

The Squirrels Trust

**Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended 5 April 2026**

(Scottish Charity Number SC035580)

The Squirrels Trust

Charity information

Trustees	EM Sawdon DWH Thomson
Principal Address	22 Meadowside Dundee DD1 1LN
Solicitors	Thorntons Law LLP Whitehall House 33 Yeaman Shore Dundee DD1 4BJ
Independent Examiner	David Taylor CA Henderson Loggie LLP Chartered Accountants The Vision Building 20 Greenmarket Dundee DD1 4QB
Investment Managers, Agents and Trust Secretaries	William Thomson & Sons 22 Meadowside Dundee DD1 1LN
Charity number	SC035580

The Squirrels Trust

Trustees' report

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 5 April 2026. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Trust's Constitution, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and 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 2019. The Trust information set out on page 1 forms part of this report.

Objectives and activities

The Trust Deed states that:

The Trustees shall pay or apply the capital or income in sums of such amount as the Trustees in their absolute discretion may decide to or for the benefit of such charitable institutions as the Trustees may select or in implementing any charitable purposes which the Trustees may resolve upon.

Grant making policy

The Trustees meet regularly to consider the distribution of income in terms of the Trust purposes and review the Trust investments. Reviews are also carried out during the year as considered necessary.

Unsolicited applications for donations are not encouraged and will not normally be acknowledged.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Trust was constituted by a Deed of Trust on 9 April 2004.

The Trust Deed gives the Trustees discretion in regard to payment or application of capital or income of the Trust to charitable institutions or for any charitable purpose the Trustees may decide upon.

The Trust Deed provides that the Trust will terminate on 31 December 2080.

Trustees

The Trustees at the date of this report are shown on page 1.

The power of appointing and removing Trustees rests with the Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

Trustee induction and training prior to new Trustees being approached includes awareness of a Trustee's responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures, and the history and philosophical approach of the Trust. A new Trustee receives copies of the previous year's financial statements, minutes of Trustees' meetings and a copy of the OSCR leaflet "Guidance and Good Practice for Charity Trustees", if appropriate.

Key management personnel

The Trustees consider the board of Trustees to be the key management personnel of the Trust, in charge of directing and controlling the Trust and running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration or expenses were paid in the year.

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and in accordance with the Trust's policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

The Squirrels Trust

Trustees' report (continued)

Achievements and performance

The Trustees noted the level of income received increased from £13,180 to £14,044. Donations of £6,500 (2025 - £9,000) were awarded in the year.

Financial review

The results of the year are set out in the statement of financial activities showing a surplus of £61,436 (2025 –deficit of £84,286). The Trust's investment portfolio increased in value from £546,484 to £602,659.

Investment policy and performance

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. The policy is to produce a balance of income and capital growth.

Risk management

The principal risk faced by the Trust lie in the performance of investments. The Trustees consider variability of investment returns to constitute the Trust's major financial risk. This is mitigated by having a diversified investment portfolio.

Reserves policy

The reserves of the Trust originate from the original gift from the settlor of the Trust, the assets donated from The Lairig Trust and the growth in the valuation of investments. The Trustees have adopted a reserves policy that ensures the continuing ability of the Trust to meet its objectives. Reserves are retained primarily to meet significant requests for financial assistance. The level of free reserves held at 5 April 2026 was £626,215 (2025: £564,779).

Strategy

The Trustees will pursue their strategy of making grants to charities to an extent which absorbs as nearly as is practicable the whole incoming resources on a rolling basis in future years.

Future strategy

The Trust is predominantly a grant giving charity and has no material ongoing commitments. The Trustees are mindful both of the potentially increased needs of many traditional beneficiaries and the potential decrease in future investment income and will manage the Trust's affairs in a manner that will ensure the Trust's ability to achieve its charitable objectives in the medium to long term can be met.

The report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31 July 2026 and were signed on their behalf by:

EM Sawdon

DWH Thomson

EM Sawdon
Trustee

DWH Thomson
Trustee

The Squirrels Trust

Statement of 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 (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 Trust and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Trust 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 (FRS102);
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Trust's constitution. They 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.

The Squirrels Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Squirrels Trust

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2026 which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

This report is made to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of my engagement. My work has been undertaken to enable me to report my opinion as set out below and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the trustees, as a body, for my work or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and 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 (as amended). 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 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
 - 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.

David Taylor

David Taylor CA
Partner
For and on behalf of Henderson Loggie LLP
Chartered Accountants
The Vision Building
20 Greenmarket
Dundee
DD1 4QB

5 August
..... 2026

The Squirrels Trust

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 5 April 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Total 2026 £	Unrestricted Total 2025 £
Income from:			
Investment income	2	14,044	13,180
Total income		14,044	13,180
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	3	369	367
Charitable activities	4	8,414	10,842
Total expenditure		8,782	11,209
Net income and net movement in funds before gains/(losses) on investments		5,261	1,971
Net gains/(losses) on investments	6	56,175	(86,257)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		61,436	(84,286)
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds at 5 April 2025		564,779	649,065
Total funds at 5 April 2026	9	626,215 =====	564,779 =====

All activities relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

The Squirrels Trust

Balance sheet at 5 April 2026

	Note	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	6		602,659		546,484
Current assets					
Cash at bank		30,012		27,182	
Current liabilities					
Sundry creditors	7	(6,456)		(8,887)	
Net current assets			23,556		18,295
Net assets			626,215		564,779
			=====		=====
The funds of the Trust:					
Unrestricted funds	9		626,215		564,779
			=====		=====

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31 July 2026 and were signed on their behalf by:

EM Sawdon

EM Sawdon
Trustee

DWH Thomson

DWH Thomson
Trustee

The Squirrels Trust

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

Trust information

The Squirrels Trust is a charity registered in Scotland. The principal address is 22 Meadowside, Dundee, DD1 1LN.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investments and include the results of the Trust's operations as indicated in the Report of the Trustees, all of which are continuing.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued in 2019, 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.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Trust. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Trustees in the presentation of the financial statements.

Income recognition

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

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Trust; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividends yield of the investment portfolio.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Trust to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to allocation of support and governance costs.

The Squirrels Trust

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure recognition (continued)

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 grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the one-year or multi-year grant. 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 of the control of the Trust.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Raising funds

Raising funds consist of investment management costs.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities include grants paid and support costs as shown in note 4.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs include costs related to the independent examination and secretarial services.

Investment policy

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 Trust does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

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

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 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 investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Squirrels Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes cash held in a deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Trust has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The Trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Structure

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Trust and which have not been designated for any other purpose.

2	Investment income	2026	2025
		£	£
	Dividends	13,283	12,333
	Interest	761	847
		14,044	13,180
		=====	=====
3	Raising funds	2026	2025
		£	£
	Investment fees	369	367
		===	===

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Notes to the financial statements (continued)

4 Charitable activities

The Trust does not undertake any activity directly but meets its charitable purposes by making grants.

	2026 £	2025 £
Charitable organisation		
Save the Children	1,000	1,000
DEC – Myanmar Earthquake Appeal / Ukraine Appeal	-	3,000
Duke of Edinburgh Award	3,500	5,000
Tearfund	2,000	-
	6,500	9,000
Support costs (note 5)	1,914	1,842
	8,414	10,842
	=====	=====

5 Support costs

2026	Charitable activities £	Governance £	Total 2026 £
Independent examiner's fee	-	762	762
Secretarial services	922	230	1,152
	922	992	1,914
	===	===	=====
2025	Charitable activities £	Governance £	Total 2025 £
Independent examiner's fee	-	692	692
Secretarial services	920	230	1,150
	920	922	1,842
	===	===	=====

Key management personnel

No Trustees received any remuneration or expenses in either of the two years ended 5 April 2026.

The Trust has no employees.

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Notes to the financial statements (continued)

6	Investments	2026 £	2025 £
	At 6 April 2025		
	At cost	178,287	178,287
	Unrealised appreciation	368,197	454,454
	At 6 April 2025, at fair value	546,484	632,741
	Movement in the year		
	Increase/(decrease) in unrealised appreciation	56,175	(86,257)
	At 5 April 2026, at fair value	602,659 =====	546,484 =====
	Represented by		
	Investments at cost	178,287	178,287
	Unrealised appreciation	424,372	368,197
		602,659 =====	546,484 =====

All investments are listed on a recognised stock exchange.

The Trustees consider investment holdings in excess of 5% of the portfolio value to be material.

	Fair value 5 April 2026 £	Fair value 5 April 2025 £
Material interests		
Alliance Witan	219,812	193,678
Blackrock Greater Europe Investment Trust	84,940	80,027
Edinburgh Investment Trust	117,443	105,609
Invesco Global plc	180,464	-
Martin Currie Portfolio Investment Trust	-	167,170
	=====	=====

Investment Risks

FRS 102 requires the disclosure of information in relation to certain investment risks. These risks are set out by FRS 102 as follows:

Credit risk: this is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

Market risk: this comprises currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

- Currency risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.
- Interest rate risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Other price risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

The Squirrels Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

6 Investments (continued)

Investment Risks (continued)

The Charity has exposure to these risks because of the investments it makes to implement its investment strategy. The Trustees manages investment risks, including credit risk and market risk, within agreed risk limits which are set taking into account the Charity's strategic investment objectives. These investment objectives and risk limits are implemented through the investment manager agreements in place with the Charity's investment managers and monitored by the Trustees by regular reviews of the investment portfolios.

Credit risk

The Charity invests in pooled investment vehicles and is therefore directly exposed to credit risk in relation to the instruments it holds in the pooled investment vehicles and is indirectly exposed to credit risks arising on the financial instruments held by the pooled investment vehicles.

Analysis of direct credit risk

Direct credit risk arising from pooled investment vehicles is mitigated by the underlying assets of the pooled arrangements being ring-fenced from the pooled manager, the regulatory environments in which the pooled managers operate and diversification of investments amongst a number of pooled arrangements. The Trustees carry out due diligence checks on the appointment of new pooled investment managers and on an ongoing basis monitor any changes to the regulatory and operating environment of the pooled manager.

Pooled investment arrangements used by the Charity comprise authorised unit trusts.

Indirect credit risk arises in relation to underlying investments held in the bond pooled investment vehicles. This risk is mitigated by only investing in pooled funds which invest in at least investment grade credit rated securities.

Other price risk

Other price risk arises principally in relation to equities held in pooled vehicles. The Charity manages this exposure to other price risk by constructing a diverse portfolio of investments across various markets.

7 Sundry creditors

	2026 £	2025 £
Accruals	6,456 =====	8,887 =====

The Squirrels Trust

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

8	Financial instruments	2026	2025
		£	£
	Carrying amount of financial instruments		
	Financial assets measured at fair value through statement of financial activities	602,659	546,484
		=====	=====
	Financial asset measured at fair value through statement of financial activities comprises listed investments.		
9	Unrestricted funds	2026	2025
		£	£
	At 6 April 2025	564,779	649,065
	Revenue surplus for the year	5,261	1,971
	Net increase/(decrease) in unrealised appreciation	56,175	(86,257)
		=====	=====
	At 5 April 2026	626,215	564,779
		=====	=====

10 Commitments

The charity has committed to providing annual support to Save the Children each year for the foreseeable future. While there is no formal agreement specifying an end date, the trustees currently intend to continue this support. Only the amount committed for the current financial year has been recognised in the accounts.