

EDINBURGH  
REFUGEE  
SPONSORSHIP  
CIRCLE



# Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Trustees' Annual Report

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

## Charity Information

Charity name	Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle
Scottish Charity Number	SC050349
Address	308 Ferry Road Edinburgh
Postcode	EH5 3NP
Website	<a href="https://www.refugeesponsorshipcircle.org/">https://www.refugeesponsorshipcircle.org/</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/edinsponsorcircle/">https://www.instagram.com/edinsponsorcircle/</a>

## Charity Trustees

Trustee name	Date joined the Board	Officebearer

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## Introduction

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle (“ERSC”)’s Board of Trustees is excited to report on our fourth year as a charity. Building on the strength of our first three years as a charity, this financial year has been another busy period as detailed further in our “Achievements and performance” section below.

ERSC has several ambitious and wide-reaching objectives, and we continue to be focused on resettling refugee families to Edinburgh, supporting those we have welcomed in the past, and raising awareness of the UK Community Sponsorship Scheme.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all our Members, volunteers and donors for helping us achieve so much in the charity’s reporting period.

## Strategic Report

### Objectives and activities

We started ERSC to help families fleeing conflict zones resettle in Edinburgh through the Community Sponsorship Scheme. Our organisational objectives go beyond this aim and are set out in our Constitution. In summary, our objectives are to:

1. ensure that families arriving through the Community Sponsorship Scheme and other refugees and asylum seekers are provided with the appropriate services;
2. promote the advancement of citizenship by bringing diverse communities together, establishing friendships and strengthening support networks for refugees, asylum seekers and those who support them;
3. promote the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by working with local councils, other community groups and individuals to advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers around the world; and

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4. educate communities of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and raise awareness of the United Kingdom Home Office's Community Sponsorship Scheme to empower other communities to take part in the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

This year we have continued to address these ambitious objectives by continuing to support the two families we resettled. To become a Community Sponsor, the Home Office require groups to:

- demonstrate that they have personnel with sufficient skills and experience to support a resettled family;
- demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to support a resettled family (a minimum £9000 per family);
- find and secure affordable housing;
- obtain consent from local councils and the police service; and
- develop a credible plan for supporting that family.

In September 2021, the first family arrived in Edinburgh following months of preparation. There was a strong support network waiting for the family in Edinburgh to assist with: setting up their home, registration with local schools, doctors, dentists and Job Centre, English classes, and general support.

In February 2023, the second family arrived in Edinburgh, again following months of preparation.

We continued to run fundraising events which also provide the opportunity for us to raise awareness of current refugee crises and promote the Community Sponsorship Scheme. We have built strong relationships with groups like STAR Edinburgh and Vegware, who are supporting us with regular funds.

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Our objectives state that we will raise awareness of the scheme within Scotland and more broadly the UK. In the reporting period, ERSC has played an important role in bringing the Community Sponsorship Scheme to the attention of many Scottish communities. We have become the Lead Sponsor for a newly established Community Sponsorship group in Glasgow.

ERSC is also a member of the Community Sponsorship Alliance UK (CSA UK), which is independent, grass-rooted, hands-on, strategists, researchers, experts by experience, community mobilisers, educationalists, entrepreneurs; and experienced in the Community Sponsorship way of welcome that many of us have been involved with since the birth of the scheme in 2016.

## Achievements and performance

### *Family 1*

Family 1 has been thriving and continued to be actively involved in our fundraising initiatives and community events. Two maths tutors have been recruited to support two of their children and most excitingly, we have been making great progress in our ambitious journey of purchasing the flat they currently live in via a Declaration of Trust in winter 2025.

### *Family 2*

Family 2 have settled in well and are close to celebrating their 2-year anniversary in Edinburgh. ERSC volunteers are actively engaged in language, health and social support and we have built a trusted relationship with both family members.

### *Volunteers*

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We are now a group of 37 volunteers. Every single volunteer has brought incredible skills, enthusiasm and commitment to supporting the families we welcomed and the wider organisation. We are particularly grateful for the many volunteers with lived expertise giving us their time and invaluable insight and experience.

We are in awe of the diversity in backgrounds and skills that volunteers bring to our organisation and are particularly happy about the positive feedback and the continuous engagement of volunteers who have moved away via for example our grant-making subgroup.

### *Fundraising and grants*

Our previously mentioned grant team has been working tirelessly to secure us additional financial support via grants. The monthly grant from Vegware is particularly useful as it is unrestricted funding allowing us to fill any support gaps, focus on organisational development and organise celebratory events. We were delighted to hear that this grant was extended for another year. Our dedicated fundraising team has organised several fundraising events including at the Leith Walk Police Box and the Colony of Artists weekend.

We are unable to properly express how incredible our Members, volunteers and community have been in supporting us during our first three years. As a community and volunteer driven organisation, we rely on people's generosity of time, money and expertise; something that we never lacked during the reporting period!

### **What's next?**

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We remain committed to supporting all families in a person-centred, trauma-informed and community-powered way. As a Community Sponsorship group our main objective, and commitment remains to the continuous resettlement and support of refugee families and individuals in Edinburgh.

We furthermore look forward to establishing the ERSC family committee, a co-production group of representatives of ERSC-sponsored families initially beginning in Edinburgh, aimed at sharing best practice and informing our strategic planning.

As a member of CSA UK we are continuously involved in informing wider Community Sponsorship related policymaking and will continue to advocate for human rights, trust in Community, appropriate support and the Scottish perspective.

We have recently become the Lead Sponsor for a Community Sponsorship group in Glasgow. We are looking forward to supporting them in their journey.

## Principal risks & uncertainties

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The Board is aware of several key risks and uncertainties which guide our decision-making and planning for the future.

The Board is monitoring the costs of living in the UK and the impact this will have on a refugee family relying entirely on benefits.

The Board is conscious of a few other risks that could affect our activities and the level of support we can provide. These risks include:

- the availability of Arabic speakers and speakers of other community languages to provide crucial support to the family,
- lack of availability of our experienced Members and volunteers to help in a wide range of areas;
- the availability of housing;
- the future of the Community Sponsorship Scheme;
- the willingness of the community to continue donating to our cause.

The Board is aware that there are a range of uncertainties that exist with each new family being resettled. Various levels and types of support are needed for different families which makes it difficult to plan and resource for each family at the outset. However, we are confident that as we continue to build a strong network of volunteers and Members, we will be able to devise contingencies and address future challenges.

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## Financial Review

During the reporting period our fundraising activities generated receipts of £8,494. The sources of these funds are summarised below:

- Donations - £4,271
- Grants - £1,950
- Receipts from other charitable activities - £2,523

### Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is our policy to maintain funds at a level sufficient to cover administration of the charity.

Our intended use of reserves include:

- Spending on unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs. For example, unexpected charges/fees that a resettled family might need to pay urgently.
- Planned commitments which may need higher levels of reserves.
- Funds to allow for social activities that further the charity's objectives. For example, a welcome gathering or tour of the city upon arrival of a family being resettled.
- Overheads for fundraising events, such as venue hire and food costs.

### Details of any surplus

The overall surplus of funds reported in the period is a result of decreased charitable expenditure due to family 2 now being resettled, and an increase in our fundraising efforts moving forward with further resettlements in the future.

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## Donated facilities and services

As part of our Chuffed fundraiser, there were a number of services that our Members and volunteers provided as “Perks” to donors.

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## Structure, Governance and Management

### Organisational structure

ERSC is a two-tier SCIO (table 2). ERSC is governed by its constitution which was submitted to OSCR along with the application for registration as a charity in June 2020.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of Members and Trustees is summarised below:

#### Members

- Our Members have important powers under the constitution. In particular, the Members appoint the people that serve on the Board of Trustees, can direct the activities of the Board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself.
- Membership is open to any individual (aged 16 and over) who supports the purposes of the charity. Individuals wishing to join ERSC as a member must complete an application form (which is reviewed by the Board) and undergo an onboarding process which involves an interview and character reference checks. Members are also asked to sign an agreement to comply with our Safeguarding and Data Security policies.

#### Trustees

- The Board of Trustees manage the activities of the organisation, including Member recruitment and controlling the financial position of the charity.
- The Board is accountable to the Members and must arrange an annual general meeting (AGM) in each year to report on the organisation's activities and accounts.
- Trustees are appointed for a term of one year and election/re-election of Trustees takes place at the AGM.

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- During the reporting period (July 2023 to June 2024) the Trustees met four times via video conference/in person. Meetings minutes were collated and were convened to discuss the financial position of the charity, approval of new members, charity processes and organisational/strategic planning. One half of trustees constitutes a quorum for decision making.

Members and Trustees commit to give their time and expertise freely and no remuneration was paid during this reporting period. There were no conflicts of interest raised during this reporting period.

We are also fortunate to have the help of volunteers that help us with our fundraising activities. Throughout the year they have supplied our stalls with baking, crafts and much more, as well as helped to coordinate our fundraising efforts. They are non-voting supporters of the charity who have not undergone the on-boarding process and therefore don't have access to privileged information.

### **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

At any one time there can be a maximum of eleven Trustees.

In line with the Constitution, the Members may elect any Member to serve on the Board of Trustees at each AGM. At any time, the Board may also appoint a Member or non-member to be a Trustee, if they have specialist experience and/or skills which could assist the charity in meeting its aims. A person is not eligible to serve on the Board if they have been disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or they are employed by the charity.

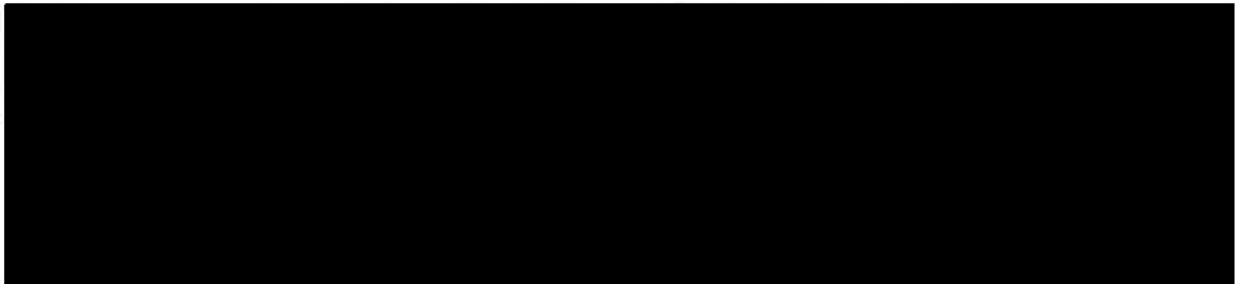
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# Auditors Report

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Designation

CHARITY TRUSTEE / TREASURER

Date

25/03/25

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## Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

	<b>Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts</b>
<b>Report to the trustees/members of</b>	Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle
<b>Registered charity number</b>	SC050349
<b>On the accounts of the charity for the year ended</b>	30th June 2024
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	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(as amended) ('the 2006 regulations' ) 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 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 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 accounts.
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention :</p> <p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>• to prepare accounts with accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or</li> </ul> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Relevant professional qualification</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

## Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01	July	Year 2023	to	30	June	2024
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## Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Expendable to nearest £	Permanent to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Total funds last to nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations	4,271				4,271	782
Legacies					-	
Grants	1,700	250			1,950	1,125
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	1,693
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable	2,523				2,523	506
					-	
<b>A1 Sub total</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,744</b>	<b>4,106</b>
<b>A2 Receipts from asset &amp;</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>A2 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,744</b>	<b>4,106</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities	193				193	417
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
<del>Payments relating directly to charitable</del>	<del>2,505</del>				<del>2,505</del>	<del>8,582</del>
Grants and donations	411	250			661	550
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	130				130	130
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs	461				461	
Other					-	
					-	
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>9,679</b>
<b>A4 Payments relating to asset and</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>9,679</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>(5,573)</b>
<b>A5 Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>(5,573)</b>

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	6,461				6,461	12,034
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	4,793				4,793	(5,573)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	11,254	-	-	-	11,254	6,461
(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))							

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

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
Total			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
Total			-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			25/03/2025
			25/03/2025





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## 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 £
		-				-	
SUP	Supper Club	540				540	
CHU	Chuffed	1,862				1,862	497
LUSH	Lush	404				404	
EDBOC	Edinburgh Bookshop	669				669	
CAF	CAF	781				781	
DD	Direct Donations	15				15	285
		-				-	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>782</b>

## 2 Grants

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £			Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
VEG	Vegware Community Fund	1,200	-			1,200	600
EDU	Edinburgh University	500	-			500	
KAW	Confidential	-	250			250	
	Corra	-	-			-	525
		-				-	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>250</b>			<b>1,950</b>	<b>1,125</b>

## 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 £
HO	Home Office payments	1,673				1,673	
PB	Police Box	850				850	1,590
	Gift Aid payments					-	506
	Life drawing fundraising event					-	103
						-	
						-	
						-	
						-	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>2,199</b>

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## 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 £
FAM1	Family 1	857				857	2,220
FAM2	Family 2	1,252				1,252	5,838
GENO	General overheads	70				70	68
SUP	Supper Club	163				163	
VOL	Charity and volunteer events	164				164	176
	Clearvoice costs	-				-	280
		-				-	
		-				-	
		-				-	
		-				-	
		-				-	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>8,582</b>

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## Additional analysis (2)

## 5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

		2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>							
Donations		4,271				4,271	782
Legacies						-	-
Grants		1,700				1,700	600
Receipts from fundraising activities						-	1,693
Gross trading receipts						-	-
buildings						-	-
Rents from land & buildings						-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities		2,523				2,523	506
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>8,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>3,581</b>
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>							
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets						-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments						-	-
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>8,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>3,581</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
EXP Expenses for fundraising activities		193				193	417
Gross trading payments						-	-
Investment management costs						-	-
PRC Payments relating directly to charitable activities		2,505				2,505	8,582
GRSO Grants and donations		411				411	550
<b>Governance costs:</b>							
AUD Audit / independent examination		130				130	130
Preparation of annual accounts						-	-
LEG Legal costs		461				461	-
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>3,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>9,679</b>
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>							
Purchases of fixed assets						-	-
Purchase of investments						-	-
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>3,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>9,679</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>		<b>4,793</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>(6,098)</b>
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>							
						-	-
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>		<b>4,793</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>(6,098)</b>
<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>							

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## Additional analysis (3)

## 6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	2024-25 Income	2024-25 Expenditure	2023-24 Income	2023-24 Expenditure	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants	250				250	525
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					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations	250				250	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>525</b>
<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>						