

The Royal Observatory Edinburgh Trust

Scotland · Charity number SC013784

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	1980-01-17
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address
Institute for Astronomy
Royal Observatory
Blackford Hill
Edinburgh
EH9 3HJ

Website <http://www.roe.ac.uk/>

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

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

What the charity does: Ultimately the purpose of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh Trust is to advance education, science and scholarship. The principal means by which it seeks to achieve these ends are (i) to inspire and inform the public through stimulating an interest in astronomy and related sciences and (ii) more specifically to promote the public understanding of the work carried out by the institutions occupying the Royal Observatory Edinburgh site and the history and heritage of these institutions. In particular it seeks to preserve and encourage both public and scholarly interest in the heritage of the Observatory site. It also encourages more general public interest in, and understanding of, astronomy and related sciences. It furthers these aims by, inter alia, running projects aimed at, or providing equipment for use by, the public, and by organising both public lectures and more specialist meetings for scholars.

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

Objectives: 4 The objectives for which the The Royal Observatory Edinburgh Trust (hereinafter 'the organisation') is established are ultimately to benefit the public by advancing education, science and scholarship. The means by which it pursues these objectives are: 4.1 to inspire and inform the public through stimulating an interest in astronomy and related sciences. 4.2 to promote the public understanding of the work carried out by the institutions occupying the Royal Observatory Edinburgh site and the history and heritage of these institutions. 4.3 to foster conservation of, and public interest in, the heritage of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh site and the historic artefacts and archives associated with the site. and 4.4 to encourage and facilitate scholarly study of the history of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh site and the

scholarly use of the library, archives and historic artefacts associated with the site.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** City of Edinburgh
- **Geographical spread:** More than one local authority area in Scotland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-05	£0	£0	-	0
2024-10-05	£6,690	£0	-	0
2023-10-05	£6,210	£1,988	-	0
2022-10-05	£6,210	£1,988	-	0
2021-10-05	£335	£696	-	0
2020-10-05	£335	£696	-	0

The Royal Observatory Edinburgh Trust

Scotland - Charity number SC013784

Accounts

APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	06	10	2023	To	05	10	2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Royal Observatory Edinburgh Trust
Other names charity is known by	ROE Trust
Registered charity number	SC013784
Charity's principal address	Royal Observatory, Blackford Hill, Edinburgh.
	Postcode EH9 3HJ

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	[Redacted]	Chair	} Appointed by existing
2			} Trustees of the ROE
3			} Trust.
4			}
5			}
6			}
7		From 12 Jan. 2024.	}
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
-	

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Written Constitution (lodged with OSCR).

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Recruited and appointed by existing Trustees of the ROE Trust following the stipulations and procedure specified in the Trust's Constitution.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

Advancing education, science and scholarship. Particularly public outreach in astronomy, focussed on, but not limited to, the work of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh. Also the conservation of, study of, and public understanding of the history of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh and other aspects of astronomy.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

- (1) Collaboration with the Prof. C.E.C. Heymans, Astronomer Royal for Scotland (herself a Trustee) on the SYTN Project which aims to put portable telescopes in the Scottish school Outdoor Centres for the use of pupils visiting these centres.
- (2) By arrangement giving tours of the Royal Observatory Edinburgh for interested groups.
- (3) Assisting Observatory staff with preparations for the proposed refurbishment of the historic main (1894) building on site.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

(1) An evaluation of the types of telescope which might be suitable for use in the SYTN Project and investigation of how they might be used at the Outdoor Centres. In collaboration with 2 of the Outdoor Centres a pilot study was started to evaluate several types of telescope and their use with visiting groups of pupils. This study was still underway at the end of the reporting period.

(2) One tour of the Observatory was organised for an interested party.

(3) The ROE Trust acted to facilitate bringing to Edinburgh the 'Our Fragile Space' outdoor photographic exhibition created by Max Alexander. The exhibition was displayed in the plaza adjacent to the Royal Scottish Academy during spring 2024 as part of the 2024 Edinburgh Science Festival. Note that there were financial transactions in connection with this exhibition but they occurred after 5 October 2024 and so do not feature in the annual accounts to that date.

(4) The Observatory holds a large collection of astronomical glass photographic plates dating from the late 19th to the early 21st century. These plates are fragile and need careful handling. A note was written advising on the requirements to safely move and store these plates during the anticipated refurbishment of the 1894 building.

(5) The 1894 building holds a number of elderly artefacts, many of some historic significance. These items are largely uncatalogued and a start was made in constructing an inventory of them. This work as in progress at the end of the period.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The ROE Trust seeks to retain adequate financial reserves to facilitate its work.

Details of any deficit

None.

Donated facilities and services (if any)

The Trustees and Secretary (who is not a Trustee) contribute voluntary effort to further its objectives. Some facilities, notably permission to book a room in which to hold Trust meetings and provision of some computing infrastructure is provided by the Astronomy Technology Centre (ATC) which is located at the ROE. The ATC is an establishment of the UK Science and Technology Research Council.

Other optional information**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

*OSCR will accept
digital or typed
signatures*

Full name(s)

Position (e.g. Chair)

Date

Trustee	TRUSTEE, CHAIR
26/06/25	27/6/2025

Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	6	10	2023		5	10	2024

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	351	6,339			6,690	3,434
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
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					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	351	6,339	-	-	6,690	3,434
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	351	6,339	-	-	6,690	3,434
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	94
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	2,274
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	2,368
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	2,368
Net receipts / (payments)	351	6,339	-	-	6,690	1,066
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	351	6,339	-	-	6,690	1,066

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	9,307	8,347			17,654	16,589
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	351	6,339			6,690	1,065
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	9,658	14,686	-	-	24,344	17,654
(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))							

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					-
		Total	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	{ Money owed to the Secretary for	Unrestricted	936	
	{ payments made from personal account			
	{ on behalf of the Trust (travel			
	{ expenses for Trustee; Accountant's			
	{ fee.			
		Total	936	-

Categories	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

26/06/25
27/6/2025

Section C Notes to the Accounts

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

There is a single restricted fund which is for the SYTN (Scottish Youth Telescopes Network) project. Money held in this fund is used solely for the SYTN project, particularly for the purchase of telescopes for the Outdoor Centres.

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
--	---

Authority under which paid

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

	£

C4a Trustee expenses

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

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

--

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 £
Edinburgh Science Festival	202				202	
Glasgow World Con (SF convention)		599			599	
Donation by Prof. C.E.C. Heymans		5,740			5,740	
Donation for tour of the Observatory	150				150	
Donations for booklets						95
Donation from Noble Events Ltd for talks						3,230
Total	352	6,339	-	-	6,691	3,325
	reference	- #	- #	- #	reference	# reference

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Total	-	-	-	-
	-	- #	#	- #

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 £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Additional analysis (2)**5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds**

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	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
	ROE Trust (unrestricted)					
Receipts						
Donations	351				351	204
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
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	351	-	-	-	351	204
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	351	-	-	-	351	204
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	2,368
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	2,368
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	2,368
Net receipts / (payments)	351	-	-	-	351	(2,164)
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	351	-	-	-	351	(2,164)

Nature and purpose of funds

Funds held by the Trust which are available, under the direction of the Trustees, for any purpose within the scope and remit of the Trust.

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
SYTN						
Receipts						
Donations	6,339				6,339	3,230
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
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	6,339	-	-	-	6,339	3,230
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,339	-	-	-	6,339	3,230
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net receipts / (payments)	6,339	-	-	-	6,339	3,230
Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	6,339	-	-	-	6,339	3,230

Nature and purpose of funds

--

APPENDIX 3



Report to the
trustees/members of
Scottish Charity Regulator

Registered charity
number

On the accounts of the
charity for the period

Set out on pages

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

v2

Charity name ROYAL OBSERVATORY EDINBURGH TRUST.						
SC 013784						
Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
6	10	2023	to	5	10	2024
						(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:
 - 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

Signed**:

Name:

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

*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.

** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures