metropolitan University. It strives to ensure that the needs and views of students are at the heart of everything the University does, and provides a wide range of services, activities, and opportunities to offer the best possible student experience for all our members. The Union employs a core team of career staff and a flexible cohort of part time student staff and volunteers to assist the Trustee Board in its mission, all of whom are dedicated to helping The Union succeed. Pandemic restrictions significantly impacted the numbers of students permitted on campus at most points in the year. The Union delivered a combination of face-to-face service for students on campus, and a digital response to reach students studying from home. The Union's work is organised into four sub brands of Voice, Advice, Space and Opportunities.

Your Voice

We engage in a variety of activity that ensures students have a strong voice in the University, the Union, and local community in Manchester. Students annually elect five Union officers who sit on all major decision-making committees of the University, and local community partnerships. All these meetings and committees were maintained during the pandemic, although most were placed online.

The law and rules concerning what was and was not allowed to take place on campus changed at pace in year. We are grateful to colleagues in Manchester Metropolitan University for further widening the formal and informal channels available to the Union to voice the needs and views of students' during the pandemic, deepening the already strong relationship between the Union and University and ensuring student voice was influencing every level of University decision making.

Our five student officers became adept at digital lobbying and influencing and ensured student voice was heard at every level of university decision making. The Union consulted members on major decisions via social media, online focus groups, survey, and open pulse surveys. It used its media channels to inform students of changes as they occurred, and to amplify the safety and academic messages delivered by the university.

In March, COVID restrictions meant we had to adapt to a digital only approach to our annual officer elections. The Union provided new digital spaces for students to hear from candidates, and to scrutinise their promises. The digital only experience did not diminish the interest of students, with all five posts contested and a turnout of 4,322 (2020: 3,273.)

The Union Course Representative structure empowers student representatives to work with academics to improve the course experience for themselves and peers. Course representatives were elected in year, and the voice team worked hard to reach out and support them in their roles. This included online training, contact calls and encouragement to use the pulse survey to report issues and provide feedback on the impact of changes in real time.

The Union uses its Research and Insight capability to maintain a current understanding of its membership, including an annual membership survey, induction survey and detailed segmentation modelling. It invested in the team in year, recruiting two alumni via the q-step program operated by the university. The department carries out in-house research projects, analysis of existing student data, social policy review and dissemination of student insight to staff and volunteers of The Union and the University ensure that nobody knows its members better.

Advice

The Union provides a specialist advice service to help our students with practical issues they might face whilst at University. The main areas are financial, academic issues and housing. They also provide representation at meetings such as disciplinary action and benefit tribunals. The Advice Centre holds an Advice Quality Standard (AQS) award to confirm the advisers work to professional standards and provide a high-quality service to students.

Objectives and activities (continued)

During the 2020/21 academic year, the Advice Centre remained an online service, offering their service via email, phone, and face to face over video call. It helped with over 10,000 queries and supported over 3,000 individual students across a wide range of subjects including housing, finance, and academic issues. It continued to operate as a hate crime reporting centre, albeit remotely.

The Advice team continue to offer tailored housing advice to students; provide expert feedback on changes in university policy in year and were able to support the SU Officers with their voice work by meeting regularly to discuss common matters arising for students.

The Advice Centre has helped students to gain an additional £1.45 million in the last three years through correcting Student Finance applications, appealing funding decisions or helping them apply for Compelling Personal Reasons (repeat student) funding. This is in addition to supporting students access the university and union hardship funds.

Your Space

Our Manchester home in 21 Higher Cambridge Street has some fantastic spaces for our members. Facilities include a multi-functional hall space; large conference rooms; balcony space; 5 meeting rooms; a mirrored studio space; digital and radio media suite; quiet study space; and plenty of break out areas for students to use as they want. Unfortunately, social distancing and restrictions on campus meant that most of the physical spaces were off limits to students for much of the year. Our experience of lockdown in the previous year meant we were ready to support students digitally. Meeting rooms were replaced with Zoom and later Teams' rooms, social contact was replaced with a series of online events and activity including virtual festivals, break out rooms, quizzes, speaker tour and more. The Union maintained an online entertainments program for the entire year, to help combat loneliness and motivate students through the various periods of lockdown.

Union space in Manchester includes opportunities for mutual trading during term time, and wider conferencing and events out of term time. In normal service The Union: operate food and beverage service in the main building in Manchester and a retail outlet; provide ad hoc media sales activity; run a public house; and operate conferencing in its spaces outside of term time. As well as supporting the social activity of The Union, our commercial activity generates funds for charitable use. Pandemic restrictions on Universities significantly reduced footfall on campus and restricted the types of operation The Union could deliver. Whenever the law allowed, we maintained a level of physical presence for student in our retail and café outlets. This was particularly important when students on practical courses returned to campus in early spring after a long period of online learning.

The lack of opportunity for face-to-face communication with students shifted most communication to digital only. With limited channels and bandwidth, The Union adapted its communication strategy to ensure students were not flooded with disparate communication and were able to get the information they required. We stripped back our web site to ensure essential information was available, and improved use of social media such as Instagram to deliver messages in engaging ways. This will be retained moving forward.

Learning from the previous year we were able to deliver digital alternatives to traditional celebrations including our much loved Teaching Awards and our societies and sports awards.

Your Opportunities

The Union provides a range of student led activities for members to try out, join and enjoy. These include Clubs, Societies, and charity fundraising and volunteering. The Union staff team supports course representatives, campaigners, volunteers, student captains, society chairs and their respective committee members.

As well as connecting students to opportunities via our volunteering brokerage service, the Union organised and ran its own events online through the year. We opened our social media channels to local charities to enable them to recruit students to projects and events during periods of lockdown.

**The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021**

Objectives and activities (continued)

The Union invested in new technologies and platforms for members including maintaining zoom accounts for clubs and societies and a new digital platform for delivery of virtual events and activity. Regular meetings were held with club and society committees and key volunteers to maintain enthusiasm and sense of belonging. Some societies will cease because they were unable to recruit new committee members during the pandemic, and we are confident that we can help them build back in 2021.

Contribution to The Union by volunteers

Thousands of our members give their time on a voluntary basis to contribute to The Union through their leadership activities in Societies, clubs, volunteering, course representation and committee membership.

- Students form the committees of The Union that direct activity and address the needs of specific student communities.
- Course representatives work to promote the views and interests of their peers to the University.
- Society and Sport committee members organise activities for other students and ensure the Union remains vibrant and deliver a diverse range of accessible activities for students
- Volunteers donate their time and energy to support charitable activity across Manchester and Cheshire, brokered by The Union.

Despite the lack of face-to-face activity students continued to volunteer to support the union's work in year. There were some difficulties in recruitment of committee members for next year, and we are confident we will be able to support recruitment in 2021/22 as we return to campus.

d. Main activities undertaken to further the Company's purposes for the public benefit

1. Representing student interests
2. Communicating on student behalf with external bodies
3. Promoting student welfare at Manchester Metropolitan University
4. Facilitating social, recreational, political, and educational interests of members through services and support for members
5. Working with other students' unions and affiliated bodies

Achievements and performance

a. Key performance indicators

The trustees consider that the key financial performance indicators are total incoming resources of £3,223,684 and net expenditure of £7,490,712. The financial performance in the period was affected by the donation of net liabilities from the predecessor charity totalling £4,978,241. The Union has unrestricted funds excluding pension liability of £1,478,278.

b. Review of activities and achievements

Goal 1: Increasing Inclusivity and Participation.

Our aim is to enable more of our students to feel that "the Union is for people like me." Whilst participation in activities such as clubs & societies, volunteering, course representatives and elections is significant, we continually seek greater inclusivity from our membership.

Successes in 2020/21

The Union delivers year-round inclusivity events, ensuring that The Union supports and celebrates all major annual events related to the lives and interests of our broad membership. This ranges from simple reference to religious holidays via our communications channels, right up to more focussed campaigns linked to days of action. We have maintained this through our digital channels. The Inclusivity calendar provides a baseline of activity. Where possible this is developed further by working with interested groups of students.

Reflecting on the impact of the murder of George Floyd on our students, The Union made a particular series of commitments to ensure that students of colour recognise themselves in the Union and its activity. Commitments included addressing the lack of diversity of the Unions staffing and the support provided to staff of colour; ensuring all staff can have good conversations about race with members and colleagues. Action taken in year included:

- In addition to the already established BAME ambassadors program the Union supported the creation of a new Black Students group in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.
- Published a series of informative and educational articles written by BAME ambassadors alongside a new BAME student podcast
- The Union provided every member of career staff with a two-day race equity training course
- We ensured all staff involved in recruitment undertook an unconscious bias training ahead of recruitment
- We provided Islamophobia training for staff

The Union is developing its first race equity action plan to ensure continuity of action to address structural racism in subsequent years.

The Union was especially pleased to be invited in year to develop additional representation and social provision for International students at the University. Funding was provided to support a small staffing team to facilitate activity and international student voice on campus, as well as internationalising the student experience of our home students. Much early activity has been online, and we look forward to more face-to-face activity as we welcome international students and home students back to campus in the forthcoming academic year.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Goal 2: Personal Growth

The Union's educational purpose extends to the development of persons, as well as intellect. Student employment, fundraising, committee membership, campaigning and volunteering opportunities are vehicles that help students develop confidence and new skills. We focus on increasing the support and training we provide as well as widening the range of opportunities to allow more members to benefit from personal development.

Successes in 2020/21

Our strategy supports students to grow and develop in a way that is meaningful to them through a wide range of supported opportunities. Our activity broadly fits under the umbrellas of membership of Clubs and Societies, Student leadership, Volunteering, and student employment.

Pandemic restrictions prevented more traditional activity of student groups including organisation of student led trips, tours, and events. However, it did not prevent the Union from providing online training and development meetings for all interested members. The Union ran a series of pilot leadership course online aimed at helping volunteers, course reps and committee members to build their leadership skills and abilities. The online training informed the development of a brand-new set of Lead volunteer training modules to be delivered face to face from September 2021. The training will support the development of volunteers in the Union; allow them to deliver a quality experience for the students they support; help them reflect on the skills, knowledge and experience their volunteering has provided; support them in articulating their development to future employers.

The Union employs students in delivery of all its services. The Union continues to preference employment of students in as many roles across its operation as possible, including supervisory and project manager roles. As well as providing work experience, students are given development opportunities that include becoming a licence holder, accredited barista training, first aid training, fire marshal training and catering qualifications. This year the Union worked closely with graduate employment colleagues in the University to create our inaugural graduate placement scheme in the Union. We placed six underemployed alumni in positions across our marketing, student Voice and opportunities departments. All our graduate recruits were provided with a ten-module early career training program to support their time with The Union and set them up for future graduate level employment when they leave The Union.

Goal 3: Making Change and Goal 4: Responding to the needs of our members.

We support students to change their individual and group circumstances through direct representation and empowering students to campaign and act on their own behalf. Our representation and advocacy are effective, and we have focussed on strengthening the way we identify and tackle student issues to widen our reach and influence.

Successes in 2020/21

Elected Officers represent students at every level of decision making in the University. As well as the sabbatical officer representation, students register and are trained as volunteer course representatives. Working with academic colleagues and supported by staff in The Union, the course representatives advocate for continuous improvement at a course level.

The Union maintained its 'pulse survey' mechanism created in the first lockdown to ensure it was in touch with student sentiment during the continuation of the pandemic. Staff were redeployed across the union produce weekly student voice reports detailing current student concerns and issues.

Working closely with the University, we were able to secure agreement on a variety of student support:

- The provision of a second 'no detriment policy' as a safety net to ensure no student was worse off because of changes to learning delivery and examination.
- A commitment that no student would be charged rent by the university during a time where the law

Achievements and performance (continued)

- requires them to not be on campus
- A broadening of the eligibility criteria for hardship funding during the pandemic.
- Support packages for students in isolation due to COVID-19

The exceptional efforts made by representatives to achieve positive change for students during the pandemic, were sadly not reflected in the National Student Survey results. The Union fell 2 percent behind the national average for question 26. This is a reminder that there is still much work to be done to close the loop and make visible the actions we have taken or changes we have made because of our members' feedback and inputs. This will be a major focus of activity in 2021/22.

Goal 5: Delivering Excellent Services

Our strategy is to provide vibrant and sector-recognised services for our members whilst generating funds to reinvest in their student experience. Our services are often the way in which students first interact with The Union. We must ensure that we offer the highest-quality customer service and experience whilst also making them aware of the range of opportunities that we offer our members.

Successes in 2020/21

Achieving or retaining awards and accreditations are shorthand ways to demonstrate quality in our services. This year we achieved the following accreditations:

- Retained Best Bar Non-Gold award, promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises
- Retained 'Green Impact Students' Unions accreditation
- Reaccredited with the Responsible Futures Award

Much service was delivered digitally in year. Where possible we delivered face to face services for areas of need for students including provision of course essentials through socially distanced retail offering and maintaining some café takeaway service for students who study in adjoining buildings. Our student advice service continued to be delivered online with no diminishment in numbers of students accessing the service.

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

All incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. The Union gratefully recognises the income received in the form of grants from the University and various sources of fundraising income as detailed in the notes to these accounts.

The Union is also grateful for access to the government furlough scheme. This allowed us to maintain a good level of service for students and provided a staffing lifeline for a year of significantly reduced mutual trading income.

d. Investment policy and performance

The trustees are mindful of their obligations to seek to protect the long-term value of the assets they administer, whilst maximising income. To this end, the trustees have a policy of placing cash in a combination of current and deposit accounts to meet the working capital requirements of the Union whilst maximising interest returns.

**The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021**

Financial review

a. Going concern and principal risks and uncertainties

The Charity has net liabilities at 31 July 2021 of £4,267,029 due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS 102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan.

Whilst this liability is significant, the SUSS pension is not an immediate liability. This long-term commitment ends in 2035. The trustees are confident that annual payments towards this plan will be met out of income for the year.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies

b. Reserves policy

General reserves stand at a deficit of £4,267,029 due to the pension funding liability. Unrestricted funds excluding the pension liability stand at positive £1,238,278 while £240,000 has been designated for building development in 2020/21 to improve student experience and service offer. The aim of the reserves policy is to maintain a level of unrestricted general funds, which are not designated and excluding tangible fixed assets, which will enable The Union to continue for at least a three-month period.

c. Principal funding

The Union's funding comes principally from grants and various sources of fund-raising income as detailed in notes to these accounts.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Union, MMU is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Trust deed.

The principal object of the Students' Union remains the advancement of the education of students at Manchester Metropolitan University for public benefit.

The Students' Union's governing document is its constitution comprising the articles of association and byelaws. Any amendment to the articles of association being subject to the approval of company law members and, for major changes, a referendum of students and only valid once approved by the University Board of Governors.

This is the first set of accounts for the new charitable company entity. The former unincorporated union entity transferred all assets and liabilities to the new charitable company structure on 15 September 2020 following agreement by the University and in line with the powers contained in its respective constitution.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance and financial and strategic management of the Students' Union. The board is comprised of the five Students' Union Officers and up to six independent Trustees. The full members of the Students' Union elect the Students' Union officers each year, through a secret cross campus ballot. Officers serve in office for one year and may stand for election for a maximum term of two years.

An appointments committee, following a process of open advertisement and application, nominates the independent Trustees for a term of office of up to three years or reappointment for a second term. Appointments are subject to the approval of the whole Trustee Board by a simple majority of those present and voting. A subcommittee of the Trustee Board selects the external Trustees based on their skills, knowledge, experience, and characteristics, considering the current composition of the Board. Independent trustees bring their professional experience to the board.

c. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Upon appointment, all trustees receive an induction, which includes their legal obligations and other trustee responsibilities, and is adapted according to their prior knowledge and experience. The Students' Union Officers receive a more in-depth induction and training programme incorporating their responsibilities as a trustee and the skills and knowledge required to perform their other duties in addition to their trustee roles.

d. Pay policy for key management personnel

The trustees consider the board of trustees and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running, and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. The remuneration of the trustees and senior management team is reviewed at intervals of not more than every three years.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

Structure, governance and management (continued)

e. Organisational structure and decision-making

The Students' Union monitored its governance against the revised Good Governance Code of Practice in year and found the governance arrangements to be fit for purpose.

The Trustee Board meets five times a year and is supported by sub committees. The Trustee Board delegated authority to the Appointments sub-Committee and Finance committee in the year ending July 2021. Each of these committees reported their activity to the Trustee Board.

The Trustee Board delegates more day-to-day decisions to The Union Officer Group (comprising all the elected officers), Union Leadership Group (Comprising the Elected Officers and the Senior Leadership Team), Human Resources Committee, or Senior Leadership Team. The Union Leadership Group and Union Officer Group meet formally every month during term time to receive reports from individual Officers, sub committees and the Chief Executive. They also review the charity's performance and administration generally and to decide operational issues arising. The Union MMU also employs circa 60 non-student staff for the sake of continuity in the management of its many duties. All staff are accountable to the Chief Executive for the performance of their duties.

The Students' Union operates a representative democracy with its five elected officers elected by and from the current student population of the University. All full-time members of The Union can activate and agree Union policy through secure petition resulting in a referendum of all members. Any student can influence the work of The Union by submitting ideas in person or online to one of our subgroups dedicated to discussing improvements to the student experience in a particular area of activity. Student insight informs the work of The Union through delivery of an annual engagement plan, which ensures that The Union's priorities and provision meets the needs of the diverse student population of Manchester Metropolitan University. Whenever possible, the Students Union seek to act in response to student influence, insight, and referendum, although the Trustee Board does have supervisory power to veto any decision which is in breach of charity or education law or other legal requirements, or which is considered not to be in the best interests of the Students' Union or its charitable objectives.

f. Risk management

The Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring the annual review of major risks to which The Union MMU is exposed. Systems have been established to mitigate or minimise these risks. The Trustee Board of the Students' Union has examined the major strategic, Financial, Human Resource, legal and regulatory, Governance and Management, business and operational, technological, and external risks faced by The Union MMU. A live-risk register is used and updated after every trustee board. Current significant risks are reported to the board at every meeting, and the full risk register is reviewed at least annually detailing where appropriate systems or procedures in place to mitigate the risks the Students' Union faces. Budgetary and internal control risks have been minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety for staff, volunteers and participants in all activities organised by The Union. The Union regularly reviews its procedures to ensure that they are compliant and continue to meet the needs of the Students' Union.

Funds held as custodian

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union acts as a custodian for activities associated with its opportunities department, namely:

- Funds raised by the many clubs and societies run by its members – these funds are separately identified in the finance system, £123,601

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

Related party relationships

a. Relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University

The Union MMU has a formal relationship with Manchester Metropolitan University. The Union and University express this through a jointly endorsed relationship agreement, formally adopted in 2012, and by the constitutional provisions, which governs the formal interaction between the two organisations. Under the 1994 Education Act, University governing bodies must take all reasonably practical steps to ensure that students' unions operate fairly and democratically and is responsible in the management of its finances. The Manchester Metropolitan University Constitutional provisions outline how this statutory obligation is met. In addition, changes to The Union's articles of association require the approval of the University Board of governors.

b. Relationship with Subsidiary companies

Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited is a limited liability company wholly owned by The Union MMU. The company provides services to a mix of students and non-students including a public house and some entertainments provision.

c. Relationship with the National Union of Students

The Students' Union is an affiliated member of the National Union of Students, a National federation of Students' Unions. The Students' Union works with other students' unions and NUS in pursuit of its charitable objects. This cooperation extends mainly to influencing and campaigning on national issues that affect students and support from NUS with organisational development.

d. Factors Outside of The Union's Control

The Students' Union seeks to influence its key partner, the University, on issues relating to its members educational, welfare, sustainability, employment, and community experience at Manchester Met as well as social policy issues locally and nationally. The Union can influence, however, most of these issues are out of the Union's direct control. The Students' Union has a complex relationship with its beneficiaries who are members of The Union, significant customers of the company, and in many cases supported volunteers or employees of The Union. Further, the organisation operates democratically to take account of student views.

Plans for future periods

Future developments

The strategic plan sets out the key areas of focus for The Union in achieving its vision to support every student at Manchester Met in achieving their personal goals and ambitions. A timeline for review of the strategic plan in 2021/22 was approved by the trustee board in the current year.

The current strategy challenges the Union to positively affect the life, learning and belonging of our members to enable them to achieve their personal goals and belongings. In 2021/22 The Union will focus resources on five key areas:

1. Increasing inclusivity and participation
2. Supporting members to shape our work
3. Helping students to make positive change
4. Providing opportunities and support for personal growth
5. Delivering excellent service

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

Information on fundraising practices

Student groups raise funds through the charitable activity for distribution to nominated charities. No professional fund-raisers acted on behalf of the Union, no complaints were received about fundraising activity, and a strategy for protection of vulnerable people and members of the public in relation to fundraising is not required.

Trustee Indemnities

Every trustee or other officer of The Union MMU shall be indemnified out of the assets of The Union in relation to any liability incurred by them in that capacity but only to the extent permitted by the Companies Act.

The trustees maintain an appropriate indemnity policy brokered by Endsleigh insurance that covers the liability of trustees or another officer of The Union in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011 (provided that in the case of an officer who is not a trustee, the second and third references to charity trustees in section 189 shall be treated as references to officers of the charity.)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

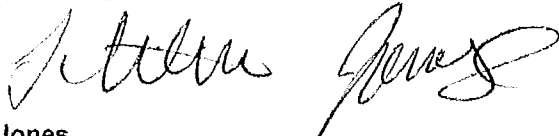
Trustees' Report (continued)
For the Period Ended 31 July 2021

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L. Jones
Trustee

Date: 27.10.21

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Union, MMU (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the period ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Group's and of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of the Group's 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 Companies Act 2006 and 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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 Group's and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the financial reporting legislation, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, anti-bribery, employment, and environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Union, MMU (continued)

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

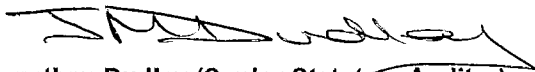
- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the company's legal advisors.

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Jonathan Dudley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Dains LLP

Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants

Suite 2, Albion House
2 Etruria Office Village
Forge Lane
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST1 5RQ

Date: 22 October 2021

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of financial activities (Incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the 10 1/2 month period ended 31 July 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	2,487,445	327,803	2,815,248
Other trading activities	4	408,314	-	408,314
Investments	5	121	-	121
		<u>2,895,880</u>	<u>327,803</u>	<u>3,223,683</u>
Total income				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	7	406,265	-	406,265
Charitable activities	6	7,084,447	-	7,084,447
		<u>7,490,712</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,490,712</u>
Total expenditure				
Net (expenditure)/income		(4,594,832)	327,803	(4,267,029)
Transfers between funds	18	327,803	(327,803)	-
		<u>(4,267,029)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Net movement in funds				
Reconciliation of funds:				
Net movement in funds		(4,267,029)	-	(4,267,029)
		<u>(4,267,029)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Total funds carried forward				

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the period.

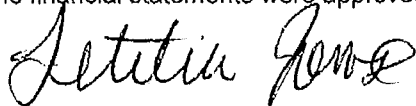
The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 12714026

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	11	25,879
Investments	12	1,824
		<u>27,703</u>
Current assets		
Stocks	13	91,163
Debtors	14	102,052
Cash at bank and in hand		1,631,516
		<u>1,824,731</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(607,448)
Net current assets		<u>1,217,283</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,244,986</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(5,512,015)
Total net liabilities		<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	18	-
Unrestricted funds		
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	18	1,478,278
Pension reserve	18	(5,745,307)
Total unrestricted funds	18	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Total funds		<u>(4,267,029)</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L Jones
Trustee

Date: 22.10.21

The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered number: 12714026

Company Statement of financial position
As at 31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	11	25,879
Investments	12	1,825
		<u>27,704</u>
Current assets		
Stocks	13	86,671
Debtors	14	267,085
Cash at bank and in hand		1,467,342
		<u>1,821,098</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(603,816)
Net current assets		<u>1,217,282</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,244,986</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(5,512,015)
Total net assets		<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	18	-
Unrestricted funds		
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability	18	1,478,278
Pension reserve	18	(5,745,307)
Total unrestricted funds	18	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Total funds		<u><u>(4,267,029)</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



L Jones
Trustee

Date: 22.10.21

The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

The Union, MMU
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
As at 31 July 2021

	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities	
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>19,364</u>
Cash flows from investing activities	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,849)
Cash donated from predecessor charity	<u>1,614,001</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>1,612,152</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the period	<u>1,631,516</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	<u><u>1,631,516</u></u>

The notes on pages 23 to 43 form part of these financial statements

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of The Union, MMSU and its subsidiary undertaking ('subsidiary').

The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the charity was a deficit of £4,267,029.

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Group for particular purposes. The costs 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.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Going concern

The Group and Company have net liabilities at 31 July 2021 of £4,267,029 due to the recognition under Charities SORP (FRS 102) of the net present value of the funding deficit on the SUSS pension recovery plan. Further information is detailed in note 25 to the accounts. This is a long term commitment which ends in 2035 and the trustees are confident that annual payments towards this plan will be met out of income for each year.

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

1.5 Income

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

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Company, can be reliably measured.

Where the donated good is a fixed asset, it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset class and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Company's accounting policies.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Company which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

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.

1.6 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the charity's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Plant and machinery and other fixed assets	-	25% - 33% straight line basis
Office and computer equipment	-	25% - 33% straight line basis

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.11 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.12 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.14 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.15 Financial instruments

The Group 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 Pensions

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the group to the fund in respect of the year.

The company participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension. The fund is valued at least every three years by a professionally qualified independent actuary with the rates of contribution payable being determined by the trustees on the advice of the actuary. The Scheme operates as a pooled arrangement, with contributions paid at a centrally agreed rate. As a consequence, no share of the underlying assets and liabilities can be directly attributed to the charity. Under the terms of the charity SORP, in these circumstances contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme based on actual contributions paid through the year.

Where the company has entered into an agreement to fund a deficit in the scheme, the company recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement and recognise the resulting expense in the statement of financial activities.

The company also participates in the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS), a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are accounted for as paid throughout the year.

2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Critical areas of judgment:

Pension scheme discount rate

As previously explained a pension liability is recognised in the accounts for the present value of contributions payable to fund the deficit in the defined benefit scheme (see note 25 to the accounts). A key estimate made when calculating the present value of future payments is the discount rate applied. The trustees have approved a rate of 1.45% as recommended by the advisors of the NUS. However, a change in the rate applied could have a material impact on the calculated liabilities and therefore a material impact on the balance sheet and statement of financial activities.

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Block grant	1,937,149	-	1,937,149
Top up grant	550,296	-	550,296
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	327,803	327,803
	<u>2,487,445</u>	<u>327,803</u>	<u>2,815,248</u>

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Commercial	337,575	337,575
Totum Card	2,180	2,180
Media	(2,794)	(2,794)
Other	50,000	50,000
Trading Subsidiary	21,353	21,353
	<u>408,314</u>	<u>408,314</u>

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Investment income	121	121
	<u>121</u>	<u>121</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Advancement of education	2,106,206	2,106,206
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union	4,978,241	4,978,241
	<u>7,084,447</u>	<u>7,084,447</u>

Summary by expenditure type

	Staff costs 2021 £	Depreciation 2021 £	Other costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Advancement of education	1,294,963	14,424	796,819	2,106,206
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union	-	-	4,978,241	4,978,241
	<u>1,294,963</u>	<u>14,424</u>	<u>5,775,060</u>	<u>7,084,447</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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7. Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of raising voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bar, shop and building support	278,268	278,268
Freshers costs	1,463	1,463
Trading subsidiary costs	9,781	9,781
Ambassador costs	10,929	10,929
Voluntary income staff costs	92,889	92,889
Voluntary income depreciation	12,935	12,935
	<u>406,265</u>	<u>406,265</u>

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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Total direct costs	2,106,206	2,106,206
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union	4,978,241	4,978,241
	<u>7,084,447</u>	<u>7,084,447</u>

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2021 £
Transfer from The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union	4,978,241
Staff costs	1,294,963
Depreciation	14,424
Staff travel & hospitality	1,212
Training	42,471
SUSS pension costs	49,727
Printing, postage and stationary	5,411
Banking and transaction charges	5,816
Legal and professional fees	73,603
Campaigns	2,694
Welcome costs	1,813
Computer and office equipment	25,074
Licenses, subscriptions and affiliations	58,041
Marketing and research	(2,756)
Website costs	6,875
Opportunities and volunteering	8,196
Project funding	11,420
Staff recruitment	4,354
Staff OSPS & DIS	2,432
Repairs, maintenance and premises costs	492,942
Other direct costs	(2,712)
Governance costs	10,206
	<u>7,084,447</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs (continued)

Included within licenses, subscriptions and affiliation costs of £58,041, is NUS Affiliation costs of £37,500, and licenses and subscription costs of £20,541.

9. Net income/(expenditure)

	2021 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets: -owned by the charitable group	27,357
Auditor's remuneration - audit	7,610
Other operating leases	535,476
	<u>570,443</u>

During the period, sabbatical officer trustees received remuneration of £88,517.
During the year, 0 trustees received reimbursement of expenses of £Nil

Sabbatical officer trustees enter into, and are remunerated by the Union under a contract of employment once elected to office in accordance with the Articles of Governance of The Union, MMU.

10. Staff costs

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Wages and salaries	1,220,942	1,220,942
Social security costs	107,376	107,376
Other pension costs	59,535	59,535
	<u>1,387,853</u>	<u>1,387,853</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

10. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the period was as follows:

	Group 2021 No.
Venues	3
Shop	5
Central	8
Marketing	12
Membership/Opportunities	12
Officers	5
Advice	7
Cafe	3
Reception and Building Support	4
	<hr/>
	59
	<hr/> <hr/>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	Group 2021 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1

During the period, remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel, as listed on page 1, totalled £285,753.

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group and Company

	Plant and machinery £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Other fixed assets £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
Additions	600	1,249	-	-	1,849
Donations	25,279	5,481	17,898	2,729	51,387
At 31 July 2021	<u>25,879</u>	<u>6,730</u>	<u>17,898</u>	<u>2,729</u>	<u>53,236</u>
Depreciation					
Charge for the period	14,929	2,067	9,110	1,251	27,357
At 31 July 2021	<u>14,929</u>	<u>2,067</u>	<u>9,110</u>	<u>1,251</u>	<u>27,357</u>
Net book value					
At 31 July 2021	<u>10,950</u>	<u>4,663</u>	<u>8,788</u>	<u>1,478</u>	<u>25,879</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
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12. Fixed asset investments

Group	Listed investments £		
Cost or valuation			
On donation at 15 September 2020			1,824
At 31 July 2021			<u>1,824</u>
 Net book value			
At 31 July 2021			<u>1,824</u>
	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Total £
Company			
Cost or valuation			
On donation at 15 September 2020	1	1,824	1,825
At 31 July 2021	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>
 Net book value			
At 31 July 2021	<u>1</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,825</u>

All fixed asset investments are held in the UK.

13. Stocks

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>91,163</u>	<u>86,671</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

14. Debtors

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	16,365	16,365
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	165,430
Other debtors	29,558	29,161
Prepayments and accrued income	29,117	29,117
Grants receivable	27,012	27,012
	<u>102,052</u>	<u>267,085</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Trade creditors	26,697	25,555
Other taxation and social security	30,277	30,277
Other creditors	400,068	399,988
Accruals and deferred income	150,406	147,996
	<u>607,448</u>	<u>603,816</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Other creditors	5,512,015	5,512,015

The aggregate amount of liabilities payable or repayable wholly or in part more than five years after the reporting date is:

	Group 2021 £
Payable or repayable by instalments	4,335,997
	<u>4,335,997</u>

17. Financial Instruments

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	45,923	45,526
	<u>45,923</u>	<u>45,526</u>
	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	6,089,186	6,085,554
	<u>6,089,186</u>	<u>6,085,554</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade debtors and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade creditors, other creditors (including the pension liability) and accruals and deferred income.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current period

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 July 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Development and Improvement Fund	-	-	240,000	240,000
General funds				
General Funds	2,895,880	(7,420,326)	5,762,724	1,238,278
Pension reserve	-	(70,386)	(5,674,921)	(5,745,307)
	<u>2,895,880</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>87,803</u>	<u>(4,507,029)</u>
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>2,895,880</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>327,803</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Restricted funds				
Coronavirus job retention scheme	327,803	-	(327,803)	-
Total of funds	<u>3,223,683</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>

The specific purposes for which funds has been designated are as follows:

Development and improvement fund

This fund represents monies set aside for the investment in the Union building in order to improve the student experience.

19. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current period

	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 July 2021 £
Designated funds	-	-	240,000	240,000
General funds	2,895,880	(7,490,712)	87,803	(4,507,029)
Restricted funds	327,803	-	(327,803)	-
	<u>3,223,683</u>	<u>(7,490,712)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	25,879	25,879
Fixed asset investments	1,824	1,824
Current assets	1,824,731	1,824,731
Creditors due within one year	(607,448)	(607,448)
Creditors due in more than one year	(5,512,015)	(5,512,015)
Total	<u>(4,267,029)</u>	<u>(4,267,029)</u>

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2021 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>(4,267,029)</u>
Adjustments for:	
Depreciation charges	27,357
Decrease in stocks	33,576
Decrease in debtors	156,603
(Decrease) in creditors	(909,385)
Assets donated from predecessor charity	(2,050,607)
Liabilities inherited from predecessor charity	7,028,848
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>19,363</u>

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2021 £
Cash in hand	<u>1,631,516</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,631,516</u>

The Union, MMU
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Notes to the Financial Statements
As at 31 July 2021

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	Cash flows £	At 31 July 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,631,516	1,631,516
	<u>1,631,516</u>	<u>1,631,516</u>

24. Business combinations

On 15/09/2020, all of the assets and liabilities of The Manchester Metropolitan University Students' Union transferred to The Union, MMU for £nil consideration.

	Book value £	Fair value £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible	51,389	51,389
Investments	1,824	1,824
	<u>53,213</u>	<u>53,213</u>
Current Assets		
Stocks	124,738	124,738
Debtors	258,655	258,655
Cash at bank and in hand	1,614,001	1,614,001
Total Assets	<u>2,050,607</u>	<u>2,050,607</u>
Creditors		
Total liabilities	<u>(7,028,848)</u>	<u>(7,028,848)</u>
Total Identifiable net liabilities	<u>(4,978,241)</u>	<u>(4,978,241)</u>

25. Pension commitments

NEST Scheme

The Union operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Union to the fund and amounted to £1,915. Contributions totalling £432 were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

SUSS Scheme (closed to future accrual in 2011)

The Union participates in the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme, which is a defined benefit 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 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 most recent Valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 30 June 2019 and showed that the market value of the Scheme's assets was £119,000,000 with these assets representing 46% 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 £141,000,000.

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 rates of increase in salaries and pensions.

The following assumptions applied at 30 June 2019:

1. The return on investment would be 4.0% per annum before and 2.0% per annum after retirement.
2. Pensions accruing on the CARE basis would revalue at 3.6%.
3. Present and future pensions would increase at rates specified by Scheme rules where appropriate where these are dependent on inflation.

The 2019 valuation recommended a monthly contribution requirement by each participating employer expressed in monetary terms to clear the ongoing funding deficit over a period of 15 years and will increase at 5% per year. These contributions also include an allowance for the cost of the ongoing administrative and operational expenses of running the scheme. These rates applied from 1 October 2020 and will be formally reviewed following the completion of the next valuation due with an effective date of 30 June 2022. Surpluses and deficits which arise with future valuations will also impact on the Union's future contribution commitment. See Notes 15 and 16 for the liability recognised under the currently agreed deficit funding plan expiring September 2035. Liabilities are shown on a discounted present value basis. In addition to the above contributions, the Union pays its share of the scheme's levy to the Pension Protection Fund.

NUSPS Scheme

The closed SUSS Pension has been replaced with a new scheme provided by Aegon on behalf of NUS. All existing members of the SUSS scheme have been transferred to the NUS Pension Scheme (NUSPS) following consultation with Unison. NUSPS is a defined contribution scheme. Contributions to this scheme commenced in October 2011. Contributions paid into the scheme by the Union for the period amounted to £59,535. Contributions totalling £9,306 were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

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As at 31 July 2021

26. Operating lease commitments

At 31 July 2021 the Group and the Company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2021 £	Company 2021 £
Not later than 1 year	535,476	535,476
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,606,428	1,606,428
	<u>2,141,904</u>	<u>2,141,904</u>

27. Related party transactions

The following transactions occurred during the period with Manchester Metropolitan University:

	2021 £
Recurrent Grant Receivable	1,858,800
Sale of Goods and Services	80,173
Purchases of Goods and Services	488,787
Rent	213,000
Service charge	322,476
	<u>2,963,236</u>

28. Controlling party

The Students' Union is controlled by the Board of Trustees some of whom are subject to democratic election by the voting membership of the Students' Union. As such no single person or entity controls the Students' Union.

29. Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Company:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	09188480	Ordinary Shares	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the period were:

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Notes to the Financial Statements
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29. Principal subsidiaries (continued)

Name	Income £	Expenditure £	Net assets £
Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union Trading Limited	21,353	(21,353)	1