

Charity registration number 1200657 (England and Wales)

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	C A Lawson D Shah S E Warburton A R Evans
Chair	A R Evans
Charity number	1200657
Independent examiner	Susanna Cassey FCA Azets Audit Services Fleet House New Road Lancaster United Kingdom LA1 1EZ

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 3
Statement of trustees' responsibilities	4
Independent examiner's report	5
Statement of financial activities	6
Balance sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 12

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The Equilibrium Charitable Trust was established in 2022 as a donor advised fund (DAF) to offer clients a seamless pathway to charitable giving. Beyond the tax and financial planning advantages, philanthropy enables individuals to create meaningful impact, involve younger family members in giving decisions, and establish an enduring legacy.

DAFs represent the UK's most rapidly expanding philanthropic tool, serving as a compelling alternative to direct donations or establishing a private charitable foundation. They deliver an intelligent and efficient approach to achieving philanthropic goals through a straightforward, adaptable and economically sound framework.

While donor advised funds have long been established practice in the United States, their adoption in the UK continues to accelerate as more donors discover their benefits. Consistent with its mission of enhancing people's lives, Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP established The Equilibrium Charitable Trust as an integral component of its financial planning services, responding to the increasing significance of charitable giving among its client base.

Public benefit

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

Activities

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation's (CIO) objectives are exclusively charitable purposes for public benefit as determined by the charity trustees.

Specific grants to organisations will be allocated based on donor preferences and subject to thorough due diligence before receiving trustee approval.

The trustees have given full consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance when determining the charity's activities.

Charitable grants will be distributed to organisations aligned with donor intentions (following trustee approval and appropriate due diligence processes).

The CIO's daily operations and promotional activities are managed by volunteers.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

Throughout its second full year of operations, the CIO has received donations amounting to £191,668. Donors have identified various charitable organisations for trustee consideration, spanning healthcare, children's welfare, social causes and environmental protection.

The trustees have been informed of a declaration of a legacy gift in excess of £1,000,000 in an individual's will.

Ongoing discussions with Equilibrium Financial Planning (EFP) clients who prioritise philanthropy and wish to create a lasting legacy continue. Due to external factors, a full-scale launch of this offering will now take place in 2026.

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial review

Reserves policy

Given that there are no currently no expenses to fund and no obligation to make grants beyond the assets held in the individual donor advised funds, the trustees have determined that maintaining a financial reserve is not necessary. All grant requests and recommendations are contingent upon available fund balances and any ancillary costs are covered by Equilibrium Financial Planning. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate.

Investment policy

Investment policy

The trustees have appointed Equilibrium Investment Management (EIM). They operate under an investment mandate enabling them to oversee the CIO's assets and establish a fund selection framework aligned with individual donor objectives.

Major risks

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks are in relation to financial market performance influenced by economic conditions and the investment returns this generates, alongside client willingness to contribute donations.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

C A Lawson

M Milton-Edwards

(Resigned 12 November 2025)

D Shah

S E Warburton

A R Evans

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

In selecting individuals for appointment, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. No fewer than a third of the charity trustees shall be appointed by EFP and need not be a member or employee of EFP. Any person retiring as a charity trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Organisational structure

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of the CIO. There must be at least three charity trustees and the maximum number that may be appointed is seven. The first charity trustees are five in number.

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Relationship with related parties

Equilibrium Financial Planning (EFP) provides investment and financial planning advice to individuals in the course of its day to day business. Clients of EFP are offered the opportunity to create a fund within the CIO (to operate as a donor advised fund) in order to facilitate their charitable giving.

EFP will forgo fees on planning advice to clients on the element of their funds which give to the CIO. It also provides significant administrative support to the CIO, including free provision of meeting rooms for trustee and other meetings, IT services and minute-taking in order to the minimise administrative costs of the CIO.

In addition, EIM has been appointed as the investment manager who run a range of their own funds with varying degrees of risk in which it is likely that donors will invest in. The annual management charge of such funds is competitive relative to the wider market.

One of the first charity trustees is also a majority equity partner in both EFP and EIM.

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



C A Lawson
Trustee

Date: 21/1/26

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Equilibrium Charitable Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements 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 now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Susanna Cassey FCA

Independent Examiner

Azets Audit Services

Fleet House

New Road

Lancaster

LA1 1EZ

United Kingdom

Date: 29 Jan '26

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	2	191,668	303,369
Investments	3	289	52
Total income		<u>191,957</u>	<u>303,421</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities		(1,475)	-
Other expenditure	5	<u>3,757</u>	<u>2,859</u>
Total expenditure		<u>2,282</u>	<u>2,859</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	<u>18,124</u>	<u>2,754</u>
Net income and movement in funds		207,799	303,316
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		<u>303,316</u>	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>511,115</u>	<u>303,316</u>


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

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		514,090		272,401
Current assets					
Debtors	9	-		33,750	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(2,975)		(2,835)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(2,975)		30,915
Total assets less current liabilities			511,115		303,316
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	11		511,115		303,316
			511,115		303,316

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21/1/26



 C A Lawson
 Trustee

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Equilibrium Charitable Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements 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 Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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

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

1.4 Income

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

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

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

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 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 are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.8 Financial instruments

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	191,668	303,369

3 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	289	52

4 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

5 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Governance cost	2,975	2,835
Financing costs	782	24
	3,757	2,859

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	18,124	2,754

7 Taxation

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

8 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	272,401
Additions	223,564
Valuation changes	18,125
At 31 March 2025	514,090
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	514,090
At 31 March 2024	272,401

9 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	-	33,750

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income	2,975	2,835

THE EQUILIBRIUM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Unrestricted funds

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

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	303,316	191,957	(2,282)	18,124	511,115
Previous period:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	-	303,421	(2,859)	2,754	303,316

12 Unrestricted funds

It is intended for the operational costs of the trust to be offset by donations into trust by Equilibrium Financial Planning LLP. The donations will be made post year end.

13 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.