

**William J Thomson Trust**

**Annual Report & Accounts**

**PERIOD TO 31 JULY 2025**

**Charity No: SC006264**

## Contents

	Page
Report of the Trustees	2
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of W J Thomson Trust	4
Statement of financial activities	5
Balance sheet	5
Notes to the Accounts	6
General information	8

## W J Thomson Trust

### Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 July 2025

The Trustees present the report and accounts for the period ended 31 July 2025.

#### History, Objectives and Activities of the Trust

The Trust was established in 1938 as an unincorporated charity with a gift from the late Mr William John Thomson with the objective of supporting research work at the then West of Scotland Agricultural College which eventually became part of SRUC on 1 October 2012. The Trustees transferred control over the assets of the Trust to the Directors of SRUC.

The annual revenue generated by the investments held by the Trust is used to support research work undertaken at SRUC by both students and staff.

On 8 July 2025, the Trust has elected to extend its accounting period from 31 March to 31 July to align its financial reporting cycle with operational and strategic requirements. As a result of this change, the current reporting period is longer than the previous financial year. Accordingly, the comparative figures presented are not directly comparable, as they reflect a shorter accounting period.

#### Financial Review, Investment Policy and Reserves

During the period ended 31 July 2025, the Trust generated investment income of £41,825 (2024: £28,890), of which £NIL (2024: £nil) was awarded to students and staff to support research work at SRUC, due to lack of approved funding applications.

The value of investments held by the Trust increased by £7,941 compared to 31 March 2024 (2024: increased by £64,555) and together with the net income for the year of £41,825 (2024: £28,890) was transferred to the general reserve.

The investment of capital is the only source of income and so the fund is invested with the objective of maintaining the capital value of the fund in real terms and generating an income available to spend on grants. The reserves of the Trust amounted to £1,363,330 as at 31 July 2025 (2024: £1,313,564). The Trust deed allows the Trustees full discretion over the capital and income of the Trust in pursuit of the Trusts objectives.

#### Investment Policy

SRUC, on behalf of the Trust, employs a professional investment management firm to manage the Trust investments on a discretionary basis. The Trustees meet with the fund manager annually to review investment performance which is monitored by comparison to a long-term investment objective of CPI+3%. Performance is also assessed against the peer group using the ARC Charity Steady Growth comparator. Finally, a market index driven benchmark is used, Rathbones Benchmark 4, in line with the

risk level instructed by the Trustees. The combination of comparator metrics allows the Trustees to assess performance, understanding that all comparators have certain issues, including the unusual market concentration issues seen in equity markets during the period under review.

The Trust is focusing on achieving a spread of risk, securing investment income and holding shares in well-financed businesses with long-term growth potential and operating in relatively stable industries. The investment objective is to achieve a balanced return combining capital growth and income.

The Trustees take a long-term view. The comparisons on a total return basis to 31st July 2025 are as follows:

	One Year	Three years
SRUC Trusts Fund	2.28%	9.89%
CPI+3% (1M Lagged)	6.67%	24.55%
ARC Charity Steady Growth	6.09%	17.32%
Benchmark 4	9.98%	27.59%

#### Grants Awarded

The Trust funds continue to provide invaluable support to SRUC research activities. In 2025 there were no beneficiaries due to lack of applications (2024: no beneficiaries).

#### Management and Governance Arrangements

The SRUC Board has delegated authority to the SRUC Finance & Estates (F&E) Committee to oversee and direct the management of all SRUC Trust funds.

The following Trustees held office during the year:

Prof M Smith  
Mr A Marshall  
Prof E Wall

The SRUC F&E Committee is responsible for SRUC Trust policy and has determined that it is appropriate to have an SRUC Trust Disbursements Committee with a membership that is well placed to make informed decisions about the disbursements of funds within the agreed policy.

#### Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed by the SRUC Board which discharges its responsibilities via the SRUC Finance & Estates Committee.

## **Procedures and Policy for Grant Making**

The operation of the SRUC Trusts Disbursement Committee and its relationship with staff, students and other Trustees is summarised below:

### **• Application Forms**

Guidance notes on the protocols for completion of formal applications and their required authorisation procedures are provided to students and staff on the SRUC intranet. In addition, members of the Trust Disbursement Committee are located across several SRUC Campus locations to provide advice to staff and students on potential applications.

### **• Review Procedures**

The SRUC Trusts Disbursement Committee receives applications three times each year. The Committee discusses the applications and agrees which should be approved. Minutes from the meetings are distributed to Committee members and reports submitted to the F&E Committee.

### **• Reporting Requirements**

Recipients are required to provide reports to the Trust Disbursements Committee in accordance with an agreed timetable. In the case of reports that are overdue, funding can be retrieved from the recipient.

## **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 including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and its financial activities for that period. In preparing financial statements, giving a true and fair view, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 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 Trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and to enable them to

ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## **Risk Management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Trust, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

## **Future Plans**

The Trustees plan to resume the pattern of disbursement adopted in earlier years. The income from the Trust investment portfolio will be monitored closely to ensure that disbursements do not exceed the income available.



By order of the Trustees

Michael Smith (Trustee)

Date: 14/02/26

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the WJ Thomson Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

### 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) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations).

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 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:

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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

*Kelly Adams*

Name: Kelly Adams  
Relevant professional qualification: Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland  
On behalf of RSM UK Tax and Accounting Limited

Third Floor  
2 Semple Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8BL

Date: 17/02/26

**WJ Thomson Trust**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the Period Ended 31 July 2025**

		16 months to 31 July 2025	Y/E 31 March 2024
	Note	Restricted £	Restricted £
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
Investment income		41,825	28,890
Total incoming resources		<u>41,825</u>	<u>28,890</u>
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>			
Grants awarded		-	-
Total charitable expenditure		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income for the year		41,825	28,890
Gain on investments	3	7,941	64,555
Net movement in funds		<u>49,766</u>	<u>93,445</u>
Total funds at 1 April 2024		<u>1,313,564</u>	<u>1,220,119</u>
<b>Total funds at 31 July 2025</b>		<u><u>1,363,330</u></u>	<u><u>1,313,564</u></u>

**Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Investments</b>	3	1,363,330	1,313,564
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>1,363,330</u>	<u>1,313,564</u>
<b>General Reserve - Endowment</b>		<u><u>1,363,330</u></u>	<u><u>1,313,564</u></u>

The notes on pages 6 and 7 form part of these accounts.

The accounts were approved on 15 December 2025 and are signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Michael Smith (Trustee)

Date: 14/02/26

# WJ Thomson Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

### 1. Accounting Policies

#### a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are shown at market value. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The reporting period has been extended to 16 months from 31 March 2025 to 31 July 2025. As a result, the current period figures may not be directly comparable with those of the previous 12-month period.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. With respect to the next reporting period, the most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Trust are the level of investment return and the performance of investment markets (see the investment policy and performance and risk management sections of the trustees' annual report for more information).

#### b) Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor of the trust deed. All the funds in this trust are regarded as restricted.

#### c) Income recognition

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

#### d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure 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 reliably measured.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Trust. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the award or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier. Grant awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside control of the Trust.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty as to the timing or the amount of the grant payable.

#### f) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals 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 wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or subsectors.

## WJ Thomson Trust

### Notes to the Accounts

#### 1. Accounting Policies (cont'd)

##### g) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are shown combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### 2. Operating Costs

Administration expenses have been borne by SRUC (registered number: SC103046 and charity number: SC003712). The Trustees transferred control over the assets of the Trust to the Directors of SRUC.

#### 3. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Unit Trusts	1,363,330	1,313,564
Movements in fixed asset investments were:		
		2024 £
Carrying value (market value) at 1 April 2024		1,313,564
Additions to investments at cost		41,825
Net Gain on revaluation		7,941
Carrying value (market value) at 31 July 2025		1,363,330

The investments are managed by Rathbone Investment Management Limited on a commission basis.

#### 4. Taxation

No taxation has been provided for during the year as the W J Thomson Trust has charitable status.

#### 5. Related party transactions and trustees' remuneration

The trustees give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or benefit in kind. No expenses were paid to the trustees (2024 – £nil).

There were no related party transactions.



## General

<b>Address</b>	West Mains Road Edinburgh EH9 3JG
<b>Trustees</b>	Prof M Smith Mr A Marshall Prof E Wall Prof N Sparks
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	RSM UK Tax and Accounting Limited Third Floor 2 Semple Street Edinburgh EH3 8BL
<b>Investment Managers</b>	Rathbone Investment Management Limited George House 50 George Square Glasgow G2 1EH