



**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS**

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**



**Charity number: 1195899**

Contents

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	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the CIO, its Trustees and Advisers	1
President's Statement	2 - 3
Trustees' Report	4 - 24
Independent Examiner's Report	25 - 26
Statement of Financial Activities	27
Balance Sheet	28
Statement of Cash Flows	29
Notes to the Financial Statements	30 - 47
Forward Conference Programme	48 - 49

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**Reference and Administrative Details of the CIO, its Trustees and Advisers**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Trustees**

Dr M J Gooding, President (resigned 31 December 2024)  
Prof D Sanders, President Elect (appointed President 1 January 2025)  
Prof M Parry, Publications Officer (appointed President Elect 1 January 2025)  
Prof N Halford, Honorary Treasurer  
Dr G Barker, General Secretary  
Dr S Edgington, Nematology  
Prof I S Donnison  
Prof N Spence (resigned 30 June 2025)  
Prof R Edwards (resigned 30 June 2025)  
Dr C White (appointed 26 April 2024)

**Charity registered number** 1195899

**Principal office**

Warwick Enterprise Park  
Wellesbourne  
Warwickshire  
CV35 9EF

**Executive Officer**

Dr G Parry

**Accountants and  
Independent examiner**

Dains Audit Limited  
2 Chamberlain Square  
Paradise Circus  
Birmingham  
B3 3AX

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
150 The Parade  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire  
CV32 4A

**Solicitors**

Harbottle & Lewis LLP  
7 Savoy Court  
London  
WC2R 0EX

**President's Report**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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The President presents his statement for the period.



The AAB continues to deliver on its strategy to support and engage a membership committed to applying high-quality biology to address pressing societal challenges aligned with our mission. By December 2024, the Association had maintained a membership of around 1000, a level supported in part by the continued offer of free annual membership to non-members who pay full registration fees for our conferences. Once again, our membership reflects a vibrant and well-attended programme of events. In 2024, the AAB organised ten events, welcoming a total of 520 in-person delegates and 300 online delegates. These events covered a diverse range of topics relevant to applied biology and benefited from the contributions of over 300 speakers, with equal gender representation. The programme included two external events co-organised with partner organisations: the British Society for Plant Pathology and the Association of Crop Production in Northern Britain.

It is particularly encouraging to see continued growth and activity within our specialist groups. In 2024, the AAB had twelve active specialist groups, up from nine in 2021, demonstrating the breadth of expertise and commitment within our community. The Association remains dedicated to supporting these groups, with more than £200,000 invested to underpin our conference activities and associated staff costs.

The AAB's reputation for delivering effective hybrid events (online and in-person) remains strong, ensuring greater accessibility for participants, including those from low and middle income countries, while helping to reduce the carbon footprint of our events.

Our two journals continue to serve the applied biology community effectively. Plant Biotechnology Journal goes from strength to strength as a top ten journal in Plant Science, while Annals of Applied Biology remains a trusted outlet for quality research. Plans are in place to evolve the editorial structure of Annals to ensure its continued relevance and impact.

The Association's finances remain sound, with investments exceeding £1 million to help secure future growth and development. The journals, together with our careful management of resources, continue to provide a stable income stream that enables us to reinvest in our charitable aims, including supporting our events and the wider membership.

We maintain a strong presence within the broader applied biology sector through active engagement with organisations such as the Royal Society of Biology and the Global Plant Council, helping to ensure that the voice of applied biology is heard where it matters.



**President's Report (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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As incoming President, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Association's dedicated staff for their excellent support throughout the year: Geraint Parry (Executive Officer), Alberto Vitale (Finance and Office Manager), John Andrews (Conference Administrator), Bernadette Lawson (Financial Administrator), and Carol Millman (Annals of Applied Biology Editorial Office).

Finally, I wish to record my deep appreciation for our outgoing President, Mike Gooding, for his outstanding leadership and vision over the past two years, which have been instrumental in strengthening the AAB's role as a leading advocate for sustainable agriculture and forestry.

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Professor D Sanders  
President

Date:



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**Trustees' report**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The CIO also trades under the name AAB.

**Objectives and activities**

● **Policies and objectives**

The Object of the Charity is to 'promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, including the application of biological sciences for the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's physical environment'.

We deliver this charitable mission through the publication of scientific journals in applied biology, the organisation of conferences in a range of related subject themes, the formulation and dissemination of policies to promote the discipline, the production of a newsletter and the provision of services for members.

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)'.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

The mission of the **Association of Applied Biologists (AAB)** is to further the application of biology to the production of food, materials, and energy, and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's environment.

Since its formation in 1904 the Association has addressed major global challenges facing society. Today, those challenges relevant to our mission are critical and include: poor food security, nutrition and health; untenable use of agri- and forest environments; unsustainable and insecure sources of energy; environmental change; degradation of water and soil resources; and loss of biodiversity.

### **Our strategy to address these challenges by:**

- By growing, supporting, and engaging a membership concerned with the application of excellent biology to address relevant societal challenges.
- Supporting specialist groups: to respond to members and wider stakeholders in the provision of appropriate events, publications, and communications; to help develop early career scientists; and to aid the direction of the wider AAB via group convenors and AAB Council.
- Using conferences, symposia, workshops, and published proceedings to exchange, spread, and develop information, ideas, and thought leadership.
- Publication of international, scientific, independently peer-reviewed journals to ensure the dissemination of high-quality research findings and reviews.
- Promotion of the many disciplines of applied biology through engagement with other relevant national and international societies, research funders, and governmental organisations.

### **1. Growing, supporting, and engaging our membership**

As an Association we are defined as and by our members. Given the importance and relevance of applied biology it is essential that we have a strong and engaged membership. It is important that our recent growth in international membership continues. Actions to increase and engage membership include:

**i.** Offering a free annual membership to non-members paying registration fees to conferences organised by AAB. In this way our membership (numbers and reach) is strongly linked to the popularity and delivery methods of our conferences. Excellent online provision significantly increases our potential to engage with cohorts of applied biologists not previously able to attend in person due to the constraints of cost, time, and other responsibilities. Online provision, for example, furthers our ability to increase the international spread for conference attendance and membership. All of our conferences have the default of providing an online option.

**ii.** Offering greater support for early career professionals (ECP). This includes free annual membership with nominal charge for online conference registration by ECP. The AAB will remain responsive to the needs and engagement of ECPs, and they will continue to be represented on Council by two ECP champions.

**iii.** Increasing the benefits to members, including reduced conference registration and publication costs; access to travel and mobility grants; discounted membership and/or greater access to related societies; invitations to external networking events; provide a regular e-Newsletter and AAB emails highlighting relevant activities; opportunities to contribute to specialist groups; and the chance to work alongside others in similar fields in, for example, the organisation of conferences.

**iv.** The recent introduction of the title of **Fellow of the Association of Applied Biologists** which will continue to recognise those members with a long-term AAB membership alongside their significant contribution to applied biology.

**v.** Continuing to explore ways of increasing equality, diversity, and inclusion in all activities of the AAB. Online provision has helped inclusivity, and we will continue to offer other opportunities when relevant, e.g. grants for carers.

## 2. AAB Specialist groups

**Applied Plant Pathology**

**Biocontrol and IPM**

**Food Systems**

**Nematology**

**PlantEd Gene Editing in Plants**

**Soil and Root Biology**

**Applied Tree and Forest Biology**

**Cropping and the Environment**

**Horticultural Quality and Food Loss**

**Pesticide Application**

**Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement**

**Virology**

Our specialist groups are kept under review to reflect our mission; the interests of our members and those of potential recruits; the vigour and funding for progress in the subject area; and societal need. During 2025-26 we will continue to review the relevance and activity of our specialist groups. This is an evolving area with the inauguration of two specialist groups over the past two years.

## 3. Conferences, symposia, and workshops

Our events are open to the public. AAB's involvement in 10-12 events/ year is a reasonable expectation, and consistent with having twelve specialist groups. However, what is more important is that the overall reach and significance of our event programme increases the relevance, visibility, and impact of the AAB. We will continue to identify novel topics and modes of delivery. This will enable an increase in delegate numbers at the majority of our meetings whilst maintaining financial sustainability and the collegial feel of AAB events. We will ensure that the programme as a whole does not place an undue financial burden on the association.

To meet our objectives we will:

- i.** Continue to support and encourage our specialist group convenors, members, and affiliates to develop and deliver events relevant to the AAB's mission, research environment, and societal need.
- ii.** Look to further encourage collaborations between specialist groups such that where relevant, multidisciplinary events are developed. The biennial presidential conference in Autumn 2026 will continue the format of previous meetings in being multidisciplinary and addressing an area of significant societal need.
- iii.** Continue to collaborate with other international societies to help deliver more impactful events than likely achievable with a single society working independently. This is evidenced by AAB-organisation of the International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR25) and International Conference on Photosynthesis Research (ICPR26).
- iv.** Continue to develop methods of delivery, particularly online, to provide an excellent and well-regarded experience for all delegates.
- v.** Foster links between academia, industry, grower associations, farmers, non-governmental organisations, funding organisations, and government to enable translation of ideas to facilitate applied outputs.



**Henry Nvenankeng receives an award for 'Best ECP oral presentation' at the 2024 Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management'. Prize presented by Valeria Orlando and Catherine Lilley (R)**



## 4. Scientific journals

The purpose of our scientific journals (**Annals of Applied Biology** and **Plant Biotechnology Journal** with the Society of Experimental Biology) is to provide an opportunity for members and other authors to disseminate their work; for members and others to access quality-controlled research articles; to provide a sustainable income stream to support AAB charitable goals; and to increase the visibility of the society in the journals and vice-versa.

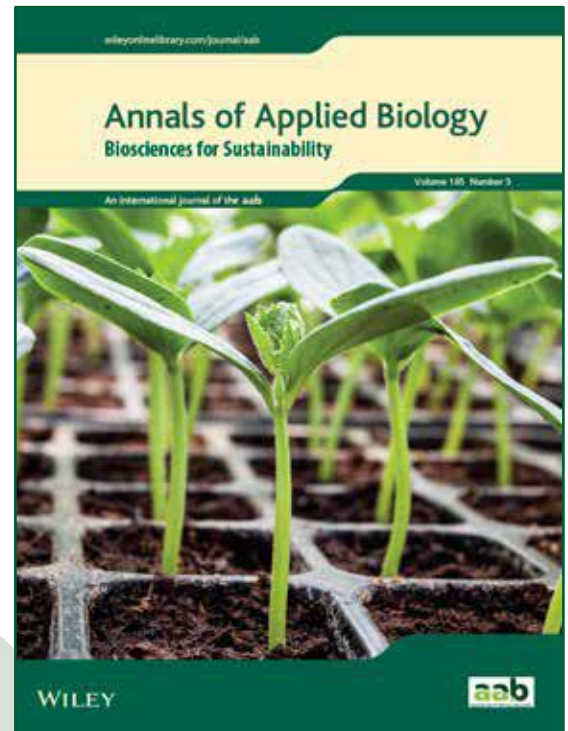
i. Review and future proof the business models for the journals.

ii. Ensure that the journals uphold the best standards of equality, diversity, inclusion, and ethics. This will include a review of the composition of Editorial Boards and affirmation that guidelines from the Committee on Publication Ethics continue to be adhered to.

iii. Regularly review any opportunities for purchase or inaugurate new publications.

iv. Review editorial offices, ensuring they are serving the needs of authors and represent good value for money.

v. Encourage journals to support special issues that are published in coordination with both AAB events and with those organised by other relevant societies.



***Annals of Applied Biology launched the strapline 'Biosciences for Sustainability'.***

## 5. Further activities to promote applied biology

The AAB will promote applied biology via interactions with national and international organisations which include the Global Plant Council, the Royal Society of Biology, the Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee and different EU Cost Actions. Additionally, we will support the promotion of applied biology through the wider collaborations and representations of individual members of council, and the broader membership of the AAB.

We will continue to respond to relevant calls for evidence to influence policy. Collective responses from AAB Council will be coordinated by the President.

**Professor Dale Sanders, AAB President 2025-26**

**Dr Geraint Parry, AAB Executive Officer**

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

● AAB Specialist Groups Report for 2024

Authored by Dr Geraint Parry with input from group conveners: March 2025

**APPLIED PLANT PATHOLOGY**

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-plant-pathology/>

Convener: Jon West, Rothamsted Research

John Clarkson, University of Warwick

James Fortune, VCS

Neil Havis, SRUC

Jennifer Hodgetts, APHA

Rob Jackson, University of Birmingham

Rumiana Ray, University of Nottingham

Faye Ritchie, ADAS

Rosa Sanchez-Lucas, University of Birmingham



In 2024, the APP group collaborated with the British Society of Plant Pathology (BSPP) to organise a satellite meeting as part of their annual Plant Pathology meeting held at the University of Oxford. This was entitled 'Surveillance and Decision Support in Action' and held on September 11th 2024. This meeting had invited speakers Kelvin Hughes (APHA) and Fiona Hignett (SRUC). The satellite meeting attracted ~70 in-person attendees. 17 people accepted or extended AAB membership after attending the meeting. Group convener Jon West worked with the BSPP to organise the meeting, which had 11 speakers selected from abstracts.

Geraint Parry chaired throughout the day.

*Looking to the Future*

James Fortune is leading the organisation of a BSPP satellite meeting entitled '**Disease Management in Practice: Supporting UK Agriculture**'. This takes place on September 9th 2025 at University of Nottingham. Faye Ritchie and Alistair Wright are confirmed invited speakers.



Rumiana Ray, Faye Ritchie and Rosa Sanchez-Lucas are working with members of the IPM group to organise a conference on '**Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management**' to be held at College Court, Leicester on November 11-12 2025.

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

APPLIED TREE AND FOREST BIOLOGY

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-tree-and-forest-biology/>

Convener: Amanda Rasmussen, University of Nottingham

Nick Covarr, Harper Adams University

Sabrine Dhaouadi, University of Birmingham

Andrew Hirons, Myerscough College

Elisabeth Larsen, RHS Wisley

Elizabeth Orton, John Innes Centre

Sir Harry Studholme, Independent forester

Gareth Thomas, Rothamsted Research

Edward 'Ted' Wilson, Independent forester



In 2024 the group rested on the laurels of the great success of the inaugural Creating Canopies meeting held in late 2023. They hosted two-webinars by AAB Honorary Member Dr Jo Clark (June) and Dr Gareth Thomas (December).

*Looking to the Future*

The group will organise '**Creating Canopies II: Resilience, Adaptation and Regenerative Approaches**' on September 10-11th 2025 in Carlisle, UK (<https://cvent.me/nA4k03>). This conference includes a visit to Coombs Wood and has secured sponsorship from Forestry Commission and JABBS Foundation. Invited speakers are Chris Quine (Chief Scientist at Forest Research), Ruth Mitchell (Plant Soil Ecologist, James Hutton Institute), John Mackay (Wood Professor of Forest Science, University of Oxford), Amory Ngan (Head of Urban Forestry in City of Mississauga, Ontario and University of Toronto).

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/biological-control-and-integrated-pest-management/>

Convener: Toby Bruce, Keele University

Elysia Bartel, ADAS

Josh Burnstone, Fargro

David Chandler, University of Warwick

Rosemary Collier, University of Warwick

Rachel McGauley, UK Apples and Pears

Joe Roberts, Harper Adams University

Richard Shaw, CABI International

Neal Ward, Biobest

Xiangming Xu, NIAB



The annual AAB IPM meeting took place in November 2024 at College Court at the University of Leicester entitled '**Biocontrol and IPM in Uncertain Climatic and Economic Environments**'. This was organised by the entire group with leadership from Elysia Bartel and Rachel McGauley and brought together a varied range of speakers from across academia, industry, NGOs, government and farming sectors. 48 delegates attended in-person with 21 online delegates, which was a slight decline on the prior year. The venue in Leicester is excellent and we will return in future years. Invited speakers were Jude Bennison (ADAS), Robert Finger (ETH Zurich, online), Chapwa Kasoma (CABI International), Catherine Bradshaw (Met Office) and Tom Allen-Stevens (BOFIN) who each provided a great perspective from different parts of the IPM industry.

In January 2025 the group co-organised a meeting with Ben Magri from the AAB PAG group at Syngenta Jeallots Hill on '**Application of Biological Pesticides**'. This event had a full-house of 70 in-person delegates that was very well received by attendees.

*Looking to the Future*

The group will co-organise a meeting entitled '**Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management**' with the AAB Applied Plant Pathology group. This will return to College Court at the University of Leicester. Invited speakers include Jonathan Jones (TSL), Jim Dunwell (ACRE), Amma Simon (University of Nottingham), Paul Wilson (University of Nottingham) and Martin Lines (NFFN).

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

CROPPING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CATE)

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/cropping-and-the-environment/>

Convener: Kairsty Topp, SRUC

Jake Bishop, University of Reading

Rose Boyko, SRUC

Lucie Buchi, University of Greenwich

Naomi Jones, Fera Science

Henny Lowth, AHDB

Syed Shah, NIAB

William Smith, Gowan Company

Kate Smith, ADAS

Mark Fletcher, Agrovista



2024 was again an active year for the CATE group with the organisation of two successful events. Members of the CATE group collaborated with colleagues from the Soil and Root Biology group and at Rothamsted Research to organise a session at Groundswell 2024 on the topic of '**On-Farm Experimentation**'. Charlotte White chaired this session with contributions from Susie Roques (ADAS), Jake Bishop, Richard Gantlett (University of Reading), Kelly Jowett and Dion Kelly (Rothamsted Research).

The CATE group oversaw the organisation of Biomass and Energy crops meeting held at the Aberystwyth University by Iain Donnison and Judith Thornton. This event attracted 45 in-person delegates but only 16 online, demonstrating the waning interest in online participation at AAB events. In general this makes it economically challenging to pay £'000s for external AV support when this can be done much more cheaply in-house (albeit with a lower level of quality).

Henny Lowth and Rose Boyko collaborated with Charlotte White in the Soil and Root Biology and colleagues at Organic Research Centre (ORC) and Landworkers Alliance (LWA) to organise a meeting entitled '**Cultivating Wisdom: Agroecology from Experts in their Field**', which followed up on the 2023 AAB event on RegenAg. This event attracted 92 in-person and 40 online delegates and took place in a community centre in Manchester where RogueAV managed the online content. Despite an unusual venue and somewhat last-minute arrangements this event was very successful and it was great to collaborate with ORC and LWA.

*Looking to the Future*

The '**Legumes in Science and Practice 3**' takes place in the University of Reading on June 3-4 2025. From the CATE group this is led by Kairsty Topp with contribution from Jake Bishop. This is a collaboration with the Soil and Root Biology group and coincides with a special issue of Annals of Applied Biology, guest edited by Emily Guest and Charlotte White. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/17447348/homepage/call-for-papers/si-2024-001311>

The '**Roots to Regenerative Biology**' (<https://cvent.me/0Zo9ae>) takes place at the Guildhall in York on November 18-20 2025. This is a 3-day meeting which will include Day 1 on soils, a middle day on soils and regenag and then Day 3 on regenag approaches. Delegates are invited to attend the entire meeting or a shorter portion. Kate Smith and Kairsty Topp are leading the CATE contribution to this event.



Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

**FOOD SYSTEMS**

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/food-systems/>

Convener: Christine Bosch, University of Leeds

Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso, University of Leeds

Emilie Combet, University of Glasgow

Darren Greetham, University of Leeds

Joseph Hubert Galani Yamdeu, Canterbury Christchurch University

Gabriela Toledo-Ortiz, James Hutton Institute



The Food group had a quiet year in 2024. Christine Bosch was part of the advisor group for the Acrylamide meeting in Brussels in September.

*Looking to the Future*

Darren Greetham has had some earlier discussions about organisation of a one-day event on 'Biofermentation' to held at the University of Leeds over coming months/year. Christine Bosch is involved with inviting speakers for the upcoming Legumes in Science and Practice 3 meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

**HORTICULTURAL QUALITY AND FOOD LOSS**

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/horticultural-quality-and-food-loss/>

Convener: Natalia Falagan, Cranfield University

MariCarmen Alamor, Cranfield University

Hassan Bagheri, ADAS

Luke Bell, University of Reading

Jo Hepworth, Durham University

Ciara O'Brien, Cranfield University

Susan McCallum, James Hutton Institute

Wasim Siddiqui, Bihar Ag University

Hazel Smith, Barfoots

Christina Supramaniam, University of Greenwich

Lindsay Williams, University of Edinburgh



In March 2024 the group organised an event at the University of Reading entitled '**Horticultural Science: From Discovery to Application**', which was a collaboration with the 'Journal of Horticultural Science and Biotechnology'. Day 1 of the event had an 'applied' focus and day 2 was organised by JHBS to highlight excellence in horticultural science. Although only 40 delegates attended in-person and 30+ online the meeting was very interesting and also a financial success due to the support from JHBS. The meeting included a visit to the University of Reading greenhouses.

*Looking to the Future*

Waning interest over the past 3 years of 'Horticulture' events means the spring meeting will not occur in 2025. There have been some early discussions with Lori Fisher at the East Malling Trust about the co-organisation of a Hort and Food systems event in Kent in October 2025. There remains an ambition from the AAB EO to organise a pre-harvest and post-harvest meeting in collaboration with the Food Systems group.

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

NEMATOLOGY

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/nematology/>

Convener: Steve Edgington, CABI

Richard Binks, FreshTec

Keith Davies, University of Hertfordshire

Lindy Holden-Dye, University of Southampton

Catherine Lilley, University of Leeds

Valeria Orlando, Fera Science

James Price, James Hutton Institute

Alistair Wright, BBRO



Matt Back and Kasia Dybal lead on the organisation of the '**6th Potato Cyst Nematode Symposium**' which took place at Harper Adams in September 7-8 2024, which attracted 38 in-person and 30 online delegates. Despite the disappointing delegate numbers this event was very international and included invited talks from Seb Eves van der Akker (University of Cambridge), James Price (JHI) and Danny Coyne (IITA, Kenya). Delegates thought as the September date clashes with harvest time it may have ruled out attendance/contributions from agronomists and farmers. A special issue of Annals of Applied Biology coincided with this event guest edited by Chris Bell and Kasia Dybal although submissions have been low.

The annual '**Advances in Nematology**' meeting was organised in December 2024 at the Linnean Society in London. 37 in-person and 58 online delegates registered for the event, which was a slight decline from prior years. The entire group participated in the organisation of the meeting. The meeting featured invited talks from Matt Back (Harper Adams), Alena Pance (University of Hertfordshire) and Rebecca Lawson (Fera Science). The Brian Kerry prize award for 'Best Student talk' was won by Henry Nvenankeng from the University of Southampton whilst the AAB Nematology prize for the favoured poster was won by Sarah Redland (University of Leeds). Both winners won a book kindly donated by CABI Publishing. After a gap of a few years the in-person poster-session returned to the meeting, which was a successful addition with 15+ posters viewed during lunch and in a post-meeting social session.

*Looking to the Future*

The Linnean Society remains a popular venue so the 2025 edition of the '**Advances in Nematology**' meeting will take place there on December 4th 2025.

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/pesticide-application/>

Convener: Emilio Gil-Moya, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Spain

Paolo Balsari, UNITO, Italy

Clare Butler-Ellis, Silsoe Spray Applications Unit

Richard Glass, CHAP-Solutions

Colin Mountford-Smith, BASF

Ben Magri, Syngenta

David Nuyttens, ILVO Vlaanderen, Belgium

James Thomas, Syngenta

Jan Van De Zande, Wageningen University, The Netherlands



The successful IAPA24 meeting took place at the (somewhat jaded) Brighton Mercure hotel in January 2024 where 80 in-person delegates joined 40 online delegates in a meeting that coincided with the publication of Aspects of Applied Biology 148. RogueAV managed the AV for the event and the conference social evening took place in the Brighton Museum. A special issue of Annals of Applied Biology had been arranged to coincide with this event although this only attracted a single successful submission.

Ben Magri led the organisation of an event on '**Application of Biological Pesticides**' that took place on January 21st 2025 at Syngenta Jeallots Hill in the UK. This event attracted a full-house of 70 in-person delegates and was very well received by attendees.

*Looking to the Future*

The IAPA26 meeting will take place in Cagliari, Sardinia in January 2026.

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND CROP IMPROVEMENT

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/plant-physiology-and-crop-improvement/>

Convener: Guy Barker, University of Warwick

Nigel Halford, Rothamsted Research

Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti, NIPGR India

Jim Monaghan, Harper Adams University



Despite having no group meetings in 2024 the group co-badged the organisation of two successful events. On September 4-5 Nigel Halford led an event co-organised with the ACRYRED COST-Action (<https://acryred.eu/>) that took place in the Brussels Museum of Natural History entitled '**Acrylamide and process formed contaminants: A supply chain approach**'. This event attracted 82 in-person delegates and successfully brought together a wide range of contributors across the food industry from plant breeders to policy makers. The financial contribution of AAB to the meeting was higher than anticipated due to the society taking on some invited speaker costs that were originally hoped to have been met by the COST Action.

The PP+CI group organised the AAB Presidential meeting led by Mike Gooding that took place in Birmingham on September 17-18 2025. The title of the event was '**Cereal Quality for sustainable production and human health**' and attracted 40 in-person delegates and 20 online delegates. Guy Poppy received the AAB Presidential Medal.

*Looking to the Future*

No plans for any upcoming activities.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS



Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

PlantEd- Genome Editing in Plants

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/planted/>

Convener: Goetz Hensel, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Sebastien Carpentier, KU Leuven, Belgium

Maria Dellino, University "Aldo Moro" Bari, Italy

Dennis Eriksson, SLU, Sweden

Sadiye Hayta, John Innes Centre, UK

Ankica Kondic Špika, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Dragana Miladinovic, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Serbia

Mladen Petreš, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Agnes Riccioch, Paris-Saclay University, France

Jeremy Sweet, Sweet Environmental Consultants, UK

Katrijn Van Laere, Ghent University, Belgium

Ewa Wozniak, IBCH PAS, Poland



The first year of group activity followed on from the 4-year COST Action PlantEd (<https://plantgenomeediting.eu/>). The group organised 3 successful webinars in April, June and July.

The group collaborated with colleagues in Samsun, Turkey to organise the **'5th AAB-PlantEd congress on Agricultural Biotechnology in the Era of Gene Editing'**. The majority of the arrangements were made by Kubilay Yildirim at Ondokuz Mayıs University and funded by TUBITAK. AAB supported the travel of invited speakers; Goetz Hensel, Sadiye Hayta and Jonathan Napier. There were 80 in-person delegates; 17 registered via AAB website whilst the remainder were Turkish attendees. AAB managed the attendance of 40 online delegates. A special issue of Annals of Applied Biology entitled 'Agricultural Biotechnology in the Era of Genome Editing' coincided with the meeting and was guest edited by Kubilay Yildirim and Musa Kavas (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/17447348/homepage/call-for-papers/si-2024-000708>).

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

SOIL AND ROOT BIOLOGY

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/soil-biology/>

Convener: Charlotte White, ADAS

Amanda Bennett, AHDB

Harry Henderson, AHDB

Mark Hodson, University of York

Felicity Roos, The National Trust



In its first year the 'Soil and Root Biology Group' collaborated with the CATE group in the organisation of a session at Groundswell and the Cultivating Wisdom meeting.

*Looking to the Future*

In 2025 the collaboration with the CATE group continues at the '**Legumes in Science and Practice**' (<https://cvent.me/neBz1X>) meeting on June 3-4 and the '**Roots to Regenerative Agriculture**' (<https://cvent.me/0Zo9ae>) meeting on November 18-20.

The first half of the 'Roots to RegenAg' meeting is entitled '**Roots, soil Organisms And Rhizosphere - a ROARing success?**' and will focus on soil/root biology and includes Sharon Zytynska, Tim George and Maria Hernandez-Soriano as invited speakers. Hopefully the interest in this portion of the meeting will inform future group activities.

Both meetings will coincide with Special Issues of Annals of Applied Biology where Charlotte White will be a guest editor.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Objectives and activities (continued)

VIROLOGY

Group Membership on 31 December 2024

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/virology/>

Convener: Andrew Love, James Hutton Institute

Miguel Aranda, CEBAS CSIC, Spain

Sabrina Bertin, CREA-DC, Italy

Betty Chung, University of Cambridge

Fabrizio Cillo, CNR, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Italy

Charlotte Nellist, NIAB

Jens Tilsner, University of St Andrews

Trisna Tungadi, Keele University

Mark Varrelmann, University of Goettingham, The Netherlands

Jeanmarie Verchot, Texas A+M University, USA

John Walsh, University of Warwick



It was a quiet year for the Virology group in 2024 with planning for IAPV25.

*Looking to the Future*

The IAPV25 meeting takes place in Murcia Spain on April 8-11 and is a collaboration with the Virtagation and VIRNET2 projects. The meeting has attracted great interest with ~200 in-person delegates attending the event, which includes 50 speakers and 100+ poster presentations.

**Other AAB Specialist Group Activities**

In 2024 AAB was contracted to organise the 'Crop Production in Northern Britain' conference and the abstract submission for the 'International Conference on Arabidopsis Research 2024'.

Trustees’ report (continued)  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

● Conferences

Details of the scientific conferences held in the year to 31 December 2024:

Title of conference	In Person	Virtual	No. delegates	Date	Group
International Advances in Pesticide Application	81	43	124	23/01/2024	Pesticide Application
Crop Production in Northern Britain	85	0	85	27/02/2024	Cropping and the Environment
Horticultural Science: From Discovery to Application	45	35	80	26/03/2024	Horticultural
Acrylamide and process formed contaminants: A supply chain approach	84	5	89	04/09/2024	PP and CI
6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management	38	32	70	10/09/2024	Nematology
Cereal Quality for sustainable production and human health	40	22	62	17/09/2024	PP and CI
Biomass and Energy Crops VI	45	16	61	01/10/2024	CATE
Cultivating Wisdom: Agroecology Innovation from Experts in the Field	93	41	134	21/10/2024	CATE and Soil Biology
5th AAB PlantEd Congress: Agricultural Biotechnology in the Era of Genome Editing	18	63	81	30/10/2024	Plant Ed
Biocontrol and IPM in Uncertain Climatic and Economic Environments	48	26	74	12/11/2024	Biological Control and Integrated Pest Management
Advances in Nematology 2024	35	56	91	05/12/2024	Nematology
Total delegates	612	339	951		

**Trustees' report (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Financial review**

● **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO 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.

● **Reserves policy**

To address the need for long-term financial stability we have approved a reserves policy which is set out here. A core purpose of the Association is to promote the study and advancement of Applied Biology. This obligation brings with it the need to ensure that the charity has sufficient funds over the short to medium term to continue to operate. To achieve this, the Association must achieve a sufficient positive annual operating contribution, or have sufficient reserves to call upon, to continue operations. The main features of the Association's reserves policy are as follows:

- they are an inherent part of the Association's risk management process. The amount of reserves needed will vary depending on the Association's financial position and our continuous assessment of the many risks the Association faces at a particular time;
- the need for reserves will be assessed as part of our strategic planning and combined with an annual test of solvency;
- reserves exist either to provide short-term protection against downward fluctuations in annual revenues, or to provide long-term strategic financial support for future projects as has been carried out in the recent past with the establishment of the Food and Energy Security journal;
- the reserves policy balances the need to maintain long-term reserves against the need for short-term spending on our core purpose.

This reserves policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it accurately reflects the circumstances of the Association and the views of the Trustees.

Currently the Trustees believe that the Association holds sufficient reserves.



Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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● Treasurer's report

**Income and expenditure**

Before net gains/(losses) on investments, the total income for 2024 was greater than expenditure by £31,671. The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow, or cash neutrality, as part of a sustainable long term business plan.

*Investments*

The Association's investments continue to be managed by Evelyn Partners and in 2024 incurred a gain of £90,610. This is due to increased investor confidence and continued market recovery during the year.

*Publications*

The two journals in the Association's portfolio, Plant Biotechnology Journal and Annals of Applied Biology, both performed well in 2024, providing a total income of £276,417 to the Association despite a decline in subscription revenue with the market moving towards an open access future. This includes income from Subscriptions and Royalties.

*Management and admin, including staff costs*

Management and admin costs increased from £143,412 in the year to 31 December 2023 to £155,414 in the year to 31 December 2024. This can be explained by increased staff costs due to inflationary rises and staff employed at higher grades.

*Conferences*

Conferences are an important Association activity and the conference programme continued to expand in 2024. As standard the AAB continues to organise hybrid events, using the experience gained in running virtual conferences during the pandemic. The Association subsidised conferences in 2024 by £86,957 (2023 - £69,452). We also received £26,861 in sponsorships (2023 - £29,665).

*Membership*

Membership income remained steady, from £14,513 in the year to 31 December 2023 to £14,238 in the year to 31 December 2024. Overall membership at year end remained stable at 973 members in line with the AAB long-term strategy to increase the member cohort through free registrations offered for conference attendees.

Trustees' report (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2024

AAB Membership Statistics 2024 - Membership Status

	Membership Status					2024	2023
	Full	Student	Retired	Life	Honorary	Current Year Total	Previous Year Total
b/f						998	1136
January	197	301	43	1	22	564	521
February	214	329	43	1	22	609	535
March	221	347	43	1	22	634	586
April	233	354	43	1	22	653	657
May	237	359	43	1	22	662	686
June	252	366	43	1	22	684	722
July	273	397	44	1	21	736	730
August	299	419	47	1	22	788	758
September	327	451	47	1	22	848	801
October	354	492	49	1	22	918	914
November	384	497	49	1	22	953	959
December	400	501	49	1	22	973	998

**Balance Sheet**

The Association's net assets were £1,715,738 at 31 December 2024, compared with £1,593,457 at 31 December 2023. The Association's financial situation is on a very sound footing as a result of a generous legacy bequest and the sale of the Food and Energy Security journal in 2020.

**Future Plans**

The long-term AAB strategy aims to build the membership through organisation of more and higher quality hybrid events. By offering free membership to meeting attendees we hope to engage a cohort of scientists who value AAB membership. The 2025-26 AAB strategy document outlines this plan in more detail.

*Proposed Membership Fees 2026*

The Trustees propose to keep the membership fees for 2026 the same as 2025, as follows: Full membership £65.00, Retired membership £32.50, Student/ECP membership £22.00.

Trustees' report (continued)  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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● Sponsorship and donations

The following were received during the year to 31 December 2024:

**Donation**

Mike van den Driesche donation £5,000

**International Advances in Pesticide Application**

Sygenta £1,000

**Crop Production in Northern Britain**

SRUC £6,111

**Horticultural Science: From Discovery to Application**

JHSB £5,000

**6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management**

CUPGRA £500

CERTIS £500

**5th AAB PlantEd Congress: Agricultural Biotechnology in the Era of Genome Editing**

John Wiley £500

**Cultivating Wisdom: Agroecology Innovation from Experts in the Field**

Landworkers Alliance £1,500

Landcare Alliance £3,000

ORC £3,000

RSK ADAS £750

**Trustees' report (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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● **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

*Cash flow risk*

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The charity uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures. Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

*Credit risk*

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

*Liquidity risk*

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses investment funds.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

● **Investment policy**

There are no restrictions on the Association's power to invest. Its investment portfolio is currently managed by Evelyn Investment Management Services Ltd whose performance the Trustees review. It is the Association's policy to avoid high risk investments.

**Trustees' report (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Structure, governance and management**

● **Constitution**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charity is a registered charity under the charity number 1195899.

The trust became a CIO on 31 January 2022 following the signing of a transfer deed to convert it from an unincorporated charity to a CIO. It was previously constituted under Laws of Association revised December 1977 and was registered as a charity under the charity number 275655.

● **Methods of appointment or election of Trustees**

All Trustees of the Association must be members of the Association of Applied Biologists. Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists include the Honorary Officers of Council (the President, the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President, the General Treasurer, the Conference Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Publications Officer plus any other person designated as an Honorary Officer at the Annual General Meeting) together with the Conveners of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Conveners are notified to the Annual General Meeting. The other Honorary Officers are elected at an Annual General Meeting. In the case of an unfilled position, trustees may be co-opted to office but must be elected at the following Annual General Meeting. The President of the Association of Applied Biologists will serve a maximum period of two years as President. The President-Elect will serve a maximum period of two years as President-elect.

Conveners are elected by members of the Group (at the last meeting of the year preceding the year of office) and may serve for up to six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Conveners is deemed to be three years).

● **Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

Potential Trustees of the Association of Applied Biology will be given copy of Association's Laws and copies of any other key documents relevant to the Charity or post.

The booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees' published by the Charity Commission gives a complete guide to the responsibilities of Charity Trustees and will be issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are expected to read the Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists, additional information provided by the Association and the booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees'.

A 'job description' of each Trustee post will be given to each new Trustee upon appointment. It is the responsibility of each post holder to review and update their particular job description by the end of October each year. Any changes are to be agreed by Council at its last full meeting of the year.

New trustees will be given an induction session with the Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

**Trustees' report (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

● **Organisational structure**

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members. Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Publications Officer, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Meetings Treasurer and Early Career Scientist Champion, together with Conveners of the AAB Specialist Groups.

*Wider network*

Affiliations were maintained with the Institute of Biology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 judgements 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 CIO will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the CIO's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Laws of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

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**Professor D Sanders**

President

Date:



**Independent Examiner's Report  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Association of Applied Biologists ('the CIO')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

As the Trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

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

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the CIO has prepared the accounts in accordance with 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) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**Independent Examiner's Report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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This report is made solely to the CIO's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the CIO's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the CIO and the CIO's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

Dated:

Karen Neilson FCA

Birmingham



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**Statement of financial activities**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
	Note				
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	26,861	-	26,861	29,665
Charitable activities	4	410,935	-	410,935	417,840
Investments	5	15,815	-	15,815	11,800
<b>Total income</b>		<b>453,611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>453,611</b>	<b>459,305</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	418,994	2,946	421,940	396,238
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>418,994</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>421,940</b>	<b>396,238</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before investments</b>		<b>34,617</b>	<b>(2,946)</b>	<b>31,671</b>	<b>63,067</b>
Net gains on investments		90,610	-	90,610	90,611
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	16	<b>125,227</b>	<b>(2,946)</b>	<b>122,281</b>	<b>153,678</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	16	1,589,232	4,225	1,593,457	1,439,779
Net movement in funds	16	125,227	(2,946)	122,281	153,678
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	16	<b>1,714,459</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,715,738</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>

The notes on pages 30 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**

**Registered number:**

**Balance sheet**

**As at 31 December 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	-	-
Investments	13	<b>1,562,125</b>	1,370,103
		<b>1,562,125</b>	1,370,103
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	<b>94,298</b>	138,711
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>101,995</b>	149,795
		<b>196,293</b>	288,506
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<b>(42,680)</b>	(65,152)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>153,613</b>	223,354
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>1,715,738</b>	1,593,457
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	16	<b>1,279</b>	4,225
Unrestricted funds	16	<b>1,714,459</b>	1,589,232
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>1,715,738</b>	1,593,457

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

**Professor D Sanders**

President

Date:

The notes on pages 30 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of cash flows**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	19	<b>40,550</b>	(22,900)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		<b>15,815</b>	11,800
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		<b>100</b>	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<b>(299)</b>	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		<b>356,424</b>	235,507
Purchase of investments		<b>(453,443)</b>	(357,355)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(81,403)</b>	<b>(110,048)</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(40,853)</b>	<b>(132,948)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>161,249</b>	294,197
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	20	<b>120,396</b>	161,249

The notes on pages 30 to 47 form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**1. General information**

The Association of Applied Biologists is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under number 1195899.

The principal office address is Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF.

The principal activity of the charitable trust is to organise conferences and support publications, in order to support those working in the area of applied biology, and to promote advances in the field.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 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 Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Association of Applied Biologists 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 financial statements are presented in the CIO's functional currency of GBP (Sterling). They are prepared to the nearest £1.

**2.2 Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO 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.



**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the CIO 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 CIO 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 CIO, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.

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.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

**2.4 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.

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

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Expenditure (continued)**

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**2.5 Interest receivable**

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

**2.6 Foreign currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

**2.7 Taxation**

The Association of Applied Biologists has charitable status and is registered with the Charity Commission and is therefore exempt from paying Corporation Tax on charitable activities.

**2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets costing £350 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

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.

At each reporting date the CIO assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.8 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 basis:

Office equipment	- 4 years straight line
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**2.9 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 Statement of financial activities.

**2.10 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.

**2.11 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.

**2.12 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 CIO 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 Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

**2.13 Financial instruments**

The CIO 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.

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.14 Pensions**

The CIO operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge in the Statement of financial activities represents the amounts payable by the CIO to the fund in respect of the year. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further obligations.

Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

**2.15 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 CIO and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	26,861	26,861

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	29,665	29,665

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Conferences	120,280	120,280
Publications	276,417	276,417
Membership Fees	14,238	14,238
	410,935	410,935

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Conferences	116,698	116,698
Publications	286,629	286,629
Membership Fees	14,513	14,513
	417,840	417,840

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	15,793	15,793
Bank interest received	22	22
	<u>15,815</u>	<u>15,815</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from listed investments	11,799	11,799
Bank interest received	1	1
	<u>11,800</u>	<u>11,800</u>



Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Conferences	223,062	-	223,062
Publications	33,350	-	33,350
Membership fees	7,168	-	7,168
Student travel grants	-	2,946	2,946
Management & administration costs	155,414	-	155,414
	<b>418,994</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>421,940</b>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Conferences	218,411	-	218,411
Publications	24,497	-	24,497
Membership fees	8,644	-	8,644
Student travel grants	-	1,274	1,274
Management & administration costs	143,412	-	143,412
	<b>394,964</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>396,238</b>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Conferences	223,062	-	-	223,062
Publications	33,350	-	-	33,350
Membership Fees	7,168	-	-	7,168
Student travel grants	-	2,946	-	2,946
Management & administration costs	-	-	155,414	155,414
	<b>263,580</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>155,414</b>	<b>421,940</b>

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Grant funding of activities 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Conferences	218,411	-	-	218,411
Publications	24,497	-	-	24,497
Membership Fees	8,644	-	-	8,644
Student travel grants	-	1,274	-	1,274
Management & administration costs	-	-	143,412	143,412
	<b>251,552</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>143,412</b>	<b>396,238</b>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	80,782	76,004
Depreciation	299	913
Staff training and welfare	8,635	4,000
Office costs	4,948	4,816
Miscellaneous expenses	13,084	13,730
Independent examiner fees	3,350	3,100
Legal fees	830	830
Establishment costs	27,563	24,703
Travel and accommodation	813	1,312
Governance costs	15,110	14,004
	<b>155,414</b>	<b>143,412</b>

8. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Individuals 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Student travel grants	2,946	<b>2,946</b>

	Grants to Individuals 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Student travel grants	1,274	1,274

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**9. Independent examiner's remuneration**

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the CIO's independent examiner for the independent examination of the CIO's annual financial statements	<u>3,350</u>	<u>3,100</u>

**10. Staff costs**

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	153,120	142,232
Social security costs	14,895	13,226
Staff pension costs	14,037	13,484
	<u>182,052</u>	<u>168,942</u>

The average number of persons employed by the CIO during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Charitable Activities	4	4
Governance	1	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the period ended 31 December 2024, expenses totalling £1,323 were reimbursed to 7 Trustees (2023 - £1,209 to 7 Trustees). The expenses reimbursed primarily related to travel and subsistence costs incurred in attending Council meetings and various other meetings, and general administration costs.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 January 2024	75,530
Additions	299
Disposals	(598)
At 31 December 2024	75,231
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 January 2024	75,530
Charge for the year	299
Disposals	(598)
At 31 December 2024	75,231
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 December 2024	-
At 31 December 2023	-

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

13. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	Total £
<b>Market valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2024	1,358,649	11,454	1,370,103
Additions	453,443	(453,443)	-
Disposals	(347,290)	356,424	9,134
Revaluations	78,922	-	78,922
Income net of fees	-	3,966	3,966
Cash transfers in	-	100,000	100,000
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,543,724</u>	<u>18,401</u>	<u>1,562,125</u>

The historical cost of the listed investments at the period end was £1,416,478.

14. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	4,061	10,082
Other debtors	87,655	124,468
Prepayments and accrued income	2,582	4,161
	<u>94,298</u>	<u>138,711</u>



Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,157	15,836
Other taxation and social security	-	3,635
Other creditors	1,228	1,228
Accruals and deferred income	26,295	44,453
	<b>42,680</b>	<b>65,152</b>
	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 January	40,733	74,541
Resources deferred during the year	22,275	40,733
Amounts released from previous periods	(40,733)	(74,541)
	<b>22,275</b>	<b>40,733</b>

Deferred income relates to membership fees received in advance, sponsorship and fees for conferences and events taking place in the following year and advances receivable on publications in respect of the following year.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

16. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Funds	1,589,232	453,611	(418,994)	90,610	1,714,459
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Student travel grants	4,225	-	(2,946)	-	1,279
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>	<b>453,611</b>	<b>(421,940)</b>	<b>90,610</b>	<b>1,715,738</b>

The restricted fund balance constitutes only one restricted fund, historically brought forward to be utilised for providing student travel grants, subject to applications being approved by the Association, and overseas travel grants. The grants are available to all students, whether members of the Association or not, but only available to students attending AAB conferences and meetings. For overseas travel grants, these are primarily for invited speakers and guests travelling from afar to attend conferences.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Funds	1,434,280	459,305	(394,964)	90,611	1,589,232
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Student travel grants	5,499	-	(1,274)	-	4,225
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>1,439,779</b>	<b>459,305</b>	<b>(396,238)</b>	<b>90,611</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

17. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
General funds	1,589,232	453,611	(418,994)	90,610	1,714,459
Restricted funds	4,225	-	(2,946)	-	1,279
	<b>1,593,457</b>	<b>453,611</b>	<b>(421,940)</b>	<b>90,610</b>	<b>1,715,738</b>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
General funds	1,434,280	459,305	(394,964)	90,611	1,589,232
Restricted funds	5,499	-	(1,274)	-	4,225
	<b>1,439,779</b>	<b>459,305</b>	<b>(396,238)</b>	<b>90,611</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	1,562,125	-	1,562,125
Current assets	195,014	1,279	196,293
Creditors due within one year	(42,680)	-	(42,680)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,714,459</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,715,738</b>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	1,370,103	-	1,370,103
Current assets	284,281	4,225	288,506
Creditors due within one year	(65,152)	-	(65,152)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,589,232</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>122,281</b>	153,678
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>299</b>	913
(Gains)/losses on investments	<b>(88,056)</b>	(90,611)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(15,815)</b>	(11,800)
Gain on the sale of fixed assets	<b>(100)</b>	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	<b>44,413</b>	(48,694)
(Decrease) in creditors	<b>(22,472)</b>	(26,386)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>40,550</b>	(22,900)

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Cash in hand	<b>101,995</b>	149,795
Cash held by investment managers	<b>18,401</b>	11,454
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>120,396</b>	161,249

**21. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	<b>At 1 January 2024</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31 December 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>149,795</b>	<b>(47,800)</b>	<b>101,995</b>

**22. Pension commitments**

The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the Charity to the scheme and amounted to £14,037 (2023: £13,484). The contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date were £Nil (2023 - £Nil).

**23. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 December 2024 the CIO had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Not later than 1 year	<b>-</b>	11,534

**24. Related party transactions**

The CIO has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the CIO at 31 December 2024.

## FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: AUGUST 2025

Date	Title Location Organiser(s) Website	Specialist Group and Affiliates
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September 9	<b>BSPP Satellite meeting on 'Disease Management in Practice: Supporting UK Agriculture'</b> Venue: University of Nottingham JAMES FORTUNE, JON WEST <a href="https://www.bspp.org.uk/conference-info-plant-pathology-2025-ppath2025-and-early-careers-plant-pathology-2025-ecpp2025/">https://www.bspp.org.uk/conference-info-plant-pathology-2025-ppath2025-and-early-careers-plant-pathology-2025-ecpp2025/</a>	APP and BSPP
September 10-11	<b>Creating Canopies II</b> Venue: CROWN and MITRE HOTEL, CARLISLE EDWARD WILSON, MANDY RASMUSSEN, ANDREW HIRONS <a href="https://cvent.me/nA4k03">https://cvent.me/nA4k03</a>	TREE
November 6	<b>Resource Efficiency in Food-Based Horticulture</b> Venue: EAST MALLING RESEARCH LORI FISHER, GERAINT PARRY <a href="https://cvent.me/DMwPzZ">https://cvent.me/DMwPzZ</a>	EXTERNAL, HORT QUALITY
November 11-12	<b>Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management</b> Venue: BELMONT HOTEL, LEICESTER RUMIANA RAY, TOBY BRUCE, FAYE RITCHIE, ROSA SANCHEZ-LUCAS <a href="https://cvent.me/ER78Wy">https://cvent.me/ER78Wy</a>	IPM-APP
November 18-20	<b>Roots to Regenerative Agriculture</b> Venue: THE GUILD HALL, UNIVERSITY OF YORK KATE SMITH, CHARLOTTE WHITE <a href="https://cvent.me/0Zo9ae">https://cvent.me/0Zo9ae</a>	CATE-SOIL/ROOT
December 4	<b>Advances in Nematology 2025</b> Venue: LINNEAN SOCIETY, LONDON, UK STEVE EDGINGTON <a href="https://cvent.me/4alAg4">https://cvent.me/4alAg4</a>	NEMATOLOGY

January 20-22 2026	<b>International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA26)</b> Venue: CAGLIARI, SARDINIA, ITALY EMILIO GIL <a href="https://cvent.me/kv2xkO">https://cvent.me/kv2xkO</a>	PAG
February 25-26 2026	<b>Crop Production in Northern Britain 2026 (CPNB)</b> Venue: APEX HOTEL, DUNDEE FIONA BURNETT <a href="https://cvent.me/7vD5PI">https://cvent.me/7vD5PI</a>	EXTERNAL
March 23-26 2026	<b>MONOGRAM 2026</b> Venue: ROBINSON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE STEPHANIE SWARBECK <a href="https://cvent.me/MM0bPo">https://cvent.me/MM0bPo</a>	MONOGRAM

July 26-30 2026	<b>International Conference on Photosynthesis Research (ICPR26)</b> Venue: LIVERPOOL, UK CHRISTINE FOYER, ALEXANER RUBAN, CONRAD MULLINEAUX, GUY HANKE <a href="http://Photosynthesis2026.com">Photosynthesis2026.com</a>	ALL
October 4-8 2026	<b>AUXIN 2026</b> Venue: Portugal LARS OSTERGAARD <a href="http://auxin2026.info">http://auxin2026.info</a>	EXTERNAL
Spring 2027	<b>International Advances in Plant Virology (IAPV27)</b> <b>Venue:</b> University of Cambridge BETTY CHUNG	VIROLOGY
TBC	<b>Workshop on Precision Fermentation</b> Venue: University of Leeds DARREN GREETHAM	FOOD SYSTEMS





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