

# The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107024

## Details

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**Known as** UDR Benevolent Fund

**Status** Received

**Registered** 2018-07-11

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Edwards & Co. Solicitors  
28 Hill Street  
Belfast  
Bt1 2la  
BT1 2LA

**Phone** 02890408393

**Email** [info@udrbenfund.org.uk](mailto:info@udrbenfund.org.uk)

**Website** [www.udrbenfund.org.uk](http://www.udrbenfund.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Objects are to promote the following purposes for the public benefit- 1. the relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage of those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment (“Home Service Conditions of Service”) and their widows, widowers, dependents and families (the “Beneficiaries”); and 2. the advancement of human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations), conflict resolution and reconciliation among the beneficiaries.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

**How the charity works:** Education/training, Grant making, Medical/health/sickness, Relief of poverty, Welfare/benevolent

**Who the charity helps:** Physical disabilities, Unemployed/low income, Victim support

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£269,606	£695,960	£-32,097	3

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
02890408393		
Email:		
Tel:		
Website:		
<a href="http://www.udrbenfund.org.uk">http://www.udrbenfund.org.uk</a>		
<a href="mailto:info@udrbenfund.org.uk">info@udrbenfund.org.uk</a>		

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number NIC 107024

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld.
<b>Charity number</b>	NIC 107024
<b>Principal address</b>	Bldg 89 Clive Road Holywood BT18 9QA
<b>Auditor</b>	GMcG BELFAST Alfred House 19 Alfred Street Belfast BT2 8EQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank P.O. Box 183 Donegall Sq West Belfast BT1 6JS
<b>Solicitors</b>	Edwards & Co 3rd Floor Sessia House 61-67 Donegal Street Belfast BT1 2QH
<b>Investment advisors</b>	Julius Baer International Limited 1 St Martins Le Grand London EC1A 4AS

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# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

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# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the fund's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

#### Objectives and activities

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to those former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the extended Ulster Defence Regiment family who are in need of support as a consequence of poverty caused by sickness, disability, accident, infirmity, social exclusion or other adversity through the provision of grants and respite support.

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

The trustees believe that the fund provides the following public benefits in supporting those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants who are in need:

1. The relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

2. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the fund's work in the future.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Achievements and performance

During the year the fund undertook numerous welfare activities giving financial help to assist the needs and afford support to the benefit of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants. The fund also sponsored numerous respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Regiment. During the year, 115 (2024 – 121) applications for benevolence were dealt with, 621 (2024 – 529) families benefited from respite in the apartments and 256 (2024 – 241) family or disabled ex-soldiers groups availed of respite activities during the year.

The fund also extended the Pilot Health Care Scheme for a further year with 875 (2024 – 783) beneficiaries now benefiting from the scheme. The overall increase in beneficiary contact during the year was 18% (2024 - 30%).

#### Financial review

During the year, there was income of £269,606 (2024 - £283,744) and expenditure of £695,960 (2024 - £578,486). Investments were held by Julius Baer and Quilter Cheviot as discretionary investment managers and there was a gain on investments of £86,144 (2024 – £896,153) in the year.

The trustees continually review the level of welfare grants given and respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in relation to projected investment income and donations together with any surplus funds. Direct charitable expenditure increased in the year by £115,157 from £521,079 to £636,236.

The trustees consider that the fund is in a satisfactory position to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

Cash and deposit balances are maintained so as to be able to meet expenditure on charitable activities and other outgoings as they arise. However, the majority of the fund's assets are held in investment funds and in fixed assets used to help fulfil its charitable objectives. The fund's income is mainly derived from investment income and the Trustees are aware of the need to minimise the risk that the fund cannot meet its obligations by maintaining the value of the charity's underlying investments. The fund's obligations cannot be readily ascertained but the Trustees adopt a reserves policy which allows free reserves to be available in any financial year in line with an annual budget set in advance of the year. The total unrestricted funds of the charity are £10,609,617 (2024 - £10,949,827) which includes fixed assets of £9,988,220 (2024 - £10,279,600) leaving the charity with free reserves of £621,397 (2024 - £670,227).

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the fund is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the fund, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. In particular, the trustees instruct external accountants to review the accounting records and prepare interim management accounts during the course of the financial year. The trustees' attitude to investment risk is managed through the two professional investment managers. Where appropriate; systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the fund.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of officers, volunteers and applicants. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the fund.

#### Plans for future periods

There have been no major changes in the year. The trustees are conscious of the ageing and declining beneficiary group and are currently engaged in a process of reviewing how the Fund helps those UDR Veterans in need; this will form part of a 5-year strategic plan.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### **Structure, governance and management**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund was founded in 1972 under Charitable Trust, most recently revised in 2017, its purpose being helping and assisting the financial needs and affording support to the benefit of members of and former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants as set out in the Trust Deed. The Fund is recognised for charitable purposes by HM Revenue & Customs and registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11th July 2018. Further information on the fund and the members of the Board of Trustees can be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office address.

The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld. There were 15 (2024 - 14) trustees who served during the year.

Responsibility for the activities of the fund is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees consists of elected members. Trustees are appointed or are eligible for re-appointment immediately following the completion of their term of office at a General Meeting of the fund for a term of four years. The number of trustees shall consist of not more than fifteen.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is appointed annually at a General Meeting of the fund.

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the fund for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the fund and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be elected by the Board of Trustees. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

#### **Investment powers and policy**

Under the trust deed, the trustees have unrestricted investment powers, and may invest at their absolute discretion. The trustees have appointed two independent investment managers, who have discretionary powers, with a mandate which is reviewed on a quarterly basis, to maintain and grow income, with a moderate risk profile.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the fund and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the fund for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the fund and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

#### Trustee

28 October 2025

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund (the 'fund') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position 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 Fund's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

#### 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 fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 fund'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.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

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#### 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.

#### 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 (Northern Ireland) 2015 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 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 fund'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 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(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland ) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

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 ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliances with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and the fund's financial results and position, including the charity's remuneration policies for trustees, bonus levels and performance targets, if any;
- Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the fund's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instance of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the fund for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in income recognition. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the fund operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the fund's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

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#### Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

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

**TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Fund's Board of Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Fund and the Fund's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*GMcG Belfast*  
**GMcG BELFAST**

28 October 2025

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8EQ

GMcG BELFAST is eligible for appointment as auditor of the fund by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	3	34,806	68,579
Investments	4	234,800	215,165
<b>Total income</b>		<u>269,606</u>	<u>283,744</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	5	59,724	57,407
Charitable activities	6	636,236	521,079
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>695,960</u>	<u>578,486</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	86,144	896,153
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds</b>		<u>(340,210)</u>	<u>601,411</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		10,949,827	10,348,416
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		<u>10,609,617</u>	<u>10,949,827</u>

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

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14		1,087,279		1,109,864
Investments	15		8,893,180		9,169,736
			<u>9,980,459</u>		<u>10,279,600</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	19,080		34,735	
Cash at bank and in hand		642,175		675,175	
		<u>661,255</u>		<u>709,910</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17		<u>(32,097)</u>		<u>(39,683)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>629,158</u>		<u>670,227</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u><u>10,609,617</u></u>		<u><u>10,949,827</u></u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	19		<u>10,609,617</u>		<u>10,949,827</u>
			<u><u>10,609,617</u></u>		<u><u>10,949,827</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Trustee

Trustee

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund is a unincorporated charity registered in Northern Ireland. The registered office is Anderson House, Palace Barracks, Holywood, BT18 9QA.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the fund's trust deed, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, "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 fund is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The fund has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments. 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 fund 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.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the fund 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 fund has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Investment income is interest earned through holding cash at bank and dividends from investments held. Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under one of the following headings: Costs of raising funds, Expenditure on charitable activities and Other expenditure.

Costs of raising funds comprise costs incurred in generating voluntary income and includes advertising, allocation of support costs and investment management costs.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the Fund in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes welfare costs, christmas grants, respite costs, charitable donations, media campaign, other direct costs and an apportionment of support costs.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the office. Such costs are allocated to charitable activities based on time spent. The allocation of support costs is analysed in note 8.

#### 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:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Computers	25% straight line

Freehold land is not depreciated.

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 Fixed asset investments

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

#### 1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the fund 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).

#### 1.9 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.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The fund 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 fund's balance sheet when the fund 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.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

##### ***Basic financial assets***

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

##### ***Basic financial liabilities***

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

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

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

##### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

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

#### 1.11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from income tax and capital gains tax to the extent that its income and gains are applied for charitable purposes. No tax charge has arisen in the year.

#### 1.12 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 fund is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.13 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 fund'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.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements (Continued)

##### Key sources of estimation uncertainty

##### Fixed assets

The annual depreciation charge on fixed assets depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and estimates of residual values. The trustees regularly review these asset lives and change them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in asset lives can have a significant impact on depreciation and amortisation charges for the period. Detail of the useful lives is included in the accounting policies.

#### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	34,806	39,716
Legacies receivable	-	28,863
	<u>34,806</u>	<u>68,579</u>

#### 4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	234,281	212,395
Interest receivable	519	2,770
	<u>234,800</u>	<u>215,165</u>

#### 5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
<b>Raising funds</b>		
Support costs	8,458	8,165
Investment management	51,266	49,242
	<u>59,724</u>	<u>57,407</u>
<b>Total costs</b>		

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Benevolent fund management & distribution 2025 £	Benevolent fund management & distribution 2024 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	28,742	29,673
Depreciation and impairment	29,263	30,499
Welfare grants	271,891	182,490
Christmas grants	34,113	35,181
Respite activities	52,152	51,956
Advertising	278	2,985
Media campaign	8,072	5,690
Property costs	122,230	101,557
Charitable donations	4,301	-
	<u>551,042</u>	<u>440,031</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>		
Support	85,194	81,048
	<u>636,236</u>	<u>521,079</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	<u>636,236</u>	<u>521,079</u>

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

7 Grants payable	grants 2025		Christmas grants 2025		Respite grants 2025		grants 2024		Christmas grants 2024		Respite grants 2024	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Grants to individuals	227,178	313,443	52,152	143,037	35,181	51,956	230,174	39,453	-	51,956	230,174	
	44,713	44,713	-	39,453	-	-	39,453	-	-	-	39,453	
	271,891	358,156	52,152	182,490	35,181	51,956	269,627	182,490	35,181	51,956	269,627	

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Support costs allocated to activities

		2025 £	2024 £
	<i>Basis of allocation</i>		
Staff costs	<i>Staff time</i>	67,897	69,643
Bank charges	<i>Staff time</i>	134	127
Stationery & postage	<i>Time</i>	1,843	1,950
Telephone costs	<i>Time</i>	357	542
Computer expenses	<i>Time</i>	5,401	1,948
Miscellaneous expenses	<i>Staff time</i>	5,273	3,107
Governance costs	<i>Time</i>	12,747	11,896
		<u>93,652</u>	<u>89,213</u>

**Analysed between:**

Fundraising	8,458	8,165
Benevolent fund management & distribution	85,194	81,048
	<u>93,652</u>	<u>89,213</u>

**Governance costs comprise:**

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fees	6,000	6,000
Accountancy	6,000	3,900
Legal and professional	747	1,996
	<u>12,747</u>	<u>11,896</u>

9 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	(207,095)	786,612
Sale of investments	293,239	109,541
	<u>86,144</u>	<u>896,153</u>

10 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	6,000	12,000
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	29,263	30,499
	<u>35,263</u>	<u>42,499</u>

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 11 Trustees

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

#### 12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	3	3
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	94,606	97,271
Other pension costs	2,033	2,045
	<u>96,639</u>	<u>99,316</u>
	<u>96,639</u>	<u>99,316</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Aggregate compensation	67,765	69,661
	<u>67,765</u>	<u>69,661</u>

The fund considers its key management personnel to comprise of the Trustees and the senior management team.

#### 13 Taxation

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

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2024	1,627,212	142,963	1,285	1,771,460
Additions	-	6,678	-	6,678
At 31 March 2025	1,627,212	149,641	1,285	1,778,138
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2024	524,755	135,556	1,285	661,596
Depreciation charged in the year	25,137	4,126	-	29,263
At 31 March 2025	549,892	139,682	1,285	690,859
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2025	1,077,320	9,959	-	1,087,279
At 31 March 2024	1,102,457	7,407	-	1,109,864

Land and buildings are held in the name of Cleaver Fulton Rankin Trustees Limited as a nominee.

#### 15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments
	£
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 April 2024	9,169,736
Additions	2,238,692
Valuation changes	(207,095)
Disposals	(2,308,153)
At 31 March 2025	8,893,180
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2025	8,893,180
At 31 March 2024	9,169,736

The investments were managed and held on the fund's behalf by Quilter Cheviot Limited, in the name of the nominee company, Quilter Nominees Limited and Julius Bär in the name of the nominee company Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<b>16 Debtors</b>		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other debtors	11,130	13,988
Prepayments and accrued income	7,950	20,747
	<u>19,080</u>	<u>34,735</u>
<b>17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxation and social security	1,946	2,167
Other creditors	5,303	10,620
Accruals and deferred income	24,848	26,896
	<u>32,097</u>	<u>39,683</u>
<b>18 Retirement benefit schemes</b>		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,033	2,045

The fund operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the fund in an independently administered fund.

### 19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances which are not subject to specific conditions and expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the fund.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	10,949,827	269,606	(695,960)	86,144	10,609,617
	<u>10,949,827</u>	<u>269,606</u>	<u>(695,960)</u>	<u>86,144</u>	<u>10,609,617</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Gains and losses £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
General funds	10,348,416	283,744	(578,486)	896,153	10,949,827
	<u>10,348,416</u>	<u>283,744</u>	<u>(578,486)</u>	<u>896,153</u>	<u>10,949,827</u>

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Accounts

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT  
BENEVOLENT FUND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31ST MARCH 2024**

**Charity Registration Number: NIC 107024**

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the Fund's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

#### **CONSTITUTION**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund was founded in 1972 under Charitable Trust, most recently revised in 2017, its purpose being helping and assisting the financial needs and affording support to the benefit of members of and former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants as set out in the Trust Deed. The Fund is recognised for charitable purposes by HM Revenue & Customs and registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Further information on the Fund and the members of the Board of Trustees can be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office address:

#### **CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE AND REFERENCE DETAILS**

<b>Charity name</b>	The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC107024
<b>HMRC reference</b>	XN48435
<b>Registered office</b>	Anderson House, Palace Barracks, Holywood, BT18 9QA
<b>Trustees</b>	The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld. There were 14 trustees who served during the year.
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr B Kennedy (delegated day to day management of the Fund)
<b>Investment managers</b>	Julius Baer International Limited, 1 St Martins, Le Grand, London, EC1A 4AS  Quilter Cheviot Limited, Montgomery House, 29/33 Montgomery Street, Belfast, BT1 4NX
<b>Auditor</b>	GMcG Belfast, Alfred House, 19 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
<b>Solicitors</b>	Edwards & Company, 28 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

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

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

##### **Organisational structure and related parties**

Responsibility for the activities of the Fund is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees consists of elected members. Trustees are appointed or are eligible for re-appointment immediately following the completion of their term of office at a General Meeting of the Fund for a term of four years. The number of trustees shall consist of not more than fifteen.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is appointed annually at a General Meeting of the Fund.

##### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training**

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the Fund for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the Fund and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be elected by the Board of Trustees. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

#### **INVESTMENT POWERS AND POLICY**

Under the trust deed, the trustees have unrestricted investment powers, and may invest at their absolute discretion. The trustees have appointed two independent investment managers, who have discretionary powers, with a mandate which is reviewed on a quarterly basis, to maintain and grow income, with a moderate risk profile.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to those former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the extended Ulster Defence Regiment family who are in need of support as a consequence of poverty caused by sickness, disability, accident, infirmity, social exclusion or other adversity through the provision of grants and respite support.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The trustees of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide Public Benefits.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees believe that the Fund provides the following public benefits in supporting those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants who are in need:

1. The relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT (*continued*)**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

2. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Fund undertook numerous welfare activities giving financial help to assist the needs and afford support to the benefit of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants. The Fund also sponsored numerous respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Regiment. During the year, 121 (2023 – 114) applications for benevolence were dealt with, 529 (2023 – 534) families benefited from respite in the apartments and 241 (2023 – 233) family or disabled ex-soldiers groups availed of respite activities during the year.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

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

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)***

The Fund also extended the Pilot Health Care Scheme for a further year with 783 (2023 – 604) beneficiaries now benefiting from the scheme. The overall increase in beneficiary contact during the year was 30% (2023 - 41%).

Total income for the period amounted to £283,744 (2023 - £309,148) and total expenditure for the period amounted to £578,486 (2023 - £514,625). Investments were held by Julius Baer and Quilter Cheviot as discretionary investment managers and there was a gain on investments of £896,153 (2023 – loss of £646,575) in the year.

The trustees continually review the level of welfare grants given and respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in relation to projected investment income and donations together with any surplus funds. Direct charitable expenditure increased in the year by £64,358 from £456,721 to £521,079.

The trustees consider that the Fund is in a satisfactory position to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Fund is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Fund, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. In particular, the trustees instruct external accountants to review the accounting records and prepare interim management accounts during the course of the financial year. The trustees' attitude to investment risk is managed through the two professional investment managers. Where appropriate; systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the Fund.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of officers, volunteers and applicants. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Fund.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Details of income and expenditure for the year and of the year end financial position are given on pages 13 and 14 of the accounts attached to this report. There was an increase in the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio during the year and reserves increased by £601,411 in 2023/24 from £10,348,416 to £10,949,827. The trustees consider the financial position of the Fund as satisfactory in order to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

#### **FUNDING**

The principal funding is from donations and investments.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

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

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)***

##### **RESERVES POLICY**

Cash and deposit balances are maintained so as to be able to meet expenditure on charitable activities and other outgoings as they arise. However, the majority of the Charity's assets are held in investment funds and in fixed assets used to help fulfil its charitable objectives. The Charity's income is mainly derived from investment income and the Trustees are aware of the need to minimise the risk that the Charity cannot meet its obligations by maintaining the value of the charity's underlying investments. The Charity's obligations cannot be readily ascertained but the Trustees adopt a reserves policy which allows free reserves to be available in any financial year in line with an annual budget set in advance of the year. The total unrestricted funds of the charity are £10,949,827 (2023: £10,348,416) which includes fixed assets of £10,279,600 (2023: £9,836,237) leaving the charity with free reserves of £670,227 (2023: £512,179).

##### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

There have been no major changes in the year. The trustees are conscious of the ageing and declining beneficiary group and are currently engaged in a process of reviewing how the Fund helps those UDR Veterans in need; this will form part of a 5-year strategic plan.

##### **STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

**AUDITOR**

GMcG Belfast offer themselves for re-appointment as auditor for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Chairman

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**  
**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement 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 Fund's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, and of its incoming resources and expenditure 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

**Basis of our 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 Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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.

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
BELFAST BT2 8EQ  
DX 3910 NR BELFAST 50

Tel: +44(0)28 9031 1113  
Fax: +44(0)28 9031 0777

Century House  
40 Crescent Business Park  
LISBURN  
BT28 2GN

Tel: +44(0)28 9260 7355  
Fax: +44(0)28 9260 1656

17 Mandeville Street  
PORTADOWN  
Craigavon  
BT62 3PB

Tel: +44(0)28 3833 2801  
Fax: +44(0)28 3835 0293



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## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

#### **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 Fund'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.

#### **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 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.



## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 5 and 6, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

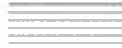
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform the audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)**

**Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

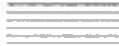
In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and charity's financial results and position;
- Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered that the particular areas in the financial statements that were susceptible to misstatement were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements; recognition, classification and completeness of income. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included Charity legislation applicable to Northern Ireland, Charity's governing document, employment law, health and safety and tax legislation.

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



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)**

**Audit response to risks identified:**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatements due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments including those relating to revenue recognition; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias; and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions that are large, unusual or outside the normal course of the charity's activities.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement teams members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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.



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Fund's Board of Trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Fund and the Fund's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Nigel Moore FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of GMcG BELFAST**

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Dated: 29.10.24

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8EQ

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2	68,579	68,579	134,417
Investments	3	215,165	215,165	174,731
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>283,744</b>	<b>283,744</b>	309,148
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Raising funds:				
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	8,165	8,165	7,892
Investment management costs	4	49,242	49,242	50,012
Charitable activities				
Benevolent fund management & distribution	5	521,079	521,079	456,721
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>578,486</b>	<b>578,486</b>	514,625
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(294,742)</b>	<b>(294,742)</b>	( 205,477)
<b>GAIN / (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS</b>				
Realised gain on investments		109,541	109,541	47,494
Unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	13	786,612	786,612	( 694,069)
<b>NET GAIN / (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>896,153</b>	<b>896,153</b>	( 646,575)
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>601,411</b>	<b>601,411</b>	( 852,052)
Funds at beginning of year		10,348,416	10,348,416	11,200,468
<b>FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b>10,949,827</b>	<b>10,949,827</b>	10,348,416

The Fund has no recognised gains or losses in the year other than those included in the net movement in funds.

All of the operations of the Fund are classed as continuing.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	12	1,109,864	1,140,363
Investments	13	9,169,736	8,695,874
		<u>10,279,600</u>	<u>9,836,237</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	14	34,735	25,499
Short term deposits	15	479,204	291,573
Cash at bank and in hand		195,971	227,043
		<u>709,910</u>	<u>544,115</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<b>( 39,683)</b>	<b>( 31,936)</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b><u>670,227</u></b>	<b><u>512,179</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	18	<b><u>10,949,827</u></b>	<b><u>10,348,416</u></b>
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted	17	<u>10,949,827</u>	<u>10,348,416</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29th October 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

CHAIRMAN

TRUSTEE

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

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

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>( 480,897)</b>	<b>( 331,592)</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-	( 8,624)
Payments to acquire investments		<b>( 1,724,627)</b>	<b>( 1,977,453)</b>
Receipts from sale of investments		<b>2,146,918</b>	1,813,391
Interest received		<b>2,770</b>	1,768
Dividends received		<b>212,395</b>	172,963
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		<b>637,456</b>	<b>2,045</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		-	-
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities</b>		-	-
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>156,559</b>	<b>( 329,547)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023		<b>518,616</b>	848,163
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>675,175</b>	518,616
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>195,971</b>	227,043
Short-term deposits		<b>479,204</b>	291,573
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>675,175</b>	518,616

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### **General information and basis of preparation**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

##### **Funds**

The unrestricted funds of the Fund consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Fund.

##### **Income recognition**

All incoming resources, including deferred incoming resources are credited to income funds and can be expended at the discretion of the trustees and have been included in the financial statements using the accruals basis except for donations, legacies and bequests which are included in the financial statements using the receipts basis.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gift is credited to income on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however, it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

##### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

###### **Incoming recognition *(continued)***

Investment income is interest earned through holding cash at bank and dividends from investments held. Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102).

###### **Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated to activities on a time basis relative to and on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Expenditure is categorised under the following headings:

- Cost of generating funds comprises costs incurred in generating voluntary income and includes advertising, allocation of support costs and investment management costs;
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes welfare costs, christmas grants, respite costs, charitable donations, media campaign, other direct costs and an apportionment of support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and other overheads have been allocated on the basis of time spent.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

###### **Employee benefits**

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

###### **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset less its estimated residual value over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:-

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

##### **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation *(continued)***

Property	- 2% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	- 20% straight line
Land	is not depreciated

##### **Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

##### **Investments**

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value. Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments, in addition to realised gains/(losses) on sale of investments, are transferred to unrestricted funds. They include listed investments.

Current asset investments are short term investments with a maturity term of no greater than one year.

They include short term deposits and are recorded at their initial costs less impairment.

##### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, bank overdrafts and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and normally have a maturity date of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

##### **Tax**

As a charity, it benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

##### **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

##### **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The following judgements including those involving estimates have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements and that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

##### **(i) depreciation method, asset useful lives and residual values**

The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis considering the current and future market conditions.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

#### 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Donations	39,716	<b>39,716</b>	34,499	34,499
Legacies	28,863	<b>28,863</b>	99,918	99,918
	<u>68,579</u>	<u><b>68,579</b></u>	<u>134,417</u>	<u>134,417</u>

#### 3. INVESTMENTS

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Dividends - equities	212,395	<b>212,395</b>	172,963	172,963
Interest - short term deposits	2,132	<b>2,132</b>	1,257	1,257
Interest - bank deposits	638	<b>638</b>	511	511
	<u>215,165</u>	<u><b>215,165</b></u>	<u>174,731</u>	<u>174,731</u>

#### 4. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Investment manager fees	49,242	<b>49,242</b>	50,012	50,012
	<u>49,242</u>	<u><b>49,242</b></u>	<u>50,012</u>	<u>50,012</u>

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)***

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

**5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	Basis of allocation	Raising funds	Charitable activities <i>Benevolent fund management &amp; distribution</i>	Investment management costs	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>					
Welfare grants	Direct	-	182,490	-	<b>182,490</b>
Christmas grants	Direct	-	35,181	-	<b>35,181</b>
Respite activities	Direct	-	51,956	-	<b>51,956</b>
Charitable donations	Direct	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Property costs	Direct	-	131,230	-	<b>131,230</b>
Depreciation	Direct	-	30,499	-	<b>30,499</b>
Media campaign	Direct	-	5,690	-	<b>5,690</b>
Advertising	Direct	-	2,985	-	<b>2,985</b>
<b>Support costs</b>					
Administration salaries	Staff Time	7,170	64,525	-	<b>71,695</b>
NIC Employment allowance	Staff Time	( 347)	( 3,124)	-	<b>( 3,471)</b>
Pension costs	Staff Time	142	1,277	-	<b>1,419</b>
Travel and conferences	Staff Time	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Travel welfare visits	Staff Time	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
Mobile telephone charges	Time	54	488	-	<b>542</b>
Computer expenses	Time	195	1,753	-	<b>1,948</b>
Stationery and postage	Time	195	1,755	-	<b>1,950</b>
		<u>7,409</u>	<u>506,705</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>514,114</b></u>
Governance	Time	595	11,301	-	<b>11,896</b>
Bank charges	Staff Time	6	121	-	<b>127</b>
Miscellaneous	Staff Time	155	2,952	-	<b>3,107</b>
		<u>8,165</u>	<u>521,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>529,244</b></u>
<b>Investment management costs</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,242</b>	<b>49,242</b>
		<u><b>8,165</b></u>	<u><b>521,079</b></u>	<u><b>49,242</b></u>	<u><b>578,486</b></u>

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)***

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

**5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE *(continued)***

	Basis of allocation	Charitable activities			2023 Total £
		Raising funds £	<i>Benevolent fund management &amp; distribution</i> £	Investment management costs £	
<b>Direct costs</b>					
Welfare grants	Direct	-	136,262	-	136,262
Christmas grants	Direct	-	34,250	-	34,250
Respite activities	Direct	-	54,216	-	54,216
Charitable donations	Direct	-	-	-	-
Property costs	Direct	-	109,224	-	109,224
Depreciation	Direct	-	30,028	-	30,028
Media campaign	Direct	-	9,430	-	9,430
Advertising	Direct	-	3,130	-	3,130
<b>Support costs</b>					
Administration salaries	Staff Time	6,852	61,668	-	68,520
NIC Employment allowance	Staff Time	( 347)	( 3,127)	-	( 3,474)
Pension costs	Staff Time	148	1,329	-	1,477
Travel and conferences	Staff Time	8	70	-	78
Travel welfare visits	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Mobile telephone charges	Time	34	309	-	343
Computer expenses	Time	145	1,309	-	1,454
Stationery and postage	Time	137	1,229	-	1,366
Depreciation of office equipment	Office Space	-	-	-	-
		<u>6,977</u>	<u>439,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>446,304</u>
Governance	Time	719	13,668	-	14,387
Bank charges	Staff Time	7	141	-	148
Miscellaneous	Staff Time	189	3,585	-	3,774
		<u>7,892</u>	<u>456,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>464,613</u>
<b>Investment management costs</b>	<b>Actual</b>	-	-	50,012	50,012
		<u>7,892</u>	<u>456,721</u>	<u>50,012</u>	<u>514,625</u>

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

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

**6. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Audit services	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Other accountancy services	3,900	3,900	7,200	7,200
Consultancy	60	60	78	78
Legal services	1,936	1,936	1,109	1,109
	<u>11,896</u>	<u>11,896</u>	<u>14,387</u>	<u>14,387</u>

**7. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS**

<b>Grant analysis 2024</b>	<b>Welfare grants £</b>	<b>Christmas grants £</b>	<b>Respite grants £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Grants to Individuals	143,037	35,181	51,956	230,174
Grants to Armed forces charities	39,453	-	-	39,453
<b>Total:</b>	<u>182,490</u>	<u>35,181</u>	<u>51,956</u>	<u>269,627</u>

<b>Grant analysis 2023</b>	<b>Welfare grants £</b>	<b>Christmas grants £</b>	<b>Respite grants £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Grants to Individuals	107,615	34,250	54,216	196,081
Grants to Armed forces charities	28,647	-	-	28,647
<b>Total:</b>	<u>136,262</u>	<u>34,250</u>	<u>54,216</u>	<u>224,728</u>

**8. NET INCOME / ( EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	30,499	30,499	30,028	30,028
Auditor's remuneration	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
(Gain) on disposal of investments	( 109,541)	( 109,541)	( 47,494)	( 47,494)
(Gain) / (Loss) on fair value movement of investments	( 786,612)	( 786,612)	694,069	694,069
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

#### 9. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £6,000 (2023: £6,000) and other services £3,900 (2023: £7,200).

#### 10. TRUSTEES' AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise of the Trustees and the senior management team. The total amount of remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel in the year was £69,661 (2023: £66,034).

The trustees' neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil).

Nil (2023: Nil) trustees are accruing pension arrangements.

The trustees did not have any expenses reimbursed during the year (2023: £Nil).

#### 11. STAFF NUMBERS AND REMUNERATION

The average number of monthly employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2024 FTE	2023 Number	2023 FTE
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	3	3	3
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	93,091	93,091	88,093	88,093
Social security	9,180	9,180	8,945	8,945
Defined contribution pension costs	2,045	2,045	2,103	2,103
NIC employment allowance	( 5,000)	( 5,000)	( 5,000)	( 5,000)
	<u>99,316</u>	<u>99,316</u>	<u>94,141</u>	<u>94,141</u>

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)***

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

**12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Freehold Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Office Equipment</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	1,771,460	1,627,212	142,963	1,285
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>1,771,460</b>	<b>1,627,212</b>	<b>142,963</b>	<b>1,285</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1st April 2023	631,097	499,616	130,326	1,155
Charge for year	30,499	25,139	5,230	130
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>At 31st March 2024</b>	<b>661,596</b>	<b>524,755</b>	<b>135,556</b>	<b>1,285</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
<b>At 31st March 2024</b>	<b>1,109,864</b>	<b>1,102,457</b>	<b>7,407</b>	<b>-</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
At 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	1,140,363	1,127,596	12,637	130
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**LAND AND BUILDINGS**

Land and buildings are held in the name of Cleaver Fulton Rankin Trustees Limited as nominee.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

#### 13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	<b>Listed Investments £</b>
Market value at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	8,695,874
Additions	1,724,627
Disposals	(2,037,377)
Revaluation	786,612
	-----
<b>Market value at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>9,169,736</b>
	=====

The investments of the Fund were managed and held on the Fund's behalf by Quilter Cheviot Limited, in the name of the nominee company, Quilter Nominees Limited and Julius Bär in the name of the nominee company Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd.

Investments are accounted for at the balance sheet date at their fair value in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

At the date of approval of these financial statements there remains a lot of volatility and uncertainty in the markets.

#### 14. DEBTORS

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tax repayment due	6,830	3,870
Amount owed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund	5,908	3,997
Prepayments and accrued income	21,997	17,632
	-----	-----
	<b>34,735</b>	<b>25,499</b>
	=====	=====

#### 15. SHORT TERM DEPOSITS

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Short term deposits	479,204	291,573
	=====	=====

Short term deposits are readily available.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

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

**16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	£	£
Other tax and social security	<b>2,167</b>	2,078
Accruals for grants payable	<b>7,405</b>	10,700
Accruals and deferred income	<b>26,896</b>	16,908
Other	<b>3,215</b>	2,250
	-----	-----
	<b>39,683</b>	31,936
	=====	=====

**17. FUND RECONCILIATION**

**Unrestricted funds**

	<b>Balance at</b>				<b>Balance at</b>
	<b>1 April 2023</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	10,348,416	283,744	(578,486)	896,153	10,949,827
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>10,348,416</b>	<b>283,744</b>	<b>(578,486)</b>	<b>896,153</b>	<b>10,949,827</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

**Unrestricted funds**

	<b>Balance at</b>				<b>Balance at</b>
	<b>1 April 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Gains</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	11,200,468	309,148	( 514,625)	( 646,575)	10,348,416
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>11,200,468</b>	<b>309,148</b>	<b>(514,625)</b>	<b>(646,575)</b>	<b>10,348,416</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The unrestricted funds of the Fund consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Fund.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

#### 18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed assets	10,279,600	9,836,237
Cash and current investments	675,175	518,616
Other current assets / liabilities	34,735	25,499
Creditors less than one year	(39,683)	(31,936)
	<u>10,949,827</u>	<u>10,348,416</u>

#### 19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	601,411	(852,052)
Dividends received	(212,395)	(172,963)
Interest receivable	(2,770)	(1,768)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	30,499	30,028
(Gain)/loss on fixed asset investments	(786,612)	694,069
Adjustment for cash transfer in previous year	-	20,000
(Gain) on disposal of fixed asset investments	(109,541)	(47,494)
(Increase) in debtors	(9,236)	(9,922)
Increase in creditors	7,747	8,510
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(480,897)</u>	<u>(331,592)</u>

#### 20. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

##### Defined contribution pension plan

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £2,045 (2023: £2,103).

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

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

#### 21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment, who were also members of The Royal Irish Regiment, and their dependants, can be entitled to financial assistance from both The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund and The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund.

In those cases for administration purposes The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund make the total payment for financial assistance and are reimbursed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund for the financial assistance due by that Fund.

Payments made on behalf of The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund by The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund and subsequently reimbursed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund in the year amounted to £35,588 (2023 - £31,774). These transactions are excluded in the Statement of Financial Activities.

At the date of the balance sheet the amount owed to the Fund by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund is £5,908 (2023 - £3,997). This balance is shown under "Debtors" in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 22. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying amounts of the charity's financial instruments are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Measured at fair value through net income / expenditure:		
- Fixed asset listed investments (note 13)	<u>9,169,736</u>	<u>8,695,874</u>

The income, expenses, net gains and net losses attributable to the charity's financial instruments are summarised as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Income and expense</i>		
Financial assets measured at fair value through net expenditure:		
- Dividend income from equities	212,395	172,963
- Realised and unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	<u>896,153</u>	<u>( 646,575)</u>

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Annual report

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## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the Fund's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

#### **CONSTITUTION**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund was founded in 1972 under Charitable Trust, most recently revised in 2017, its purpose being helping and assisting the financial needs and affording support to the benefit of members of and former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants as set out in the Trust Deed. The Fund is recognised for charitable purposes by HM Revenue & Customs and registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Further information on the Fund and the members of the Board of Trustees can be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office address:

#### **CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE AND REFERENCE DETAILS**

<b>Charity name</b>	The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC107024
<b>HMRC reference</b>	XN48435
<b>Registered office</b>	Anderson House, Palace Barracks, Holywood, BT18 9QA
<b>Trustees</b>	The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld. There were 14 trustees who served during the year.
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr B Kennedy (delegated day to day management of the Fund)
<b>Investment managers</b>	Julius Baer International Limited, 1 St Martins, Le Grand, London, EC1A 4AS  Quilter Cheviot Limited, Montgomery House, 29/33 Montgomery Street, Belfast, BT1 4NX
<b>Auditor</b>	GMcG Belfast, Alfred House, 19 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
<b>Solicitors</b>	Edwards & Company, 28 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

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

#### **Organisational structure and related parties**

Responsibility for the activities of the Fund is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees consists of elected members. Trustees are appointed or are eligible for re-appointment immediately following the completion of their term of office at a General Meeting of the Fund for a term of four years. The number of trustees shall consist of not more than fifteen.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is appointed annually at a General Meeting of the Fund.

#### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training**

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the Fund for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the Fund and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be elected by the Board of Trustees. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

### **INVESTMENT POWERS AND POLICY**

Under the trust deed, the trustees have unrestricted investment powers, and may invest at their absolute discretion. The trustees have appointed two independent investment managers, who have discretionary powers, with a mandate which is reviewed on a quarterly basis, to maintain and grow income, with a moderate risk profile.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to those former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the extended Ulster Defence Regiment family who are in need of support as a consequence of poverty caused by sickness, disability, accident, infirmity, social exclusion or other adversity through the provision of grants and respite support.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The trustees of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide Public Benefits.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees believe that the Fund provides the following public benefits in supporting those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants who are in need:

1. The relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT (*continued*)**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

##### **2. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Fund undertook numerous welfare activities giving financial help to assist the needs and afford support to the benefit of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants. The Fund also sponsored numerous respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Regiment. During the year, 121 (2023 – 114) applications for benevolence were dealt with, 529 (2023 – 534) families benefited from respite in the apartments and 241 (2023 – 233) family or disabled ex-soldiers groups availed of respite activities during the year.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (*continued*)**

The Fund also extended the Pilot Health Care Scheme for a further year with 783 (2023 – 604) beneficiaries now benefiting from the scheme. The overall increase in beneficiary contact during the year was 30% (2023 - 41%).

Total income for the period amounted to £283,744 (2023 - £309,148) and total expenditure for the period amounted to £578,486 (2023 - £514,625). Investments were held by Julius Baer and Quilter Cheviot as discretionary investment managers and there was a gain on investments of £896,153 (2023 – loss of £646,575) in the year.

The trustees continually review the level of welfare grants given and respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in relation to projected investment income and donations together with any surplus funds. Direct charitable expenditure increased in the year by £64,358 from £456,721 to £521,079.

The trustees consider that the Fund is in a satisfactory position to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

##### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Fund is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Fund, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. In particular, the trustees instruct external accountants to review the accounting records and prepare interim management accounts during the course of the financial year. The trustees' attitude to investment risk is managed through the two professional investment managers. Where appropriate; systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the Fund.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of officers, volunteers and applicants. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Fund.

##### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Details of income and expenditure for the year and of the year end financial position are given on pages 13 and 14 of the accounts attached to this report. There was an increase in the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio during the year and reserves increased by £601,411 in 2023/24 from £10,348,416 to £10,949,827. The trustees consider the financial position of the Fund as satisfactory in order to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

##### **FUNDING**

The principal funding is from donations and investments.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW (*continued*)**

##### **RESERVES POLICY**

Cash and deposit balances are maintained so as to be able to meet expenditure on charitable activities and other outgoings as they arise. However, the majority of the Charity's assets are held in investment funds and in fixed assets used to help fulfil its charitable objectives. The Charity's income is mainly derived from investment income and the Trustees are aware of the need to minimise the risk that the Charity cannot meet its obligations by maintaining the value of the charity's underlying investments. The Charity's obligations cannot be readily ascertained but the Trustees adopt a reserves policy which allows free reserves to be available in any financial year in line with an annual budget set in advance of the year. The total unrestricted funds of the charity are £10,949,827 (2023: £10,348,416) which includes fixed assets of £10,279,600 (2023: £9,836,237) leaving the charity with free reserves of £670,227 (2023: £512,179).

##### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

There have been no major changes in the year. The trustees are conscious of the ageing and declining beneficiary group and are currently engaged in a process of reviewing how the Fund helps those UDR Veterans in need; this will form part of a 5-year strategic plan.

##### **STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

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

**AUDITOR**

GMcG Belfast offer themselves for re-appointment as auditor for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Chairman

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Annual return

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**  
**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement 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 Fund's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, and of its incoming resources and expenditure 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

**Basis of our 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 Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our 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.

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
BELFAST BT2 8EQ  
DX 3910 NR BELFAST 50

Tel: +44(0)28 9031 1113  
Fax: +44(0)28 9031 0777

Century House  
40 Crescent Business Park  
LISBURN  
BT28 2GN

Tel: +44(0)28 9260 7355  
Fax: +44(0)28 9260 1656

17 Mandeville Street  
PORTADOWN  
Craigavon  
BT62 3PB

Tel: +44(0)28 3833 2801  
Fax: +44(0)28 3835 0293



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## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

#### **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 Fund'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.

#### **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 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.



## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 5 and 6, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform the audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)**

**Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and charity's financial results and position;
- Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered that the particular areas in the financial statements that were susceptible to misstatement were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements; recognition, classification and completeness of income. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included Charity legislation applicable to Northern Ireland, Charity's governing document, employment law, health and safety and tax legislation.

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



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)**

**Audit response to risks identified:**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatements due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments including those relating to revenue recognition; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias; and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions that are large, unusual or outside the normal course of the charity's activities.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement teams members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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.



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Fund's Board of Trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Fund and the Fund's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Nigel Moore FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of GMcG BELFAST**

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Dated: 29.10.24

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8EQ

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Accounts

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT  
BENEVOLENT FUND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31ST MARCH 2023**

**Charity Registration Number: NIC 107024**

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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# **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the Fund's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

### **CONSTITUTION**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund was founded in 1972 under Charitable Trust, most recently revised in 2017, its purpose being helping and assisting the financial needs and affording support to the benefit of members of and former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants as set out in the Trust Deed. The Fund is recognised for charitable purposes by HM Revenue & Customs and registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Further information on the Fund and the members of the Board of Trustees can be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office address:

### **CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE AND REFERENCE DETAILS**

<b>Charity name</b>	The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC107024
<b>HMRC reference</b>	XN48435
<b>Registered office</b>	Anderson House, Palace Barracks, Holywood, BT18 9QA
<b>Trustees</b>	The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld. There were 14 trustees' who served during the year.
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr B Kennedy (delegated day to day management of the Fund)
<b>Investment managers</b>	Julius Baer International Limited, 1 St Martins, Le Grand, London, EC1A 4AS  Quilter Cheviot Limited, Montgomery House, 29/33 Montgomery Street, Belfast, BT1 4NX
<b>Auditor</b>	GMcG Belfast, Alfred House, 19 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
<b>Solicitors</b>	Edwards & Company, 28 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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

#### **Organisational structure and related parties**

Responsibility for the activities of the Fund is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees consists of elected members. Trustees are appointed or are eligible for re-appointment immediately following the completion of their term of office at a General Meeting of the Fund for a term of four years. The number of trustees shall consist of not more than fifteen.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is appointed annually at a General Meeting of the Fund.

#### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training**

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the Fund for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the Fund and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be elected by the Board of Trustees. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

### **INVESTMENT POWERS AND POLICY**

Under the trust deed, the trustees have unrestricted investment powers, and may invest at their absolute discretion. The trustees have appointed two independent investment managers, who have discretionary powers, with a mandate which is reviewed on a quarterly basis, to maintain and grow income, with a moderate risk profile.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to those former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the extended Ulster Defence Regiment family who are in need of support as a consequence of poverty caused by sickness, disability, accident, infirmity, social exclusion or other adversity through the provision of grants and respite support.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The trustees of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide Public Benefits.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees believe that the Fund provides the following public benefits in supporting those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants who are in need:

1. The relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT (*continued*)**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

2. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT *(continued)***

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

##### 3. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Fund undertook numerous welfare activities giving financial help to assist the needs and afford support to the benefit of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants. The Fund also sponsored numerous respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Regiment. During the year, 114 (2022 – 114) applications for benevolence were dealt with, 534 (2022 – 519) families benefited from respite in the apartments and 233 (2022 – 221) family or disabled ex-soldiers groups availed of respite activities during the year.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)***

The Fund also extended the Pilot Health Care Scheme for a further year with 604 beneficiaries now benefiting from the scheme. The overall increase in beneficiary contact during the year was 41%.

Total income for the period amounted to £309,148 (2022 - £268,767) and total expenditure for the period amounted to £514,625 (2022 - £456,644). Investments were held by Julius Baer and Quilter Cheviot as discretionary investment managers and there was a loss on investments of £646,575 (2022 – gain of £405,885) in the year.

The trustees continually review the level of welfare grants given and respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in relation to projected investment income and donations together with any surplus funds. Direct charitable expenditure increased in the year by £60,308 from £396,413 to £456,721.

The trustees do not anticipate any significant increase in the level of grants given in the incoming year.

The trustees consider that the Fund is in a satisfactory position to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

##### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Fund is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Fund, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. In particular, the trustees instruct external accountants to review the accounting records and prepare interim management accounts during the course of the financial year. The trustees' attitude to investment risk is managed through the two professional investment managers. Where appropriate; systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the Fund.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of officers, volunteers and applicants. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Fund.

##### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Details of income and expenditure for the year and of the year end financial position are given on pages 13 and 14 of the accounts attached to this report. There was a decrease in the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio during the year and reserves decreased by £852,052 in 2022/23 from £11,200,468 to £10,348,416. The trustees consider the financial position of the Fund as satisfactory in order to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

##### **FUNDING**

The principal funding is from donations and investments.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)***

##### **RESERVES POLICY**

Cash and deposit balances are maintained so as to be able to meet expenditure on charitable activities and other outgoings as they arise. However, the majority of the Charity's assets are held in investment funds and in fixed assets used to help fulfil its charitable objectives. The Charity's income is mainly derived from investment income and the Trustees are aware of the need to minimise the risk that the Charity cannot meet its obligations by maintaining the value of the charity's underlying investments. The Charity's obligations cannot be readily ascertained but the Trustees adopt a reserves policy which allows free reserves to be available in any financial year in line with an annual budget set in advance of the year. The total unrestricted funds of the charity are £10,348,416 (2022: £11,200,468) which includes fixed assets of £9,836,237 (2022: £10,360,154) leaving the charity with free reserves of £512,179 (2022: £840,314).

##### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

There have been no major changes in the year, nor are any envisaged in the foreseeable future.

##### **STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**AUDITOR**

GMcG Belfast offer themselves for re-appointment as auditor for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Chairman

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement 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 Fund's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and of its incoming resources and expenditure 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

**Basis of our 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 Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 Fund'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.

**Alfred House**  
**19 Alfred Street**  
**BELFAST BT2 8EQ**  
**DX3910 NR Belfast 50**

**Tel: +44 (0)28 9031 1113**  
**Fax: +44 (0)28 9031 0777**

**Century House**  
**40 Crescent Business Park**  
**LISBURN**  
**BT28 2GN**

**Tel: +44 (0)28 9260 7355**  
**Fax: +44 (0)28 9260 1656**

**17 Mandeville Street**  
**PORTADOWN**  
**Craigavon**  
**BT62 3PB**

**Tel: +44 (0)28 3833 2801**  
**Fax: +44 (0)28 3835 0293**





## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

#### **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.

#### **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 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 trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 6 and 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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



## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform the audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and charity's financial results and position;
- Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)**

**Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities (*continued*)**

- The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered that the particular areas in the financial statements that were susceptible to misstatement were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements; recognition, classification and completeness of income. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included Charity legislation applicable to Northern Ireland, Charity's governing document, employment law, health and safety and tax legislation.

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

**Audit response to risks identified:**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatements due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)**

**Audit response to risks identified (*continued*):**

- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments including those relating to revenue recognition; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias; and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions that are large, unusual or outside the normal course of the charity's activities.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement teams members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Fund's Board of Trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Fund and the Fund's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Nigel Moore FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of GMcG BELFAST**

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8EQ

Dated: ... 31st OCTOBER 2023

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2	134,417	134,417	110,930
Investments	3	174,731	174,731	157,837
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>309,148</b>	<b>309,148</b>	<b>268,767</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Raising funds:				
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	7,892	7,892	7,429
Investment management costs	4	50,012	50,012	52,802
Charitable activities				
Benevolent fund management & distribution	5	456,721	456,721	396,413
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>514,625</b>	<b>514,625</b>	<b>456,644</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(205,477)</b>	<b>(205,477)</b>	<b>( 187,877)</b>
<b>(LOSS) / GAIN ON INVESTMENTS</b>				
Realised gain on investments		47,494	47,494	290,274
Unrealised (loss) / gain on investments	13	( 694,069)	( 694,069)	115,611
<b>NET (LOSS) / GAIN ON INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>( 646,575)</b>	<b>( 646,575)</b>	<b>405,885</b>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>( 852,052)</b>	<b>( 852,052)</b>	<b>218,008</b>
Funds at beginning of year		11,200,468	11,200,468	10,982,460
<b>FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b>10,348,416</b>	<b>10,348,416</b>	<b>11,200,468</b>

The Fund has no recognised gains or losses in the year other than those included in the net movement in funds.

All of the operations of the Fund are classed as continuing.

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	12	1,140,363	1,161,767
Investments	13	8,695,874	9,198,387
		-----	-----
		9,836,237	10,360,154
		-----	-----
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	14	25,499	15,577
Short term deposits	15	291,573	811,552
Cash at bank and in hand		227,043	36,611
		-----	-----
		544,115	863,740
		-----	-----
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	( 31,936)	( 23,426)
		-----	-----
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		512,179	840,314
		-----	-----
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	18	10,348,416	11,200,468
		=====	=====
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted	17	10,348,416	11,200,468
		=====	=====

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 31st October 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

CHAIRMAN

TRUSTEE

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>( 331,592)</b>	<b>( 311,031)</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		( 8,624 )	-
Payments to acquire investments		( 1,977,453)	( 1,864,687)
Receipts from sale of investments		1,813,391	2,154,691
Interest received		1,768	186
Dividends received		172,963	157,651
		-----	-----
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		<b>2,045</b>	<b>447,841</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		-	-
		-----	-----
<b>Net cash flow from financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
		-----	-----
<b>Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>( 329,547)</b>	<b>136,810</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2022		848,163	711,353
		-----	-----
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>518,616</b>	<b>848,163</b>
		=====	=====
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		227,043	36,611
Short-term deposits		291,573	811,552
		-----	-----
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>518,616</b>	<b>848,163</b>
		=====	=====

# THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

## NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### **General information and basis of preparation**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

##### **Funds**

The unrestricted funds of the Fund consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Fund.

##### **Income recognition**

All incoming resources, including deferred incoming resources are credited to income funds and can be expended at the discretion of the trustees and have been included in the financial statements using the accruals basis except for donations, legacies and bequests which are included in the financial statements using the receipts basis.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gift is credited to income on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however, it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

##### **Incoming recognition *(continued)***

Investment income is interest earned through holding cash at bank and dividends from investments held. Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102).

##### **Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated to activities on a time basis relative to and on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Expenditure is categorised under the following headings:

- Cost of generating funds comprises costs incurred in generating voluntary income and includes advertising, allocation of support costs and investment management costs;
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes welfare costs, christmas grants, respite costs, charitable donations, media campaign, other direct costs and an apportionment of support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and other overheads have been allocated on the basis of time spent.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

##### **Employee benefits**

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

##### **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset less its estimated residual value over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:-

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

##### **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation *(continued)***

Property	- 2% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	- 20% straight line
Land	is not depreciated

##### **Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

##### **Investments**

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value. Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments, in addition to realised gains/(losses) on sale of investments, are transferred to unrestricted funds. They include listed investments.

Current asset investments are short term investments with a maturity term of no greater than one year.

They include short term deposits and are recorded at their initial costs less impairment.

##### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, bank overdrafts and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and normally have a maturity date of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

##### **Tax**

As a charity, it benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

##### **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

##### **Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The following judgements including those involving estimates have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements and that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

##### **(i) depreciation method, asset useful lives and residual values**

The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis considering the current and future market conditions.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND****NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023****2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Donations	34,499	<b>34,499</b>	25,827	25,827
Legacies	99,918	<b>99,918</b>	85,103	85,103
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>134,417</b>	<b>134,417</b>	<b>110,930</b>	<b>110,930</b>

**3. INVESTMENTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Dividends - equities	172,963	<b>172,963</b>	157,651	157,651
Interest - short term deposits	1,257	<b>1,257</b>	-	-
Interest - bank deposits	511	<b>511</b>	186	186
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>174,731</b>	<b>174,731</b>	<b>157,837</b>	<b>157,837</b>

**4. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Investment manager fees	50,012	<b>50,012</b>	52,802	52,802
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<b>50,012</b>	<b>50,012</b>	<b>52,802</b>	<b>52,802</b>

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	Basis of allocation	Raising funds	Charitable activities <i>Benevolent fund management &amp; distribution</i>	Investment management costs	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>					
Welfare grants	Direct	-	136,262	-	136,262
Christmas grants	Direct	-	34,250	-	34,250
Respite activities	Direct	-	54,216	-	54,216
Charitable donations	Direct	-	-	-	-
Property costs	Direct	-	109,224	-	109,224
Depreciation	Direct	-	30,028	-	30,028
Media campaign	Direct	-	9,430	-	9,430
Advertising	Direct	-	3,130	-	3,130
<b>Support costs</b>					
Administration salaries	Staff Time	6,852	61,668	-	68,520
NIC Employment allowance	Staff Time	( 347)	( 3,127)	-	( 3,474)
Pension costs	Staff Time	148	1,329	-	1,477
Travel and conferences	Staff Time	8	70	-	78
Travel welfare visits	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Mobile telephone charges	Time	34	309	-	343
Computer expenses	Time	145	1,309	-	1,454
Stationery and postage	Time	137	1,229	-	1,366
		<u>6,977</u>	<u>439,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>446,304</u>
Governance	Time	719	13,668	-	14,387
Bank charges	Staff Time	7	141	-	148
Miscellaneous	Staff Time	189	3,585	-	3,774
		<u>7,892</u>	<u>456,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>464,613</u>
<b>Investment management costs</b>	Actual	-	-	50,012	50,012
		<u>7,892</u>	<u>456,721</u>	<u>50,012</u>	<u>514,625</u>

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE *(continued)*

	Basis of allocation	Charitable activities			2022 Total £
		Raising funds £	<i>Benevolent fund management &amp; distribution</i> £	Investment management costs £	
<b>Direct costs</b>					
Welfare grants	Direct	-	86,649	-	86,649
Christmas grants	Direct	-	35,641	-	35,641
Respite activities	Direct	-	50,390	-	50,390
Charitable donations	Direct	-	-	-	-
Property costs	Direct	-	109,241	-	109,241
Depreciation	Direct	-	29,471	-	29,471
Media campaign	Direct	-	6,183	-	6,183
Advertising	Direct	-	3,590	-	3,590
<b>Support costs</b>					
Administration salaries	Staff Time	6,434	57,908	-	64,342
NIC Employment allowance	Staff Time	(283)	(2,546)	-	(2,829)
Pension costs	Staff Time	139	1,248	-	1,387
Travel and conferences	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Travel welfare visits	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Mobile telephone charges	Time	39	355	-	394
Computer expenses	Time	121	1,091	-	1,212
Stationery and postage	Time	142	1,281	-	1,423
Depreciation of office equipment	Office Space	-	-	-	-
		<u>6,592</u>	<u>380,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>387,094</u>
Governance	Time	721	13,697	-	14,418
Bank charges	Staff Time	7	138	-	145
Miscellaneous	Staff Time	109	2,076	-	2,185
		<u>7,429</u>	<u>396,413</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>403,842</u>
<b>Investment management costs</b>	Actual	-	-	52,802	52,802
		<u>7,429</u>	<u>396,413</u>	<u>52,802</u>	<u>456,644</u>

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**6. GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Audit services	6,000	6,000	5,100	5,100
Other accountancy services	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200
Consultancy	78	78	2,118	2,118
Legal services	1,109	1,109	-	-
	<u>14,387</u>	<u>14,387</u>	<u>14,418</u>	<u>14,418</u>

**7. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS**

Grant analysis 2023	Welfare grants £	Christmas grants £	Respite grants £	Total 2023 £
Grants to Individuals	107,615	34,250	54,216	196,081
Grants to Armed forces charities	28,647	-	-	28,647
<b>Total:</b>	<u>136,262</u>	<u>34,250</u>	<u>54,216</u>	<u>224,728</u>

Grant analysis 2022	Welfare grants £	Christmas grants £	Respite grants £	Total 2022 £
Grants to Individuals	62,502	35,641	50,390	148,533
Grants to Armed forces charities	24,147	-	-	24,147
<b>Total:</b>	<u>86,649</u>	<u>35,641</u>	<u>50,390</u>	<u>172,680</u>

**8. NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME FOR THE YEAR**

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	30,028	30,028	29,471	29,471
Auditor's remuneration	6,000	6,000	5,100	5,100
(Gain) on disposal of investments	(47,494)	(47,494)	(290,274)	(290,274)
Loss / (Gain) on fair value movement of investments	694,069	694,069	(115,611)	(115,611)
	<u>694,069</u>	<u>694,069</u>	<u>(115,611)</u>	<u>(115,611)</u>

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 9. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £6,000 (2022: £5,100) and other services £7,200 (2022: £7,200).

#### 10. TRUSTEES' AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise of the Trustees and the senior management team. The total amount of remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel in the year was £66,034 (2022: £62,899).

The trustees' neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil).

Nil (2022: - Nil) trustees are accruing pension arrangements.

The trustees did not have any expenses reimbursed during the year (2022: £Nil).

#### 11. STAFF NUMBERS AND REMUNERATION

The average number of monthly employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2023 FTE	2022 Number	2022 FTE
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	3	3	3
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	88,093	88,093	83,757	83,757
Social security	8,945	8,945	7,994	7,994
Defined contribution pension costs	2,103	2,103	1,973	1,973
NIC employment allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
	<u>94,141</u>	<u>94,141</u>	<u>89,724</u>	<u>89,724</u>

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Freehold Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Office Equipment</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	1,766,536	1,627,212	138,039	1,285
Additions	8,624	-	8,624	-
Disposals	( 3,700 )	-	( 3,700 )	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>1,771,460</b>	<b>1,627,212</b>	<b>142,963</b>	<b>1,285</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1st April 2022	604,769	474,477	129,269	1,023
On disposals	( 3,700 )	-	( 3,700 )	-
Charge for year	30,028	25,139	4,757	132
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>At 31st March 2023</b>	<b>631,097</b>	<b>499,616</b>	<b>130,326</b>	<b>1,155</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
<b>At 31st March 2023</b>	<b>1,140,363</b>	<b>1,127,596</b>	<b>12,637</b>	<b>130</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
At 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	1,161,767	1,152,735	8,770	262
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**LAND AND BUILDINGS**

Land and buildings are held in the name of Cleaver Fulton Rankin Trustees Limited as nominee.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	<b>Listed Investments £</b>
Market value at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	9,198,387
Additions	1,977,453
Disposals	( 1,765,897)
Adjustment for cash transfer in previous year	( 20,000)
Revaluation	( 694,069)
	-----
<b>Market value at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>8,695,874</b>
	=====

The investments of the Fund were managed and held on the Fund's behalf by Quilter Cheviot Limited, in the name of the nominee company, Quilter Nominees Limited and Julius Bär in the name of the nominee company Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd.

Investments are accounted for at the balance sheet date at their fair value in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

At the date of approval of these financial statements there remains a lot of volatility and uncertainty in the markets.

#### 14. DEBTORS

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tax repayment due	3,870	5,744
Amount owed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund	3,997	1,216
Prepayments and accrued income	17,632	8,617
	-----	-----
	<b>25,499</b>	<b>15,577</b>
	=====	=====

#### 15. SHORT TERM DEPOSITS

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Short term deposits	291,573	811,552
	=====	=====

Short term deposits are readily available.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other tax and social security	<b>2,078</b>	2,072
Accruals for grants payable	<b>10,700</b>	4,261
Accruals and deferred income	<b>16,908</b>	15,347
Other	<b>2,250</b>	1,746
	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>31,936</b>	<b>23,426</b>
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

**17. FUND RECONCILIATION**

**Unrestricted funds**

	<b>Balance at</b>				<b>Balance at</b>
	<b>1 April 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unrestricted	11,200,468	309,148	(514,625)	( 646,575)	10,348,416
	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>11,200,468</b>	<b>309,148</b>	<b>(514,625)</b>	<b>(646,575)</b>	<b>10,348,416</b>
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

**Unrestricted funds**

	<b>Balance at</b>				<b>Balance at</b>
	<b>1 April 2021</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Gains</b>	<b>31 March 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unrestricted	10,982,460	268,767	( 456,644)	405,885	11,200,468
	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>10,982,460</b>	<b>268,767</b>	<b>(456,644)</b>	<b>405,885</b>	<b>11,200,468</b>
	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>	<b>=====</b>

The unrestricted funds of the Fund consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Fund.

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets	9,836,237	10,360,154
Cash and current investments	518,616	848,163
Other current assets / liabilities	25,499	15,577
Creditors less than one year	(31,936)	(23,426)
	<u>10,348,416</u>	<u>11,200,468</u>

#### 19. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	(852,052)	218,008
Dividends received	(172,963)	(157,651)
Interest receivable	(1,768)	(186)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	30,028	29,471
Loss on fixed asset investments	694,069	(115,611)
Adjustment for cash transfer in previous year	20,000	-
(Gain) on disposal of fixed asset investments	(47,494)	(290,274)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(9,922)	(2,793)
Decrease in creditors	8,510	8,005
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(331,592)</u>	<u>(311,031)</u>

#### 20. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

##### Defined contribution pension plan

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £2,103 (2022: £1,973).

## THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

### NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

#### 21. ETHICAL STANDARDS

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

#### 22. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment, who were also members of The Royal Irish Regiment, and their dependants, can be entitled to financial assistance from both The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund and The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund.

In those cases for administration purposes The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund make the total payment for financial assistance and are reimbursed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund for the financial assistance due by that Fund.

Payments made on behalf of The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund by The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund and subsequently reimbursed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund in the year amounted to £31,774 (2022 - £28,557). These transactions are excluded in the Statement of Financial Activities.

At the date of the balance sheet the amount owed to the Fund by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund is £3,997 (2022 - £1,216). This balance is shown under "Debtors" in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 23. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying amounts of the charity's financial instruments are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Measured at fair value through net income / expenditure:		
- Fixed asset listed investments (note 13)	<u>8,695,874</u>	<u>9,198,387</u>

The income, expenses, net gains and net losses attributable to the charity's financial instruments are summarised as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
<i>Income and expense</i>		
Financial assets measured at fair value through net expenditure:		
- Dividend income from equities	172,963	157,651
- Realised and unrealised (loss) / gain on investments	<u>( 646,575)</u>	<u>405,885</u>

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Annual report

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# **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the Fund's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

### **CONSTITUTION**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund was founded in 1972 under Charitable Trust, most recently revised in 2017, its purpose being helping and assisting the financial needs and affording support to the benefit of members of and former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants as set out in the Trust Deed. The Fund is recognised for charitable purposes by HM Revenue & Customs and registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Further information on the Fund and the members of the Board of Trustees can be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office address:

### **CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE AND REFERENCE DETAILS**

<b>Charity name</b>	The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC107024
<b>HMRC reference</b>	XN48435
<b>Registered office</b>	Anderson House, Palace Barracks, Holywood, BT18 9QA
<b>Trustees</b>	The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld. There were 14 trustees' who served during the year.
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr B Kennedy (delegated day to day management of the Fund)
<b>Investment managers</b>	Julius Baer International Limited, 1 St Martins, Le Grand, London, EC1A 4AS  Quilter Cheviot Limited, Montgomery House, 29/33 Montgomery Street, Belfast, BT1 4NX
<b>Auditor</b>	GMcG Belfast, Alfred House, 19 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
<b>Solicitors</b>	Edwards & Company, 28 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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

#### **Organisational structure and related parties**

Responsibility for the activities of the Fund is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees consists of elected members. Trustees are appointed or are eligible for re-appointment immediately following the completion of their term of office at a General Meeting of the Fund for a term of four years. The number of trustees shall consist of not more than fifteen.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is appointed annually at a General Meeting of the Fund.

#### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training**

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the Fund for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the Fund and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be elected by the Board of Trustees. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

### **INVESTMENT POWERS AND POLICY**

Under the trust deed, the trustees have unrestricted investment powers, and may invest at their absolute discretion. The trustees have appointed two independent investment managers, who have discretionary powers, with a mandate which is reviewed on a quarterly basis, to maintain and grow income, with a moderate risk profile.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to those former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the extended Ulster Defence Regiment family who are in need of support as a consequence of poverty caused by sickness, disability, accident, infirmity, social exclusion or other adversity through the provision of grants and respite support.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The trustees of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide Public Benefits.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The trustees believe that the Fund provides the following public benefits in supporting those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants who are in need:

1. The relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT (*continued*)**

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

2. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

##### **PUBLIC BENEFIT *(continued)***

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

##### 3. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

During the year the Fund undertook numerous welfare activities giving financial help to assist the needs and afford support to the benefit of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants. The Fund also sponsored numerous respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Regiment. During the year, 114 (2022 – 114) applications for benevolence were dealt with, 534 (2022 – 519) families benefited from respite in the apartments and 233 (2022 – 221) family or disabled ex-soldiers groups availed of respite activities during the year.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)***

The Fund also extended the Pilot Health Care Scheme for a further year with 604 beneficiaries now benefiting from the scheme. The overall increase in beneficiary contact during the year was 41%.

Total income for the period amounted to £309,148 (2022 - £268,767) and total expenditure for the period amounted to £514,625 (2022 - £456,644). Investments were held by Julius Baer and Quilter Cheviot as discretionary investment managers and there was a loss on investments of £646,575 (2022 – gain of £405,885) in the year.

The trustees continually review the level of welfare grants given and respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in relation to projected investment income and donations together with any surplus funds. Direct charitable expenditure increased in the year by £60,308 from £396,413 to £456,721.

The trustees do not anticipate any significant increase in the level of grants given in the incoming year.

The trustees consider that the Fund is in a satisfactory position to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

##### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Fund is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Fund, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. In particular, the trustees instruct external accountants to review the accounting records and prepare interim management accounts during the course of the financial year. The trustees' attitude to investment risk is managed through the two professional investment managers. Where appropriate; systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the Fund.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of officers, volunteers and applicants. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Fund.

##### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Details of income and expenditure for the year and of the year end financial position are given on pages 13 and 14 of the accounts attached to this report. There was a decrease in the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio during the year and reserves decreased by £852,052 in 2022/23 from £11,200,468 to £10,348,416. The trustees consider the financial position of the Fund as satisfactory in order to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

##### **FUNDING**

The principal funding is from donations and investments.

## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)***

##### **RESERVES POLICY**

Cash and deposit balances are maintained so as to be able to meet expenditure on charitable activities and other outgoings as they arise. However, the majority of the Charity's assets are held in investment funds and in fixed assets used to help fulfil its charitable objectives. The Charity's income is mainly derived from investment income and the Trustees are aware of the need to minimise the risk that the Charity cannot meet its obligations by maintaining the value of the charity's underlying investments. The Charity's obligations cannot be readily ascertained but the Trustees adopt a reserves policy which allows free reserves to be available in any financial year in line with an annual budget set in advance of the year. The total unrestricted funds of the charity are £10,348,416 (2022: £11,200,468) which includes fixed assets of £9,836,237 (2022: £10,360,154) leaving the charity with free reserves of £512,179 (2022: £840,314).

##### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

There have been no major changes in the year, nor are any envisaged in the foreseeable future.

##### **STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)***

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**AUDITOR**

GMcG Belfast offer themselves for re-appointment as auditor for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Chairman

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

**The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107024

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# Annual return

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement 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 Fund's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and of its incoming resources and expenditure 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

**Basis of our 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 Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 21 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 Fund'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.

**Alfred House**  
**19 Alfred Street**  
**BELFAST BT2 8EQ**  
**DX3910 NR Belfast 50**

**Tel: +44 (0)28 9031 1113**  
**Fax: +44 (0)28 9031 0777**

**Century House**  
**40 Crescent Business Park**  
**LISBURN**  
**BT28 2GN**

**Tel: +44 (0)28 9260 7355**  
**Fax: +44 (0)28 9260 1656**

**17 Mandeville Street**  
**PORTADOWN**  
**Craigavon**  
**BT62 3PB**

**Tel: +44 (0)28 3833 2801**  
**Fax: +44 (0)28 3835 0293**





## **THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

#### **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.

#### **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 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 trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 6 and 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform the audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities**

In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and charity's financial results and position;
- Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and



**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES *(continued)***

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements *(continued)***

**Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities *(continued)***

- The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered that the particular areas in the financial statements that were susceptible to misstatement were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements; recognition, classification and completeness of income. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included Charity legislation applicable to Northern Ireland, Charity's governing document, employment law, health and safety and tax legislation.

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

**Audit response to risks identified:**

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatements due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and

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**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (continued)**

**YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)**

**Audit response to risks identified (continued):**

- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments including those relating to revenue recognition; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias; and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions that are large, unusual or outside the normal course of the charity's activities.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement teams members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the Fund's Board of Trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 Fund and the Fund's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Mr Nigel Moore FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of GMcG BELFAST**

**Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor**

Alfred House  
19 Alfred Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8EQ

Dated: ... 31st OCTOBER 2023 .....