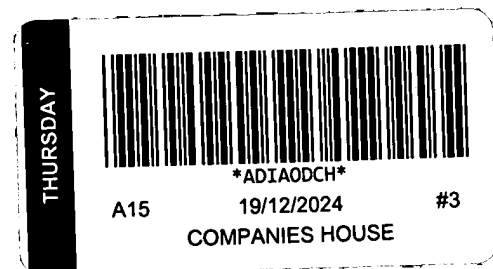


Charity registration number NIC102591

Company registration number NI042579 (Northern Ireland)

**RURAL SUPPORT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**



## RURAL SUPPORT

### LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Mr Peter Boyle Ms Gemma Daly (Resigned 29 October 2024) Ms Jennifer Hawkes (Resigned 29 October 2024) Mr Derek Lough Mr Daniel McAtamney (Resigned 29 October 2024) Ms Claire Saunders Mr Ian Stevenson Mr Victor Chestnut Ms Zita McNaugher (Resigned 29 October 2024) Mr Robin Irvine Mr Peter Alexander (Appointed 19 September 2023) Mr Gerry Doran (Appointed 29 October 2024) Ms Gill Gallagher (Appointed 29 October 2024) Ms Lauren Vance (Appointed 29 October 2024) Mr Damien Tumelty (Appointed 29 October 2024)
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr Robin Irvine (Appointed 19 September 2023)
<b>Charity number</b>	NIC102591
<b>Company number</b>	NI042579
<b>Registered office</b>	Unit 3 Molesworth Place Molesworth Street Cookstown Co. Tyrone Northern Ireland BT80 8NX
<b>Auditor</b>	AAB Group Accountants Limited 1 - 3 Arthur Street Belfast Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT1 4GA

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## **RURAL SUPPORT**

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## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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The Trustees present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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 Companies Act 2006 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)".

#### **TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustee's report and the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Trust 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; and,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing Document**

Rural Support was initially established in Autumn 2001 to help farmers and rural dwellers in Northern Ireland who were affected by the severe crisis in the agricultural industry at the time.

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1st March 2002 and is registered as a charity (NI102591). The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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#### **Recruitment and Appointment of the Charity Board**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and are known as members of the Rural Support Board.

The Rural Support Board has 13 members (who meet bi-monthly), representing a range of relevant experience/skillsets, including farmers, current or former members of YFCU, representatives from the business community, community/voluntary sector representatives and a health sector professional.

#### **Trustee Induction and Training**

Trustees are provided with induction and training when they join the Board and are provided with ongoing training throughout each year to promote best practice and to support them in their roles.

#### **Risk Management**

The Rural Support Board has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The current staffing structure of Rural Support includes the following roles:

- Chief Executive (Full-time)
- Marketing Communications Co-Ordinator (Full-time)
- Volunteer and Human Resources Co-Ordinator (Full-time)
- Therapy Services Co-Ordinator (3 days/week)
- Head of Finance (60%/FTE)
- Finance and Executive Co-Ordinator (Full-time)
- Head of Development and Strategic Engagement (Full-time)
- Head of Farm Support (Full-time)
- Farm Support Co-Ordinator (Crisis - 4 days/week)
- Farm Support Co-Ordinator (Proactive Programmes: Part-time)
- Farm Support Co-Ordinator (Proactive Programmes: Full-time)
- Farm Support Co-Ordinator (Proactive Programmes: Full-time)
- Head of Social Farming and Innovation (Full-time)
- 2 x Social Farming Support Co-Ordinator (Full-time)
- Plough On Project Co-Ordinator (Full-time)
- Project Officer (Full-time)

Rural Support also has a team of 24 Farm Business Mentors who work on various projects surrounding farm business planning and rural stress to include dealing with finance/debt/technical issues and succession. Through one-to-one mentoring sessions they help farmers look at their options and support them to make realistic plans for the future of the farm business.

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## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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They also support farmers and farming family members through a range of pro-active business and mental health awareness training programmes in the form of workshops and seminars that take place throughout the year.

There are also a number of Counselling Mentors and mental health specialists who work alongside the Farm Business mentors to provide professional therapeutic support for farmers and farming families who are in crisis and this has significantly improved outcomes for those supported and their farm business.

At present Rural Support has approximately 35 volunteers who give their time, knowledge, expertise, and experience to the organisation. They undertake Support Line cover, work/life balance guidance, promotion, and outreach as and when required.

Rural Support continually evaluates its Support Line hours to meet demand. The existing volunteer levels are adequate and this is reviewed on a regular basis throughout the year.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Rural Support's Vision is of a vibrant, healthy, and resilient farming community in Northern Ireland. Its mission is to provide professional and practical support to farmers, farm families and farm businesses throughout Northern Ireland.

It aims to do this through:

- improving the health and wellbeing of farmers and farm family members;
- helping build resilient farm businesses that are adaptable to ongoing change and challenges;
- promoting socially inclusive services that the farming community can deliver for people in need of additional support; and,
- being a strong advocate and champion for the farming community by contributing to a robust evidence base which helps inform future policy decisions.

In pursuing the organisation's objectives, Rural Support follow the strategic aims as outlined below which have been developed as part of the 2021-2024 strategy:

## RURAL SUPPORT

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Strategic Aim 1	We connect with all farming families <i>in need</i> and provide up to date and readily available assistance and resources relating to health and wellbeing; farm business; and personal and future planning for <i>all farming</i> families and farm family members through our service programmes, networks and the online hub.
Strategic Aim 2	With Social Farming at its core, Rural Support has a relevant and impactful <i>social innovation</i> function, providing tangible and practical solutions through a range of projects and services in support of those most vulnerable in our rural communities particularly older people and those who experience loneliness and isolation and/or are socially and/or economically-disadvantaged.
Strategic Aim 3	We develop and grow our <i>expert team</i> of staff, volunteers, and mentors, who lead from the front using person-centred coaching and mentoring, to provide support to farmers and all members of our farming families; during times of crisis; in planning for successful farm businesses; and, in developing strong mental and physical resilience, for now and the future.
Strategic Aim 4	We have in place a <i>networking strategy</i> , to both develop existing and create new collaborations, with those in the public and private sectors so we can work together to provide meaningful and pragmatic support for farming families and their businesses, and rural communities.
Strategic Aim 5	We focus on helping farmers and farming families to <i>build resilience and personal confidence</i> in engaging with other agencies who could assist them in building more successful businesses – essentially helping to bridge the gap that currently exists between the services that are available and the take-up of services by those who could benefit but are reluctant to participate.
Strategic Aim 6	We create a <i>professional and agile</i> business operation which will incorporate a well-structured and motivated management team, staff, mentors, and volunteers underpinned by appropriate HR development and management process.
Strategic Aim 7	We implement <i>appropriate systems to produce timely financial information</i> and ensure professional financial, governance and internal controls which will be reviewed independently on an annual basis. We will also implement appropriate information and data management systems to support our work with communities, partners, and funders.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees of Rural Support confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(6) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charity in the year ended 31 March 2024.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 2023/2024**

Rural Support is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It operates across Northern Ireland from a base in Cookstown, Co Tyrone Northern Ireland. It has a small staff team of 18 and is managed by a voluntary Board of representatives with agricultural and rural interests.

The organisation's main areas of charitable activity and services include:

- Provision of a Support Line service for rural dwellers between 09.00am and 09.00pm, Mon-Fri;
- Provision of contact information and/or connecting callers to appropriate support;
- Provision of business, finance, technical and counselling mentoring and ongoing support;
- Provision of training programmes to develop resilience and knowledge for those working in the agri-sector;
- Provision of the Social Farming Support Service for Northern Ireland and various social innovation projects and activities to support the most vulnerable members of the rural community.

Undoubtedly, times are very challenging in the agri-food sector, with worries about rising input costs and concerns of food security impacting significantly on the farmer and the farming family. In April 2021, to increase the organisation's ability to respond to these concerns and other market pressures on the sector, Rural Support launched an ambitious new strategy 'Revisioning Rural Support for a Stronger Future – 2021 to 2024' which provides capacity for wider ranging, more holistic support to farmers across the age spectrum – directly engaging with farmers and farm businesses before they reach crisis stage.

Now in the 3rd year of this new approach Rural Support has moved from a reactive position of support provision to providing a suite of proactive programmes and services dedicated to improving the health of both farm business and members of the farm family.

The focus is on empowering farmers and farm families to plan ahead for their business and personal health and wellbeing; become more resilient in times of difficulty; and know how to get the most appropriate support and from where.

While farmers, families and rural communities face ongoing and often unpredictable challenges, Rural Support remains steadfast in its commitment to serving those who need support and assistance.

At the end of the 3rd year of its current strategy, Rural Support's team has surpassed the ambitious KPIs set by the board and are in a strong position to fulfil the strategy's objectives.



## RURAL SUPPORT

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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##### HOW HAVE WE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

During the 2023/24 financial year a number of key outcomes have been achieved by the Charity supporting our farmers and farming families to build resilience.

- Support Line calls and 98 referrals from the wider Agri-sector.
- 136 individuals received 1-1 support through the Public Health Agency mentoring programme – several of these cases required input from more than 1 mentor, complex cases to include finance, succession, TB closure, family disputes etc.
- Through the Farm Business Sustainability Programme delivered through CAFRE's Farm Family Key Skills programme some 37 families each received up to 20 hours of 1-1 mentoring support, completed 5 farm business focused workshops and enjoyed Workshop 6 where they could choose to attend several workshops on the one day to include – Managing Farm Finances, Carbon on Your Farm, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Farming, Diversification, Multispecies Swards and Succession Planning. The day concluded with a panel discussion to include David Brown (UFU President), Paul McHenry (CAFRE), Barry Caslin (Teagasc) and Graham Cooke (Rural Support Mentor).
- Thanks to support from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust, 112 farmers completed workshops on various subjects to include Succession Planning and Preparing For Farm Inspections.
- CAFRE Coping with The Pressures of Farming – 216 individuals across 15 locations received this training which was the 3rd year of the programme which has now finished.
- CAFRE Making Tax Digital at the start of the year 290 farmers.
- Boots on The Ground mental health awareness training for the agri-industry – 223 Agri sector workers (Ulster Bank, DAERA Vets, NIFCC, Chestnutt Animal Feeds, Fane Valley, UFU).
- Royal Countryside Fund Resilience Programme – 34 families in two locations – Seskinore and Dungiven with successful Study Tour to Scotland under guidance of David Keiley from Kite Consulting.
- Life Beyond bereavement and loss support services – support provided to 48 individuals and over 500 people either attended the Celebration event in The Glenavon or watched online to remember our loved ones.
- Reviving Rural – counselling and therapy support services provided support to 50 clients.

##### SOCIAL FARMING: AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Social Farming is an innovative use of agriculture to promote therapy, rehabilitation, social inclusion, education and social services in rural areas. There are multiple benefits from Social Farming for both the individuals involved and the rural economy. Rural Support delivers the Social Farming Support Service for Northern Ireland, supporting farmers delivering Social Farming and promoting the service for those who could benefit from participation, leading its development here. Key achievements:

##### Delivery support

- Ongoing support to 14 farms delivering.
- New delivery established on 1 farm: Jigsaw.

##### Social Farming Standards

- 7 farms awarded Standards badge.

##### Promotion

- Social Farming stand in Horticulture Pavilion at Balmoral Show, May 2023.
- Social Farming Awareness Week, October 2022.
- Social Farming in NI: Future Focus Conference.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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##### **Training**

- Keeping Children and Adults Safe and Emergency First Aid at work training arranged by Rural Support, both in March 2024.
- Induction training delivered by Rural Support, March 2024.

##### **SUPPORTING OLDER AND ISOLATED FARMERS AND FARMING FAMILY MEMBERS**

In 2023/24 Rural Support continued its support programmes for older and isolated farmers and farming family members.

Across the Hedgerow – a telephone befriending service for older or vulnerable, and/or isolated people from the farming community which matches them with a person from the agri-community to provide connection and support. During this year 16 clients receiving calls from 13 volunteers.

Plough On - for older and isolated farmers aged 65, aims to tackle rural isolation and increase social opportunities for older farmers. The Plough On project provides a tangible and practical way to support those older farmers and bring them together with like-minded people, helping them to develop new networks and knowledge. The focus is on improving health and wellbeing through social inclusion, encouraging individuals to get and stay well both physically and emotionally – it also provides respite to farming families, sharing the load in supporting our older farming community. During this year support has been provided for ongoing Cohort 1 delivery to 7 groups and included a visit to Stormont to mark Ag Mental Health Week.

##### **SHINING A LIGHT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

Part of the Rural Support's strategic approach is to embed new thinking in how farmers and farming families view the importance of physical and mental well-being and to remove any remaining stigma around the development and management of overall health.

The organisation focuses on communicating positive health messaging and providing practical ways to help improve health – both physical and mental - and incorporates this into all its programmes as an integral part of developing, growing, and sustaining a successful farm business.

Collaborative work is an essential element of destigmatising issues around mental and indeed physical health, given that these are interlinked with each other.

The Reviving Rural project (April 2022 – March 2024) continued in-year and included includes campaigns and toolkit development to encourage self-help and development of positive behaviours around choices relating to mental and emotional health. Key achievements:

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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Delivery of four digital campaigns:

- Work Life Balance for Young People;
- Eating Well for Women and Young People;
- Tackling Loneliness and Isolation for Women;
- Importance of Sleep for Young People

Learning & Development Support: Production of 4 resource videos:

- Dealing with stress
- Dealing with unhelpful thoughts
- Emotional wellness in agriculture
- Women in agriculture

The Northern Ireland Rural Health Forum, coordinated by Rural Support, brings together key decision makers in agriculture, public, voluntary, government and related commercial organisations to help influence public opinion and ensure the appropriate incorporation of mental and physical health needs in rural communities - particularly for farming families - into strategy and policy development.

As well as Rural Support, members of the Forum Steering Group include UFU; NFU Mutual; United Feeds; Chestnutt Animal Feeds Ltd; Moy Park; Ulster Bank; Danske Bank; YFCU; HSENI; Northern Health and Social Care Trust; Farm Family Health Checks Programme; Rural GPs; VetNI; ABP Food Group; Healthy Living Centre Alliance; PHA; and Mindwise

#### **Key achievements:**

NI Agri-Rural Health Forum: Steering group meetings during 2023/24 – focus on Forum messaging and engagement; events held:

- Webinar for health professionals 'What are the barriers and solutions in providing health and social care to farming families?'
- In-person events for farmers 'You and Your Farm Business Thriving Together'

#### **KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH**

Rural Support's strategy focuses on building relationships with the farming community from young people right through to older farmers and encompasses the whole farm family. It also focuses on increasing collaboration with key stakeholders to help deliver our objectives and on helping those stakeholders better reach the farming community in order to deliver theirs. In 2023/24 the charity continued to focus on working with agri-stakeholders as well as more widely with the public and private sector. Due to this increased engagement with the agri sector we have seen a significant increase in clients being referred through third parties. This reflects the work being done on the ground through outreach and other support programmes and our relationship with farmer-facing employees of companies working with our client base through our Boots on the Ground training. Securing referrals through this pathway helps reach farmers and farming families who would not ordinarily contact a Support or Helpline directly.

Overall, Rural Support has reached over 24,000 beneficiaries through its programmes and services during the year and reached countless others through its outreach, communications, and marketing activities. We engaged with approximately 1037 individuals through our outreach and information sessions. And in addition to this there were over 15,000 visits to the NI Farm Support Hub resource platform which launched in September.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

#### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024***

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Rural Support featured in 260 newspaper articles this year and in 11 BBC radio interviews. It also held a special event on International Women's Day event at Chestnutt's Farm on the North Coast which gathered together women in agriculture.

#### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

On reflection of the hard work and commitment of staff, volunteers, and board members over the last year, and despite the challenges presented thanks to an ever-changing external environment, Rural Support provides a unique and value for money service that is vital for rural communities and delivers for its community and funders. Reaching individuals in isolated rural areas who need support is by no means straightforward. However, Rural Support has proven that through its innovative approach and its outreach and volunteer programmes, support can be channelled to those in need at time of need.

Like most charities the main challenge we face is securing sufficient funding to meet demand and keep the ability to respond to those in need without delay or waiting lists. Going into 2024/25 Rural Support will continue to professionalise its fundraising efforts and secure the additional funding needed to create long-term sustainability for the organisation. Negotiations are ongoing with DAERA to establish a three-year funding platform.

#### **Financial review**

For the year ended 31 March 2024 Rural Support has received £903,819 of income throughout the year and had total expenditure of £937,328 resulting in a net deficit of £33,509. At 31 March 2024 Rural Support had total reserves of £228,868 of which £230,490 are unrestricted reserves and a net deficit of £1,622 of restricted reserves.

#### **Funding Sources:**

The organisation currently receives support from the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), the Public Health Agency and donations from National Farmers Union (NFU) Mutual Charitable Trust. It also carries out fundraising activities to generate other income and currently has a number of donations and funding from other sources including National Lottery Community Fund; the Department of Health Mental Health Fund through the Community Fund for Northern Ireland and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI). It also receives donations from the general public.

#### **Reserves Policy**

Rural Support aims to have sufficient funds equal to the value of six months of core costs. Currently the organisation has reserved more than six months. An ambitious programme of fundraising was launched in 2022/23 and work continues to roll out in relation to this area with resources being dedicated to this effort – including creating a dedicated unit to manage it – to help ensure reserves are kept at an appropriate level and that core funding is underpinned by sufficient income to ensure operational efficiency and effectiveness.

## RURAL SUPPORT

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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##### Structure, governance and management

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

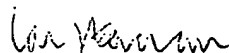
Mr Peter Boyle	
Ms Gemma Daly	(Resigned 29 October 2024)
Ms Jennifer Hawkes	(Resigned 29 October 2024)
Mr Derek Lough	
Mr Daniel McAtamney	(Resigned 29 October 2024)
Ms Claire Saunders	
Mr James Speers	(Resigned 19 September 2023)
Mr Ian Stevenson	
Mr Victor Chestnutt	
Ms Zita McNaugher	(Resigned 29 October 2024)
Mr Robin Irvine	
Mr Peter Alexander	(Appointed 19 September 2023)
Mr Gerry Doran	(Appointed 29 October 2024)
Ms Gill Gallagher	(Appointed 29 October 2024)
Ms Lauren Vance	(Appointed 29 October 2024)
Mr Damien Tumelty	(Appointed 29 October 2024)

##### Auditor

##### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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



Mr Ian Stevenson

Trustee

Dated: 10/12/2024

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

#### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF RURAL SUPPORT**

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##### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Rural Support (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

##### **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.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF RURAL SUPPORT**

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##### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF RURAL SUPPORT**

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

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

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

##### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company 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 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.



## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF RURAL SUPPORT**

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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.

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

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company through enquiry of management, sector research and the application of cumulative audit knowledge. We identified the following principal laws and regulations relevant to the company – Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the 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).

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias. Our understanding was obtained through review of the financial statements for significant accounting estimates, analysis of journal entries, walkthrough of the key controls cycles in place and enquiry of management.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF RURAL SUPPORT**

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Our procedures to respond to those risks identified included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiry of management, and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF RURAL SUPPORT**

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##### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Teresa Campbell*

**Teresa Campbell (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

**for and on behalf of AAB Group Accountants Limited**

**Chartered Accountants**

**Statutory Auditors**

1 - 3 Arthur Street

Belfast

Co. Antrim

Northern Ireland

BT1 4GA

*10/12/24*

## RURAL SUPPORT

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	63,555	235,452	299,007	38,678	230,752	269,430
Charitable activities	4	193,043	409,406	602,449	3,200	562,633	565,833
Other income	5	2,363	-	2,363	682	-	682
<b>Total income</b>		<b>258,961</b>	<b>644,858</b>	<b>903,819</b>	<b>42,560</b>	<b>793,385</b>	<b>835,945</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	6	-	-	-	-	6,917	6,917
Charitable activities	7	258,518	678,810	937,328	101,875	743,224	845,099
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>258,518</b>	<b>678,810</b>	<b>937,328</b>	<b>101,875</b>	<b>750,141</b>	<b>852,016</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>443</b>	<b>(33,952)</b>	<b>(33,509)</b>	<b>(59,315)</b>	<b>43,244</b>	<b>(16,071)</b>
Transfers between funds		(9,922)	9,922	-	52,890	(52,890)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	9	<b>(9,479)</b>	<b>(24,030)</b>	<b>(33,509)</b>	<b>(6,425)</b>	<b>(9,646)</b>	<b>(16,071)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		239,969	22,408	262,377	246,394	32,054	278,448
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>230,490</b>	<b>(1,622)</b>	<b>228,868</b>	<b>239,969</b>	<b>22,408</b>	<b>262,377</b>

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

## RURAL SUPPORT

### BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		9,885		1,704
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	96,359		126,985	
Cash at bank and in hand		245,675		266,777	
		<u>342,034</u>		<u>393,762</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<u>(123,051)</u>		<u>(133,089)</u>	
Net current assets			218,983		260,673
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>228,868</u>		<u>262,377</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	18		(1,622)		22,408
Unrestricted funds			230,490		239,969
			<u>228,868</u>		<u>262,377</u>

## **RURAL SUPPORT**

### **BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

***AS AT 31 MARCH 2024***

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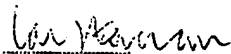
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10/12/2024



Mr Ian Stevenson  
Trustee

**Company Registration No. NI042579**

## RURAL SUPPORT

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	22		(9,465)		(63,276)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(11,980)		-	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(11,980)		-
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Repayment of borrowings		343		3,048	
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			343		3,048
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(21,102)		(60,228)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			266,777		327,005
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			245,675		266,777

# RURAL SUPPORT

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Charity information**

Rural support is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is Unit 3 Molesworth Place, Molesworth Street, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 8NX.

##### **1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") 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)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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.

##### **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.

##### **1.5 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.



## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	33% Straight Line
Computers	33% Straight Line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

##### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

##### 1.8 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.

##### 1.9 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.

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

---

#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### *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.

##### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

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

#### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### 3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	63,555	235,452	299,007	38,678	230,752	269,430
	<u>63,555</u>	<u>235,452</u>	<u>299,007</u>	<u>38,678</u>	<u>230,752</u>	<u>269,430</u>
<b>Donations and gifts</b>						
Donations and Other Income	63,555	741	64,296	38,678	100	38,778
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	-	234,711	234,711	-	230,652	230,652
	<u>63,555</u>	<u>235,452</u>	<u>299,007</u>	<u>38,678</u>	<u>230,752</u>	<u>269,430</u>

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 4 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Income	Restricted Income	Total 2024	Unrestricted Income	Restricted Income	Total 2023
	2024	2024		2023	2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Performance related grants	193,043	409,406	602,449	3,200	562,633	565,833
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	193,043	-	193,043	3,200	-	3,200
Restricted funds	-	409,406	409,406	-	562,633	562,633
	193,043	409,406	602,449	3,200	562,633	565,833
<b>Performance related grants</b>						
Public Health Agency	-	89,033	89,033	-	87,322	87,322
Social Farming DAERA	-	75,969	75,969	-	76,975	76,975
Prince's Countryside Fund - Resilience	-	45,136	45,136	-	25,545	25,545
So Engage and So Engage Plus	-	-	-	-	7,315	7,315
RABI & LFT Trust						
Emergency Fund	-	11,275	11,275	-	9,094	9,094
Farm Families Key Skills	-	9,230	9,230	-	70,181	70,181
NFU	104,654	-	104,654	-	82,340	82,340
National Lottery - Plough On	-	95,241	95,241	-	92,878	92,878
Life Beyond	85,211	-	85,211	-	26,285	26,285
Other	3,178	83,522	86,700	3,200	84,698	87,898
	193,043	409,406	602,449	3,200	562,633	565,833

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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**5 Other income**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	2,363	682
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**6 Raising funds**

	Total 2024 £	Restricted funds 2023 £
Staff costs	-	6,917
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	-	6,917
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total £
Staff costs	60,900	444,510	505,410	22,917	370,419
Depreciation and impairment	216	-	216	-	-
Office Expenses Telephone	55	2,241	2,296	-	3,838
Shows and Fairs	6,984	43,712	50,696	2,295	53,899
Travel and Subsistence	13,957	28,925	42,882	5,746	42,384
Promotional Costs	11,431	7,089	18,520	2,757	14,298
Training	4,013	5,380	9,393	1,352	13,429
Facilitation & Independent Support	30,345	78,822	109,167	11,854	122,861
Emergency Fund and Seed Grant Payments	-	1,275	1,275	-	3,000
Recruitment Costs	680	9	689	-	-
Project costs	(16,960)	18,715	1,755	-	-
Study tour	-	6,769	6,769	-	10,737
Counselling costs	21,160	12,146	33,306	-	40,891
	<u>132,781</u>	<u>649,593</u>	<u>782,374</u>	<u>46,921</u>	<u>675,756</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	125,737	23,526	149,263	50,191	164,513
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	-	5,691	5,691	4,763	4,830
	<u>258,518</u>	<u>678,810</u>	<u>937,328</u>	<u>101,875</u>	<u>845,099</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>					
Unrestricted funds	258,518	-	258,518	101,875	101,875
Restricted funds	-	678,810	678,810	-	743,224
	<u>258,518</u>	<u>678,810</u>	<u>937,328</u>	<u>101,875</u>	<u>845,099</u>

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8	Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	Support costs	Governance costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Staff costs	68,230	-	68,230	117,859	4,763	122,622
	Depreciation	3,583	-	3,583	4,198	-	4,198
	Bank Charges	510	-	510	332	-	332
	General Expenses	8,777	-	8,777	6,858	-	6,858
	Insurance	4,796	-	4,796	1,855	-	1,855
	Motor Vehicle Expenses	19,788	-	19,788	-	-	-
	Accountancy Fees	11,183	-	11,183	5,350	-	5,350
	Telephone	12,543	-	12,543	9,743	-	9,743
	Volunteer Expenses	1,687	-	1,687	1,497	-	1,497
	Printing, Stationery & Postage	2,704	-	2,704	4,566	-	4,566
	IT & Website Costs	13,847	-	13,847	11,575	-	11,575
	Subscriptions	1,615	-	1,615	680	-	680
	Audit fees	-	4,200	4,200	-	-	-
	Legal and professional	-	1,491	1,491	-	67	67
		<u>149,263</u>	<u>5,691</u>	<u>154,954</u>	<u>164,513</u>	<u>4,830</u>	<u>169,343</u>
	Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>149,263</u>	<u>5,691</u>	<u>154,954</u>	<u>164,513</u>	<u>4,830</u>	<u>169,343</u>

9	Net movement in funds	2024	2023
		£	£
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	4,200	-
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>3,799</u>	<u>4,198</u>

#### 10 Trustees

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

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	18	18
	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	502,419	434,114
Social security costs	42,879	39,579
Other pension costs	28,342	26,265
	<u>573,640</u>	<u>499,958</u>

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Trustees and the senior management team.

Total remuneration for senior management personnel in the year was £202,303 (2023: £185,576).

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2023 - Nil).

#### 12 Taxation

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



## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2023	9,419	26,045	35,464
Additions	7,414	4,566	11,980
	<u>16,833</u>	<u>30,611</u>	<u>47,444</u>
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>			
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>			
At 1 April 2023	9,419	24,341	33,760
Depreciation charged in the year	1,441	2,358	3,799
	<u>10,860</u>	<u>26,699</u>	<u>37,559</u>
<b>At 31 March 2024</b>			
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 March 2024	5,973	3,912	9,885
	<u>5,973</u>	<u>3,912</u>	<u>9,885</u>
At 31 March 2023	-	1,704	1,704
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,704</u>	<u>1,704</u>

#### 14 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	4,539	352
Other debtors	894	10,346
Prepayments and accrued income	90,926	116,287
	<u>96,359</u>	<u>126,985</u>

#### 15 Loans and overdrafts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loan from pension fund	3,391	3,048
	<u>3,391</u>	<u>3,048</u>
Payable within one year	3,391	3,048
	<u>3,391</u>	<u>3,048</u>

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### 15 Loans and overdrafts

(Continued)

#### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Pensions Payable		3,391	3,048
Other taxation and social security		14,062	-
Deferred income	17	80,178	94,734
Trade creditors		19,276	29,992
Other creditors		1,343	1,114
Accruals		4,801	4,201
		<u>123,051</u>	<u>133,089</u>

#### 17 Deferred income

	2024 £	2023 £
Arising from Deferred Income	<u>80,178</u>	<u>94,734</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

Opening Balance	Released During the Year	Arising During the Year	Closing Balance
94,734	(94,734)	80,178	80,178

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds				Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Public Health Agency	4,738	87,322	(86,505)	(3,298)	2,257	89,033	(69,331)	-
Social Farming	1,082	76,975	(78,057)	-	-	82,882	(87,457)	-
PCF Resilience	-	25,545	(20,870)	(4,675)	-	30,136	(32,895)	-
So Engage and So Engage Plus	-	7,315	(6,182)	(1,133)	-	-	-	-
RBAI & LFT Fund	-	9,094	(5,094)	(4,000)	-	11,275	(11,275)	-
Farm Families Key Skills	20,151	70,181	(49,025)	(21,156)	20,151	9,230	(25,348)	-
NFU The Business of Farming	-	25,020	(25,020)	-	-	-	-	-
NFU Counselling	-	16,974	(11,974)	(5,000)	-	-	-	-
Plough on	-	92,878	(92,878)	-	-	96,620	(102,493)	-
Life Beyond	-	26,285	(26,285)	-	-	-	-	-
NFU	-	40,346	(30,346)	(10,000)	-	-	(95)	-
AI Services Older Person	-	3,193	(3,193)	-	-	170	(170)	-
Arts Council NI	-	630	(630)	-	-	4,810	(5,440)	-
Dormant Accounts	-	-	-	-	-	14,444	(14,444)	-
Making tax digital	-	11,087	(7,459)	(3,628)	-	-	-	-
Reviving Rural	-	48,863	(48,863)	-	-	49,387	(59,309)	9,922
Farmers Choir	-	1,340	(1,340)	-	-	3,160	(2,810)	-
PCF Grant	6,083	15,000	(21,083)	-	-	15,000	(16,733)	-
Elevate Programme	-	4,685	(4,685)	-	-	4,000	(5,000)	-
DAERA Core	-	230,652	(230,652)	-	-	234,711	(246,010)	-

**RURAL SUPPORT**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

18 Restricted funds		(Continued)								
		<u>32,054</u>	<u>793,385</u>	<u>(750,141)</u>	<u>(52,890)</u>	<u>22,408</u>	<u>644,858</u>	<u>(678,810)</u>	<u>9,922</u>	<u>(1,622)</u>

Restricted funds which are in deficit as at 31 March 2024 are in relation to multi-year funding arrangements and are currently operating within budget.

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 19 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 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	239,969	258,961	(258,518)	(9,922)	230,490
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	246,394	42,560	(101,875)	52,890	239,969
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	9,885	-	9,885
Current assets/(liabilities)	220,605	(1,622)	218,983
	<u>230,490</u>	<u>(1,622)</u>	<u>228,868</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 March 2023:			
Tangible assets	1,704	-	1,704
Current assets/(liabilities)	238,265	22,408	260,673
	<u>239,969</u>	<u>22,408</u>	<u>262,377</u>

## RURAL SUPPORT

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 21 Related party transactions

In 2021/22 Rural Support has granted a 48 month loan of £19,100 to an employee. Interest was based on the HMRC Annual Interest Rate, being 2%. The loan was fully repaid during 2023/24 and the balance at year end was £Nil.

There were no other related party balances in 2023/24.

22 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Deficit for the year	(33,509)	(16,071)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	3,799	4,198
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	30,626	9,342
Increase in creditors	4,175	3,108
(Decrease) in deferred income	(14,556)	(63,853)
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<b>(9,465)</b>	<b>(63,276)</b>

#### 23 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	266,777	(21,102)	245,675
Loans falling due within one year	(3,048)	(343)	(3,391)
	<u>263,729</u>	<u>(21,445)</u>	<u>242,284</u>