

Islay Festival Association

Scotland · Charity number SC004390

Details

Status Active

Legal form Unincorporated association

Registered 1986-05-06

Register [View on the OSCR register](#)

Contact

Address 60 Frederick Crescent
Port Ellen
Isle of Islay
PA42 7BD

Website <https://feisile.co.uk>

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of citizenship or community development', 'the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science'

What the charity does: To promote festivals and other events to encourage appreciation of cultural, historical, educational and social development of island life.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: To promote festivals and other events to encourage appreciation of cultural, historical, educational and social development of island life.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Argyll And Bute
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£86,844	£87,333	-	1
2024-08-31	£90,869	£78,964	-	1
2023-08-31	£94,963	£66,778	-	1
2022-08-31	£79,567	£83,867	-	1
2021-08-31	£42,799	£13,576	-	0

Accounts

**ISLAY FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
For year ended 31st August 2025

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The Trustees and Management Committee present their report and un-audited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name Islay Festival Association

Charity Registration Number SC004390

Charity Address: c/o Florence Grey
60 Frederick Crescent
Port Ellen
Islay
PA42 7BD

Trustees: Florence Grey (Chair)
Eilidh Cameron
Catherine Mactaggart
Douglas Mactaggart

Gaelic Consultant Sheena MacKellar
Media Consultant Ben Shakespeare
Secretary: Lesley McCall

Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland
Main Street
Bowmore
Islay
PA43 7JJ

Structure , Governance and Management

The organisation was formed in 1984 and is governed by a constitution.

The Trustees, who are the management committee, are responsible for the day to day running of the charity and ensuring the aims and objectives are carried out.

Administration and marketing is delegated to the secretary who is paid.

Trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity by living within the local community, Advertisements for new Trustees are periodically placed in the local newspaper.

Organisation's Principal Objectives & Activities

The principal objective of the organisation is to promote festivals and other events to encourage appreciation of culture, historical, educational and social development.

Achievements and Performance

Fèis Ìle is a charity governed by a constitution, the members are jointly responsible for good governance.

Our main aim is to facilitate a week long event with emphasis on language and hospitality.

In 2025 we welcomed back old and new visitors to Fèis Ìle. Numbers were down slightly mainly due to Ferry issues as we had still not received our new Ferry which had a knock on effect as people were struggling to get booked.

The monetary value to the island as a whole is incalculable and we have emphasised this to Calmac, so hopefully this will be avoided next year with new ferries on the horizon. We kicked off our festival with Opening Event which brings the island population together and is aimed at families. Unfortunately, after weeks of good weather the rain decided to start but it did not put off the participants in the parade who were thoroughly soaked by the time they got to the indoor event.

Our First Fling was well attended and the floor was full all night with the attendees all enjoying our ceilidh dancing and the camaraderie throughout the week. What Islay Hospitality is like and sets the scene for the rest of the week.

We then followed on with Boat Trips round the coast of Islay showing our natural beauty and wildlife, next up came our very popular Whisky Nosing night with traditional ceilidh another sold out event.

Folk Night with our very own talented Islay Artists was held in Ardbeg Distillery, Our world famous Cloutie Dumpling ceilidh was held in the Ramsay Hall and proved to be very popular.

Achievements and Performance continued

Back by popular demand was our Mystery Bus tour which is proving so popular that tickets sell out within minutes. Our theme for this year was everything but whisky and we started off with a Gin and Rum Cocktail making class followed by a trip to the Rum distillery where we had limbo, dancing and song to finish.

We had a song and dance band Jarad Rowan Experience on the Friday night and proved to be just the tonic for some for the comedic value alone.

The Final Fling was very well attended and the sheer numbers made us realise that we may have outgrown the venue with the success of it. Two bands played and the dance floor was full all night.

We also support lots of our local charities throughout the week by selling tickets on our Portal and use as many as possible at our events either to sell their wares or provide food to the visitors and all money raised goes back to the Charity

We also held Bowling, Fishing and Golfing events throughout the week.

As part of our brief we also supported several local charities on the island by monetary donations.

As 2026 is our 40th Anniversay we have lots of surprises up our sleeves and are working hard to deliver these.

Main Objectives for next year

2026 will be our 40th Anniversary and we are pulling out all the stops to make this the most memorable festival in our history, we are swapping things around so we can hold a Fèis Dinner and hope to put on an outdoor event to rival that of the major festivals, albeit on a smaller scale.

Role of Volunteers

All the Trustees and Management Committee are volunteers, who fulfil this role to ensure that the organisation is well governed and meets the requirements of the constitution. Throughout the week of the festival at each of the events there are volunteers who take on various roles including the setting up of halls, working the bars and provide catering.

Financial Review

The Charity had a deficit of £488.38 in the financial year(11,905.56 Surplus 2023/24)
Total Funds at the end of the year were £122,659.72 (2023/2024 £123,141.17)

Principal Funding

The principal funding source of the charity comes from running events. However donations are also received from local distilleries and some local organisations.

Reserve Policy

Total unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £122,659.72 (£123,141.17 2023/24) Of this £32,274.60 is held as designated funds to ensure that essential expenditure is met in the event of a funding crisis. All funds are held to ensure the organisation continues to meet its charitable aims and objectives.

Investment Policy

The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that short to medium term investment of funds should be held in current and deposit accounts.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment(Scotland) Act 2005. The Charity Trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply.

On behalf of the Trustees

Signed Catherine MacFie Date 27/5/26
Printed CATHERINE MACFIE

Independent Examiner's Report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Charity trustees consider that the audit requirements 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 any particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 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 accounts.

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 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 Neil I. Woodrow, LLB(Hons.) DipLP

Name NEIL IAIN WOODROW

Date 28th MAY 2006

Address CALADH SONA, JAMIESON STREET,
BOWMORE, ISLE of RSLAY PH3 7HL

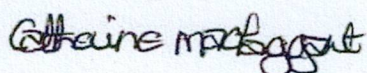
**Islay Festival Association - Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st August 2025**

**Statement of Balances
As at 31st August 2025**

	2025	2024
	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Opening Cash and Bank Balance	123,141.17	111,585.61
Surplus/Deficit for year	-488.38	11,905.56
		-350 Error on previous return
Closing Bank Balance	122,652.79	123,141.17

Signature

Date 27/5/26



Catherine Mactaggart, Treasurer

On behalf of the Trustees

Islay Festival Association - Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
For year ended 31st August 2025

Notes to the Accounts
For the year ended 31st August 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Nature and Purpose of Funds		
General Funds	90,378.19	91,264.58
Restricted Funds	0	0
Designated Funds	32,274.60	31,876.59
	122,652.79	123,141.17

Trustees Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Charity Trustees or connected persons during the year (2024 nil)

Trustees Expenses

No Trustees were paid expenses during the year (2024 nil)

Transactions with Trustees and Connected Persons

No Trustees were reimbursed for purchases made on behalf of the organisation (2024 nil)

Islay Festival Association Report of the Trustees and financial Statements
For year ended 31st August 2025

Analysis of Receipts and Payments
For year ended 31st August 2025

		2025	2024
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts			
Donations			
General Donations	2110	2110	150
Distillery Donations	10,750.00	10,750.00	17,000.00
	12,860.00	12,860.00	17,150.00
Receipts for Fundraising Activities			
Competition Sales	12,014.26	12,014.26	11,971.89
Other	0	0	0
	12,014.26	12,014.26	11,971.89
Investment Income			
Bank Interest	398.01	398.01	458.6
	398.01	398.01	458.6
Receipts for Charitable Activities			
Events	60,385.40	60,385.40	60,625.16
Refunds	87	87	177
Other Income	1100	1100	487
	61,572.40	61,572.40	61,289.16
	86,844.67	86,844.67	90869.65

Islay Festival Association Report of Trustees and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st August 2025

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Payments				
Donations Paid Out				
Cancer Support Islay	2493.21	0	2493.21	0
The Beatson	0	0	0	200
Bowmore Primary School	250	0	250	0
Keills Primary School	250	0	250	0
Port Charlotte Primary School	250	0	250	0
Port Ellen Primary School	250	0	250	0
Small Isles Primary School Jura	250	0	250	0
Sidekick Charity	250	0	250	750
Bowmore Community Association	0	0	0	225
Cyber Cafe	0	0	0	250
Islay Youth Wind Band	0	0	0	250
Archery Club	0	0	0	300
Angling Club	0	0	0	325.19
	3993.21	0	3993.21	2,300.19
Expenses from Fundraising Activities				
Tickets for other Events	8,950.70	0	8,950.70	14,000.00
Mystery Bus Tour	1414.04	0	1414.04	1440
Equipment Hire	1920	0	1920	1870
	12,284.74	0	12,284.74	17,310.00
Payments directly relating to Charitable Activities				
Advertising/Programme of Events	346.46	0	346.46	385.4
Catering	0	0	0	680.03
Event Bar and Food Purchases	5707.51	0	5707.51	4069.58
Float/Petty Cash	1325	0	1325	1670
Artistes Fees	18810.6	0	18810.6	16211
Hall Rent	1173	0	1173	1154.7
Hospitality	758.9	0	758.9	740.23
Insurance & Licences	493	0	493	453
Bank Charges	119.22	0	119.22	122.62
Salary & Mileage - Secretary	2580	0	2580	2510.02
Stage Hire	0	0	0	0
Transport	2700	0	2700	3500
Travel and Accommodation	24308.4	0	24308.4	11738.25
Security	9867	0	9867	4568
Computer and Website	6.69	0	6.69	265.6

Islay Festival Association Report of Trustees and Financial Statements
For year ended 31st August 2025

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Hire of Container	1920	0	1920	1760
Feis Ile Tartan	0	0	0	7375
Office/Admin Expenses	839.41	0	839.41	996.94
Sundry	99.91	0	99.91	1153.53
	71,055.10	0	71,055.10	59,353.90
Governance				
Accountancy	0	0	0	0
Totals	87,333.05	0	87,333.05	78,964.09

Accounts

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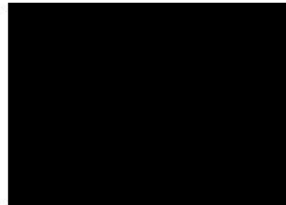
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Reference and Administrative Information

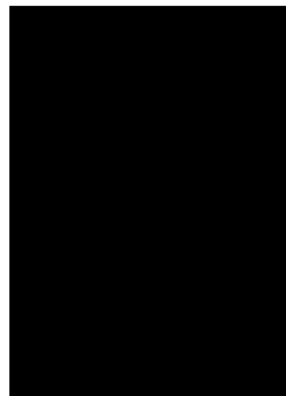
Charity Name Islay Festival Association

Charity Registration Number SC004390

Charity Address:



Trustees:



Gaelic Consultant
Media Consultant
Secretary:

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland
Main Street
Bowmore
Islay
PA43 7JJ

Structure , Governance and Management

The organisation was formed in 1984 and is governed by a constitution.

The Trustees, who are the management committee, are responsible for the day to day running of the charity and ensuring the aims and objectives are carried out.

Administration and marketing is delegated to the secretary who is paid.

Trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity by living within the local community, Advertisements for new Trustees are periodically placed in the local newspaper.

Organisation's Principal Objectives & Activities

The principle objective of the organisation is to promote festivals and other events to encourage appreciation of culture, historical, educational and social development.

Achievements and Performance

Fèis Ìle is a charity governed by a constitution, the members are jointly responsible for good governance.

Our main aim is to facilitate a weeklong event with emphasis on island culture, language and hospitality.

In 2024 we welcomed back old and new friends to enjoy a week long event.

We had major problems with Ferry issues but after a media campaign we managed to get extra ferry sailings but a little too late for some visitors who had to cancel their travel plans. The monetary value to the island as a whole is incalculable and we have emphasised this to Calmac, so hopefully this will be avoided next year with new ferries on the horizon. We kicked off our festival with Opening Event which brings the island population together and is aimed at families. This year's was Circus themed and we had a few Circus entertainers performing on the first night followed by a family ceilidh with the Midgies Band, in keeping with it being a family event it is alcohol free and also free for all to attend

We then followed that successful start with our First Fling, which was very well attended and set the scene for the week. It was good to see old friends and new back enjoying what only Fèis can provide.

We then followed on with Boat Trips round the coast of Islay showing our natural beauty and wildlife, next up came our very popular Whisky Nosing night with traditional ceilidh another sold out event.

Folk Night with our very own talented Islay Artistes was held in Ardbeg Distillery, Our world famous Cloutie Dumpling Ceilidh was held in the Ramsay Hall and proved to be very popular.

Achievements and Performance continued

Back by popular demand was our Mystery Bus tour which is proving so popular we actually had to have two buses. This year's was Viking themed and we told about the history of the island, played Viking Games and had lovely Viking themed food in various establishments.

A concert was held in Port Ellen with a pie and a pint. This was very well attended and proved to be just the tonic for some for the comedic value alone.

The Final Fling was the Runrig experience and was very well attended followed by a new band for us - The Best Bad Influence. They were a Rock a Billy Band who had the dancefloor full from start to finish. Another successful event for the Committee.

We also support lots of our local charities throughout the week by selling tickets on our Portal and use as many as possible at our events either to sell their wares or provide food to the visitors and all money raised goes back to the Charity

We also held Bowling, Fishing and Golfing events throughout the week.

As part of our brief we also supported several local charities on the island by monetary donations.

Going forward to 2025 planning is well underway.

Main Objectives for next year

We are working hard behind the scenes planning our 2025 Festival whilst planning our 2026 Festival which will be the 40th Anniversary of the first physical Feis from an idea that was born in 1984 and it is testament to all committee members and volunteers over the years that we have reached our 40th Anniversary!

Role of Volunteers

All the Trustees and Management Committee are volunteers, who fulfil this role to ensure that the organisation is well governed and meets the requirements of the constitution. Throughout the week of the festival at each of the events there are volunteers who take on various roles including the setting up of halls, working the bars and provide catering.

Financial Review

The Charity had a surplus of £11,905.56 in the financial year (£28184.50 Surplus 2022/23)

Total Funds at the end of the year were £123,491.17 (2022/23 £111,856.61)

Principal Funding

The principal funding source of the charity comes from running events however donations are also received from local distilleries and some local organisations.

Reserve Policy

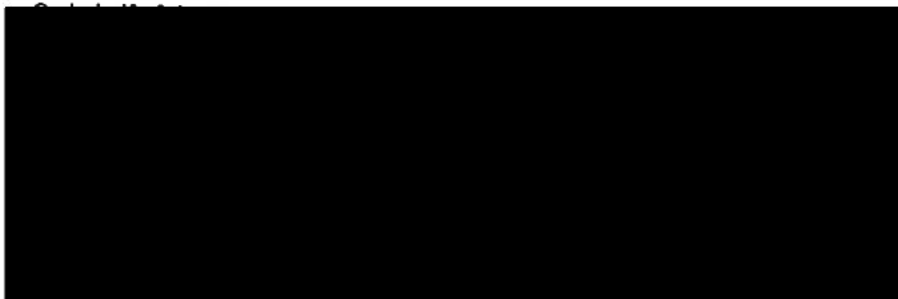
Total unrestricted funds at the end of the year were £123,491.17 (£111,856.61 2022/23) Of this £31,876.59 is held as designated funds to ensure that essential expenditure is met in the event of a funding crisis. All funds are held to ensure the organisation continues to meet its charitable aims and objectives.

Investment Policy

The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that short to medium term investment of funds should be held in current and deposit accounts.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment(Scotland) Act 2005. The Charity Trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply.



Independent Examiner's Report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Charity trustees consider that the audit requirements 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 any particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 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 accounts.

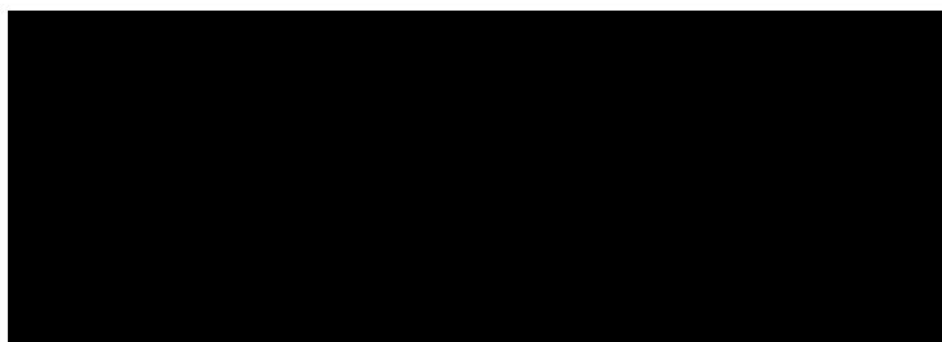
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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 have not been metor
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Islay Festival Association - Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st August 2024

Statement of Balances
As at 31st August 2024

	2024	2023
	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Opening Cash and Bank Balance	111,585.61	83,401.11
Surplus/Deficit for year	11,905.56	28,184.50
Closing Bank Balance	123,491.17	111,585.61



On behalf of the Trustees

Islay Festival Association - Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
For year ended 31st August 2024

Notes to the Accounts
For the year ended 21st August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Nature and Purpose of Funds		
General Funds	91,264.58	80,167.62
Restricted Funds	0	0
Designated Funds	31876.59	31,417.99
	123419.17	111,585.61

Trustees Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to Charity Trustees or connected persons during the year (2023 nil)

Trustees Expenses

No Trustees were paid expenses during the year (2023 nil)

Transactions with Trustees and Connected Persons

No Trustees were reimbursed for purchases made on behalf of the organisation (2023 nil)

Islay Festival Association Report of the Trustees and financial Statements
For year ended 31st August 2024

Analysis of Receipts and Payments
For year ended 31st August 2024

		2024	2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts			
Donations			
General Donations	150	150	150
Distillery Donations	17,000.00	17,000.00	13,250.00
	17,150.00	17,150.00	13,400.00
Receipts for Fundraising Activities			
Competition Sales	11,971.89	11,971.89	26279.07
Other	0	0	0
	11,971.89	11,971.89	26279.07
Investment Income			
Bank Interest	458.6	458.6	281.17
	458.6	458.6	281.17
Receipts for Charitable Activities			
Events	60,625.16	60,625.16	49791.68
Refunds	177	177	2871.24
Other Income	487	487	2339.95
	61,289.16	61,289.16	55002.87
	90,869.65	90869.6	94963.11

Islay Festival Association Report of Trustees and Financial Statements
For year ended 31st August

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Payments				
Donations Paid Out				
Go Fund Me	0	0	0	287.5
The Beatson	200	0	200	300.25
Bowmore Primary School	0	0	0	250
Keills Primary School	0	0	0	250
Port Charlotte Primary School	0	0	0	250
Port Ellen Primary School	0	0	0	250
Small Isles Primary School Jura	0	0	0	250
Sidekick Charity	750	0	750	
Bowmore Community Association	225	0	225	
Cyber Cafe	250	0	250	
Islay Youth Wind Band	250	0	250	
Archery Club	300	0	300	
Angling Club	325.19	0	325.19	
	2300.19	0	2300.19	1,837.75
Expenses from Fundraising Activities				
Tickets for other Events	14,000.00	0	14,000.00	12,260.00
Mystery Bus Tour	1440	0	1440	631
Equipment Hire	1870	0	1870	1000
	17,310.00	0	17,310.00	12,891.00
Payments directly relating to Charitable Activities				
Advertising/Programme of Events	385.4	0	385.4	526.22
Catering	680.03	0	680.03	441.15
Event Bar and Food Purchases	4069.58	0	4069.58	2988.11
Float/Petty Cash	1670	0	1670	2800
Artistes Fees	16211	0	16211	16498.72
Hall Rent	1154.7	0	1154.7	1878.67
Hospitality	740.23	0	740.23	371.05
Insurance & Licences	453	0	453	474
Bank Charges	122.62	0	122.62	148.7
Salary & Mileage - Secretary	2510.02	0	2510.02	2400
Stage Hire	0	0	0	1000
Transport	3500	0	3500	1250
Travel and Accommodation	11738.25	0	11738.25	13201.01
Security	468	0	4568	2643.95
Computer and Website	265.6	0	265.6	0

Islay Festival Association Report of Trustees and Financial Statements
For year ended 31st August 2024

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Hire of Container	1760	0	1760	360
Feis Ile Tartan	7375	0	7375	3456
Office/Admin Expenses	996.94	0	996.94	0.00
Sundry	1153.53	0	1153.53	1608.28
	59353.9	0	59353.9	52094.86
Governance				
Accountancy	0	0	0	0
Totals	78,964.09	0	78,964.09	66,778.61