

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN
(Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

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WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees



**Secretaries and Treasurers
and Principal Address**

MHA, Chartered Accountants
6 St Colme Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6AD

Bankers

Virgin Money
83 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3ES

Investment Managers

Rathbones
10 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PF

Independent Examiner

RLH Crawford, BA CA CTA
Jeffrey Crawford & Co
Chartered Accountants
25 Castle Terrace
Edinburgh
EH1 2ER

Solicitors

Anderson Strathern LLP
1 Rutland Court
Edinburgh
EH3 8EY

SCIO Number

SC003724

Companies House number

CS000004

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The charitable purposes of the SCIO are:

- To provide financial assistance and other benefits, from time to time, to former residents and/or former employees of the former Widowers' Children's Home, Edinburgh who are in need by way of ill health, financial hardship or other disadvantage;
- to provide financial assistance to charities registered in Scotland, in particular those that are concerned with the care and welfare of children; and
- to provide relief by way of grants or other means to individual children and young adults up to the age of 25 or the families of such individuals for the purpose of education, training, treatment for mental or physical disabilities or ill health, the provision of equipment for the benefit of such individuals and the provision of holidays and the like.

Achievements and Performance

As detailed in Note 4, during the year, grants were made to 27 (2024 - 22) Scottish registered charities as well as 29 (2024 - 33) individual grants to former residents of the Home. The grants for the year ended 31 March 2025 were mainly determined at the grants committee meetings held in June and December 2024.

Financial review

The results of the year are shown in the financial statements. As planned, there is net expenditure before investment gains and losses of £194,038 (2024: £67,265). The deficit increased substantially in the year due to the contribution to the Scottish Government's Redress Scheme of £143,333 (2024: £30,000). The net movement in funds for the year after investment gains and losses was a decrease of £180,405 (2024: £1,014).

Reserves Policy

The Trustees intend to continue the policy of expending at or in excess of 150% of annual investment income to meet grant funding objectives. Funds brought forward from previous years are available if needed. Reserves at 31 March 2025 were £1,062,152 (2024: £1,242,557).

Investment policy and performance

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest. The investment objective of the Trust is to grow both capital and income over the longer term. The investment managers attend a formal meeting of the Investment Committee twice yearly and operate on a discretionary management basis.

The total value of the investment portfolio as at 31 March 2025 was £1,046,764 (2024: £1,222,911), made up of securities of £1,038,633 (2024: £1,212,658) and cash of £8,131 (2024: £10,253). Income generated was £40,093 (2024: £42,574).

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Investment policy and performance (continued)

The WCH Trust's investment portfolio generated a total return, net of all fees, of 2.9% over the 12 month period to end of March 2025. This is behind the MSCI All Country Benchmark (+5.37%) but broadly in line with the peer group, as measured by the ARC Steady Growth risk category, which appreciated by 2.1%.

Global stockmarkets continued to recover in 2024 as attention turned to interest rate cuts due to weak growth and falling inflation, China announced measures to stimulate growth, and corporate earnings were solid. Politics played a prominent role in markets, with more than half of the world going to the polls in 2024. The UK electorate voted overwhelming for change with a large Labour majority, and the US re-elected Donald Trump to the White House. Trump wasted no time in carrying out his election pledges, with Canada and Mexico the first to be imposed by Tariffs. This theme continues to impact markets, as businesses and investors delaying decisions whilst trade conditions remain uncertain. The unveiling of Chinese company DeepSeek's Artificial Intelligence (AI) model in January sent shockwaves through US technology companies, as they announced similar performance to OpenAI at a fraction of the cost, leading investors to question the large AI spend by these companies. Chip maker Nvidia, which had become the world's largest company in June, lost \$590 million in market value in one day.

In addition to funds being withdrawn to pay usual gifts and for the Scottish Government's Redress Scheme, we took the decision to make a number of changes to the composition of the portfolio, as we look globally for opportunities that are not available on the traditional UK market. Position sizes in some of the larger UK holdings were reduced to provide funds, and we elected to sell Prudential which is now primarily exposed to Asia which continues to be a challenging market, and Schrodgers where performance has been volatile. We introduced a number of new names in Europe and the US, and whilst timing has been against us due in part to the afore-mentioned reasons, markets have since recovered, and we continue to have strong conviction in the companies we selected over the long term. The UK was reduced by around 9% to 25%, with the allocation to Europe and the US increased.

The top performers on a total return basis have been HSBC (+54.39%), London Stock Exchange (+22.25%), Unilever (+19.87%) and BAE Systems (+18.22%), whilst Diageo (-28.84%), Salesforce (-22.73%), Schneider Electric (-19.92%) and ASML (-18.76%) have detracted from performance. Gold has been a useful diversifier in the portfolio, rising by 8.38% from original purchase mid-January to the end of March, as investors and governments continue to favour this safe haven.

The portfolio's overall yield reduced to 2.99% or £31,200 as at the end of March, reflecting the withdrawal of funds, and the move to more overseas holdings.

Grant making policy

The Trust welcomes applications for grant aid from registered charities whose aim is the protection, care and welfare of children in Scotland. Applications are reviewed at each meeting of the Grants Committee and are assessed on an individual basis taking into account the nature of the project being undertaken, knowledge of the charity and the impact that the grant aid would make to the project. Where it is felt appropriate, grant aid can be spread over the lifetime of a particular project. The Trustees on the Grants Committee monitor the effectiveness of the grant aid by obtaining and reviewing periodic updates from the charities concerned.

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

In addition, the committee receive individual requests for financial assistance from former residents of the home. Where support is given, it can either be in the form of a grant or loan depending on the circumstances. These are dealt with as and when the requests are received.

Risk management

The Trustees have considered and maintain a risk register of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks. In common with many Children's Homes operating in the 1960s and '70s, former residents have raised allegations in the past about mistreatment during their time in the Widowers' Children's Home. As the Home closed in 1980 and therefore no longer exists, this charity, which has the financial welfare of ex-residents as one of its charitable objectives, has been the focus for reporting these allegations. The Trustees have always advised former residents to speak to the appropriate authority.

In January 2017 the Trust was given notice under section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2015 to provide reports relating to the Widowers' Children's Home as part of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. While the information available to the trustees was limited a detailed report was provided to the Inquiry in April 2017. The Inquiry is ongoing and at the end of 2024, we forwarded documentation requested by them. We understand that the allegations concerning incidents that took place while the Home was in operation will be considered in Phase 10 of the Inquiry.

In June 2018, the charity received formal notification that 10 ex-residents felt they suffered abuse while resident at the Widowers' Children's Home in Edinburgh. As a result of a recent change in legislation they wished to sue this charity for as yet unquantifiable compensation. This matter remains in the hands of our solicitors and OSCR has been informed. In 2019, 4 of the cases brought by ex-residents were found to relate to a period where the Home had insurance in place. Accordingly, these cases have been passed on to the relevant insurers. As at the balance sheet date, 3 claimants had sadly passed away.

The Scottish Government's 'Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland)' bill received royal assent in April 2021 and began accepting applications in December 2021. The Trustees, after carefully considering the matter including taking legal advice, resolved in November 2022 that the charity should join the Redress Scheme "RS" as a Contributor. The Trust formally joined the scheme on 27 September 2023. Since notifying the Scottish Government in December 2022 of our intention to join the RS, the Trustees have been informed that 12 former residents of the Home and/or their next of kin have contacted the RS to note a claim. During the year to 31 December 2024, the RS made determinations which resulted in the Trust incurring a liability of £173,333 and we have recently been informed of a further determination which will result in us being due a further amount of £46,667 in March 2026.

Plans for the future

The Trust's investment income was broadly consistent with the prior year, being £40,093 in the year to 31 March 2025 compared with £42,574 in the year to 31 March 2024. The anticipated income for the year to 31 March 2026 is £31,258. The expected decrease is due to the disposal of shares in the year to fund the Redress Scheme contribution. The Trustees intend to continue to consider charity applications for funding on a biannual basis in line with reserves and grant making policies.

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Structure, Governance and Management

The WCH Trust for Children is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and is governed by its constitution dated August 2016.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

The Trustees meet formally twice yearly and those who served during the year are listed on page 1. The day-to-day management of the Trust is undertaken by the Secretaries and Treasurers, MHA Chartered Accountants.

Organisational structure

The responsibility for the management of the charity's investments and the review of grant aid applications and making recommendations thereon is split between the Investment Committee and the Grants Committee. Each Trustee serves on one of either the Grants or Investment committees which then report to the Trustees. These committees also meet twice yearly although they convene and consult on other occasions as required.

The overall strategy, policy and general control of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees but the day-to-day co-ordination of management of the charity is devolved by the Trustees to the Secretaries and Treasurers.

Recruitment, appointment and training of Trustees

New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. The number of Trustees shall not be fewer than three and not be more than nine.

Appropriate training is provided, and all the current Trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity and their responsibilities as Trustees.

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

Trustees' responsibilities statement

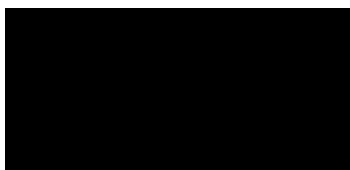
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland 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 (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.
- 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 and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

For and on behalf of the Trustees



19 November 2025

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of WCH Trust for Children

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

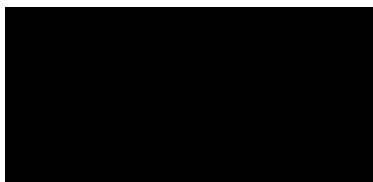
Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 financial statements.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - 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 financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 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 financial statements to be reached.



19 November 2025

Jeffrey Crawford & Co
25 Castle Terrace
Edinburgh
EH1 2ER

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

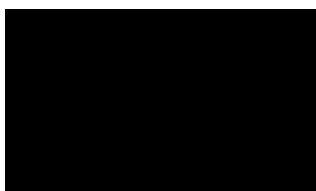
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Income from:			
Investments		<u>40,093</u>	<u>42,574</u>
Total income		<u>40,093</u>	<u>42,574</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	2	8,785	8,481
Other expenditure	3	143,352	30,000
Charitable activities	4	<u>81,994</u>	<u>71,358</u>
Total expenditure		<u>234,131</u>	<u>109,839</u>
Net expenditure before gains on investments		(194,038)	(67,265)
Net gains on investment assets	8	<u>13,633</u>	<u>66,251</u>
Net (expenditure) and net movement in funds		(180,405)	(1,014)
Fund balance at 31 March 2024	11	<u>1,242,557</u>	<u>1,243,571</u>
Fund balance at 31 March 2025	11	<u>1,062,152</u>	<u>1,242,557</u>

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN**BALANCE SHEET
at 31 March 2025**

		2025 £	2024 £
	Note		
Fixed assets			
Investments	8	<u>1,038,633</u>	<u>1,212,658</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank		21,202	23,516
Cash at brokers		8,131	10,253
Debtors	9	<u>1,794</u>	<u>2,734</u>
		31,127	36,503
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(7,608)</u>	<u>(6,604)</u>
Net current assets		23,519	29,899
Net assets		<u>1,062,152</u>	<u>1,242,557</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds - General Fund	11	<u>1,062,152</u>	<u>1,242,557</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19 November 2025 and are signed on their behalf:



WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

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

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements 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 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

WCH Trust for Children meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All income is recognised as soon as the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Dividends are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity. This is normally once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the amount due.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to that activity. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Expenditure on raising funds includes costs associated with generating income for the charity through its investment portfolio. Other expenditure relates to contributions towards the Redress Scheme. Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs incurred in the delivery of the charity's objectives. It includes both the direct cost of grant making and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity. The grants are accounted for where either the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition and the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant, or any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.

Support costs are allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise those costs including the public accountability of the charity and therefore include the cost of independent examination. Other support costs relate to the administrative costs of running the charity.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially measured at their transaction value and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities throughout the year.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to underlying economic conditions, the attitude of trustees to investment risk and changes in sentiment concerning equities within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand include cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity date of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable the transfer of funds to a third party will be required and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured reliably.

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**
for the year ended 31 March 2025**1 Accounting policies (continued)*****Funds structure***

The charity's funds are all considered by the trustees to be unrestricted and are therefore available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Taxation

The charity is recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charity and is therefore not liable to tax on its income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

2 Raising funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment management charges	<u>8,785</u>	<u>8,481</u>
3 Other expenditure	2025	2024
	£	£
Redress scheme contribution	143,333	30,000
Tax withheld on foreign dividends	<u>19</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>143,352</u>	<u>30,000</u>
4 Charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants		
Aberlour Childrens Charity	-	3,000
Asthma and Allergy Foundation	2,400	-
Baltic Street Adventure Playground	-	3,000
Beeslack All Star Disabled Sports Club	-	2,000
Branch Out Together	3,000	3,000
Butterfly Trust	2,000	-
Callander Youth Project Trust	1,000	-
Camphill School Aberdeen	-	2,000
Carers of West Lothian	3,400	3,000
Cerebral Palsy Scotland	-	3,000
Children Health Society	2,000	-
Crew 2000 (Scotland)	-	2,000
Cruse Bereavement	3,000	3,000
Dean & Cauvin Young Peoples Trust	3,000	-
Dr Bell's Family Centre	3,000	-
Edinburgh Young Carers Project	3,000	-
Epilepsy Scotland	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Balance c/fwd	25,800	26,000

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**
for the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Charitable activities (continued)	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants (continued)		
Balance b/fwd	25,800	26,000
Equi-power Central Scotland RDA	-	2,000
Families First	3,000	-
Families Outside	-	2,000
Fetlor Youth Club	-	3,000
Fife Young Carers	-	2,000
Friends of Forthview	3,000	-
Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity	-	3,000
Hillhouse	2,000	-
Homelink	2,000	-
Hopscotch	2,000	-
Kidney Kids	-	3,000
Kindred	3,000	-
Leith Athletic F.C	1,000	-
Light Up Learning	-	3,000
Money Advice Scotland	-	3,000
Pleasance Theatre Trust	2,000	-
Plus (Forth Valley)	2,000	-
Pregnancy Counselling & Care (Scotland)	-	3,000
React	3,000	-
Strange Town	2,000	-
Sunrise Partnership	-	1,000
Sunshine Wishes Children's Charity	-	1,000
Super Power Agency	2,000	-
Tailor Ed Foundation	3,000	-
The Cottage Family Centre	1,000	-
The School Bank West Lothian	4,000	3,300
The Wee Haven Youth Project	-	-
The Yard Adventure Centre	2,000	-
YDance	2,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grants to organisations	64,800	55,300
Individual grants to former residents of the Home - 29 (2024: 33)	6,154	5,850
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total grants	70,954	61,150
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Support costs		
Secretaries and Treasurers' fees	5,880	4,954
Other professional fees	-	782
Governance costs (see note 5)	5,160	4,472
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total support costs	11,040	10,208
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total costs	81,994	71,358
	<hr/>	<hr/>

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**
for the year ended 31 March 2025

5 Governance costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Secretaries and treasurers' fees	3,920	3,302
Independent examiner's fees	<u>1,240</u>	<u>1,170</u>
	<u>5,160</u>	<u>4,472</u>

6 Staff numbers

The charity operated with no employees during the year (2024: None).

7 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

Trustees received no remuneration (2024 - £nil) and were not reimbursed for any of their expenses in the year (2024 - £nil).

8 Fixed asset investments	2025	2024
	£	£
Market value at start of year	1,212,658	1,189,018
Add: Acquisitions at cost	242,482	63,399
Less: Disposal proceeds	(430,140)	(106,010)
Net investment gains in year	<u>13,633</u>	<u>66,251</u>
Market value at end of year	<u>1,038,633</u>	<u>1,212,658</u>
Historical cost at end of year	<u>777,771</u>	<u>837,730</u>

The charity's investments are all in listed securities. Investments in holdings at 31 March 2025 which are over 5% of portfolio by value are:

Aviva Investors US Equity Income Fund	64,948	60,854
JP Morgan US Equity Income Fund	<u>79,131</u>	<u>77,606</u>

9 Debtors	2025	2024
	£	£
Dividends receivable	<u>1,794</u>	<u>2,734</u>

WCH TRUST FOR CHILDREN**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**
for the year ended 31 March 2025

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Secretaries and treasurers' fee	4,256	3,314
Investment management fees	2,170	2,165
Independent examiner's fees	<u>1,182</u>	<u>1,125</u>
	<u>7,608</u>	<u>6,604</u>

11 Analysis of net movement in funds

	At 1 April £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 March £
General fund 2024/25	<u>1,242,557</u>	<u>40,093</u>	<u>(234,131)</u>	<u>13,633</u>	<u>1,062,152</u>
General fund 2023/24	<u>1,243,571</u>	<u>42,574</u>	<u>(109,839)</u>	<u>66,251</u>	<u>1,242,557</u>

12 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2024: None).