

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC104513

ORANGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Orangefield Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
464 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 6BH

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104513)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were:

Gary Ball ¹	Craig Blair	John Boyd
Eric Brunton	Daphne Caldwell	Brian Campbell
Jonny Campbell	Naomi Campbell	Thelma Crawford
Jose Cummings	Anna Davison	Gavin Doherty
Stephen Douglas	Jeremy Dowd	Hannah Elliott
Stephen Ellis	Campbell English	Deborah Ford
Dean Francis	Ross Hart	David Irvine
Robin Jamison ²	Alan Jennings	Gareth MacLean
Roger McConnell	Ruth McConnell	Sarah McCullough
Stephen McMechan	Vanessa Montgomery ³	Joan Moore
Peter Shields	Mark Smyth	Gary Steenson
Ken Tweedie	Dave Whitcroft	Mark Wright

¹ Resigned in June 2024

² Resigned in June 2024

³ On sabbatical from March 2023 to August 2024

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PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister	Rev Gareth MacLean
Clerk of Session	Mr Jeremy Dowd
Treasurer	Mr Gary Hartin

AUDITOR

Muir & Addy
Muir Building, 427 Holywood Road, Belfast BT4 2LT

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Donegall Square West
Belfast BT1

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STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained ministers and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are normally held monthly from September to June.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation, a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance, the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Orangefield Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business, it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

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DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Orangefield Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ, is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

Our congregation's purpose is to be a praying, worshipping Christian community; empowered by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus daily and minister in his name.

As an evangelical church we are Father-Focused, Christ-Centred and Spirit-Sensitive. As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

In September 2023, at a special weekend event, we launched our new Vision, with the strapline **Together WITH JESUS BRINGING LIFE to Belfast and the nations.**

As Jesus followers we are invited into his life, his story, and his mission. It is a story of multiplication: 1 became 12; 12 became 120; and 120 became 3000. Today there are 2.2 billion Christians on the planet with 5.8 billion people needing to encounter and accept Jesus.

As God's people in Orangefield, we continue to hunger for God's Presence; we read our Bibles, we care for one another and we love our neighbours. However, as we journey towards April 2033, the date that will celebrate the 2000th anniversary of Jesus resurrection, our goal must be multiplication – disciples making disciples, churches planting churches.

In this season we will prioritise:

- **Deep Connections**
 - We seek to grow as God's family, marked by hospitality, authenticity and deeply committed relationships.
- **Spiritual Formation**
 - We seek to become more like Jesus through our gathered and individual rhythms and we intentionally raise up others as disciple-makers.
- **Compassionate Giving**
 - We seek to support and bless individuals and communities at home and around the world through radical service and generosity.
- **Courageous Pioneering**
 - We seek to practice innovation, creativity and partnership as we equip God's people to walk in the Spirit and see His Kingdom come.

These priorities are uniquely rooted in the story God has been telling in Orangefield for over 80 years. They reflect much of who we are and what we do. However, more than that, as the cultural and spiritual landscape of Belfast and Northern Ireland changes, these are the things God is calling us to embody with a new imagination and intensity, as we partner with His Spirit in telling and living the Gospel in a world that is lost and anxious.

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ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed regularly during the year, and those who have been baptised and who have made a credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations and ministries including;

4U2	Girls' Brigade
Alpha	GriefShare
Arc Café	Hamper Ministry
Bowls Fellowship	Home Groups
Boys' Brigade	JAM Summer scheme
Brownies	Lunch Club
Community Bible Experience (CBE)	Orange Pips Playgroup
Crèche	PW (Presbyterian Women)
Foodbank	Rainbow Guides
Freezer Ministry	SALT & LIGHT (Sunday School)
Friendship Group	SNYF (Sunday Night Youth Fellowship)

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation has met for worship each Sunday at 10:30am and 7:00pm. We have held Seniors' Services several times each year on Sunday afternoons for those who find it difficult to attend worship at other times. During the week, in church and in small groups, members of all ages have met together for prayer, fellowship, and to study the scriptures. Throughout the year, our morning service continued to be streamed live on YouTube, and recordings were made available to members without access to the online services.

As well as our regular services, during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life as we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism, and conducted marriage services. We also gave thanks for faithful members, and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year, as we conducted ten funerals.

During the year we welcomed 24 new communicant members, and at 31 December 2024 there were 619 communicant members and 610 families connected with the congregation.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited or otherwise contacted on a regular basis by the minister, pastoral staff, elders, or one of the congregation's volunteer pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

We provide services to our local area through ministries such as the Arc Café, our pre-school playgroup (Orange Pips), our Foodbank, our parent and toddlers group, our youth work in Clonduff and Clarawood, our support of the OAK Partnership in Clarawood, and our many other organisations. We seek to proclaim the Good News through these groups and other outreach events like the Alpha course.

We support local and global mission workers through our offerings, and give prayerful and practical support to many of our members who are involved in short-term mission and outreach projects each year.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College (the training college for ministry students), and financially supports congregations in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

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Presbytery

The congregation is represented at regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and two of our elders. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

The minister, one of our elders and an under-30 representative attended the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Property

No major repairs or refurbishment projects were required during the year. As will be seen in the Financial Review and Financial Statements later in this Report, a significant milestone was reached in the latter part of the year when our final payment was made to our Building Loan. We give thanks for the generosity of those who contributed to this over the years.

Organisations:

4U2 is a group that meeting on the last Tuesday of every month and is for adults with and without additional needs, learning and physical disabilities. Our average attendances tend to settle at around 14 but this can fluctuate to between 11 and 20.

In our 2024 Calendar year we enjoyed crafting activities, A Summer Family Pizza Party Night, planting, World Food Night and our annual Christmas Party. We have a range of members plus family members that attend. As much as our folks enjoy our meetings, since Covid we have found that family member attend on a regular basis as there is a community and support for each other which is invaluable.

Alpha is Orangefield's central outreach activity for adults. We run Alpha at least twice a year usually starting Late September and Mid-January. Sometimes on site and sometimes at an outside venue. Numbers vary at each course. At the very heart of Alpha and everything we do is to give people the opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a warm friendly and open atmosphere and to help people find faith, hope and love through Jesus.

Boys' Brigade meets each Friday to cater for boys aged 4 years to 18 years old, with an average attendance of around 100 boys.

Bowling Fellowship meets every Monday from September to April between 7.00 - 9.30pm. Each evening, we play bowls, have an epilogue and finish with a cup of tea, a light supper and a time of fellowship. We have an attendance between 20 to 31 with an average of 26.

Brownies continued to meet during 2024 with an average attendance of 12 girls. They continued some badgework, talked about road safety, took part in activities about what to do if there was a fire, decorated biscuits, made 15's, learned a bit about America, had a quiz, enjoyed some craft work and games. They also took part in UK Parliament Week. They had a visit from Clayful Minds and Tots Pots Ceramics. They love their outings during the year to Belvoir Forest Park (led by Belfast City Council), a Pantomime in Stranmillis University College and Aunt Sandra's Chocolate Workshop.

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Community Bible Experience (CBE) Three CBE groups, comprising about 30 people, meet weekly to read the Bible (in CBE format) and discuss it together. We believe reading the Bible and seeking / sharing a deeper understanding of what it contains is the most fundamental element of each individual's faith journey.

Community Youth Clubs These clubs within our local communities of Clonduff and Clarawood continued throughout 2024. The clubs run across 3 sessions (Monday and Friday night in Clarawood // Friday night in Clonduff in partnership with the Clonduff Community Association) for approximately 48 weeks a year. This was supported by 2 part-time Youth Support staff and 13 volunteer leaders who planned and delivered a programme that included games, crafts, trips, sports and group work in order to contribute to the personal, social and spiritual development of children and young people.

Crèche runs on Sunday mornings alongside church, for babies and toddlers from 0-3yrs. This year, our church creche has continued to provide a nurturing environment for our youngest members, offering age-appropriate Bible stories and accompanying colouring sheets, outside games and snack time and free play. With an average attendance of 16 children, we've seen steady participation from both new and returning families. The program is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who ensure a safe and engaging experience for all. Looking ahead, we are recruiting for new volunteers from the wider church community, ensuring we can provide for all our smallest members and that the creche remains a vital part of our church ministry.

Foodbank continues to operate on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as a satellite of Dundonald Foodbank, in association with Trussell Trust. The Foodbank mission statement is, "Inspired by the example of Jesus, we seek to support those in need within our community and help people connect with Him". We do this by offering food, a listening ear, prayer and information. This work is generously supported by our congregation and other local individuals and organisations.

Friendship Group The purpose of the group is to encourage friendship and fellowship and give opportunities to our senior members to visit new places, through our summer coach trips, and enjoy a variety of speakers and activities in the autumn and winter months. Following an April Afternoon Tea, we offer a varied programme of seven visits by coach during the summer months, when church activities have stopped, with an average attendance between 40 and 45. During autumn and winter, we arrange fortnightly meetings, offering physical exercises, refreshments and a variety of speakers and activities, and a Christmas dinner.

Girls' Brigade has had another successful year with 110 attending weekly. The girls have enjoyed activities in the church including crafts, scripture and games and group outings to the fire station and Christmas market. GB continues to provide a space for our girls to make friends while learning about Jesus, this has been particularly true within our Brigaders group, our oldest girls usually with our smallest numbers but this year they are our biggest group! This is testament to our leaders and their commitment to building meaningful relationships with our girls and continually planning engaging content that keeps them coming back.

GriefShare The programme was provided several times throughout the year with a mixed success, a number of people came and went as they felt able, the sessions were provided even if they were not at times utilised.

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Home Groups provide a special opportunity for spiritual growth, support and encouragement and during 2024 we had 24 home groups within Orangefield with a total membership of over 220. Due to the growth experienced in recent years we set out in Spring/Summer 2024 to create more Home Group space. This included launching 3 new groups and splitting one to create 2 more. We have 10 people leading groups who weren't leading last year and 25 individuals who have been able to join (or rejoin) a group in the past year. Unfortunately, we also had 1 group close due to the changing circumstances of a number of its members.

INSPIRE is a Football and Creative Arts week that is run for a week in July for children and young people. The programme consisted of teamwork, football skills, matches, dancing, crafts, baking, STEM, music and drama. This was supported by a team of over 25 volunteers who planned and delivered activities that supported the physical and mental health and personal development of children and young people. We also brought in local experts to train up and deliver specific areas of speciality i.e. football and dance.

JAM is a summer scheme for children and teenagers. It runs for one week during the month of August. The programme was a week filled with singing, stories, crafts, games, team building and FUN when children and young people got to hear the amazing story of Jesus.

Orange Pips is our pre-school playgroup. Our aim is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment. We welcome children from all sections of the community, with up to 24 attending per session.

Presbyterian Women Our PW group continues to meet every month. It has been lovely to welcome over forty ladies at each meeting with some attending for the first time and to see returning members. We have had a variety of speakers over this year's session who have all been well received by our members. Supper is served at the end of each meeting. We appreciate the support given to PW by the church.

Rainbow Guides meet on a Monday night with an average attendance of 12 girls.

SALT (Sharing and Learning Together) is our weekly Sunday School programme which takes place during the morning service for those aged 3 to 10 years old. Approx 50 children attend. We have a dedicated team of leaders and young helpers (JCrew). The children engage in age-appropriate worship together as a large group before splitting into smaller age groups. We are continuing to use an online, multimedia curriculum called 'Energize' which has helped the leaders plan varied, interactive and engaging programmes of Bible studies, quizzes, memory verses & games. During 2024 we enjoyed a summer outing to Streamvale Farm, a Christmas party, a trip to We are Vertigo for the older kids and a SALT Service which involved all the children.

LIGHT is the weekly Sunday programme which takes place during the morning service for those between 10 and 13 years old where age-appropriate Bible teaching is provided using presentations, group discussion and interactive activities. Over the past year, the average attendance was around 16 children per week and the programme followed a number of teaching series, including looking at Old Testament characters and what it means to live as a Christian.

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SNYF – Our evenings begin with some active games in the Parke Hall before moving to the Youth Room. We have dedicated time to worship and prayer, aiming to encourage a deeper relationship with God. Our teaching sessions have delved into understanding our faith and its relevance in our daily lives, providing opportunities for discussion. Emphasising missions has helped to broaden our perspective and actively consider ways to serve our community and beyond. Additionally, inviting church members to share their stories has helped to inspire and encourage, creating deeper connections with the wider church family.

Tots & Co Clarawood runs weekly during term time in the OAK Centre, with numbers varying between 8-16 adults accompanied with a child or children (usually no more than 3 per adult). This is a space that allows the parent/carer to create bonds with their child/children doing crafts, singalong and imaginary play. The activities help babies/toddlers engage with other children which helps to develop their social skills and build confidence in the children. This space also creates friendships with other parents/carers to help eliminate loneliness. Most activities will have a faith-based theme to them.

TnC@OPC meet every other week and provide a relaxed, safe space where tots and their carers chat, sharing stories and experiences over a cuppa. As volunteers we provide a listening ear and support.

VOLUNTEERS

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities. Without them, we would not be able to offer many of the services outlined above.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. At times, local delivery is facilitated by central resources. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media.

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The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income continues to be the generous contribution from our members. There were 358 contributing families during the year (361 in previous year, 2023). Donations received from the Freewill Offering totalled £329,065 (£304,832 in previous year, 2023).

Other Donations & Gifts saw a significant increase when compared to the previous year - £101,975 in 2024 (2023 £44,459). This variance was mainly due to funds raised Helping hands & various areas of overseas missionary work.

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £739,141 compared to £699,645 in the previous year.

Total expenditure increased in the year from £893,816 to £929,026.

This year, donations distributed to other charities increased from £118,626 in 2023 to £160,603 in 2024.

There was excellent news for the Building Fund in 2024. At the start of this financial year, the loans used to finance the construction of our church building stood at £83,205. As of October 2024, this debt was fully cleared. Our hope is that this achievement will enable members to redirect their giving to support ministry projects, under the Bringing Life aspect of our Vision.

We have created the Bringing Life Fund to support all our outward-facing ministry, including what is already existing and what is still to be imagined, and including any renovations to our building to serve our mission. This will incorporate the former United Appeal and Mission Fund.

The Bringing Life Fund will be used to provide funding for outreach ministry, including (but not limited to) the following:

- The United Appeal of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland;
- Support for our current and future Mission Partners;
- Employment costs for OPC staff engaged in outreach work;
- Missional Projects endorsed by the Kirk Session

RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregations and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

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- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Funds will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds' transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)". They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

GOING CONCERN

The activities of the congregation are dependent on ongoing contributions from its members. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report and, subject to the continuing support from members, to fund on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees approved the following as the Reserves Policy, based on the recommendation of the Treasurer and Finance Team;

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted reserves that it is appropriate to hold, taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to endeavour to hold at least 2 months' normal expenditure (£50,000).

Loan repayments: It is the intention of the Trustees to retain 2 months' loan repayments in the Building Fund a/c. This affords the comfort that, should there be a shortfall in monthly loan repayments, they would be in a position to make up the difference in the short term.

Assets: A church asset register is in place and will be updated monthly. A rolling replacement schedule is in place for major assets.

At the year-end the free reserves (excess of unrestricted current liabilities over current assets) were in deficit by £54,273. This has not met the levels identified within the current reserve policy. The reason for the negative free reserve position is due to the annual loan repayment commitment that was required for the construction of the church building. An optimal level of working capital will be maintained to meet the Ministry, staffing and congregational running costs and will support a medium-term goal of full repayment of the church building loan. On final completion of the loan repayment additional surplus reserves will go towards meeting the reserve policy.

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RISK REVIEW

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures are being implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from members. We have agreed a Risk Management Policy and have compiled a Risk Register to ensure that these risks are mitigated by the Trustees and the Congregational Committee, regularly monitoring the various activities of the congregation at stated meetings and by encouraging members in their regular giving.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 06th July 2025 and Signed on its behalf by

[Name] 

[Date] 6th July 2025

[Name] 

[Date] 6 July 2025