

**The Leighton Library Trust
Annual Report of the Trustees
SC003010**

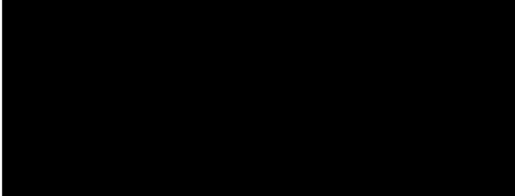
For the year ended 31 October 2025

Founding Document

The Trust was established by the will of Robert Leighton, 1611-1684, dated 17th February 1683. This was supplemented by an Act of Synod of Perth and Stirling dated 12th October 1703 (the deed of gift of the Library being signed by Robert Leighton's sister and nephew on 11th December 1701). Robert Leighton was Bishop of Dunblane from 1661-1670 and subsequently Archbishop of Glasgow.

Trustees

The following were Trustees during the year:



Appointment of Trustees

The Act of Synod recorded the Executors of the late Robert Leighton appointing original Trustees including the Minister of Dunblane and asking the Synod to appoint two further Ministers of the Presbytery as Trustees. The Minister of Dunblane Cathedral and the Clerk to the Presbytery are Trustees *ex officio*, and the other Trustees are co-opted. Any new Trustee is sent a copy of the last year's Accounts and a copy of the Trustees' Annual Report to OSCR.

Principal Address

The Cross, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0AQ.

Objectives

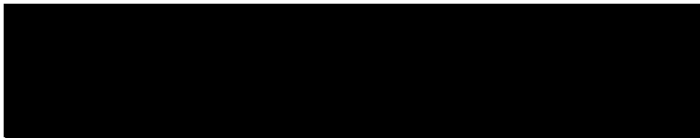
By his said will, Robert Leighton left £100 to build a library in Dunblane, and to house his personal library of 1364 volumes and 149 pamphlets. Since the original bequest, the Library has been augmented by further donations, and now numbers some 4700 volumes in 15 languages. The earliest dates from 1504. It is Scotland's oldest purpose-built library and in the 18th century operated as a subscription lending library, until about 1870. Six original book presses and leather chairs are still in use.

In the previous five Annual Reports we have illustrated how the substantial conservation, upgrading and re-development works (the Conservation Project) have been completed and we are now moving towards the final phase, the modernisation of the Undercroft to provide greater access and enjoyment for all visitors to the Library.

Management and Governance Arrangements

The Library is governed by the Trustees with volunteer guides who show the collection. Stirling University and the National Library of Scotland give technical advice and services such as conservation. The British Library has also helped with conservation funds and production of an on-line catalogue.

In November 2020 the Trustees agreed to the setting up of an Executive Group of volunteers to oversee the day to day running of the Library and the Conservation Project, with reference to the Trustees as and when required. It comprises:



Mr [REDACTED] stood down as a member of the Executive during the year and the Trustees are grateful for his hard work and dedication. The Trustees are also indebted to the volunteers and guides and also to Dunblane Cathedral Church of Scotland for the use of facilities within the Cathedral Halls.

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration nor reimbursement of expenses from the charity during the year.

Risk Assessment

During the year the Trustees had investments held by Investec Wealth and Investment, Glasgow. The investments are held in their stockbrokers' nominee company. The Trustees seek a balanced return between income and capital with a medium/high risk exposure. Routine financial matters are handled by the Chairman and the Hon. Treasurer, [REDACTED]. Accounts are prepared by the A9 Partnership, High Street, Dunblane.

Risks

Risk of fraud or mismanagement

This is mitigated by

- ensuring proper budgetary control as part of strategic management
- ensuring those to whom financial authority has been delegated have sufficient skills to fulfil their remit
- ensuring effective procedural checks are embedded in day-to-day processes and are regularly reviewed
- requiring two signatures on all cheques
- ensuring that all investments are actively managed by professional advisors who will report formally to the Trust bi-annually.

Risk of loss of income

This is mitigated by

- diversifying income sources to minimise the impact if one source dries up
- considering not only a mix of funding sources but also of funding types
- considering long-term risks to funding, and how the Trust prepares to address them
- contingency planning for loss of specific funding, developing reserves
- staggering funding applications and re-applications, to ensure that these do not all happen in the same year
- managing fixed costs: currently there are no staff costs, all personnel are volunteers
- planning for a flexible organisational structure that will scale up and down, as circumstances require.

Risk of unexpected costs

This risk will be mitigated by

- ensuring adequate reserve contingency and appropriate insurance cover
- reviewing all insurances annually to ensure the cover is adequate for the level of risk.

Risk of insufficient number of active Trustees

The role of a Trustee has changed over the years and it is now a demanding and responsible position. Charities find it hard nowadays to recruit Trustees. We will mitigate this by

- revisiting the constitution of the Trust to ensure the governance is effective for the future
- ensuring succession planning for Trustees is in place
- looking to protect the personal liability of Trustees (currently unlimited) by constitutional reform.

Risk of insufficient volunteers

The charity has no staff and is entirely reliant on volunteers, the number of whom have been dwindling. We will mitigate this by

- using the restoration and attendant publicity to generate local interest and actively seek to recruit new volunteers from as diverse a pool as possible
- devising a marketing strategy, using a variety of media
- continuing to involve students from the two local senior schools to assist and gain valuable life experience.

Health & Safety

We have written health & safety procedures for volunteers and visitors. We undertake regular risk assessments and provide appropriate safe systems and equipment as required. The Trust has formal safeguarding and child protection policies.

Review of the Financial Position

As 31st October 2025 the market value of the investments amounted to £80,450.

During the course of 2025 the Library hosted 4,086 visitors and £6,536 was donated by them. Other kind donations including those from the Friends of the Leighton Library totalling £5,608 were received. Coffee mornings and other events over the year raised £2,592. The Trustees are most grateful for these donations.

The Governance Costs for the year to 31st October 2025 are shown as a liability on the Statement of Balances. In anticipation of further professional reports and fees towards the Conservation Project the Trustees retained a cash balance in its bank account.

Review of the Development, Activities and Achievement

We continue to raise funds for the harling of the building, the modernisation of the Undercroft, and maintaining the Book collection. We expect the harling to be completed once the Undercroft work is complete and the building has dried out sufficiently which is likely to be in 2027, subject to our architect's and other professional advice.

With regard to the Undercroft we have now received donations and pledges totalling £102,729 and anticipate starting work on the 'Build' aspect in spring 2026. We continue to raise funds for the subsequent 'Interpretation' aspect which will provide a unique insight into the Library, its history and times. Much of the written scripts have been completed and are ready inclusion in the overall interpretation.

We have also received funds and pledges towards the book collection totalling £15,380. As a result over 30 volumes in our 'red' category have been repaired at a cost of over £8,500. This is not a cheap enterprise but money well spent to preserve the collection for the future. We continue to raise funds to repair these damaged volumes (there are about 70) together with a further 200 which need attention.

The Trustees wish to thank all those who have supported the conservation and restoration of Scotland's oldest purpose-built library, allowing future generations to appreciate and enjoy Bishop Leighton's legacy and the collection.

In March, in conjunction with Dunblane Museum and the Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral, we hosted 55 Blue Badge Guides from the Scottish Tourist Guides Association with the intention of encouraging a wider range of visitors.

In May we were delighted to welcome His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent on a private visit, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, [REDACTED]

Within the Library itself, His Royal Highness met Trustees and Volunteers who had assisted in its restoration and was informed about the life of Robert Leighton, the history of the Library and some of the specific books from the collection. His Royal Highness then signed the visitor book, adding the words "Deeply fascinating!"

As he departed, The Duke of Kent remarked on the impressive efforts to maintain and restore such a historic treasure and the Trustees expressed their appreciation for his visit.

On 31st May the Trust took a stand at the Dunblane Fling to promote the Library and the ongoing restoration. On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September volunteers hosted a stand as part of the 'Doors Open Day' in Dunblane Public Library.

In August the Trust designed a new free digital guide available through 'Bloomberg Connects', the free arts and culture app. The guide offers digital access to the Library.

Also in August, the Trust hosted a visit by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings scholars, who are on a programme to support a deep-dive into the knowledge and skills needed to work with traditional buildings for early career architects, surveyors, engineers, and post-graduates.

As a result of the continued publicity surrounding the conservation and renovation works, new guides and volunteers have come forward and on 1st April the Library re-opened. We are now open from the beginning of April to the end of October, and Saturdays in November and December for five hours a day, six days a week. Visits outside these times throughout the year can be made with prior arrangement. This has permitted greater and longer access and resulted in many more visitors.

The Trust continues to publicise the Library in the media and we have been pleased to assist in the filming of a programme about the Cromlix Water Drinkers. Our website details this information and is updated daily. www.leightonlibrary.org.uk

During the year the Trust has expanded its offering into the sale of merchandise with a view to increasing revenue. The Trust also has an online shop which is accessible through our website.

Gifts in kind: Since the beginning of 2021 the Trust has kept records of time spent on Library matters by all involved: the Trustees, the Executive Group, the volunteers and guides, and the many others who give their time freely supporting and promoting the Library. The amount of time donated is as follows:

- 1st January to 25th November 2021: 1,159 hours;
- 26th November 2021 to 31st October 2022: 4,192 hours;
- 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023: 4,012 hours were recorded which, as the Library was closed to visitors excludes time provided by the guides;
- 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024: 5,303 hours;
- 1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025: 5,348 hours.

These illustrate the continuing commitment to the Library and its future, and amount to a very significant 'gift in kind'.

In the summer of 2027, the Trust plans to hold a formal reopening of the Library and we look forward to meeting all our supporters. More details will follow.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I thank the Executive Group for their oversight of the project and the other matters they undertake, the volunteers and guides, and all others associated with the Library for their dedication and enthusiasm. With their assistance the Trust will continue to build on its successes locally, nationally and internationally.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

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Date Approved 20/2/2026

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	11	2024		31	10	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	9,472	1,680			11,152	9,553
Legacies	-	-			-	-
Grants	-	4,000			4,000	189,990
Receipts from fundraising activities	-	-			-	-
Gross trading receipts	2,533	-			2,533	1,907
Income from investments other than land and buildings	1,423	-			1,423	1,119
Rents from land & buildings	-	-			-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	3,585	-			3,585	4,637
Other income	-	-			-	-
A1 Sub total	17,012	5,680			22,692	207,206
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-			-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	175,702	-			175,702	20,165
A2 Sub total	175,702	-			175,702	21,105
Total receipts	192,714	5,680			198,394	227,371
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	-	-			-	-
Gross trading payments	1,749	-			1,749	2,308
Investment management costs	827	-			827	416
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	31,385	5,680			37,065	135,647
Grants and donations	-	-			-	-
Governance costs:	-	-			-	-
Audit / independent examination	1,320	-			1,320	1,140
Preparation of annual accounts	-	-			-	-
Legal costs	137	-			137	848
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-
A3 Sub total	35,418	5,680			41,098	140,359
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets	-	-			-	-
Purchase of investments	168,560	-			168,560	85,000
A4 Sub total	168,560	-			168,560	85,000
Total payments	203,978	5,680			209,658	225,359
Net receipts / (payments)	(11,263)	-			(11,263)	2,012
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds	-	-			-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(11,263)	-			(11,263)	2,012

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	20,767	-	-	-	20,767	18,755
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(11,263)	-	-	-	(11,263)	2,012
							-
							-
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	9,504	-	-	-	9,504	20,767

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments	JP Morgan Liquidity Funds - 85,000	Restricted	-	76,204
	JP Morgan Liquidity Funds - 85,000	Unrestricted	-	8,796
	1/8% Treasury Snr bond 30/01/2026 - 81,000	Restricted	58,876	-
	1/8% Treasury Snr bond 30/01/2026 - 81,000	Unrestricted	21,574	-
		Total	80,450	85,000

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets	Grant monies pledged:				
	The Hugh Fraser Foundation	Undercroft		15,000	-
	The Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust	Undercroft		3,000	-
	Wolfson Foundation	Undercroft		50,000	-
	Museums Galleries Scotland	Undercroft		7,429	-
	The Leche Charitable Trust	Adopt-a-Book		5,000	-
		Total		80,429	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	EDF	Unrestricted	500	148
	The A9 Partnership Ltd.	Unrestricted	1,320	1,140
		Total	1,820	1,288



	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of
approval

		26.02.26

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

By his Will Robert Leighton (1611 - 1684), who was successively Bishop of Dunblane and Archbishop of Glasgow, left £100 to build a library in Dunblane and to house his personal library of some 1363 volumes and 149 pamphlets. Since the original bequest, the library has been augmented by further donations and now numbers some 4500 volumes in 15 languages. The earliest dates from 1504. It is Scotland's oldest purpose-built library and in the 18th Century operated as a subscription lending library, until about 1870. Six original book presses and 12 leather chairs are still in use. The Library building was last restored in 1989, at a cost of some £90,000, with funds from amongst others, the Getty and Pilgrim Trusts.

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / Institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
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C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
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C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

C6 Other information

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Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Donations	1,361	300			1,661	2,591
Visitor Donations	6,536	-			6,536	5,217
Adopt-a-Book Donations	-	1,380			1,380	-
Sir James and Lady Campbell	824	-			824	745
Private Donations over £500	750	-			750	1,000
					-	-
Total	9,472	1,680	-	-	11,152	9,553

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £			Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
HR Creswick Charitable Trust	-	-			-	20,000
Turtleton Charitable Trust	-	-			-	10,000
Historic Environment Scotland	-	-			-	94,305
Clackmannanshire & Stirling Environment Trust	-	-			-	22,500
The Swire Charitable Trust	-	-			-	10,000
Dalrymple Donaldson Trust	-	-			-	3,000
JTH Charitable Trust	-	-			-	500
Robert Barr Charitable Trust	-	-			-	25,000
Idlewild Trust	-	-			-	4,685
The Aurelius Charitable Trust	-	4,000			4,000	
Total	-	4,000			4,000	189,990

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Friends Subscriptions	993	-			993	1,076
Coffee Morning & Extravaganza	2,592	-			2,592	3,561
					-	-
Total	3,585	-			3,585	4,637

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Insurance premiums	3,971	-			3,971	4,807
Electricity	3,038	-			3,038	1,179
Repair and conservation services	-	3,956			3,956	-
Alarm maintenance, electrical & fire safety	254	-			254	802
Other expenses	603	-			603	-
Subscriptions	-	-			-	-
Repairs & small equipment	543	-			543	96
Maps / photographs / portraits	-	-			-	336
Publicity costs	1,087	-			1,087	1,740
Professional fees re. building renovation works	21,888	1,724			23,611	126,687
						-
						-
Total	31,385	5,680			37,065	135,647

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below General Funds	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	9,472				9,472	9,553
Legacies	-				-	-
Grants	-				-	-
Receipts from fundraising activities	-				-	-
Gross trading receipts	2,533				2,533	1,907
Income from investments other than land and buildings	1,423				1,423	1,119
Rents from land & buildings	-				-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	3,585				3,585	4,637
Other income	-				-	-
Sub total	17,012				17,012	17,216
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	175,702				175,702	20,165
Sub total	175,702				175,702	20,165
Total receipts	192,714				192,714	37,381
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	-				-	-
Gross trading payments	1,749				1,749	2,308
Investment management costs	827				827	416
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	-				-	15,252
Grants and donations	31,385				31,385	-
Governance costs:	-				-	-
Audit / independent examination	1,320				1,320	1,140
Preparation of annual accounts	-				-	-
Legal costs	137				137	848
Other	-				-	-
Loan repaid	-				-	-
Sub total	35,418				35,418	19,964
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	-
Purchase of investments	168,560				168,560	8,796
Sub total	168,560				168,560	8,796
Total payments	203,978				203,978	28,760
Net receipts / (payments)	(11,263)				(11,263)	8,621
Transfers to / (from) funds	-				-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(11,263)				(11,263)	8,621

Nature and purpose of funds

Maintenance and upkeep of the building, and the book collection housed there, for the best preservation of the book collection in circumstances to allow the public access to view same.

Leighton Library Trust

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Additional analysis (3)**6 Breakdown of restricted funds**

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
	Adopt-a-book fund	The Conservation Project Funds	Windfarm Funds			
Receipts						
Donations	1,380	300	-		1,680	
Legacies	-	-	-		-	-
Grants	4,000	-	-		4,000	189,990
Receipts from fundraising activities	-	-	-		-	-
Gross trading receipts	-	-	-		-	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings	-	-	-		-	-
Rents from land & buildings	-	-	-		-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	-	-	-		-	-
Sub total	5,380	300	-		5,680	189,990
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-		-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-		-	-
Sub total	-	-	-		-	-
Total receipts	5,380	300	-		5,680	189,990
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	-	-	-		-	-
Gross trading payments	-	-	-		-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-		-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	3,956	1,724	-		5,680	120,395
Grants and donations	-	-	-		-	-
Governance costs:	-	-	-		-	-
Audit / independent examination	-	-	-		-	-
Preparation of annual accounts	-	-	-		-	-
Legal costs	-	-	-		-	-
Sub total	3,956	1,724	-		5,680	120,395
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets	-	-	-		-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-	-		-	76,204
Sub total	-	-	-		-	76,204
Total payments	3,956	1,724	-		5,680	196,599
Net receipts / (payments)	1,424	(1,424)	-		-	(6,609)
Transfers to / (from) funds						
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,424	(1,424)	-		-	(6,609)

Nature and purpose of funds

"Adopt-a-Book" Funds are applied to the Repair and Conservation of Books. The balance on this fund brought forward was £5,109 and the carried forward amounts to £6,533.

"The Conservation Project" Funds are restricted amounts received for redevelopment, upgrading, conservation and building renovations required in the library. The balance on this fund brought forward was £69,595 and the carried forward amounts to £50,844.

"Windfarm" Funds are for the specific purchase of audio equipment allowing visitors the use of headphones and other audio devices to review the collection. The balance on this fund brought forward and the carried forward was £1,500.

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2	
Report to the trustees/members of	Registered charity number	Charity name Leighton Library Trust							
On the accounts of the charity for the period		SC003010							
		Period start date				Period end date			
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
		1 st	November	2024	to	31 st	October	2025	
Set out on pages		1 to 11						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.								
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.								
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]								
	1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or								
	2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.								
Signed:					Date:	3/3/2026			
Name:									
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ICAS								
Address:	The A9 Partnership Ltd								
	Abercorn School								
	Newton								
	Broxburn, EH54 6PZ								

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose