

# **THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY**

## **Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**

**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**Charity No : 284923**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Reference and Administrative Information	1
Report of the Trustees	2 - 7
Independent Auditor's Report	8 - 9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Statement of Cash Flows	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 21

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Registered name:** The Royal Signals Charity

**Charity registration number:** 284923

**Principal office:** Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals  
Griffin House, Blandford Camp  
Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8RH

**Trustees** Corporate Trustee:  
The Royal Signals Trustee Limited (RSTL)

Acting as Directors of RSTL, as if Trustees:

Major General D McDowall CBE  
Brigadier EM Flint  
Brigadier TJP Watts OBE  
Colonel EA Mortimore  
Captain MC Fitton

appointed:

Major General RJB Spencer	from 28 March 2024
Colonel NC Bruce ADC	from 22 March 2023
Lieutenant Colonel P Wright	from 11 January 2023
Lieutenant Colonel PB Brogan	from 10 January 2024
Warrant Officer 2 D Roserie	from 11 January 2023

retired:

Major General TG Inshaw CB	to 28 March 2024
Major General J Stokoe CB CBE	to 11 January 2023
Colonel MC Brookes ADC	to 22 March 2023
Colonel KJ Bruce-Smith TD	to 10 January 2024
Staff Sergeant JM Fatiaki	to 11 January 2023

**Secretary** Colonel DA Craft

**Independent Auditor** Crowe U.K. LLP  
St James House, St James Square  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PR

**Bankers** Lloyds Bank plc, Cox and Kings Branch  
PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT

CCLA Investment Management Limited  
1 Angel Lane, London, EC4R 3AB

**Solicitors** Wilsons Solicitors LLP  
Alexandra House, St Johns Street  
Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2SB

**Investment Advisers** AITi Tiedemann Global  
Level 5 Nova North, 11 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5BY

previous name: Alvarium Investment Advisors (UK) Limited  
10 Old Burlington Street, London, W1S 3AG

**Investment Managers** BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited  
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DL

Troy Asset Management Limited  
33 Davies Street, London, W1K 4BP

## THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. 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 Trust Deed, 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 Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

#### Governance

The Royal Signals Charity (RSC) changed its name from The Royal Corps of Signals Benevolent Fund (RSBF) on 16 January 2020.

The Royal Signals Charity is a registered charity constituted under a Trust Deed; registration number 284923 dated 13 May 1982. The Charity Commission scheme was amended on 8 May 2012 and The Royal Signals Trustee Limited (RSTL), a non-charitable company limited by shares, became the Corporate Trustee of the Charity replacing all the previous Trustees of the Charity.

The Royal Signals Association (RSA) was a separate unregistered charity, whose objectives and activities were carried out by RSC (formerly RSBF). This arrangement was formalised during 2015 with the constitution of RSA being adopted on 14 March 2015 and RSA was registered with the Charity Commission with RSTL as its Corporate Trustee. The Charity Commission issued a Uniting Direction in November 2015 linking RSA to RSC (formerly RSBF).

The Directors of RSTL effectively act as if they were the Trustees of the Charity, and they are referred to as "The Trustees" in this report and the accompanying financial statements. They are appointed by the Master of Signals (Chair of the Corps Executive Board (CEB)).

The Trustees are familiar with the work of the Charity through their service in the Royal Corps of Signals. Additionally an induction pack comprising the governing documents, statement of accounts and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance "The Essential Trustee: What You Need to Know" and other such documents are given to new Trustees, and they are encouraged to attend relevant seminars.

The Trustees aim to follow charity sector best practice and have familiarised themselves with the updated version of the Charity Governance Code (the "Code"). They consider that the Charity's governance framework aligns with much of the Code. The Trustees have been briefed on the Confederation of British Services and Ex-Services Organisations (Cobseo) Aide Memoire approach and the charity participated in initial trials of their self-reporting tool. The board have adopted this approach and they fully comply with it.

#### Structure and Management

The Royal Signals Charity is the amalgamation of the Royal Signals Association Fund, the Royal Signals Officers Fund and the Royal Signals Corps Fund which were separate Charitable Trusts. Under the above mentioned Trust Deed they are managed as one organisation, with financial differentiation as restricted funds.

The Trustees are served by a number of committees that are governed by terms of reference and are charged with discrete objectives as follows:

- The RSA Central Committee considers branch and veteran matters.
- The Royal Signals Institution Council maintains strong, professional and social links between the Royal Corps of Signals, professional bodies and other relevant areas of defence, in order to foster the professional well being of the Corps and to contribute to the development of the delivery of Information and Communications Services and cyber and electromagnetic operations within Defence and Security.
- The Royal Signals Sports Club promotes sporting and adventurous activities.
- There are also management and finance committees for the Corps Officers' Messes, Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Messes, Corps Music and Corps Heritage.

The Trustees agree the strategy for the Charity including grant making, investment, reserves, risk management and approval of budgets. Grant making within the approved budget is delegated to the chairs of the committees.

The Royal Signals Museum is an independent charity which is related as a result of complementary objectives and activities. The Trustees have agreed to support the Museum financially, see note 14 to the financial statements.

The Charity is a member of Cobseo and has close working relationships with other charities; the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF), the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association - Forces Help (SSAFA-FH) and The Royal British Legion (TRBL). SSAFA-FH and TRBL undertake welfare casework on behalf of the Charity.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Structure and Management (continued)**

The day to day management of the Charity is delegated to Colonel DA Craft (Corps Secretary) who can be contacted at Corps Headquarters Royal Signals, Griffin House, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8RH. He is assisted by the Senior Management Team: Lieutenant Colonel S Lockwood (Assistant Corps Secretary), Colonel J Cooper (replacing AE Percival) (RSI Director) and Mr MJ Fisher (Corps Accountant). The first two are Ministry of Defence Civil Servants and the last two are employees of the Charity, whose remuneration is set by reference to equivalent Civil Service Grades and market rates of pay.

**Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the Charity set out in the governing scheme are:

- To promote and maintain the physical efficiency and morale of The Royal Corps of Signals.
- To relieve either generally or individually by way of donation, grant, or loan, the following who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress;
  - past and present Signallers and their families and dependants; and
  - the families and dependants of deceased Signallers.
- The payment of donations, subscriptions or grants to charitable organisations concerned with the employment or welfare of Signallers and their dependants.

The aims of the Charity are:

- To fund the activities of the serving and retired members of Royal Signals, that attract no or only partial funding from the Ministry of Defence, in order to foster effectiveness, morale, teamwork, fitness, professional development, comradeship and esprit de corps.
- To provide grants for deserving welfare cases that are within the objects of the Charity.

The activities for the year result from demands within these aims to support the activities of the serving members of the Corps, to foster comradeship and to meet benevolence requirements.

**Grant Making Policy**

Applications for welfare grants are judged on their merits, with need being the most significant factor. There is no limit set on the amount spent on benevolence within any year. Grants up to £1,750 (formerly £1,500) are considered electronically using Cobseo's Case Management System.

Grants in support of other activities that fall outside the delegated budgets are submitted by the relevant committee to the Corps Secretary or the Trustees for their consideration, depending on a range of factors which allow some delegation of authority. If the submission is particularly significant or would involve a major change in policy it could be referred to the Corps Executive Board.

Budgets are set for all expenditure other than welfare, no specific targets are set beyond these budgets, they can be exceeded if suitable cases can be made.

**Achievements and Performance**

**Activities**

There is a continuing requirement to fund adventurous training expeditions, sport, social and recreational events and professional development, all of which contribute to the efficiency, effectiveness and morale of the Corps. It is equally important to advertise the availability of financial assistance for those who are eligible and grant making to deserving welfare cases.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Activities (continued)**

Adventure training, yacht club and sports activities have returned to "pre-Covid-19" levels resulting in combined costs of £338K compared to the combined cost of £382K in 2022 and £229K in 2021. 2022 included postponed Centenary trips overseas.

The Royal Signals Institution (RSI) continued to promote professional development of the Officers and Soldiers of the Royal Signals, serving and retired. A full programme of events (lectures, workshops, etc) took place. The 2022 annual seminar and London lecture/dinner was postponed till 2023, due to a rail strike, so that these were held in the year as well as the 2023 equivalents. The RSI continued to recognise the academic, professional, engineering and operational excellence of the Corps by presenting a significant number of awards in the year.

**Benevolence**

The total cost of benevolent welfare was £476K (2022:£336K & 2021:£285K) including overheads directly attributable to welfare. Within that figure £43K (2022:£35K & 2021:£42K) was paid to other charities with similar objectives, for their support of signallers. The number of welfare grants (excluding Christmas grants) in 2023 was 433 (2022:353 & 2021:299). The earlier figures were relatively low, mainly due to the Covid-19 "lockdown" when caseworkers were making fewer visits in support of applications.

Major grants of £801 up to the maximum of £1,750 (this was increased from £1,500 during 2023) from the Charity, assisted with the provision of electric scooters, level access showers, replacement household items such as carpets or white goods, carrying out urgent repairs to houses, help with priority debts such as rent and utilities, mobility aids such as riser chairs, stair lifts, assistance with re-training and towards removals and rental bonds.

The Trustees are most grateful to the honorary Welfare Officers in branches of the Royal Signals Association and the caseworkers of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association-Forces Help (SSAFA-FH) and the Royal British Legion (RBL) for the enormous contribution that they make towards the welfare of serving and retired Signallers and their dependants.

**Material Investments - Policy and Performance**

AITi Global, independent investment advisers, (previously named Alvarium Investment Advisors (UK) Limited) help develop the overall strategy of the portfolio and advise on individual transactions and circumstances. The investment policy continues to be to maximise return at medium risk over the long term.

65% of the invested portfolio remained within the Armed Forces Charities Growth & Income Fund managed by BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, 31% was held in Trojan 'S' shares fund of Troy Asset Management Limited and 4% was held in the BlackRock Sterling Liquidity Fund.

Total dividend income amounted to £307K (2022:£270K), £20K (2022:£8K) arose from accumulating units and so was automatically re-invested, and from the income units £287K (2022:£262K) arose in cash. Total gains of £173K (2022:£1,274K losses) arose from the investments in the year.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Financial Review

Total income amounted to £1,489K (2022:£1,457K). Subscription income increased to £773K in 2023 from £744K in 2022. Donations amounted to £69K (2022:£75K) and Legacies totalled £27K (2022:less than £1K).

The principal funding source continued to be the voluntary subscriptions of 110% of a day's pay a year from the members of the serving Corps. Officers subscribe a further 80% of a day's pay which is used specifically for officer's activities, and Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers subscribe a further 30% of a day's pay which is used to fund improvements to Sergeants' Messes and their social activities. The Trustees are most grateful to the serving Corps for their continued support.

Total expenditure amounted to £1,862K (2022:£1,618K).

The cost of Welfare grants increased by £141K from £336K in 2022 to £477K in 2023. The total cost of Sporting activities, including Sailing, was £233K in 2023 (2022:£304K), of which £106K (2022:£137K) was funded by external Sponsorships and Grants. Adventure Training grants cost £105K (2022:£78K), in 2022 £7K was funded by external grants (nil in 2023).

Messes, Heritage and History combined with Other Assistance to the serving Corps amounted to £335K (2022:£331K). In 2023 these included £38K for the cost of a burial party being flown to Fiji, an extra £6K grant to the Museum (2023:£131K, 2022:£125K), and £10K improvements to Junior Ranks messing facilities, conversely there was a saving of £36K supporting Recruiting activities.

The 2022 RSI Dinner/Lecture in London was postponed to early 2023, due to railway industrial action. There were therefore two such events held in 2023, their costs were £57K (ex 2022) and £89K (2023).

The cost of Raising Funds in 2022 included £37K for the write-off of the stock of unsold 2020 Centenary memorabilia (Nil in 2023).

Before the revaluation of investments the deficit for the year was £374K (2022:£161K deficit). After the investment gains of £173K (2022:£1,274K losses) the total of the fund balances was £11,312K (2022:£11,512K). At the end of the year the unrestricted Corps Funds amounted to £3,712K (2022:£3,781K) and the total of restricted funds was £7,600K (2022:£7,732K).

The Charity benefits from staff costs and building running costs paid for by the Ministry of Defence, as part of their contribution to esprit de corps. These cannot be meaningfully quantified or evaluated.

### Fundraising

All fundraising activities for the charity are carried out by volunteers with assistance from charity staff. The charity does not use professional fundraisers or have any commercial participators.

The Royal Signals Charity treats its responsibility towards supporters in vulnerable circumstances with the utmost importance and our fundraisers are provided with guidance and support to help them respond appropriately to any individual they consider this might apply to.

No complaints relating to fundraising activities have been received by the charity during this financial period.

However, the charity has in place procedures that would be followed in the event of a complaint being received with the initial response being the responsibility of the Corps Secretary. Any continuing issues would then be passed to the Trustees to determine what further action might be required.

### Public Benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commissioner's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the Charity should support or undertake. The Charity provides public benefit by enhancing the morale and efficiency of serving service personnel to more effectively perform their role within the Royal Corps of Signals, supporting comradeship within the wider Corps family (regular, reserves and retired), and providing benevolence to individuals and their families where there is need.

Taking the Charity Commission's guidance into consideration, the Trustees are satisfied that the public benefit requirements have been met.



## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Risk Management

The Trustees have examined the operational and business risks and confirm that systems have been established to manage these risks. A risk management plan has been established and is reviewed regularly. There are measures in place to prevent fraud and theft, to ensure the physical security of data and buildings and to maintain business continuity. The management of risk on investments in relation to the market is carried out by RSTL and is explained in more detail previously in this report.

The Trustees have identified strategic risks that could have a severe impact on both income and/or expenditure, as follows:

- amalgamation of the serving Corps with another so that most of the income is lost,
- further reduction in the size of the Corps under future Strategic Defence and Security Reviews,
- reduction in support of the Charity by removal of the personnel, premises and infrastructure provided by the Ministry of Defence,
- and, permanent reduction in investment values and income earning capacity.

These risks can be mitigated by maintaining sufficient Reserves to enable the Charity's activities to continue (see Reserves Policy below).

The Trustees do not believe that there is a significant risk to the Charity as a Going Concern.

### Reserves Policy

At current levels of activity the Charity needs an investment return (income plus gains) of about £680K to meet its costs. At an average rate of return of about 5% this suggests the need for an investment portfolio of around £13.6M (4% = £17M and 6% = £11.3M).

As mentioned above, the Trustees have identified strategic risks that can only be mitigated by holding reserves. They have calculated that an amount of over £2M in addition to that mentioned above would be needed to cover these risks enabling ongoing commitments to be fulfilled. This gives an investment target of between £14M and £17M. At 31 December 2023 the market value of the investment portfolio was £10.8M.

The Free Reserves (unrestricted and undesignated) amounted to £3,610K (2022:£3,679K), which would be sufficient to meet the short term results of the identified risks. The Designated Funds amounted to £102K (2022:£102K), and the Restricted Funds totalled £7,600K (2022:£7,732K), see Notes 12 and 13.

The Reserves Policy is therefore, to allow funds to continue to accumulate, when surplus investment return arises. In the event that any strategic risks arise before sufficient reserves have been accumulated, it has been accepted that the charity would reduce the support it gives to Morale and Efficiency (but not Welfare).

### Plans for Future Periods

The Trustees plan to continue support for the activities outlined above in the coming years and look forward to being able to support future expenditure plans while continuing to monitor closely both the need for benevolence and the performance of investments.

The Trustees have conducted a strategic review into all aspects of the Charity, its activities and procedures and have implemented the recommendations in pursuit of greater efficiency and improved exposure of the Charity and its potential grant giving. The Trustees will work closely with the head of the serving Corps to maintain or improve the level of voluntary subscription income from officers and soldiers.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

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

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

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

Approved by the Trustees on 28 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



**Major General RJB Spencer**  
Chair of The Royal Signals Trustee Limited

Date: 22 Aug 24

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Signals Charity ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

## Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

## Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 7, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the Charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Charities Act 2011, together with the Charities SORP (FRS102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the Charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the Charity for fraud.

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


We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Trustees about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases, reviewing regulatory correspondence including that with the Charity Commission and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

These inherent limitations are particularly significant in the case of misstatement resulting from fraud as this may involve sophisticated schemes designed to avoid detection, including deliberate failure to record transactions, collusion or the provision of intentional misrepresentations.

**Use of our report**

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



Crowe U.K. LLP, Statutory Auditor

St James House, St James Square, Cheltenham, GL50 3PR

Date: 24 September 2024

Crowe U.K. LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.



**THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023			2022		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME FROM</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	365,706	503,495	869,201	351,045	468,560	819,605
Other trading activities		1,471	-	1,471	547	-	547
Investments	3	106,932	200,025	306,957	91,838	178,047	269,885
Charitable activities	4	8,950	302,135	311,085	135,340	231,218	366,558
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>483,059</b>	<b>1,005,655</b>	<b>1,488,714</b>	<b>578,770</b>	<b>877,825</b>	<b>1,456,595</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>							
Raising funds		1,220	1,830	3,050	40,536	4,498	45,034
Charitable activities	5	611,129	1,248,297	1,859,426	624,342	948,381	1,572,723
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>612,349</b>	<b>1,250,127</b>	<b>1,862,476</b>	<b>664,878</b>	<b>952,879</b>	<b>1,617,757</b>
Operating surplus / (deficit)		(129,290)	(244,472)	(373,762)	(86,108)	(75,054)	(161,162)
Net gains / (losses) on investment assets	8	60,388	112,960	173,348	(433,392)	(840,271)	(1,273,663)
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(68,902)</b>	<b>(131,512)</b>	<b>(200,414)</b>	<b>(519,500)</b>	<b>(915,325)</b>	<b>(1,434,825)</b>
Fund balances at 1 January		3,780,825	7,731,516	11,512,341	4,300,325	8,646,841	12,947,166
<b>FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER</b>		<b>3,711,923</b>	<b>7,600,004</b>	<b>11,311,927</b>	<b>3,780,825</b>	<b>7,731,516</b>	<b>11,512,341</b>
		Note 13	Note 12				

All activities in the year are continuing.  
The Charity had no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.  
The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	7	729,931	726,308
Listed Investments	8	10,812,843	10,769,615
		<u>11,542,774</u>	<u>11,495,923</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	9	116,419	153,421
Cash at Bank and in Hand		44,603	313,526
		<u>161,022</u>	<u>466,947</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(282,618)	(355,733)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>(121,596)</u>	<u>111,214</u>
Provision for Liabilities and Charges	11	(109,251)	(94,796)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>11,311,927</u>	<u>11,512,341</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
<b>Unrestricted:</b>			
Designated Funds		102,226	102,226
General Funds		3,609,697	3,678,599
	13	<u>3,711,923</u>	<u>3,780,825</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	12	7,600,004	7,731,516
		<u>11,311,927</u>	<u>11,512,341</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 28 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
 .....  
**Major General RJB Spencer**  
 Chair of The Royal Signals Trustee Limited

and

  
 .....  
**Colonel DA Craft**  
 Secretary of The Royal Signals Trustee Limited

Date: 22 Aug 24

Date: 22/8/24

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net income / (deficit) for the reporting period	(200,414)	(1,434,825)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	6,822	5,771
Dividends and interest from investments	(306,957)	(269,885)
(Gains) / Losses on investments	(173,348)	1,273,663
Decrease in stock of goods for resale	-	37,309
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	37,002	(46,302)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors and provisions	(58,660)	(101,307)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<u>(695,555)</u>	<u>(535,576)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Interest and dividends	306,957	269,885
Accumulating dividends	(19,565)	(7,759)
Cash from investment income	<u>287,392</u>	<u>262,126</u>
Purchase of fixed assets	(10,445)	(18,000)
Purchase of investments	(550,000)	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	699,685	-
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<u>426,632</u>	<u>244,126</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	(268,923)	(291,450)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	313,526	604,976
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	<u><u>44,603</u></u>	<u><u>313,526</u></u>

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****a. Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and Charities Act 2011. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The Royal Signals Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees continue to believe the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate in preparing the annual financial statements (see Risk Management in the Trustees' Report, page 6).

**b. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Headquarters Officers Mess assets were revalued at 1 January 2015; this was deemed to be historic cost on transition and therefore assumed not revalued going forward. All other assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost. As explained in note 7, historic assets owned prior to 1 January 1994 have not been capitalised.

Depreciation is applied on a straight line basis calculated to write off each asset over its estimated useful life and potential impairments are kept under review. The annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

Headquarters Officers Mess	1%
Bands	15%
Regimental Headquarters fixtures and fittings	33%
Yacht Club - small boats and dinghies	15%

Depreciation is not charged in the year of acquisition. Depreciation is not charged on historic assets as the residual value is considered to be higher than the carrying value. Assets are continuously reviewed for potential impairment.

**c. Investments, Investment Income and Gains**

Investments are held in the BlackRock, Armed Forces Charities Growth & Income Fund and Troy Asset Management, Trojan 'S' shares. They are valued at the bid price prevailing at the Balance Sheet date. Investment historic cost is the average cost per unit purchased or the market value when donated or transferred.

Dividends, other investment income and income from cash deposits are accounted for when the Charity is entitled to them. Any gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**d. Taxation**

The entity is a registered Charity and, as such, claims tax exemptions from all its United Kingdom income and gains, properly applied for its charitable purposes. Income tax recoverable represents tax which is recoverable in respect of tax credits from dividends receivable during the year and from gift aid subscriptions on which tax has been paid by the subscriber during the year.

**e. Funds**

Restricted funds are amounts which have been earmarked by the donors for specific purposes. Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific purposes, but they remain at their discretion (see notes 12 and 13).

**f. Income**

Income from donations, fundraising and events are accounted for on a receipts basis unless the income will be received and its value can be measured with sufficient reliability. Those funds provided for a specific purpose are taken to a restricted fund.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the Charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

Subscriptions represent voluntary contributions received monthly from serving members and annually from retired officers of the Corps and are accounted for when they are receivable.

**g. Grants Payable and Direct Charitable Expenditure**

Grants paid and direct expenditure are accounted for when paid or when the liability is established with the third party. They are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity and in accordance with the objectives of the Charity.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)****h. Support and Shared Costs**

Support and Shared Costs comprise expenditure incurred directly in support of charitable objectives and are attributable to the Charity's activities. Governance costs represent professional and statutory fees and other costs incurred in running the Charity. They are allocated to activities in proportion to their utilisation.

**i. Debtors**

Legacies receivable, subscriptions, loans and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

**j. Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Provisions are not discounted to net present value as the difference would be immaterial to the financial statements.

**k. Financial Instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Investments are included at fair value.

**l. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to consider making any significant judgements and estimates where necessary. Apart from depreciation, there are no items in the financial statements where significant judgements and estimations have been made.

**2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrestricted Funds		
Donations	34,725	37,359
Subscriptions - One Day's Pay	326,070	313,419
Legacies	4,911	267
	<u>365,706</u>	<u>351,045</u>
Restricted Funds		
Donations	34,721	37,357
Subscriptions - One Day's Pay	441,998	425,793
Subscriptions - Retired Officers	4,958	5,143
Legacies	21,818	267
	<u>503,495</u>	<u>468,560</u>
Total Funds		
Donations	69,446	74,716
Subscriptions - One Day's Pay	768,068	739,212
Subscriptions - Retired Officers	4,958	5,143
Legacies	26,729	534
	<u>869,201</u>	<u>819,605</u>

Subscriptions from serving members of the Corps are collected under the "One Day's Pay" Payroll Giving Scheme. These are donated entirely voluntarily by the serving members of the Corps. Under Queen's Regulations (QR 5.613) the first 50% must be applied to Welfare purposes.

Soldiers' subscriptions are 110%. Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) subscribe at 140% of a days basic pay per annum of which 30% is used specifically for Sergeants' Messes. Officers' subscriptions are 190% of a days basic pay per annum of which 80% is used specifically in support of Officers' activities.

Retired Officers' subscriptions are voluntary and currently at a minimum of £10 a year.

Legacies are accrued for if they were notified as being receivable before the end of the year, either at the value actually received or estimated from the details of the estate provided by the executors.

**THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**3. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Gross Dividends	106,504	91,761
Interest on Deposit Accounts	428	77
	<u>106,932</u>	<u>91,838</u>
Restricted Funds		
Gross Dividends	199,272	177,908
Interest on Deposit Accounts	753	139
	<u>200,025</u>	<u>178,047</u>
Total Funds		
Gross Dividends	305,776	269,669
Interest on Deposit Accounts	1,181	216
	<u>306,957</u>	<u>269,885</u>

**4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Grants from Other Organisations	-	123,360
RSI Events and Advertisements	8,950	11,980
	<u>8,950</u>	<u>135,340</u>
Restricted		
Grants from Other Organisations	110,299	146,100
Disposal of Redundant Corps Silverware	551	240
RSI Events and Advertisements	183,022	76,029
Wire Magazine subscriptions	8,263	8,849
	<u>302,135</u>	<u>231,218</u>
Total Funds	<u>311,085</u>	<u>366,558</u>

**5. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Grants Payable and Expenditure		
Sporting	126,899	147,239
Sailing	-	19,045
Adventure Training	104,699	70,975
Messes, Heritage and History	131,000	125,000
Other Assistance to the serving Corps	33,263	64,557
Bands	15,533	8,141
Events and Activities		
Corps Property maintenance and control	17,540	15,355
RSI events, awards and publishing	41,053	40,892
Wire Magazine	56,599	49,822
Support and Shared costs		
Corps Activities	68,199	66,088
Governance	16,344	17,228
	<u>611,129</u>	<u>624,342</u>



**THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

<b>5. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Grants Payable and Expenditure		
Welfare	476,712	336,021
Sporting	106,299	134,650
Sailing	-	2,850
Adventure Training	-	7,000
Messes, Heritage and History	98,254	110,151
Other Assistance to the serving Corps	72,151	31,404
Events and Activities		
Corps Property maintenance and control	20,067	24,471
RSI events, awards and publishing	220,061	62,240
Officers' Dinner & Social	17,187	15,213
Wire Magazine	8,263	8,849
Reunions and other costs	104,330	93,755
Support and Shared costs		
Welfare	25,115	23,984
Veterans	33,486	31,978
Officer Activities	41,858	39,973
Governance	24,514	25,842
	<b>1,248,297</b>	<b>948,381</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		
Grants Payable and Expenditure		
Welfare	476,712	336,021
Sporting	233,198	281,889
Sailing	-	21,895
Adventure Training	104,699	77,975
Messes, Heritage and History	229,254	235,151
Other Assistance to the serving Corps	105,414	95,961
Bands	15,533	8,141
Events and Activities		
Corps Property maintenance and control	37,607	39,826
RSI events, awards and publishing	261,114	103,132
Officers' Dinner & Social	17,187	15,213
Wire Magazine	64,862	58,671
Reunions and other costs	104,330	93,755
Support and Shared costs		
Welfare	25,115	23,984
Veterans	33,486	31,978
Corps and Officer Activities	110,057	106,061
Governance	40,858	43,070
	<b>1,859,426</b>	<b>1,572,723</b>
All welfare grants are to third party organisations and made for the benefit of both serving and retired members of the Corps (Regulars and Reserves) and their families.		
The Royal Signals Institution (RSI) fosters professional development amongst the serving Corps, the retired Corps and their close colleagues in Defence and Industry.		
Welfare Grants includes payments to other charities for the furtherance of the Charity's objectives:	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Army Benevolent Fund	35,000	35,000
various nursing homes with ex Royal Signals residents	7,750	-
	<b>42,750</b>	<b>35,000</b>

THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6. EXPENDITURE DISCLOSURES

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Shared Support Costs</b>		
Unrestricted Funds		
Accounts & Management Salaries Shared	55,641	52,968
IT Support and Equipment Costs	6,353	5,733
Postage	432	630
Bank Charges	835	1,066
Depreciation	362	361
<b>Total Shared Support Costs</b>	<b>63,623</b>	<b>60,758</b>
Direct Corps Administration	1,226	2,132
	<b>64,849</b>	<b>62,890</b>
Restricted Funds		
Accounts & Management Salaries Shared	90,783	86,421
IT Support and Equipment Costs	10,366	9,353
Postage	706	1,029
Bank Charges	1,363	1,740
Depreciation	590	590
	<b>103,808</b>	<b>99,133</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		
Accounts & Management Salaries Shared	146,424	139,389
IT Support and Equipment Costs	16,719	15,086
Postage	1,138	1,659
Bank Charges	2,198	2,806
Depreciation	952	951
<b>Total Shared Support Costs</b>	<b>167,431</b>	<b>159,891</b>
Direct Corps Administration	1,226	2,132
	<b>168,657</b>	<b>162,023</b>
Attributed to:		
Unrestricted Funds		
Corps Fund	64,849	62,890
Restricted Funds		
Officers Fund	50,229	47,967
Welfare	10,045	9,593
Veterans	43,534	41,573
	<b>168,657</b>	<b>162,023</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b> included the following costs		
Unrestricted Funds		
<b>Staff Costs</b> Wages and Salaries	92,598	84,600
Social Security Costs	10,829	9,586
Pension Scheme Costs	3,111	2,836
	<b>106,538</b>	<b>97,020</b>
<b>Depreciation</b> Charges for the Year	<b>2,651</b>	<b>1,600</b>
Restricted Funds		
<b>Staff Costs</b> Wages and Salaries	243,977	208,012
Social Security Costs	23,850	17,362
Pension Scheme Costs	7,553	6,189
	<b>275,381</b>	<b>231,565</b>
<b>Depreciation</b> Charges for the Year	<b>4,171</b>	<b>4,171</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		
<b>Staff Costs</b> Wages and Salaries	336,576	292,612
Social Security Costs	34,679	26,948
Pension Scheme Costs	10,664	9,025
	<b>381,919</b>	<b>328,585</b>
<b>Depreciation</b> Charges for the Year	<b>6,822</b>	<b>5,771</b>

**6. EXPENDITURE DISCLOSURES (continued)**

One employee earned £60,000 - £70,000 (2022: one employee).

The average number of employees in the year was 5 full time (2022: 5) and 3 part time = 2 full-time equivalents (2022: 3 = 2 full-time equivalents).

The Charity benefits from staff costs, administration and building running costs paid for by the Ministry of Defence, contributing to esprit de corps. It is not practical to quantify such costs with any certainty.

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Governance Costs</b> included the following		
Unrestricted Funds		
Audit	7,156	7,111
Investment Advice	7,684	7,822
Trustee Expenses	715	1,149
Trustee Meetings	195	520
Trustee Liability Insurance	594	626
	<u>16,344</u>	<u>17,228</u>
Restricted Funds		
Audit	10,734	10,667
Investment Advice	11,525	11,733
Trustee Expenses	1,072	1,724
Trustee Meetings	293	780
Trustee Liability Insurance	890	938
	<u>24,514</u>	<u>25,842</u>
Total Funds		
Audit	17,890	17,778
Investment Advice	19,209	19,555
Trustee Expenses	1,787	2,873
Trustee Meetings	488	1,300
Trustee Liability Insurance	1,484	1,564
	<u>40,858</u>	<u>43,070</u>

3 Trustees (2022: 3) received the above reimbursements of expenses (travel, subsistence and accommodation) none of which were paid to third parties.

**Key Personnel**

No Trustee (2022: None) received any remuneration or benefit from the Fund or any Related Parties.

The Regimental Secretary and the Assistant Regimental Secretary are employees of the Ministry of Defence.

Honorariums were paid at a total cost to the Charity of £22,323 (2022: £20,281).

The Corps Accountant and RSI Director (due to changes in the year, 3 individuals fulfilled this role) are employees of the Charity at a total cost of £148,140 (2022: £130,002).

**7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	HQ Officers Mess £	Historic Assets £	Regimental HQ £	Yacht Club £	Bands £	Total £
<b>2023</b>						
Cost / Deemed cost						
At 1 January 2023	360,000	381,111	7,718	35,267	22,347	806,443
Additions	-	8,450	-	-	1,995	10,445
Cost of Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>360,000</u>	<u>389,561</u>	<u>7,718</u>	<u>35,267</u>	<u>24,342</u>	<u>816,888</u>
Accumulated Depreciation						
At 1 January 2023	27,916	-	6,766	35,267	10,186	80,135
Charge for Year	3,600	-	952	-	2,270	6,822
Eliminated on Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	<u>31,516</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,718</u>	<u>35,267</u>	<u>12,456</u>	<u>86,957</u>
Net Book Values						
At 31 December 2023	328,484	389,561	-	-	11,886	729,931
At 31 December 2022	<u>332,084</u>	<u>381,111</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,161</u>	<u>726,308</u>



**THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (continued)**

	HQ Officers Mess £	Historic Assets £	Regimental HQ £	Yacht Club £	Bands £	Total £
<b>2022</b>						
Cost / Deemed cost						
At 1 January 2022	360,000	370,111	7,718	35,267	15,347	788,443
Additions	-	11,000	-	-	7,000	18,000
Cost of Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	360,000	381,111	7,718	35,267	22,347	806,443
Accumulated Depreciation						
At 1 January 2022	24,316	-	5,815	35,267	8,966	74,364
Charge for Year	3,600	-	951	-	1,220	5,771
Eliminated on Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	27,916	-	6,766	35,267	10,186	80,135
Net Book Values						
At 31 December 2022	332,084	381,111	952	-	12,161	726,308

The assets above relate directly to charitable purposes.

The assets are kept continuously under review for potential impairment.

**Headquarters Officers Mess**

A professional valuation in 2014 of the furniture in the Headquarters Officers Mess totalled £360,000, all of which are assets for which the risks and rewards belong to the Charity. This was deemed to be historic cost on transition and therefore assumed not revalued going forward.

**Historic Assets**

Reliable cost information is not available for historic assets acquired prior to 1 January 1994 which have not been capitalised. Recent valuations of silverware and paintings in the Headquarters Officers Mess totalled over £1.25 million and other locations were assessed in the year.

Since 1 January 1994 historic assets have been acquired for the Blandford Garrison Church £22,365, the National Arboretum Memorial £22,185 and Silver and Artworks £345,011 (2022: £336,561). Depreciation is not charged on historic assets as their residual value is considered to be higher than their carrying value.

**8. INVESTMENTS - LISTED**

	2023 £	2022 £
Market Value at 1 January	10,769,615	12,035,519
Additions	569,565	7,759
Disposal Proceeds	(699,685)	-
(Losses) / Gains in year	173,348	(1,273,663)
Market Value at 31 December	10,812,843	10,769,615
Historic Cost	9,413,426	9,417,356
Held in:-		
BlackRock, Armed Forces Charities Growth & Income Fund	7,022,550	6,932,890
Troy Asset Management, Trojan 'S' shares		
Accumulation Units	3,340,293	3,836,725
BlackRock Sterling Liquidity Fund shares	450,000	-
	10,812,843	10,769,615

**9. DEBTORS**

	2023 £	2022 £
Subscriptions	64,589	61,588
Loans	-	1,002
Other Debtors	15,239	10,534
Prepayments	36,591	80,297
	116,419	153,421

Debtors do not include any amounts due in more than one year, apart from Loans.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance with Related Entities	107,805	105,335
Social Security and Other Taxes	9,377	8,737
Balances held as Agent (see note 15)	68,701	60,619
Other Creditors	42,489	43,457
Accruals	22,478	22,478
Deferred Income and Provisions		
Brought forward from prior year	115,107	222,056
Used or repaid in year	(115,107)	(218,452)
Arising in the year	31,768	111,503
Carried forward	31,768	115,107
	<u>282,618</u>	<u>355,733</u>

Deferred Income arises when receipts relate to activities planned for the future.

11. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Employees' Retirement Provision	<u>109,251</u>	<u>94,796</u>

Provision for the amounts due to employees upon their retirement in accordance with their employment contract.

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	1 January	Income	Expenditure	Investment	31 December
	£	£	£	Gains £	£
<b>2023</b>					
Welfare & Veterans Fund	5,048,781	466,290	(642,148)	81,258	4,954,181
Officers' Activities Fund	2,157,847	360,089	(335,577)	23,253	2,205,612
Sergeants' Messes Fund	118,622	53,135	(73,315)	1,909	100,351
Disbanded Units - PRI Fund	299,417	8,986	(84,525)	5,075	228,953
Disbanded Units - Officers Messes Fund	78,383	1,908	-	1,078	81,369
Disbanded Units - Sergeants Messes Fund	28,464	685	-	387	29,536
Other Corps Activity Income received and expended in year for specific purposes	-	114,562	(114,562)	-	-
	<u>7,731,514</u>	<u>1,005,655</u>	<u>(1,250,127)</u>	<u>112,960</u>	<u>7,600,002</u>
<b>2022</b>					
Welfare & Veterans Fund	5,722,537	421,372	(489,631)	(605,497)	5,048,781
Officers' Activities Fund	2,262,793	238,499	(178,675)	(164,770)	2,157,847
Sergeants' Messes Fund	173,601	53,673	(90,282)	(18,370)	118,622
Disbanded Units - PRI Fund	371,948	8,485	(40,943)	(40,073)	299,417
Disbanded Units - Officers Messes Fund	85,090	1,801	-	(8,508)	78,383
Disbanded Units - Sergeants Messes Fund	30,871	646	-	(3,053)	28,464
Other Corps Activity Income received and expended in year for specific purposes	-	153,349	(153,349)	-	-
	<u>8,646,840</u>	<u>877,825</u>	<u>(952,880)</u>	<u>(840,271)</u>	<u>7,731,514</u>

Restricted Funds arise from income received for specified purposes and are held separately until expended.

**Welfare & Veterans Fund** - This Restricted Fund serves members of the Corps, fostering comradeship and providing welfare support to those in need. It receives donations, legacies, and other voluntary income that have been canvassed for welfare purposes. It receives grants from the Army Benevolent Fund to augment, on a case-by-case basis, the welfare grants made. Welfare grants and costs are initially funded by "One Day's Pay" Subscriptions as described in Note 2.

**Officers' Activities Fund** - This Fund receives part of Subscriptions, described in note 2, for Officers' purposes, such as dinners, Officers' Messes and other costs specifically for the benefit of Officers.

**Sergeants' Messes Fund** - This Fund receives part of Subscriptions, described in note 2, for Sergeants' Messes' improvements and other costs specifically for the benefit of Warrant Officers and SNCOs.

**Disbanded Units Funds** - These Funds arise from disbanded units and are held to assist with the formation of new units and for morale and efficiency purposes similar to the main objects of the Charity. They may not however be used for welfare.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	1 January £	Transfers £	Transactions £	31 December £
<b>2023</b>				
Designated Funds				
Yacht Club, vessel replacements and expeditions	101,597	-	-	101,597
Corps - Yacht Club Offshore Account	629	-	-	629
Total Designated Funds	102,226	-	-	102,226
Corps - General Fund	3,678,599	-	(68,902)	3,609,697
	<u>3,780,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(68,902)</u>	<u>3,711,923</u>
<b>2022</b>				
Designated Funds				
Yacht Club, vessel replacements and expeditions	101,597	-	-	101,597
Corps - Yacht Club Offshore Account	629	-	-	629
Total Designated Funds	102,226	-	-	102,226
Corps - General Fund	4,198,099	-	(519,500)	3,678,599
	<u>4,300,325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(519,500)</u>	<u>3,780,825</u>

Designated Funds are Unrestricted Funds that have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees. The Yacht Club Expedition Fund is an unexpended grant that has been allowed to be carried forward and the Yacht Club Offshore Account accumulated charter fees for the use of the yachts, and is used for offshore races and events.

The transactions of the "Corps - General Fund" are as shown on page 10, Statement of Financial Activities, Unrestricted Funds.

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity is related to The Royal Signals Museum (an incorporated charity) and its subsidiary The Royal Signals Museum Trading Company Limited due to their related objectives and activities.

In the year grants were made to The Royal Signals Museum of £131,000 (2022: £125,000).

At the end of the year the debts with The Royal Signals Museum and its subsidiary company amounted to £107,804 payable (2022: £105,335 payable).

15. AGENCY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity acts as agent for activities related to its Morale and Efficiency Objectives; the larger funds being:-

The **Royal Signals Officers Domestic Fund** purchases wines, etc for the HQ Officers' Mess and maintains the wine cellar, its income arises from the consumption of wines at special events. It also operates a second hand uniform sales and rental facility. At 31 December 2023 the balance held amounted to £35,906 (2022: £31,308).

The **Royal Signals Rugby Club** sells tickets for national rugby matches (Army v Navy and Army v RAF) and applies the profits to boost the finances of the Corps' rugby season. At 31 December 2023 the balance held amounted to £63,912 (2022: £67,195), of which £33,563 was held in a specific bank account..

16. ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>2023</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	56,436	673,495	729,931
Investments	3,886,334	6,926,509	10,812,843
Current Assets less Current Liabilities and Provisions	(230,847)	-	(230,847)
	<u>3,711,923</u>	<u>7,600,004</u>	<u>11,311,927</u>
<b>2022</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	67,662	658,646	726,308
Investments	3,696,745	7,072,870	10,769,615
Current Assets less Current Liabilities and Provisions	16,418	-	16,418
	<u>3,780,825</u>	<u>7,731,516</u>	<u>11,512,341</u>