

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023-2024

BE THE DIFFERENCE



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Principal's Introduction

The 2023-24 academic year marked the launch of Strategic Plan 2030, setting the University's course and outlining its ambitions for the years ahead. We enter the next strategic phase on a solid footing as we continue to make important progress across all areas of the organisation.

Over the year, we were competitive in international student recruitment, despite a challenging international context, and we grew our transnational education and partnership activity. As a result, our total global student population is in the order of 18,500.

We continued to invest in our student experience and learning and teaching provision. In turn, our students reflected positively on their time at Stirling with a wide range of subjects ranked top 5 in Scotland in the National Student Survey 2024. Additionally, the University ranked top 30 in the UK for teaching and learning in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2024.

We were named among the top 500 global universities in the QS World University Rankings, while the HESA Graduate Outcomes survey affirmed the importance of a Stirling degree – with 96% of our graduates in employment or further study within 15 months of graduating.

Our performance in the QS World Sustainability Rankings was a significant achievement, with the University ranked in the top 13%, securing our place in the top 200 for the first time; and the THE Impact Rankings placed Stirling in the top 100 institutions in the world for our contribution to meeting 10 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This year, the University also earned prestigious AACSB accreditation, in recognition of excellence in business education, which puts us among the top 6% of business schools globally.

The University continued its central role in delivering the £214 million Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. Scotland's International Environment Centre, a flagship project led by the University, goes from strength to strength; construction work began on the National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub; and important progress was made towards delivering the Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub.

Following the development of Campus Central and our Sports Centre in recent years, we continued to invest in our campus environment. We unveiled a new main entrance to the University and carried out work to enhance our teaching and learning spaces. An accessible lochside path – the Campus Boulevard – directly linking Campus Central with Sport was created.

Our research has continued to deliver positive solutions for people, societies, and industry; not only regionally and nationally, but across the world. Enabled by a dynamic and collaborative research community and strategic, targeted research support, our researchers are breaking new ground in tackling real-world challenges, such as climate change, food security and an ageing population.

More than ever, Stirling research is making a difference; challenging ideas, influencing policy and practice, and changing lives every day.

As Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, our investments in sport continued to reap rewards, with our sports scholars competing at the highest levels. Eight swimmers from the University were selected for the Olympics in Paris and returned with three medals. I am incredibly proud of the achievements of our students and staff, and the progress towards our institutional goals is to be celebrated. As we look ahead, the Strategic Plan 2030 outlines our vision, values, mission and purpose – underpinned by the pillars of People, Place and Purpose – and will ensure that we continue to deliver for our people, our region and our world.

We look ahead with confidence as we take forward our shared commitment to deliver impactful world-leading research, excellence in learning and teaching, and an unrivalled student experience.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'G. McCormac'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Professor Sir Gerry McCormac
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



18,500
students
globally

140+

nationalities
represented
on campus



More than 30%
of our students
are international

Overall, 91%

of international students were satisfied
with their experience at Stirling

(International Student Barometer 2022)



Top 20

in the world For Zero Hunger,
Reduced Inequalities and
Sustainable Cities and
Communities.

(THE 2024 Impact Rankings)



58%

of University Court
members, our governing
body, are female



Top 30
ranking in the
UK for teaching
and learning

Postgraduate Taught Experience
Survey (PTES) for 2024

We are ranked 177th
worldwide and 77th for
Europe for sustainability

(QS World Sustainability Rankings)



6%

total income
growth during
2023-24

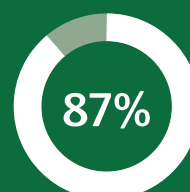


5%

more female
staff than the
sector average



Narrowed our mean
gender pay gap by
4.8% in three years



of the University's
research has an
outstanding or very
considerable impact
on society

(REF 2021)



1. Who we are

The University of Stirling is driven by an ambition to improve the communities we serve locally, nationally, and globally. Creating a sense of community and belonging for students to thrive, our high-quality education and world-leading research has a positive, demonstrable impact on the economy, the environment, and society in Scotland and beyond.

Our student and staff population represent over 140 nationalities, bringing a vibrancy and diversity to student life. Our teaching and research addresses global challenges and aims to improve lives on both a local and global level.

With a focus on innovation and being a force for good, three pillars underpin our strategic aims: people, place and purpose. We strive to be the difference in all that we do.

At Stirling, we believe that everyone has the potential to succeed, and that a person's background should not form a barrier to their future success. This belief is reflected in our approach to widening access – which begins when we engage, inform, and inspire school pupils while mapping out potential future career paths; and continues in our progressive approach to admissions and our emphasis on creating a supportive environment, where we help our students to succeed and thrive.

Our course portfolio is aligned with the needs of prospective students, employers, and wider society – and we are proud that our graduates leave the University with the knowledge, skills and experience required to progress their careers and fulfil their ambitions. As a result, our international network of more than 110,000 alumni are playing a leading role in the societies that they serve.

The University's students are supported by our talented and dedicated staff, who are committed to delivering an excellent teaching and learning experience and are driven to create a culture and environment based on fairness, equality, cultural diversity, inclusion, and respect.

Our researchers are responding to the increasingly complex challenges facing society – working to improve the lives of people with dementia, feeding communities through sustainable aquaculture research and finding creative ways to inspire better health, ageing and wellbeing. Advancing knowledge and influencing thinking, our scientists collaborate with governments, policymakers, businesses, industry and charitable organisations to provide tangible, evidence-based solutions.

As an anchor institution in the local area, the University has a pivotal role to play in helping to improve and enrich the lives of local communities, in contributing to the economic landscape of the Forth Valley region, and in leading the development of sustainable solutions for the local area in response to the global climate change emergency.

As a signatory to the £214 million Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal, the University is driving productivity and inclusive growth across the Forth Valley, and beyond. Through pioneering collaborative solutions to global challenges, researchers are putting innovation, skills, and partnership at the heart of a sustainable economic recovery. Under the Deal, the University will continue to build upon its research prowess with the development of Scotland's International Environment Centre, the National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub, and the Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub.

Additionally, our partnership in the innovative Forth Valley University College NHS Partnership aims to deliver transformational change, opportunity, and improved health outcomes for the communities of Forth Valley and beyond through world-class research, education, skills development, and career opportunities.

2. Our Structure

The University's campus is situated in Central Scotland, set against the stunning backdrop of the Ochil Hills and surrounding a peaceful loch. Our campus creates an inspiring environment for learning, further facilitated by first-class infrastructure developments and learning, teaching and social spaces.

Our academic structure is organised into five faculties across Arts and Humanities, Health Sciences and Sport, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Stirling Management School. The Institute for Advanced Studies supports our expanding research community to reach their potential and conduct world-renowned research. Academic activity is enabled and supported by ten integrated Professional Services directorates.

Across both the UK and globally, the University has a series of collaborative partnerships to enhance our academic delivery. A range of academic and English preparation courses for international students is offered through the INTO University of Stirling joint venture, hosted at the purpose-built, on-campus INTO Centre.

As an international University, we're proud of our partnerships with a number of outstanding global education partners. Through our teaching partnerships we support ambitious students, equipping them with the skills to thrive in our fast-moving world and transform it for the better. We ensure that shared academic values are maintained and student experience is consistent across our global network. The University has cultivated and expanded a number of partnerships, with an eye to extending the opportunity for students across the globe to benefit from our educational programmes. These include Singapore (SIM), Japan (Kwansei Gakuin University) and China (University of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).





3. Our Performance across 2023-24

The University has navigated a complex and evolving external environment, shaped by significant financial, societal and political changes.

The multiple, complicated and often intertwining challenges that the sector faced demanded that institutions operated within an increasingly competitive environment while facing growing financial pressures. The funding landscape has been a long-standing issue for the Scottish sector, marked by numerous real-terms cuts in funding allocations (exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis and inflation increasing to double figures in 2022-23), an increasing dependency on international student recruitment to offset public funding reductions, and the Scottish Funding Council single-year funding settlements making strategic planning projections difficult.

In tandem with funding challenges, universities have encountered significant obstacles in international student recruitment. Examples included changes to the immigration policy for student visas (particularly in relation to dependents), extensive visa delays in spring 2023 resulting in many students being unable to arrive on time for the start of semester, and the uncertainty caused by the UK Government's request of the Migration Advisory Committee to review the Graduate Route in early 2024.

These challenges made it difficult for universities to depend on cross-subsidy and left the sector financially vulnerable on numerous fronts. In May 2024, the Office for Students (OfS) published a **report** stating that 40% (108) of universities in England were expected to deliver budget deficits in 2023-24, with 43 of these expecting to report a deficit for three consecutive years (2021/22 – 2023-24). In Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council's financial forecasts signalled an indicative operating deficit of £3.3m for the sector in 2023-24, down from an operating surplus of £226.5m for 2022-23.

23 courses ranked top 5 in Scotland in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2024 including Biology, Computer Science, Economics, Environmental Sciences, Human Resource Management, Journalism, Literature in English, Mathematics, Media Studies, Paramedic Science, Philosophy, Politics, Social Work, Sport and Exercise Science and Zoology.

More than 80% of Stirling's research is world-leading or internationally excellent

96%
of our graduates are in a positive destination
(Graduate Outcomes 2020-21)

50%
of Executive Directors and Senior Management Team are female

Despite the challenges faced during this period the University demonstrated resilience and successfully navigated these external pressures to achieve its objectives. Three Key Performance Indicators have underpinned our strategic trajectory since 2016: *increase our income by £50 million, be one of the top 25 universities in the UK, and enhance our research profile by 100 percent.* Through focusing on growing and diversifying income streams, the University's total income in 2023-24 was £179.1m, a £69m uplift from the strategic baseline year income. Consciously expanding the number of international students on campus, as well as at our partner institutions, was pivotal in realising this ambition. Whilst the majority of our students continue to come from within the UK, the overall proportion of our international student population has continued to grow as we develop our diverse university community. International students now make up more than 30% of the student population.

Our students continued to reflect positively on their time at Stirling, with a range of courses ranked top 5 in Scotland in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2024, and a top 30 ranking in the UK for teaching and learning in the most recent Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) for 2024.

Grounded in the success delivered under the Strategic Plan 2016-2023, the University was **shortlisted in the University of the Year category of the Times Higher Education Awards 2024**. The awards celebrate institutions that have demonstrated exceptional performance across a range of areas, and our shortlisting reflects the hard work and dedication of staff working in partnership across faculties and professional services to deliver success in learning and teaching, the student experience, research and innovation, internationalisation and sport. The University was also shortlisted in three other categories: Innovative Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year, and Outstanding Marketing/Communications Team.

Led by Stirling Management School, **AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation was achieved**. AACSB is one of the most prestigious and recognisable accolades afforded to just 6% of business schools globally. Achievement of full AACSB accreditation benefits the Management School, the University and its students, staff and business networks. The University is rated five stars overall in the QS Stars University Ratings, and also has five stars for teaching, employability, global engagement, research, facilities, environmental impact, and accounting and finance.

In recognition of our commitment to advancing gender equality, the University has been awarded a prestigious **Silver Athena Swan Charter award**. Stirling joins just four Scottish HE institutions and 38 institutions within the UK to hold a Silver institutional award.

Stirling athletes competed on the world stage once again, **eight swimmers participated in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games**. Duncan Scott won gold in the Men's 4x200m Freestyle Relay and silver in the Men's 200m Individual Medley, making him Scotland's most decorated Olympian, surpassing legendary cyclist Sir Chris Hoy. Jack McMillan also won a gold medal for his role in the freestyle relay team. In football, the men's first team were crowned BUCS Premier North Division Champions for the fourth consecutive season. There was success for the men's basketball team as they won the Scottish Student Sport National Trophy. In tennis, Anna McBride, a first-year sports scholar, won the women's and doubles titles at the Australian Open intellectual impairment (PWII) event for the second consecutive year, and Golf scholars, Alexander Farmer and Lorna McClymont, both won the Scottish Amateur Championships in July 2024.

The University continued to advance its **City Region and Growth Deal** initiatives. In Autumn 2023, the **National Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Hub (NATIH)** reached a major milestone with the formal endorsement of its Full Business Case by both the UK and Scottish Governments. **Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC)** made significant strides in its mission to combat the global climate emergency and foster inclusive growth. Key achievements include the installation of the Forth Environmental Resilience Array (Forth-ERA) sensor network, success of the Young Pathfinders Climate Competition, and strategic collaborations with the Futures Institute at Dollar Academy. The **Intergenerational Living and Innovation Hub (ILIH)** and SIEC phase 2 have combined with Clackmannanshire's Digital Hub to create the Alloa Innovation Campus, with a collective focus of addressing two of society's most pressing challenges: an ageing population and climate change.

Looking to the Future

The 2023-24 academic year was one of transition, the new Strategic Plan was approved by University Court in October 2023, marking a significant milestone for the University. The Plan outlines the University's direction of travel towards 2030 and beyond. With a shared vision to make a positive impact on people's lives and be a force for good, we are guided by the core values of **ambition, integrity, and respect**. Three key pillars underpin the execution of our vision:

PEOPLE

Our community supports one another to deliver excellence in all we do.

PLACE

From our location in Stirling, we make an impact regionally, nationally and globally.

PURPOSE

We are driven by our ambition to enhance lives and be a force for good in the world.

The University aims to be at the forefront of a new era for education and will focus on enhancing the student and staff experience, increasing research excellence, strengthening partnerships, enhancing international reputation and work toward a net zero carbon status by 2040.

The cross-institutional planning priorities for 2024-25 include:

- **Income growth and diversification:** In response to the challenging funding landscape, the University's paramount institutional priorities are income recovery, growth and diversification, forming central components of the developing Finance Strategy. To secure sustainable financial resources and mitigate reliance on government funding, the University will pursue avenues for revenue enhancement through developing innovative programmes that respond to market demands and societal needs, forging new strategic partnerships and exploring opportunities for commercial activities that leverage our expertise and assets.
- **The student experience:** Delivering an excellent student experience is at the forefront of institutional priorities. The University is committed to ensuring that the profile of support and engagement enables students to thrive academically and personally. This entails implementing robust operational oversight mechanisms and timely interventions. Additionally, aligned to the developing Education and Student Experience strategy, the University will review and refine the academic portfolio to ensure relevance and attractiveness to students, and will optimise module choices to better align with students' interests and goals, fostering success, and enhancing the overall educational experience.
- **Building our student and staff community:** The University's ways of working have evolved, notably with the introduction of the Agile Working Framework. Central to this priority, and the enabling People Strategy, is retaining and developing staff talent while building a strong leadership pipeline. The University will continue to engage staff through the 'Be Heard' initiative to foster an inclusive and supportive staff experience. Cross-team collaboration will be enhanced through better use of spaces, and continuous enhancements to administrative systems will ensure efficient support services for staff and students alike. These efforts aim to create a dynamic, inclusive, collaborative, and innovative community.
- **Research and innovation:** The new Research and Innovation enabling strategy will build on the University's successes through a series of interconnected missions by harnessing the collective expertise of Stirling's researchers to address societal challenges and effect meaningful improvements in the quality of *spaces, places and lives*. The strategy aims to foster a thriving research community that drives transformative change. The University will continue to embed the City Region and Growth Deal Programme, using strategic partnerships to promote innovation and economic development in the region and beyond.
- **Global engagement and partnerships:** The new Global Engagement enabling strategy focuses on boosting the University's international reputation, building a global learning community, and ensuring sustainable overseas income and recruitment. The University will leverage opportunities from membership of networks like YERUN, HERMES and AACSB while developing new partnerships and expanding TNE and dual degree offerings.
- An international hub will support the 'internationalisation at home' initiative, providing resources for international students and staff and offering intercultural training. These efforts aim to create an inclusive, diverse community that enriches the educational experience for all.

Our people

Our people are the key to the University's success and we are proud of our diverse and vibrant community of staff and students. We continue to be an employer of choice for both local and international talent. The University encourages ambition, rewards excellence, and fosters innovation in all staff careers. In 2022, the University launched its Agile Working Framework, which further demonstrated our commitment to ensuring staff are able to enjoy a healthy work-life balance.

To further support staff's wellbeing, our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) offers emotional, psychological and practical help for personal and work-related issues. The University is committed to ensuring fair work practices are in place in support of 'Fair Work First', jointly agreed alongside the local Trade Union Representatives (UCU, Unison, Unite). This includes payment of the Real Living Wage, investment in workplace development, and action to tackle the gender pay gap. Our Fair Work Statement is available [here](#).

Equality and Diversity

Since the establishment of the University in 1967, a core value has been championing equality of opportunity. Our charter states that “the University shall be committed to the fair and equal treatment of every person and shall not discriminate on unjustified, irrelevant or unlawful grounds”.

We strongly value and celebrate the diversity of our staff and students and aim to create an environment where everyone is respected equally and able to reach their full potential. The promotion and mainstreaming of equality and diversity is fundamental to all that we do. Our ambition is to create and nurture a culture based on fairness, equality, respect, inclusion and diversity and our activity for the coming year is laid out within our institutional **Equality Outcomes 2021-2025**.

We are committed to ensuring that all staff experience a welcoming, inclusive and supportive culture and working environment and are able to fulfil their potential as employees of the University.

The Athena Swan Charter is a framework which addresses gender equality and the University now holds a Silver award. The Silver award recognises a substantial record of activity and progress towards embedding inclusivity across the institution and demonstrates our commitment to gender equality and wider equality, diversity and inclusion aims. Successes include our sector-leading approach to **gender-based violence**, to our **Agile Working Framework** and **gender-balanced leadership**.

Investment in our academic staff has increased by 5% since 2022 and representation of women has also increased, growing our proportion of female academic leaders by 5.2% between 2018-2024. 44% of our professors are now female, 60% of our executive team are women, and our gender pay gap has also narrowed by 4.8% in the past three years alone.

Our commitment is not restricted to gender and takes an increasingly intersectional approach. Our strategic approach to **anti-racism, race equality and interculturalism** has demonstrably contributed to student experience; we are delighted to see that Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic students have been more likely to continue past their first year of study, in comparison with the overall non-continuation rate, since 2017-18.

Similarly, our strong support for disabled students has led this population to be more likely to continue past their first year of study, and the proportion of disabled students attaining degrees has also increased. This inclusive approach continues as students move into employment. The University of Stirling’s Enterprise Programme is enhancing engagement with entrepreneurship, illustrating how diversity drives innovation through the **See it, Be it** pilot, and the University’s Student Skills and Employability Service recently achieved a prestigious Silver Charter Award from LGBT Youth Scotland.

We have developed a positive culture where disabled employees are able to develop to their full potential. We value a diverse workforce which includes the representation of disabled staff, and will continue to enhance and embed our approach to supporting disabled staff, through policy and good practice and in accordance with current legislation.

Students at Stirling believe in the inclusive culture we are creating. In 2024, 91% of first-year to third-year undergraduates surveyed believed that the University is “committed to equality, diversity and inclusion”. Our work on inclusive curriculum is also having demonstrable impact; in 2023, 84% of students responded positively that “the delivery, content and assessment was inclusive for students from all backgrounds”. This positive feedback stems from evaluations across all modules and levels, meeting our institutional ambitions to embed inclusive practice across all areas of the University. This inclusive environment is also key to our external recognition; in 2024, our work on inclusion led Stirling to join the top 100 universities globally for Equality and Health and Wellbeing in the QS Sustainability Rankings.



4. Sustainability

The University of Stirling is committed to addressing the sustainability agenda and playing our role in the need to build a fairer and greener society in support of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. Through our Sustainability Plan 2022 – 2028 we have embedded the UN Sustainability Development Goals across six themes to support a transition to a fairer, and more sustainable world.

Our commitment is reflected in a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing the University's carbon footprint and promoting sustainable practices across the campus and wider community.

Our researchers are at the forefront of efforts to develop innovative responses to climate change, enabling adaptation and resilience and driving forward carbon neutral prosperity. A flagship project in this endeavour is Scotland's International Environment Centre (SIEC), which focuses on addressing the global climate emergency through research, innovation and community engagement. The SIEC's Forth Environmental Resilience Array (Forth-ERA) sensor network exemplifies Stirling's drive to monitor and enhance environmental resilience in the region.

As signatories to both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Accord and the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges campaign, the University has publicly committed not only to protecting our environment and to the reduction of our own carbon emissions but also to the development of a range of socially sustainable solutions.

Additionally, the University is a key signatory to the Forth Valley for Net Zero which commits Stirling to sharing best practice with our strategic partners and to help the region achieve net zero status by 2040.

The University's world-leading influence on sustainability was evidenced in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024. Within the UK, we placed 1st in the UK and 14th globally for the Zero Hunger SDG and ranked 4th in the UK for both the Gender Equality SDG and the Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG. The University also ranked 20th globally for the Reduced Inequalities and Sustainable Cities and Communities. In total, we placed in the global 100 for 10 out of 11 submitted SDGs.

Our annual carbon emissions are published within the Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting, with the latest report available [here](#).



**Carbon (Energy)
Management**



**Sustainable Waste
and Recycling**



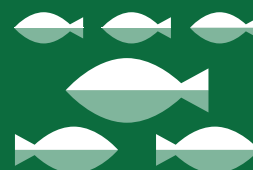
**Finance and Sustainable
Procurement**



**People, Green Travel
and Partnerships**



**Sustainability
in Teaching,
Learning & Research**



**Climate Adaptation
and Biodiversity**

5. Strategic Risks

Our approach to risk management enables the University to identify and evaluate the most significant threats and opportunities that could impact on the delivery of the University's strategic objectives. An overview of institutional strategic risks aligned with cross-cutting strategic themes are below:

Financial	
Geopolitical instability and a challenging economic environment (constraints caused by funding settlements and UK immigration policy) presents the risk that University income could be materially impacted, leading to either significant cuts or threats to University financial stability.	The University has proactively grown its income streams to mitigate against the constrained public funding settlements, challenges of a constrained public funding environment and geopolitical volatility. We continue to take a proactive approach to recruitment, marketing and portfolio development and diversification to ensure the financial sustainability of the University.
Student Experience	
Due to an evolving profile and student population, changing student expectations and growth in student numbers, there is a risk that the student experience is diminished, leading to poor outcomes including academic underperformance or unsatisfactory perception and reputation of the University.	The University continues to be committed to ensuring that the profile of support and engagement enables students to thrive academically and personally. This entails implementing robust operational oversight mechanisms and timely interventions. Through the enabling Education Strategy, the University will review and refine the academic portfolio to ensure relevance and attractiveness to students and will optimise module choices to better align with students' interests and goals, fostering success and enhancing the overall educational experience.
Research	
Due to a challenging and changeable external environment there is a risk the University does not capitalise on the Research Excellence Framework (REF), sustain growth of our research portfolio and increase the value of our research and innovation awards and income and research outcome successes.	The University continues to be committed to ensuring that the profile of support and engagement enables students to thrive academically and personally. This entails implementing robust operational oversight mechanisms and timely interventions. Through the enabling Education Strategy, the University will review and refine the academic portfolio to ensure relevance and attractiveness to students and will optimise module choices to better align with students' interests and goals, fostering success and enhancing the overall educational experience.
Campus and Estates	
Due to the rising cost of energy and construction associated with inflationary pressures there is a risk that the campus infrastructure will not be sufficiently developed to support the University's strategy. Additionally, there is a risk to delivery of carbon reduction expectations (e.g. net zero) due to challenges associated with monitoring carbon reduction milestones, a turbulent external environment and funding limitations.	Recognising the rising costs of energy and construction in a challenging economic environment, the University has adapted its projects and expenditure. We will prioritise and risk assess our expenditure on infrastructure as part of our Infrastructure Plan. A reduction in energy usage is being driven by our Sustainability Plan, to ensure the University is able to meet its net zero ambitions.
Security (cyber)	
Due to a failure to adequately maintain/develop technology and develop staff and student knowledge, there is a risk that service delivery and business continuity is seriously affected, leading to reputation damage and serious financial impacts.	As part of our digital strategy we have prioritised improvements and investment to IT infrastructure. Our business continuity plans cover all operational areas of the University including stress-testing. We are continually enhancing our resilience and preparedness in cyber security through our Cyber Security Board. Specific actions undertaken include cross-sector and internal working through the JANET network to strengthen defences in response to an emergent elevated level of malicious activity.
Staff	
Due to external pressures, combined with financial pressures relating to pay awards and pension costs, there is a risk the University experiences difficulty in the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. Leading to a diminution of the University's teaching and research standing, and an inability to deliver the University's Strategic Plan.	Modelling of the existing staff base has been undertaken to identify potential risks and opportunities as part of the institutional planning process. The staff experience continues to be prioritised and additional engagement and development work will be undertaken to further enhance this. The University continues to work closely with local-level industrial relations and has implemented business continuity planning to mitigate constraints to undertaking business as usual activities.



6. Corporate Governance

The University of Stirling was incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000669) in 1967, is a charity registered in Scotland with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (SC 011159) and is committed to the highest standards of corporate governance relevant to the higher education sector.

In the opinion of the governing body University Court, the institution complied with all the principals and provisions of the 2023 Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance through the year and has been in compliance with the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) 2016 Act.

University Governance

The Charter outlines the role of the University and how the University should be governed. In accordance with the **Charter**, **Court** is the governing body of the University. It has overall responsibility for the management of the University's resources, the ongoing strategic direction of the University and the approval of major developments. It also receives regular reports from Executive Officers on the day-to-day operation of the University's business. Court has a **Statement of Primary Responsibilities** which sets out its responsibilities in relation to mission, vision and strategy; students and staff; financial systems and control environment; corporate governance, and senior management.

Academic Council is the body responsible for the academic work of the University (teaching and research) and for the regulation and superintendence of the education, discipline and welfare of students. While Court has the final responsibility for governing the University, on academic matters it will normally only act on the recommendation of Academic Council or with the concurrence of the Academic Council, the existence and membership of which is provided for in the University's Charter and its allied instruments, the **Statutes** and **Ordinances**. This is partly facilitated by the Joint Policy, Planning and Resources Committee (JPPRC), a joint Committee of University Court and Academic Council which considers issues relating to the University's finances, estates, information services, and staffing, and their integration with academic planning. JPPRC also scrutinises new or revised University policies and recommends their approval to University Court and/or Academic Council.

Further information on the University's committee structure can be found on page 20. Each of the committees is formally constituted with terms of reference and conducts its business through regular meetings.

Effectiveness

The membership of the Court comprises lay members, who are in the majority, the balance being made up of staff and student members as prescribed by Statute, some of whom are ex officio. The Chair of Court is responsible for the leadership of the University Court and was appointed by an open, transparent recruitment process, managed by the Governance and Nominations Committee which included involvement by staff and students, followed by an election with an electorate of all staff, students and Court members. The Chair of Court is the senior lay member and is supported by the lay Vice Chair of University Court and the lay Chairs of the Joint Policy, Planning and Resources Committee and the Audit Committee. The Principal and Vice-Chancellor is an ex-officio member of Court and is the University's Chief Executive Officer.

A full list of the members of the University Court and attendance during the year ended 31 July 2024 can be found at Table 2 on page 21.

Court is committed to ensuring ethical standards in public life, members understand their responsibilities and abide by the Principles of Public Life in Scotland. Inductions are held for new members of Court which provide members with an outline of their governance responsibilities and highlights some of the key issues of interest to Court members, particularly in relation to the external environment. The declared interests of members of Court and Senior University Officers are maintained in a register which is published on the University's **website**.

Members of Court have a range of skills and backgrounds, and training and development opportunities are made available as appropriate for all members throughout the year. Current members have expertise in audit, business development, commercialisation of research and development, corporate law, education provision, employment law, finance, governance, human resource management, internationalisation, science innovation, sports development, arts and humanities, research and ethics. A skills register is maintained for all members of Court and is considered by Governance and Nominations Committee to inform the robust and transparent appointment process.

Gender diversity of University Court stands at 58% female and 42% male overall. The University meets the objectives of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018. 50% of non-executive members of Court are women. University Court met four times during 2023-24 and considered reports on the University's performance that set out the institutional priorities for the academic year, the University's revenue budget, capital and major infrastructure plan and the University's cash position. Main business also included activity led by the University's City Region and Growth Deal Programme Board, oversight of people and staffing matters, the students experience and matters arising from the student body with updates from the Students' Union.

At its meeting in December 2023, Court considered an internal review of its effectiveness and the effectiveness of its committees. Additionally, the University engaged AdvanceHE to undertake an externally facilitated review of the governing body's own effectiveness in accordance with the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance 2023 during 2023-24. The Review Team observed a set of behaviours and relationships which indicated a significant amount of mutual respect and trust between the Court and the Executive. There was clear evidence of cohesiveness and of acting in concert across the stakeholder groups that was consistent with a governance and management focus on careful stewardship of the University, its community and environment. This was reflected in the member survey with an overall score of 97% for those questions related to working relationships and board room behaviours and 93% for those related to Court commitment to organisational vision, culture and values. The Review Team observed the Executive made significant efforts to be open and provide the Court with a wealth of information; in return, much was delegated and entrusted to the Executive. There was an impressive Court with a clear commitment to the University and a desire to make the quality of the University more widely recognised. The Review Team found no major deficiencies in governance arrangements and observed some opportunities for the University to make improvements. The action plan based on recommendations from the Review and a brief statement on how the University has responded is available [here](#).

Corporate Strategy

The 2023-24 academic year was one of transition, the new Strategic Plan was approved by Court in October 2023, marking a significant milestone for the University. The Plan outlines the University's direction of travel towards 2030 and beyond, and further detail on corporate strategy is set out in the Strategic Report section on pages 4 to 11. A Court Strategy Day was held during October 2023 and members of Court reflected upon successes, challenges and emergent opportunities and considered the scale of institutional ambition for delivery under the new Strategic Plan.

Risk Management and Internal Controls

Court is responsible for the University's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Within a changeable external environment, the University implements sound risk management to evaluate the most significant threats and opportunities that could impact on the delivery of our strategic plan. Our approach to risk management is set out in full within [Risk Management Policy](#) and associated [Risk Appetite Statement](#). A register of strategic risk is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis by Audit Committee on behalf of the University Court. All academic faculties and professional service areas maintain their own respective risk registers, as live documents as part of the strategic planning process. The register of strategic risk, and extract of the most significant risks, is presented on page 16.

The internal control environment includes delegated authorities, policies, procedural and system controls, planning and budgetary processes, professional capability in specialist areas, governance structures and management reporting. A Delegated Authority Schedule lists those Committees or individuals to whom authority has been delegated by the University Court to commit the University to a contractual or quasi-contractual arrangements within approved budget limits. The senior management team receives regular reports on the University's performance, including appropriate performance indicators, and considers any control issues brought to its attention by early warning mechanisms which are embedded within the operational units. The senior management team and Audit Committee also received reports on internal audit activity in line with the Internal Audit Strategy and Plan for 2023-24, which included key findings, recommendations and follow-up action as required.

Going Concern

The University's activities and the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out in the Strategic Report. Its financial performance for the year to 31 July 2024, income and expenditure, assets, liquidity and cash flows are set out in more detail in the Financial Statements. The financial impact of various scenarios is regularly modelled and assessed. Although the University faces many challenges, through management of our risks and cost base, Court is confident in the continuing financial sustainability of the University and that we will remain a going concern.

Table 1: University of Stirling Committee Structure



	University Court Chair - Mr Harry Adam	Audit Committee Chair – Mr Kenny Fraser, Lay Member of Court Reporting directly to Court, Audit Committee ensures that appropriate controls are in place to safeguard all funds received by the University, and reviews and monitors accounting policies and practice. The Committee has the right of access to all information it considers necessary and to consult directly with both internal and external auditors to ensure the good governance of the University.
		Academic Promotions Committee Chair – Principal, Professor Sir Gerry McCormac Considers all applications and nominations for academic promotions and reviews academic promotions criteria.
		Combined Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee Chair – rotates annually between the University and Trade Unions Shares information as is necessary for effective negotiations and consultations on matters affecting terms and conditions of employment.
		Governance and Nominations Committee Chair – Mr Harry Adam, Chair of Court Oversees the University's compliance with corporate governance requirements, the conduct of Court members, and the appointment and election of members to Court and other committees.
		Remunerations Committee Chair – Ms Susan Hardy Gordon, Vice Chair of Court Undertakes a review of professorial and senior University Services staff salaries, including that of the Principal on an annual basis.
		University Research Ethics Committee Chair – Ms Catriona Morrison, Lay Member of Court Develops, implements and keeps under review arrangements to quality assure the University ethical review process; reports to Court on the operation of the ethical review process; provides guidance as to the activities to be undertaken by Research Ethics Panels and provides oversight of activities intended to promote research ethics and research integrity throughout the University.
	Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee Chair - Mr Hamish Grossart, Lay Member of Court	Health and Safety Committee Chair – Professor Malcolm MacLeod, Senior Deputy Principal Reporting to Joint Policy, Planning and Resources Committee, the Committee considers and advises senior managers and Court on all matters relating to health and safety within the University.
		Education and Student Experience Committee Chair – Professor Leigh Sparks, Deputy Principal (Education and Students) Provides key strategic institutional oversight and leadership of academic quality and enhancement, in respect to education, learning and teaching and the student experience
	Academic Council Chair - Principal, Professor Sir Gerry McCormac	Honorary Degrees Committee Chair – Principal, Professor Sir Gerry McCormac To consider and make nominations for the award of honorary degrees to Academic Council and to periodically review nominations guidelines and criteria.
		Research Committee Chair – Professor Judith Phillips, Deputy Principal (Research) To progress, foster and review research activity across the University.

Table 2: Membership of University Court during the year to 31 July 2024

Role	Name	Attendance	Committee Membership
Chair of Court	Mr Harry Adam	3 of 4	APC, CJNCC, JPPRC, GNC, RemCo and UREC
Vice Chair of Court	Ms Susan Gordon Hardy	4 of 4	GNC and JPPRC and RemCo
Principal and Vice Chancellor	Professor Sir Gerry McCormac	4 of 4	APC, CJNCC, GNC, JPPRC, RC and UREC
Senior Deputy Principal	Professor Malcolm MacLeod	4 of 4	APC, CJNCC, GNC, HSC and JPPRC
Provost of Stirling	Councillor Douglas Dodds to 30/11/23	0 of 1	-
	Councillor Elaine Watterson from 01/12/23	1 of 2	-
Student Members	Ms Leen Ali from 01/06/23	4 of 4	GNC, HSC, JPPRC and RemCo
	Ms Zoe Crosher to 31/05/24	3 of 3	JPPRC
	Ms Justine Pedussel from 01/06/24	1 of 1	JPPRC
Lay Member from University of Stirling Alumni	Mr Hamish Grossart from 01/12/23*	3 of 4	GNC, JPPRC and RemCo
Lay Members of Court	Dr Mary Allison	3 of 4	RemCo
	Mr Kenny Fraser	4 of 4	AC and GNC
	Dr Poonam Gupta	1 of 4	-
	Mr Graham Hastie	3 of 4	APC and JPPRC
	Mr Douglas Kearney	4 of 4	AC
	Dr Deborah Keith from 01/12/23	3 of 3	-
	Ms Lynne Marr from 01/12/23	2 of 3	AC
	Ms Catriona Morrison	3 of 4	GNC and UREC
	Mr Julian Roberts	3 of 4	-
	Mr William Stancer	4 of 4	-
Academic Staff Member	Professor Gozade Ozakinci from 15/10/24	0 of 0	-
Professional Services Staff Member	Ms Pam Crawford	3 of 4	-
Members from Academic Council's own membership	Professor Julie Tinson	2 of 4	-
	Professor Kirstie Blair from 01/12/23	1 of 3	-
	Dr Clare Wilson from 01/12/23	2 of 3	-
Trade Union Academic Staff Member	Dr Magdalena Ietswaart from 01/08/23	4 of 4	-
Trade Union Members Professional Services Staff	Mr Gary Fleming	3 of 4	CJNCC and RemCo

* Appointed lay member of Court from 01/08/17 and appointed member of alumni from 01/12/23.

Key:

AC	Audit Committee	HSC	Health and Safety Committee
APC	Academic Promotions Committee	JPPRC	Joint Policy, Planning and Resources Committee
CJNCC	Combined Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee	RemCo	Remunerations Committee
GNC	Governance and Nominations Committee	RC	Research Committee
		UREC	University Research Ethics Committee

Table 3: Membership of committees concerned directly with finance

Membership of Audit Committee

Member	Role	Attendance
Mr Kenny Fraser (Chair)	Lay Member	2 of 3
Mr Richard Henderson	Lay Member	3 of 3
Mr Douglas Kearney	Lay Member	2 of 3
Ms Lynne Marr (from 01/12/23)	Lay Member	2 of 2

Membership of Joint Policy Planning and Resources Committee

Membership of Joint Policy, Planning and Resources Committee

Member	Role	Attendance
Mr Harry Adam	Lay Member	3 of 3
Ms Leen Ali (from 01/06/23)	President of the University of Stirling Students' Union	3 of 3
Ms Zoe Crosher (to 31/05/24)	Vice President Communities, University of Stirling Students' Union	3 of 3
Professor Jayne Donaldson	Dean of Faculty	2 of 3
Mr Hamish Grossart (Chair)	Lay Member	3 of 3
Ms Susan Gordon Hardy	Lay Member	3 of 3
Mr Graham Hastie	Lay Member	3 of 3
Professor Alistair Jump	Dean of Faculty	3 of 3
Professor Malcolm MacLeod	Senior Deputy Principal	3 of 3
Professor Sir Gerry McCormac	Principal and Vice-Chancellor	3 of 3
Ms Justine Pedussel (from 01/06/24)	Vice President Communities, University of Stirling Students' Union	0 of 0
Professor Judith Phillips	Deputy Principal	0 of 3
Ms Eileen Schofield	University Secretary and Chief Operating Officer	3 of 3
Professor Leigh Sparks	Deputy Principal	3 of 3
Professor Neville Wylie	Deputy Principal	1 of 3



7. Financial Review 2023-24

Despite a challenging economic and sector landscape the University has delivered another strong financial performance, reporting a surplus of £6.9m (2022-2023: £11.1m) and generating cash from operating activities of £10.8m (2022-2023: £10.7m). As in previous years the statutory financial performance of the University has been affected by the impacts of pension valuations and pension accounting, both for the University's share of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) deficit recovery plan as well as the deficit in the University of Stirling Pension Scheme (USPS).

Most significantly, as the University is no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions to USS following the 2023 valuation, the remaining liability of £48.2m has been released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in 2023-24 as the scheme is in surplus.

It is important to note that the movements are not a reflection of the University's actual financial performance and are non-cash in nature.

Accounting for these results in a current year surplus of £54.6m (2023: £17.4m)

	2023-24 £'000	2022-23 £'000
Surplus for the year before pension adjustments	6,926	11,141
Movement on pensions (note 7)	48,861	7,807
Other pension charges (note 8)	(1,169)	(1,553)
Pension adjustments to Statement of Comprehensive Income	47,692	6,254
Surplus for the year	54,618	17,395

Financial highlights

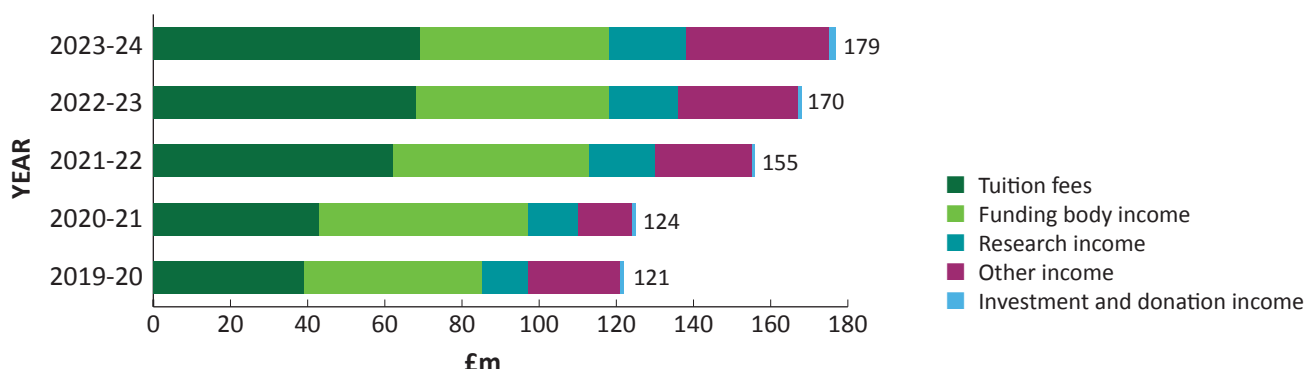
The key financial ratios of the University are set out below, these have been stated excluding pension movements.

	2023-24	2022-23
Performance		
Total income	£179.1m	£169.7m
Total expenditure (excluding pension adjustments)	£170.9m	£157.5m
Operating cash generation	£10.8m	£10.7m
Surplus before pension adjustments	£6.9m	£11.1m
Staff cost ratio	53.0%	50.8%
Investment		
Capital expenditure (note 11)	£23.6m	£18.5m
Capital grants	£7.8m	£3.3m
Liquidity and Debt		
Total debt	£108.6m	£101.9m
Total cash and cash deposits	£75.4m	£74.1m
Net debt	£33.2m	£27.8m
Net liquidity days	170	180
Financial Strength		
Net current assets ratio	2.07	2.05
Net assets	£195.1m	£143.1m

Income

Total income increased by £9.4m or 5.6% to £179.1m (2022-23: £169.7m). Of this capital grant funding received from the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal was £6.9m (2022-23: £1.4m) in the year, split across research income £2.6m (2022-23: £0.6m) and other income £4.3m (2022-23: £0.8m).

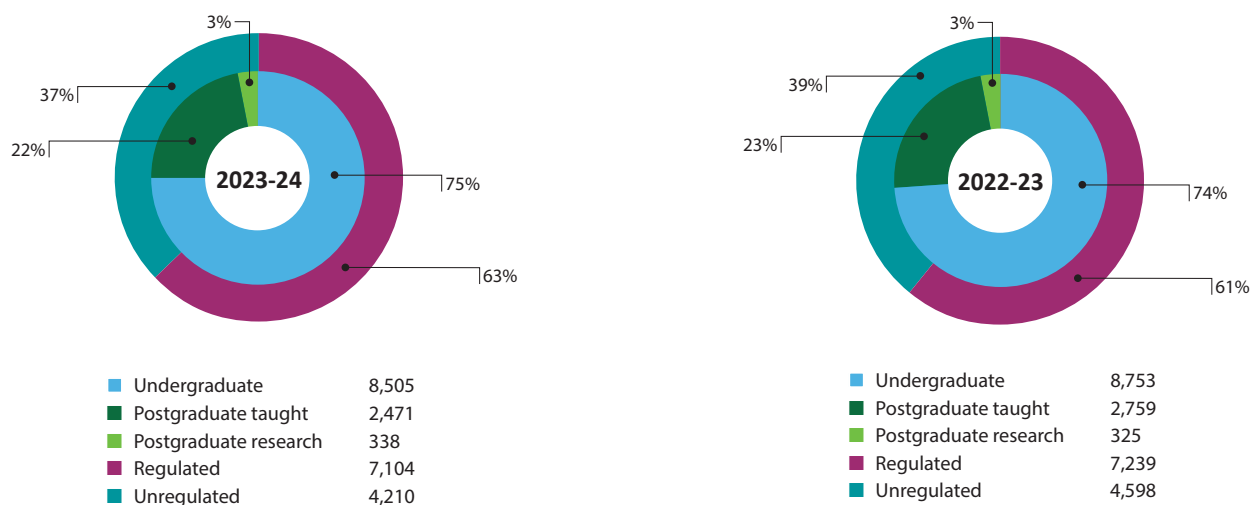
Total Income split by Category



Funding body grants remained broadly static at £49.1m (2022-23: £50.4m).

Tuition fee income increased by £1.1m or 1.6% to £69.1m (2022-23: £68.0m) despite significant challenges in terms of international student recruitment.

The distribution of students on a full-time equivalent basis for 2023-24 and the prior year comparatives are shown below.



Research income increased by £1.9m to £19.7m (2022-23: £17.8m), reflecting the continued success in expanding the research grant capture in recent years. New awards, a lead indicator of future income, totalled £23.1m, a year-on-year growth of £6.3m.

Other income increased by £6.3m or 20.6% to £37.1m (2022-23: £30.8m). Of this £2.4m is due to increased commercial activity from residences, catering and conferences.

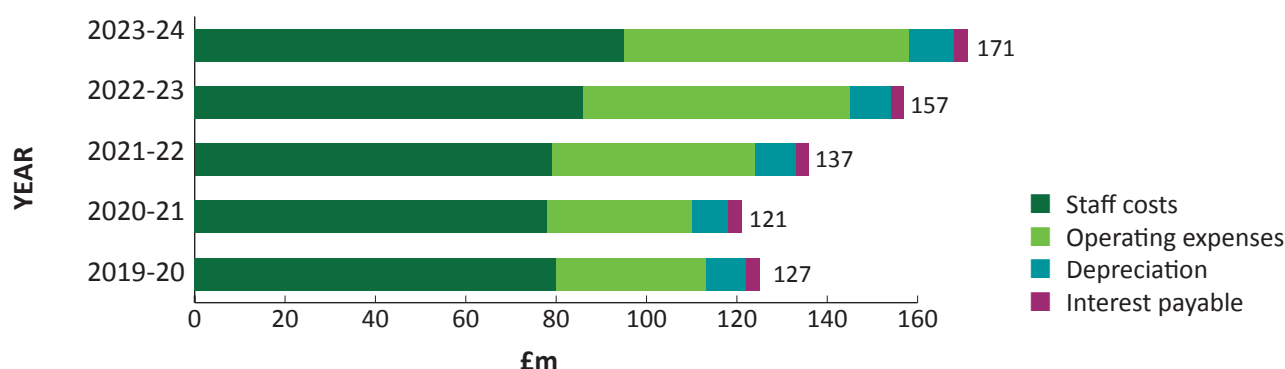
Investment income increased by £1.8m to £3.4m (2022-23: £1.6m) reflecting the increase in interest rates on the cash and investment balances.

Donations and endowments decreased by £0.3m to £0.8m (2022-23: £1.1m).

Expenditure

Total Expenditure excluding pension movements increased by £13.5m or 8.6% to £170.9m (2022-2023: £157.4m), reflective of the increase in activity and inflationary pressures.

Total Expenditure split by Category



Staff costs before pension adjustments has increased by £8.9m or 10.3% to £95.0m (2022-23: £86.2m) equalling 53.0% of total income (2022-23: 50.8%).

The average staff full time equivalent (FTE) numbers increased by 84 FTE during the year, highlighting the successful recruitment to posts required to support expansion and meet demand of increased students to deliver our strategic objectives.

Other operating expenditure increased by £3.9m or 6.7% to £62.6m (2022-23: £58.7m),

This was due to increased costs supporting student growth and increased variable costs in commercial operations. These along with inflationary increases saw costs across all activities in the University increase in the year.

Depreciation increased £0.8m to £10.3m reflecting the University's capital programme.

Interest payable of £3.0m on the University's fixed interest rate loan portfolio.

Capital Expenditure

The University continues to invest in its digital and physical infrastructure, developing teaching facilities and investing in the student experience.

During 2023-24 the University invested £23.6m in total in capital projects (2022-23: £18.5m).

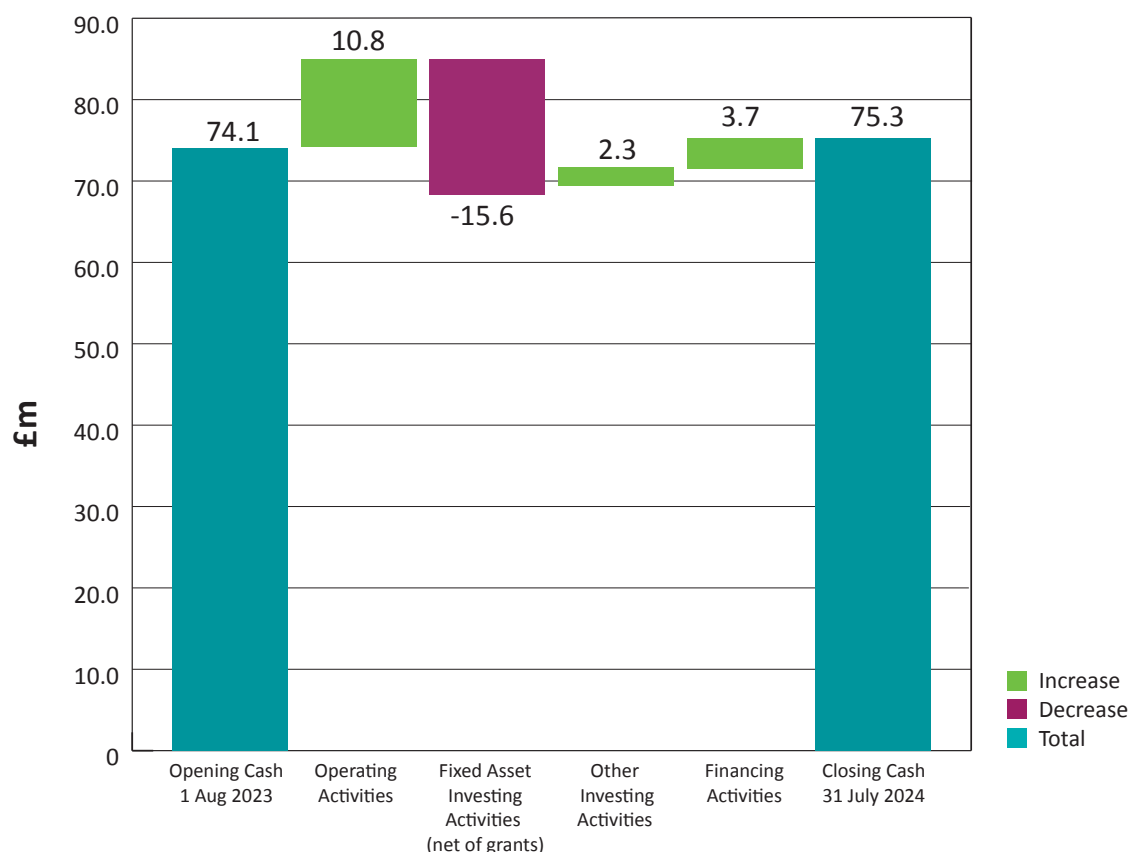
Liquidity and Debt

Cash and cash deposits

Cash flow from operating activities was £10.8m (2022-23: £10.7m) which is 6.0% of income.

After servicing debt and investing in further fixed asset expenditure, the cash reserves of the university increased by £1.3m to £75.4m (2022-23: £74.1m) At the year end the University had cash and cash equivalents of £59.8m (2022-23: £74.1m) and short term deposits of £15.6m (2022-23: Nil).

Cash balances and cash flows 2023-24



As required by SFC as a condition of borrowing consent, the University has, to date, set aside £11.2m of these cash reserves into a private placement repayment fund that is invested with the objective of being able to fund the repayment of the £80m bullet payments over the period 2033 to 2048.

The University also has access to further undrawn bank borrowing (Revolving Credit Facility) of £10m that can be used flexibly as required to support liquidity and cash flow.

The University actively manages its cash balances in accordance with the Treasury Management Policy approved by Court.

Long term borrowings

Borrowings at the year-end totalled £108.6m (2022-23: £101.9m) and all lending covenants were fully complied with.

In the last five years the University has made several successful applications to the Scottish Funding Council Financial Transactions Programme and been awarded a total of £30.5m of unsecured loans for strategic estates developments. These loans have contributed to the funding of our award-winning Campus Central development and several other ongoing projects key to enhancing the student experience and sustainability of the campus. New loans received during the year totalled £7.5m and the balance outstanding on 31 July 2024 was £28.9m.

Financial strength

The University maintains a strong reserves position with total net assets increasing by £52m or 36.3% to £195.1m (2022-23: £143.1m) and sufficient liquidity to deal positively with the uncertainties and opportunities that the future holds.

We have achieved all of this despite unprecedented external stresses and challenges that has put pressure on our income and expenditure, demonstrating our financial resilience and overall financial sustainability.

Prompt payment to suppliers

It is the University's policy to abide by the agreed terms of payment with supplies. Unless special terms apply, payment is made within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice or after acceptance of the good or services, whichever is later.

During 2023-24, the University paid 91.6% of its invoices within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice (2022-23: 91.3%).

Professional Advisors

Independent Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

141 Bothwell Street

Glasgow

G2 7EQ

Tax Advisor

KPMG LLP

Saltire Court

20 Castle Terrace

Edinburgh

EH1 2EG

Internal Auditor

Ernst and Young LLP

5 George Square

Glasgow

G2 1DY

Banker

HSBC UK Bank PLC

2-6 Murray Place

Stirling

FK8 2DD

Solicitor

Thorntons Law LLP

Whitehall House

33 Yeaman Shore

Dundee

DD1 4BJ



8. Accounting Responsibilities of the University Court

In accordance with the University's Charter, the Court is responsible for the administration and management of the affairs of the University and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

The Court is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Court is required to prepare financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The terms and conditions of funding further require the financial statements to be prepared in accordance with the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Memorandum with Higher Education Institutions issued by the Scottish Funding Council.

The Group (the University, its subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities) and University's financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the University and of the Group's and the University's excess of expenditure over income for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Court is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Group and the University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Group or the University or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Court is responsible for keeping adequate and proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and University's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the University and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 14 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The University Court has taken all reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the SFC are used only for the purposes for which they have been given, and in accordance with the Financial Memorandum with SFC, and any other conditions which the SFC may from time to time prescribe;
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources;
- safeguard the assets of the University and prevent and detect fraud;
- secure the economic, efficient and effective management of the University's resources and expenditure.

The key elements of the University's system of internal financial control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

- clear definitions of the responsibilities of, and the authority delegated to, deans of academic schools and executive directors of service;
- a comprehensive medium and short-term planning process supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets;
- regular reviews of key performance indicators and business risks, and quarterly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updates of forecast out-turns;
- clearly defined and formalised requirements for approval and control of expenditure, with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to formal detailed appraisal and review according to approval level set by the University Court;
- comprehensive Financial Regulations, detailing financial controls and procedures, approved by the Audit Committee and the Court;
- a professional outsourced Internal Audit team whose annual programme is approved by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the University Court and whose head provides the University Court with a report on internal audit activity within the University and an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal control, including internal financial control.

Any system of internal financial control can, however, only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.



9. Independent Auditor's Report to the Court of the University of Stirling (the "University")

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, University of Stirling's group financial statements and University financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the University's affairs as at 31 July 2024, and of the group's and University's income and expenditure and recognised gains and losses, and of the group's cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law);
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 14 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the Consolidated and University Statement of Financial Position as at 31 July 2024; the Consolidated and University Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated and University Statement of Changes in Reserves, and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended; the Statement of Accounting Policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's and University's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Court's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the group's and University's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Court with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Court is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements, or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Based on the responsibilities described above and our work undertaken in the course of the audit, ISAs (UK) require us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Annual Report

Under the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the information given in the Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the Court for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Accounting Responsibilities of the University Court set out on page 30, the Court is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Court is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Court is responsible for assessing the group's and University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Court either intends to liquidate the group and University or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We are eligible to act and have been appointed auditors under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the University, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to employment laws, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 14 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to manipulation of the reported surplus. Audit procedures performed included:

- understanding management's policies and procedures designed to detect and report fraud;
- inquiries with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- review of minutes of key meetings of management and the University Court;
- testing of journal entries with particular focus on unusual account combinations within income and expenditure that would reduce the reported surplus;
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in areas of significant accounting estimates; and
- review of the financial statements to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the University's Court as a body in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations made under that Act (regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Opinions on other matters prescribed in the requirements attached to the Scottish Funding Council's Financial Memorandum

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- the requirements of the Scottish Funding Council's accounts direction have been met;
- funds from whatever source administered by the University for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and, if relevant, managed in accordance with relevant legislation and any other terms and conditions attached to them; and
- funds provided by the Scottish Funding Council have been applied in accordance with the requirements of the Scottish Funding Council's Financial Memorandum with Higher Education Institutions.

Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) exception reporting.

Under the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the University; or
- the University financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Glasgow

10 December 2024



10. Statement of Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 July 2024

1. Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2019 edition). Under the disclosure exemption provided by FRS102, a separate University only cash flow has not been prepared. They have also been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions issued by the Scottish Funding Council.

The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of the applicable UK laws and accounting standards. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of derivative financial instruments. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

2. Going Concern

The Group and parent University's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position, are set out in the Strategic Report which forms part of the University Court's Report. The University Court's Report also describes the financial position of the Institution, its cash flows, liquidity position and borrowing facilities.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the University Court consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

University Court has reviewed cash flow forecasts for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements. After reviewing these forecasts, the University Court is of the opinion that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the University of Stirling Group will have sufficient funds to meet their liabilities as they fall due over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

The University Group generated a surplus after tax in 2023-24 of £54.6 million following a surplus after tax of £17.4 million in the previous financial year 2022-23. Stripping out pension adjustments, the position is a surplus of £6.9 million in 2023-24 with a prior year comparable of £11.4 million surplus.

However, surplus generation alone does not ensure the going concern status of an organisation. The critical factor, that management of the University have used to determine the going concern status of the University, is whether it can generate cash and maintain sufficient working capital balances. In 2023-24 the University's net operating cash inflow was £10.8 million.

In addition, the University has a balance sheet with a non-current asset of £256.8 million, net current assets of £57.4 million including cash deposits of £75.3 million at the Statement of Financial Position date.

The University's forecasts and projections to 2024-25, taking account of future developments and reasonable sensitivities in relation to the key risks, indicate that the University will also deliver an accounting surplus in 2024-25. The forward projections indicate that the University will continue to generate a net cash inflow. The financial scenario planning and stress testing undertaken by the University indicates that there are large external uncertainties which may need to be addressed in the near future: in particular, reduced Scottish Funding Council grant funding, coupled with the significant challenges in terms of international student recruitment and the increasing cost base.

In the face of the series of large uncertainties, the University has adopted a financially cautious stance. The solvency position is strong, and cash is available, if required, to respond to these uncertainties.

The University has access to a £10 million revolving credit facility, expiring in April 2027 and is forecast to remain compliant with all lender covenants during the period.

Having considered each of the factors set out above, the University Court is confident that the Group and parent University will have sufficient funds to continue to meet their liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

3. Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the University, its subsidiaries, and jointly controlled entities for the financial year to 31 July 2024. Intra-group transactions are eliminated on consolidation.

The consolidated financial statements do not include the income and expenditure of the Students' Union or the MacRobert Arts Centre, as the University does not exert control or dominant influence over their policy decisions.

4. Critical Accounting Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

In the application of the University's accounting policies, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from those estimates and the estimates and underlying assumptions are continually reviewed. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme –Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the statement of comprehensive income represents the contributions payable under the scheme's Recovery Plan.

Where a scheme valuation determines that the scheme is in deficit on a technical provisions basis (as was the case following the 2020 valuation), the trustee of the scheme must agree a Recovery Plan that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund an overall deficit. The institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from such an agreement (to the extent that they relate to a deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the statement of comprehensive income.

Critical Estimates

With Pension Schemes, FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit, results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with the resulting expense charged through the profit or loss account in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102.

At 31 July 2023, the University's statement of financial position included a liability of £48.2m for future contributions payable under the deficit recovery agreement which was concluded on 30 September 2021, following the 2020 valuation when the scheme was in deficit. No deficit recovery plan was required from the 2023 valuation, because the scheme was in surplus. Changes to contribution rates were implemented from 1 January 2024 and from that date the University was no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions. The remaining liability of £47.6m was released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Further disclosures relating to the deficit recovery liability can be found in note 19.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme – University of Stirling Pension Scheme (USPS)

The liability for the USPS scheme is shown in Note 30. The most recent formal actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 July 2021.

The liabilities for these accounting disclosures have been calculated by projecting the results of that valuation to 31 July 2024 by the actuary, XPS Pensions Group. The resulting liabilities have then been adjusted to reflect the different assumptions used. The accounting disclosures are therefore heavily dependent on the results of the 31 July 2021 valuation and this approach is not as accurate as if the actuary had used actual census information as at 31 July 2024, but it is appropriate for the purpose of these disclosures and is in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102.

The results are highly sensitive both to the actuarial assumptions used and to market conditions. The discount rate has been based on a single agency AA yield curve in accordance with FRS102.

	2024	2023
Approach	Single agency AA yield curve at a 13-year duration	Single agency AA yield curve at a 13-year duration
Relating discount rate	5.00%	5.20%

The approximate impact of a 0.1% change in the discount rate on the liability value and the consequence for the Scheme deficit is as follows:

Assumption	Change in assumption	Impact on liability
Discount rate	Increase by 0.1%	Decrease by £0.764m
	Decrease by 0.1%	Increase by £0.780m
Pensionable payroll growth	Increase by 0.1%	Increase by £0.085m
	Decrease by 0.1%	Decrease by £0.085m

The key actuarial assumptions as of 31 July 2024 are set out in Note 30.

5. Income Recognition

Income from the sale of goods or services is credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income when the goods or services are supplied to the external customers, or the terms of the contract have been satisfied. Fee income is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount and credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period in which students are studying. Where the amount of the tuition fee is reduced, by a discount for prompt payment, income receivable is shown net of the discount. Bursaries and scholarships are accounted for gross as expenditure and not deducted from income.

Investment income is credited to the statement of income and expenditure on a receivable basis.

Funds the University receives and disburses as the paying agent on behalf of a funding body are excluded from the income and expenditure of the University where the University is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Grant Funding

Grant funding, including funding council block grants, research grants from government sources and grants (including research grants) from non-government sources, are recognised as income when the University is entitled to the income and performance-related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance-related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the statement of financial position and released to income as the conditions are met. Grant funding includes City Region Deal funding which is split between Research Grants and Contracts and Other Income in accordance with the business case.

Capital Grants

Capital grants are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funds subject to any performance-related conditions being met. Where there are restrictions on the grant, the income is taken to the restricted reserve and a transfer between reserves takes place as expenditure relating to assets financed by the grant is incurred.

Donations and Endowments

Non-exchange transactions without performance-related conditions are donations and endowments. Donations and endowments with donor-imposed restrictions are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funds. Income is retained within the restricted reserve until such time that it is utilised in line with such restrictions, at which point the income is released to general reserves through a reserve transfer.

Donations with no restrictions are recognised in income when the University is entitled to the funds.

Investment income and appreciation of endowments is recorded in income in the year in which it arises, and as either restricted or unrestricted income according to the terms or restriction applied to the individual endowment fund.

There are three main types of donations and endowments identified within reserves:

- Restricted donations - the donor has specified that the donation must be used for a particular objective.
- Restricted expendable endowments - the donor has specified a particular objective other than the purchase or construction of tangible fixed assets, and the University has the power to use the capital.
- Restricted permanent endowments - the donor has specified that the fund is to be permanently invested to generate an income stream to be applied to a particular objective.

6. Accounting for Retirement Benefits

The two principal pension schemes for the University are Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), covering academic and related staff, and the University of Stirling Pension Scheme (USPS) covering other staff.

The University participates in USS. The scheme is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits (for all members), as well as defined contribution benefits. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund.

Because of the mutual nature of USS, its assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of USS on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS102 "Employee benefits", the University therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

As a result, an amount charged to the income and expenditure account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. The institution entered in an agreement (the Recovery Plan) which required payments to fund an overall deficit of the scheme until 31 December 2023. The deficit recovery plan was no longer required under the 2023 valuation as the scheme was in surplus on a technical provision basis. The University has not been required to make deficit recovery payments from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision held on the statement of financial position. No surplus is recognised in relation to the scheme.

USPS is a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P). This fund is valued every three years by professionally qualified independent actuaries. Under defined benefit plans, the University's obligation is to provide the agreed benefits to current and former employees, and actuarial risk (that benefits will cost more or less than expected) and investment risk (that returns on assets set aside to fund the benefits will differ from expectations) are borne, in substance, by the University. The Group should recognise a liability for its obligations under defined benefit plans net of plan assets. This net defined benefit liability is measured as the estimated amount of benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods, discounted to determine its present value, less the fair value (at bid price) of plan assets. The calculation is performed by a qualified actuary using the projected unit credit method. Where the calculation results in a net asset, recognition of the asset is limited to the extent to which the University is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan.

Changes in the net defined benefit liability arising from employee service rendered during the period, net interest on net defined benefit liability, and the cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements during the period are recognised in profit or loss.

Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/asset is recognised in other comprehensive income in the period in which it occurs.

7. Employment Benefits

Short-term employment benefits, such as salaries and compensated absences, are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the University. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the University expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

8. Operating Leases

Payments made under operating leases are recognised in the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease unless the payments to the lessor are structured to increase in line with expected general inflation; in which case the payments related to the structured increases are recognised as incurred. Lease incentives received are recognised in profit and loss over the term of the lease as an integral part of the total lease expense.

9. Foreign Currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the respective functional currencies of Group entities at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the statement of financial position date are translated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in Surplus or Deficit.

10. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Certain items of fixed assets i.e. land and buildings were revalued to fair value on 31 July 2014 which was the date of transition to the 2015 FE HE SORP. Following this one-off revaluation, these assets are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of transition.

Where parts of a fixed asset have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of fixed assets.



Land and Buildings

Land and buildings are measured using the cost model. Under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where subsequent expenditure enhances an asset beyond its original specification, the directly attributable cost is capitalised.

Where subsequent expenditure restores the asset to its original specification, the expenditure is capitalised and any existing carrying value of the items replaced is written-out and charged to operating expenses.

Properties in the course of construction are carried at cost, less any impairment loss. Cost includes professional fees and borrowing costs which the University has chosen to capitalise where the costs are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of an asset in accordance with Section 25 of FRS102.

Land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an indefinite useful life. Buildings are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their expected useful lives according to their constituent parts as follows:

	Maximum Life (years)
Structure	99
Roof	25
Windows/glazing	25
Services	30
Fit out (internal fittings)	25

No depreciation is charged on assets in the course of construction or on assets held for sale.

At each reporting period end, the University checks whether there is any indication that any of its land and building assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is indication of an impairment loss, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated to determine whether there has been a loss and, if so, its amount.

Equipment

Equipment, including computers and software, costing less than £25,000 per individual item is recognised as expenditure.

All other equipment is capitalised.

Capitalised equipment is stated at cost and depreciated over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer hardware	0-7 years
Computer software	5-7 years
Equipment acquired for specific research projects	depreciated over life of the research grant
Other equipment	0-15 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at the date of preparation of the financial statements.

Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs which are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are capitalised.

Investment Properties

Investment properties are land and buildings held for rental income or capital appreciation rather than for use in delivering services. Investment properties are recognised initially at cost.

Subsequent to Initial Recognition

- investment properties whose fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are held at fair value. Any gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value are recognised in profit or loss in the period that they arise; and
- no depreciation is provided in respect of investment properties applying the fair value model.

If a reliable measure is not available without undue cost or effort for an item of investment property, this item is thereafter accounted for as tangible fixed assets in accordance with section 17 until a reliable measure of fair value becomes available.

Heritage Assets

Works of art, artefacts and items held in the library collections are not recognised on the statement of financial position, since reliable cost information is not available for items acquired many years ago and significant costs are involved in arriving at valuations. Where recent acquisitions are made and meet the capital threshold, they are recognised on the statement of financial position at cost when purchased or at the best estimate of market value where the object is donated.

Properties for Sale

Where it is known that buildings are to be sold in the forthcoming year, their net book value is moved from non-current to current assets, and no depreciation is charged in that year.

11. Investments

Investments in jointly controlled entities and subsidiaries are carried at cost less impairment in the University's financial statements.

Current asset investments are held at fair value with movements recognised in Income and Expenditure. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

12. Stock

Stock is held at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow moving or defective stocks.

13. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes cash-in-hand deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. Deposit investments are deemed to be cash equivalents if they have a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

14. Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions are recognised in the financial statements when:

- A) the University has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event;
- B) it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation;
- C) and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects risks specific to the liability.

A contingent liability arises from a past event that gives the University a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the University. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the University a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the University.

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed in the notes.

15. Accounting for Joint Arrangements

Material entities over which the University has joint control with one or more other entities are classified as joint arrangements. Joint control is the contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement. A joint arrangement is either a joint operation or a joint venture. The University has a 50% share of the issued share capital of Stirling University Innovation Park Limited. This is an independent 'investment vehicle' which is owned equally by the University and Stirling Council.

The University holds a 50% share in the INTO University of Stirling LLP which is an independent 'investment vehicle' owned equally by the University and INTO University Partnerships Limited.

With both of these companies being independent 'investment vehicles', they are considered joint ventures and the University accounts for its 50% share in them using the equity method.

16. Taxation

The University is an exempt Charity within the meaning of the Trustee Investment and Charities (Scotland) Act 2005 and, as such, is a charity within the meaning of Section 506 (1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The University is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue & Customs and is recorded on the index of charities maintained by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. It is therefore a charity within the meaning of Para 1 of schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010 and accordingly, the University is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by section 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010) or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes.

The University receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs. Any irrecoverable VAT allocated to fixed assets is included in their cost. The University's subsidiaries are liable to Corporation Tax in the same way as any other commercial organisation.

17. Financial Instruments

The Institution has elected to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in respect of the recognition, measurement, and disclosure of financial instruments.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are recognised when the University becomes party to the financial instrument contract or, in the case of trade receivables, when the goods or services have been delivered in a usable fit and proper state. Financial assets are de-recognised when the contractual rights have expired, or the asset has been transferred.

Financial assets are classified into the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit and loss; held to maturity investments; available for sale financial assets, and loans and receivables. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments which are not quoted in an active market. After initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, to the initial fair value of the financial asset.

At the end of the reporting period, the University assesses whether any financial assets, other than those held at 'fair value through profit and loss' are impaired. Financial assets are impaired and impairment losses recognised if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events which occurred after the initial recognition of the asset and which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the asset.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The loss is recognised in expenditure and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced directly through a provision for impairment of receivables.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed through expenditure to the extent that the carrying amount of the receivable at the date of the impairment is reversed does not exceed what the amortised cost would have been had the impairment not been recognised.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the statement of financial position when the University becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument or, in the case of trade payables, when the goods or services have been received in a fit and proper state and a legal commitment is then established. Financial liabilities are de-recognised when the liability has been discharged, that is, the liability has been paid or has expired. Loans are recognised at historical cost. Otherwise, financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value.

18. Reserves

Reserves are classified as restricted or unrestricted. Restricted endowment reserves include balances which, through endowment to the University, are held as a permanently restricted fund which the University must hold in perpetuity.

Other restricted reserves include balances where the donor has designated a specific purpose and therefore the University is restricted in the use of these funds.

11. Consolidated and University Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Income					
Scottish Funding Council grants	1	49,106	49,106	50,415	50,415
Tuition fees and education contracts	2	69,060	69,060	67,966	67,966
Research grants and contracts	3	19,686	19,686	17,796	17,796
Other income	4	37,140	37,140	30,802	30,802
Investment income	5	3,373	3,373	1,579	1,579
Donations and endowments	6	768	768	1,142	1,142
Total income		179,133	179,133	169,700	169,700
Expenditure					
Staff costs	7	95,010	95,010	86,157	86,157
Movement on pensions	7	(48,861)	(48,861)	(7,807)	(7,807)
Other operating expenses		62,629	62,615	58,684	58,710
Depreciation	11	10,266	10,266	9,442	9,442
Interest and other finance costs	8	4,235	4,235	4,710	4,710
Total expenditure	9	123,279	123,265	151,186	151,212
Surplus before other gains losses and share of operating deficit of joint ventures		55,854	55,868	18,514	18,488
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	11	(285)	(285)	(294)	(294)
Loss on investment property	12	(425)	(425)	(297)	(297)
Share of operating deficit in joint venture	13	(190)	-	(318)	-
Surplus before tax		54,954	55,158	17,605	17,897
Taxation	10	(336)	(336)	(210)	(210)
Surplus for the year		54,618	54,822	17,395	17,687
Actuarial loss in respect of pension schemes	30	(2,592)	(2,592)	(9,104)	(9,104)
Total comprehensive income for the year		52,026	52,230	8,291	8,583
Represented by:					
Endowment comprehensive income for the year	20	68	68	832	832
Restricted comprehensive income for the year	21	310	310	(53)	(53)
Unrestricted comprehensive income for the year		51,648	51,852	7,512	7,804
		52,026	52,230	8,291	8,583

The notes on pages 49 to 70 form part of the financial statements.

12. Consolidated and University Statement of Change in Reserves for the year ended 31 July 2024

Consolidated	Income and expenditure account		Total	
	Endowment £'000	Restricted £'000	Unrestricted £'000	£'000
Balance at 1 August 2022	1,870	2,985	129,952	134,808
Deficit from the income and expenditure statement	-	-	17,395	17,395
Other comprehensive expense	-	-	(9,104)	(9,104)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	832	(53)	(778)	0
Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	832	(53)	7,513	8,291
Balance at 31 July 2023	2,702	2,932	137,465	143,099
Surplus from the income and expenditure statement	-	-	54,618	54,618
Other comprehensive expense	-	-	(2,592)	(2,592)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	68	310	(378)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	68	310	51,648	52,026
Balance at 31 July 2024	2,770	3,242	189,113	195,125

University	Income and expenditure account		Total	
	Endowment £'000	Restricted £'000	Unrestricted £'000	£'000
Balance at 1 August 2022	1,870	2,985	134,639	139,494
Deficit from the income and expenditure statement	-	-	17,687	17,687
Other comprehensive expense	-	-	(9,104)	(9,104)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	832	(53)	(778)	-
Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	832	(53)	7,804	8,583
Balance at 31 July 2023	2,702	2,932	142,443	148,077
Surplus from the income and expenditure statement	-	-	54,822	54,822
Other comprehensive expense	-	-	(2,592)	(2,592)
Release of restricted funds spent in year	68	310	(378)	-
Total comprehensive income/(expenditure) for the year	68	310	51,852	52,230
Balance at 31 July 2024	2,770	3,242	194,295	200,307

The notes on pages 49 to 70 form part of the financial statements.

13. Consolidated and University Statement of Financial Position as at 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Non-current assets					
Fixed assets	11	250,948	250,948	238,272	238,272
Trade and other receivables	15	4,360	4,360	4,375	4,375
Investment property	12	1,375	1,375	1,800	1,800
Investment in joint venture	13	85	-	95	-
		256,768	256,683	244,542	244,447
Current assets					
Properties for Sale	11	350	350	-	-
Stock	14	503	415	489	407
Trade and other receivables	15	32,501	32,995	31,984	31,987
Investments	16	17,753	17,753	1,991	1,991
Cash and cash equivalents	22	59,759	59,539	74,065	73,763
		110,866	111,052	108,529	108,148
Less: Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(53,455)	(53,712)	(52,783)	(52,486)
Net current assets		57,411	57,340	55,746	55,662
Total assets less current liabilities		314,179	314,023	300,288	300,109
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(107,340)	(107,340)	(101,092)	(101,092)
Provisions					
USS pension provision	19	-	-	(48,212)	(48,212)
Other provisions	19	(2,809)	(2,809)	(1,344)	(1,344)
Joint venture loss provision	13	(5,337)	-	(5,157)	-
Pension liability	30	(3,568)	(3,568)	(1,384)	(1,384)
Total net assets		195,125	200,306	143,099	148,077
Restricted reserves					
Income and expenditure reserve - endowment reserve	20	2,770	2,770	2,702	2,702
Income and expenditure reserve - restricted reserve	21	3,243	3,243	2,932	2,932
Unrestricted reserves					
Income and expenditure reserve - unrestricted		189,112	194,293	137,465	142,443
Total reserves		195,125	200,306	143,099	148,077

The notes on pages 49 to 70 form part of the financial statements.

The Financial Statements were approved by the University Court on the 9th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



G. McCormac
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



H. Grossart
Chair, Joint Policy Planning and
Resources Committee



R. Edwards
Executive Director of Finance

14. Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cashflow from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		54,618	17,395
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	11	10,266	9,442
Write back of fixed asset		(480)	-
Loss on investment property	12	425	297
(Loss)/gain on revaluation of equity investments		(130)	53
Net change on pensions scheme less contribution		520	9
(Increase)/decrease in stock	14	(14)	35
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	15	3,663	(11,754)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(3,651)	2,918
Decrease in provision for employee benefits	19	(48,212)	(6,264)
Increase in provisions	19	1,466	431
Share of deficit in joint venture	13	190	318
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
New endowments received		(80)	(870)
Exchange losses of translation		16	100
Investment income	5	(3,373)	(1,579)
Interest payable (inc. effective interest rate adjustment)		3,066	3,157
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		285	294
Regional City Deal grant		(6,846)	(1,346)
Capital income grant		(933)	(1,951)
Net cash flows from operating activity		10,796	10,685
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	11	2	8
Regional City Deal grant		9,763	1,346
Capital grants receipts	1	933	1,951
Investment income	5	3,289	1,579
Investment property additions	12	-	(197)
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(26,254)	(18,614)
(Increase)/decrease in non current investments	16	(15,635)	24,201
Decrease in Other receivables greater than 1 year	15	15	15
Lump sum pension contribution to USPS		(927)	(900)
		(28,814)	9,389
Cash flows from financing activities			
New endowment cash received		80	870
Interest paid	8	(3,042)	(3,157)
Receipt of unsecured loans	18	7,500	9,330
Repayment of loans	18	(826)	(10,512)
		3,712	(3,469)
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(14,306)	16,605
Opening cash balance	22	74,065	57,460
Movement	22	(14,306)	16,605
Closing cash balance	22	59,759	74,065

The notes on pages 49 to 70 form part of the financial statements.



15. Notes to the Financial Statements

	2024		2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
1 Scottish Funding Council grants				
General Fund - Teaching	37,121	37,121	37,452	37,452
General Fund - Research and Knowledge Exchange	9,326	9,326	9,212	9,212
Strategic Funding	1,726	1,726	1,800	1,800
Capital Maintenance Grant	933	933	1,951	1,951
Total	49,106	49,106	50,415	50,415
2 Tuition fees and education contracts				
Home	15,307	15,307	16,581	16,581
EU	3,452	3,452	1,858	1,858
Rest of UK	8,581	8,581	8,254	8,254
Non EU Fees	40,369	40,369	39,870	39,870
Non Credit Bearing Course Fees	756	756	1,026	1,026
Other Contracts	595	595	377	377
Total	69,060	69,060	67,966	67,966
3 Research grants and contracts				
Research councils	8,099	8,099	8,086	8,086
Research charities	1,662	1,662	1,715	1,715
Government (UK and overseas)	4,690	4,690	4,915	4,915
Industry and commerce	620	620	793	793
European Commission	951	951	1,070	1,070
Other Overseas	900	900	437	437
City Region Deal	2,557	2,557	595	595
Other	207	207	185	185
Total	19,686	19,686	17,796	17,796
4 Other income				
Consultancy and other services rendered	2,050	2,050	2,079	2,079
Commercial Services	7,298	7,298	6,490	6,490
Accommodation Services	14,633	14,633	12,889	12,889
Sport Development Services	2,717	2,717	2,407	2,407
Other income	5,808	5,808	6,023	6,023
City Region Deal	4,634	4,634	914	914
Total	37,140	37,140	30,802	30,802

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5 Investment income

	2024		2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Investment income on endowments	98	98	11	11
Other investment income	3,275	3,275	1,568	1,568
Total	3,373	3,373	1,579	1,579

6 Donations and endowments

New endowments	80	80	870	870
Donations with restrictions	558	558	200	200
Donations with restrictions PRC	5	5	6	6
Unrestricted donations	125	125	66	66
Total	768	768	1,142	1,142

7 Staff costs

Salaries	75,443	75,443	66,073	66,073
Social security costs	7,347	7,347	6,510	6,510
Apprenticeship Levy	354	354	315	315
Other pension costs	11,866	11,866	13,259	13,259
Staff Cost before Pension movements	95,010	95,010	86,157	86,157
Movement on USS provision	(49,320)	(49,320)	(8,066)	(8,066)
USPS Expenses	283	283	259	259
USPS past service cost	176	176	-	-
Total	46,149	46,149	78,350	78,350

	2024 Number	2023 Number	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Average full-time equivalent staff members for the year by major category:				
Academic Schools	702	691	48,418	44,253
Academic Services	117	92	7,650	6,997
Administration and Central Services	322	286	17,224	14,800
Premises	132	129	3,923	3,501
Research Grants and Contracts	172	166	9,051	9,083
Catering and residence	88	88	5,135	5,093
Other	119	116	3,609	2,430
Total	1,652	1,568	95,010	86,157

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7 Staff costs (continued)

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Emoluments of the Vice-Chancellor:		
Salary	414	363
Benefits	13	10
Pension contributions to USS	11	23
Total	438	396

Pay Multiples

The University is required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of their Vice Chancellor and the median remuneration of the University's workforce. The calculation is based on the full-time equivalent staff of the reporting entity at the 31/07/2024 on an annualised basis and relates to basic pay including contractual allowances, statutory holiday pay and including employer pension contributions.

	2024	2023
Median total remuneration of all staff	£45,053	£46,155
Remuneration Ratio	9.19	7.95

Remuneration of Other Higher Paid Staff, Excluding Employer's Pension Contributions	2024 Number	2023 Number
£100,000 to £109,999	1	6
£110,000 to £119,999	7	8
£120,000 to £129,999	2	7
£130,000 to £139,999	10	3
£140,000 to £149,999	6	3
£150,000 to £159,999	1	1
£180,000 to £189,999	-	1
£190,000 to £199,999	1	1
£200,000 to £209,999	1	2
£220,000 to £229,999	1	-
Total	30	32

There was no compensation for loss of office payable to higher paid members of staff.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7 Staff costs (continued)

Key Management Personnel Compensation

The key management personnel are the Senior Executive team who are known as the University Strategy & Policy Group (USPG) and consists of ten positions:

1. Principal and Vice-Chancellor;
2. University Secretary and Chief Operating Officer;
3. Senior Deputy Principal (Operational Strategy and External Affairs);
4. Deputy Principal (Research);
5. Deputy Principal (Education & Students);
6. Deputy Principal (Student Experience);
7. Deputy Principal (Internationalisation);
8. Deputy Secretary and Director of SACS;
9. Executive Director of Finance;
10. Executive Director of HR & Organisational Development;
11. Executive Director of Communications, Marketing and Recruitment

Key management personnel compensation	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salaries Pensions and other emoluments	2,127	1,976

Court Members

The University Court members are the trustees for charitable law purposes. Due to the nature of the University's operations and the compositions of the Court, being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Court may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Court may have an interest, including those identified below, are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's Financial Regulations and usual procurement procedures.

Organisation	Individual Board Member	Relationship	Capacity at University of Stirling
University of Stirling Students' Union	Natasha Miller Murray Bushell Jess Reid Leen Ali	President	Student committee members

	2024				2023			
	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Debtor £'000	Creditor £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Debtor £'000	Creditor £'000
	2	936	-	-	5	752	-	0
Total	2	936	-	-	5	752	-	0

The chair of court received remuneration of £21,605 in 2023-24 (2022-2023: £22,000).

The only other expenses paid to court members in 2023-24 or 2022-23 were those paid to reimburse members for out-of-pocket expenses.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

8 Interest and other finance costs

	Notes	2024		2023	
		Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Loan interest		3,066	3,066	3,157	3,157
Unwinding of USS pension provision	19	1,109	1,109	1,803	1,803
Net charge on pension scheme		60	60	(250)	(250)
Total		4,235	4,235	4,710	4,710

9 Analysis of total expenditure by activity

Academic departments	55,043	55,043	49,475	49,475
Academic services	16,265	16,265	13,577	13,577
Administration and Central services	35,146	35,146	33,666	33,666
Premises	14,891	14,891	10,444	10,444
Research grants and contracts	16,967	16,967	17,189	17,189
Consultancy and other services rendered	3,068	3,068	3,071	3,071
Commercial services	6,932	6,918	6,648	6,648
Accommodation services	14,146	14,146	12,071	12,071
Sports development services	3,816	3,816	3,295	3,295
Early retirement and severance	93	93	120	120
Pensions (USS and USPS)	(48,861)	(48,861)	(7,808)	(7,808)
Other expenses	5,773	5,773	9,438	9,464
Total	123,279	123,265	151,186	151,212

Other operating expenses include:

External auditors remuneration in respect of audit services	153	153	175	175
External auditors remuneration in respect of non-audit services	9	9	9	9
Internal auditors remuneration	129	129	91	91

Operating lease rentals:

Land and buildings	1,654	1,654	975	975
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10 Taxation

Effect of tax in foreign jurisdictions	336	336	210	210
Total	336	336	210	210

The tax expenses incurred in 2023-24 relates to corporate income tax associated with international partnerships operating in Singapore and China.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

11 Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Leasehold Land and Buildings £'000	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment £'000	Assets in the Course of Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 August 2023	277,439	446	35,112	13,921	326,917
Additions	2,646	-	3,418	17,513	23,577
Transfers	1,357	-	828	(2,185)	-
Disposals	(1,212)	-	(5,941)	-	(7,153)
At 31 July 2024	280,230	446	33,417	29,249	343,342

Accumulated Depreciation

At 1 August 2023	(63,909)	(127)	(24,610)	-	(88,646)
Charge for the year	(7,588)	(6)	(2,672)	-	(10,266)
Disposals	801	-	5,717	-	6,518
At 31 July 2024	(70,696)	(133)	(21,565)	-	(92,394)

Net book value

At 31 July 2023	213,530	319	10,502	13,921	238,272
At 31 July 2024	209,534	313	11,852	29,249	250,948

Assets held for sale

One property is to be sold in 2024-25. The net book value of £350k has been moved from fixed assets to current assets, and no depreciation charged in the year.

Freehold Land and Buildings

Freehold Land and Buildings contains £9.82m of freehold land (2022-23: £9.82m) which is not depreciated.

Heritage Assets

The University has three collections of heritage assets. The collections are accounted for as follows:

Library collections: The University does not consider that reliable costs or valuation information can be obtained for the vast majority of items held in the library collections. This is due to the diverse nature of the assets held, the number of assets held and the lack of comparable market values. The University does not therefore recognise these assets on its statement of financial position, other than recent acquisitions which are reported at cost when purchased, or at the Special Collections Librarian's best estimate of market value where the object is donated in the current year.

Artefacts: As with the Library Collections, the University does not consider that reliable costs or valuation information can be obtained for the artefacts held. The University does not therefore recognise these assets on its statement of financial position, other than recent acquisitions which are reported at cost when purchased.

Art Collection: The University holds a number of works of art which are not included in the statement of financial position because they have either been loaned to the University or are owned by the University but under the terms of their gift are not eligible for re-sale. Those items which are owned without a re-sale condition are not held on the statement of financial position since reliable cost information is not available for items acquired many years ago.

The University Art Collection operates under a Code of Ethics set down by the Museum Association

<http://www.museumsassociation.org/ethics/code-of-ethics>. These ethics outline a code of practice which strongly advocates retention of items. It is therefore highly unlikely that the University would ever dispose of items from its Art Collection.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12 Investment Property

	2024		2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Balance at 1 August	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900
Additions	-	-	197	197
Loss on revaluation	(425)	(425)	(297)	(297)
Total	1,375	1,375	1,800	1,800

The University purchased Scion House in March 2018. The purpose of the building is to earn rental yields. A revaluation of the property was undertaken at the statement of financial position date of 31 July 2024 by the external valuer, JLL LLP, a regulated firm of Chartered Surveyors. The change in the fair value of the asset was recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

13 Investment in Joint Ventures

Stirling University Innovation Park Ltd (SUIP)

The University holds a 50% share of the issued share capital of Stirling University Innovation Park Limited. This is a jointly controlled entity owned equally by the University and Stirling Council. The principal activity of the company is the development, promotion and management of Stirling University Innovation Park. The arrangement is accounted for using the equity method, such that 50% of the company's gross assets and liabilities are incorporated into the consolidated statement of financial position of the University and 50% of its (deficit)/surplus is reported in the University's consolidated income and expenditure account.

	2024		2023	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and expenditure account				
Income		282		263
(Deficit) before tax		(10)		(13)
Balance sheet				
Fixed assets	162		178	
Current assets	122		110	
		284		288
Creditors: amounts due within one year	(192)		(185)	
Creditors: amounts due after more than one year	(7)		(8)	
		(199)		(193)
Share of net assets		85		95

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

13 Investment in Joint Ventures (continued)

INTO University of Stirling LLP (INTO)

The University holds a 50% share in INTO University of Stirling LLP which is jointly controlled between the University and INTO University Partnerships Limited and was created in financial year 2013-14. The joint venture has created a world-class international study centre in Stirling which provides a range of academic and English language preparation courses for international students. The entity is accounted for using the equity method, such that 50% of the company's gross assets and liabilities are incorporated into the consolidated statement of financial position of the University and 50% of its deficit is reported in the University's consolidate income and expenditure account.

	2024		2023	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and expenditure account				
Income		2,216		2,267
Deficit before tax		(180)		(305)
Balance sheet				
Fixed assets	415		404	
Current assets	583		1,061	
		998		1,465
Creditors: amounts due within one year	(2,035)		(2,322)	
Creditors: amounts due after more than one year	(4,300)		(4,300)	
		(6,335)		(6,622)
Share of net liabilities		(5,337)		(5,157)

14 Stock

	2024		2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
General Consumables	503	415	489	407
Total	503	415	489	407

15 Trade and other receivables

Amounts falling due within one year:

Trade receivables	25,673	26,167	25,228	25,231
Prepayments and accrued income	6,828	6,828	6,756	6,756
Total	32,501	32,995	31,984	31,987

Amounts falling due after more than one year:

Other receivables	4,360	4,360	4,375	4,375
Total	4,360	4,360	4,375	4,375

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

16 Current Investments

	2024		2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Short-term investment in shares	1,891	1,891	1,758	1,758
Short-term bonds	228	228	233	233
Short-term deposits	15,634	15,634	-	-
Total	17,753	17,753	1,991	1,991

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Unsecured loans	1,270	1,270	827	827
Trade payables	17,490	17,747	12,425	12,128
Social security and other taxation payable	4,095	4,095	4,288	4,288
Accruals and deferred income	30,600	30,600	35,243	35,243
Total	53,455	53,712	52,783	52,486

Deferred income

Included with accruals and deferred income are the following items of income which have been deferred until specific performance-related conditions have been met.

Research grants received on account	6,187	6,187	7,309	7,309
Other income	15,235	15,235	17,771	17,771
Total	21,422	21,422	25,080	25,080

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

Unsecured loans	107,340	107,340	101,092	101,092
Total	107,340	107,340	101,092	101,092

Analysis of unsecured loans:

Due within one year (Note 17)	1,270	1,270	827	827
Due between one and two years	1,550	1,550	1,269	1,269
Due between two and five years	4,726	4,726	3,826	3,826
Due in five years or more	101,064	101,064	95,996	95,996
Total secured and unsecured loans	108,610	108,610	101,918	101,918

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

	Amount £'000	Term	Interest rate	Borrower
Lender				
Lloyds TSB - Revolving Credit Facility	-	2027	0.19% above base rate	University
Salix	38	2025	0%	University
Scottish Funding Council	9,330	2043	Fixed at 1%	University
Scottish Funding Council	6,453	2039	Fixed at 0.25%	University
Scottish Funding Council	5,625	2041	Fixed at 0.25%	University
Scottish Funding Council	7,500	2050	Fixed at 1%	University
Private Placement	10,000	2033	Fixed at 3.65%	University
Private Placement	20,000	2036	Fixed at 3.77%	University
Private Placement	20,000	2048	Fixed at 3.96%	University
Private Placement	20,000	2043	Fixed at 3.28%	University
Private Placement	10,000	2048	Fixed at 3.32%	University
FRS 102 amortisation adjustment	(336)			
Total	108,610			

19 Provisions for Liabilities

	Obligation to fund deficit on USS Pension Scheme £'000	Other Provisions £'000	Total £'000
Consolidated and University			
At 1 August 2023	48,212	1,344	49,556
Change in expected contributions	(47,584)	-	(47,584)
Unwinding of discount factor	1,109	-	1,109
Deficit contributions paid	(1,737)	-	(1,737)
Utilised in year	-	(81)	(81)
Additions in 2023-24	-	1,811	1,811
Unused amounts reversed in 2023-24	-	(265)	(265)
At 31 July 2024	-	2,809	2,809

University Superannuation Scheme Pension Deficit (USS Pension)

The obligation to fund the past deficit on the University's Superannuation Scheme (USS) arises from the contractual obligation with the pension scheme for total payments relating to benefits arising from past performance. Management has assessed future employees within the USS scheme and salary payment over the period of the contracted obligation in assessing the value of this provision. The University has not been required to make deficit recovery payments from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision held on the statement of financial position.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

20 Endowment Reserves

Consolidated and University	Restricted permanent endowments £'000	Expendable endowments £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Restricted net assets relating to endowments are as follows:				
Capital	203	1,285	1,488	1,488
Accumulated income	1,005	209	1,214	382
Balances at 1 August 2023	1,208	1,494	2,702	1,870
New donations/transfer in to fund	-	80	80	870
Investment income	22	-	22	6
Expenditure	(30)	(4)	(34)	(44)
Total endowment comprehensive income for the year	(8)	76	68	832
At 31 July 2024	1,200	1,570	2,770	2,702
Represented by:				
Capital	203	1,365	1,568	1,488
Accumulated income	997	205	1,202	1,214
	1,200	1,570	2,770	2,702
Analysis by asset				
Current and non-current asset investments	1,172	-	1,172	990
Cash and cash equivalents	28	1,570	1,598	1,712
	1,200	1,570	2,770	2,702

21 Restricted Reserves

Consolidated and University	Research Investment Funds	Departmental Discretionary Funds	Donations	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Reserves with restrictions are as follows:					
Balances at 1 August 2023	90	319	2,523	2,933	2,985
New donations/transfer in to fund	-	-	563	563	150
Expenditure	-	21	(274)	(253)	(203)
Total restricted comprehensive income/ (expenditure) for the year	-	21	289	310	(53)
At 31 July 2024	90	340	2,812	3,243	2,932

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

22 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	At 31 July 2024 £'000	Cash Flows £'000	At 1 August 2023 £'000
Consolidated			
Cash and cash equivalents	59,759	(14,306)	74,065
	59,759	(14,306)	74,065

23 Financial Instruments

Consolidated and University

Carrying amount of financial instruments

The carrying amount of the financial assets and liabilities include:

	2024		2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Financial Assets				
Measured at fair value through Income and Expenditure	1,172	1,172	990	990
Assets measured at cost less impairment	109,115	109,115	106,751	106,751
	110,287	110,287	107,741	107,741
Financial Liabilities				
Liabilities measured at amortised cost	(52,185)	(52,442)	(51,956)	(51,659)
Loan commitments measured at amortised cost	(108,610)	(108,610)	(101,918)	(101,918)
	(160,795)	(161,052)	(153,874)	(153,577)

Risk Management

The University operates a centralised treasury management function which is responsible for managing the credit, liquidity, interest and foreign currency risk. These financial risks are managed within the parameters specified by the JPPRC approved treasury management policy. The treasury management policy adopts the key recommendations of the Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Service as issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as recommended by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and is reviewed, updated and approved annually.

The University's principal financial instruments are cash, investments and loans. The core objective of these financial instruments is to meet the financing needs of the University's operations. Additionally, the University has other financial assets and liabilities arising directly from its operations i.e., trade debtors and creditors.

Credit Risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss to the University.

The University's credit risk arises from bank balances, investments, student debtors and commercial organisations as customers. Management of credit risk is a prime objective of the Treasury Management policy. At 31 July 2024, the maximum exposure is represented by the carrying value of each financial asset in the statement of financial position.

The credit risk of liquid funds and financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with investment grade credit ratings assigned by international credit rating agencies. The University's exposure and the credit ratings of its counterparties are monitored regularly. The credit exposure is limited by counterparty limits and minimum counter party credit ratings set within the treasury management policy.

Student and commercial debtors are reviewed on an ongoing basis and a bad debt provision is made if recovery becomes uncertain. If a debtor is deemed irrecoverable, it is written off. The concentration of risk is limited due to a large number of diverse customers across both students and commercial customer populations.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

23 Financial Instruments (continued)

Liquidity Risk

The University manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash balances, banking facilities, and borrowing facilities, by continuously monitoring forecast and actual cash flow and by matching the maturity profiles of certain financial assets and liabilities.

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk refers to the risk that unfavourable movement in exchange rates may cause financial loss to the University. The University is exposed to currency risk in transactions and balances that are denominated in currencies other than sterling. Whenever practical, the University enters into agreements in its functional currency in order to minimise currency risks.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk refers to the likelihood that changes in interest rates will result in fluctuations of the value of the statement of financial position items (i.e., price risk) or changes in interest income or expenses (i.e., reinvestments risk).

The University has loans totalling £108.6 million. The interest rates attached to the private placements and Scottish Funding Council loans are fixed over the term of each loan.

24 Capital Commitments

Provision has not been made for the following capital commitments at 31 July 2024:

	31 July 2024		31 July 2023	
	Consolidated £'000	University £'000	Consolidated £'000	University £'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	19,003	19,003	5,514	5,514
Total	19,003	19,003	5,514	5,514

25 Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 31 July 2024.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

26 Lease Obligations

Total rentals receivable under operating leases as lessor:

	2024	2023
	Land and Buildings £'000	Land and Buildings £'000
Receivable during the year	763	782
Future minimum lease payments receivable by University:		
Within 1 year	319	449
Between 2 and 5 years	1,065	1,283
Later than 5 years	5,168	5,170
Total lease payments receivable	6,552	6,902
Total rentals payable under operating leases as lessee:		
Payable during the year	1,654	975
Future minimum lease payments due from University:		
Within 1 year	848	975
Between 2 and 5 years	1,433	1,727
Later than 5 years	717	1,296
Total lease payments due	2,998	3,998

27 Related Party Transactions

In addition to the transactions disclosed in note 7, there were additional related party transactions.

Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the University Court being drawn from both public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of Court may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of Court may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

In accordance with the 2023 Scottish Code of Good HE Governance, all members of Court are required to complete a register of interests to record any areas of potential conflict with the interests of the University. No material transactions have taken place during the year and there were no material balances at the year-end.

A register of the interests of the members of Court and of the University's senior officers is maintained and regularly updated on the University website: <https://www.stir.ac.uk/about/our-people/university-court/>

The University has taken advantage of the exemption allowed by FRS 102 Section 33.1A not to disclose transactions between wholly owned group companies.

The University of Stirling Pension Scheme (USPS) is held for the benefit of employees of the University only. Although the USPS scheme is managed by an external party, control of the scheme rests with the University and so transactions between the University and the USPS scheme are considered related party transactions. These are disclosed in note 30.

The University holds a 50% share of the issued share capital of Stirling University Innovation Park Limited (SUIP) & INTO University of Stirling LLP (INTO). These have been accounted for as jointly controlled entities and as transactions do not fully eliminate on consolidation they are therefore disclosed as related party transactions. These are disclosed in note 13.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

28 Subsidiary Undertakings

The subsidiary companies wholly owned or effectively controlled by the University, are as follows:

The University owns 100% of the issued share capital of ordinary shares of Stirling Hotel Services Limited. The principal activity of the company is to operate the hotel services at Stirling Court Hotel. The company's results have been consolidated into the University's financial statements. The registered office of Stirling Hotel Services Limited is Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, FK9 4LA.

The University owns 100% of the issued share capital of ordinary shares of UoS Education Limited. The principal activity of the company during the year was to be a member of and provide a revolving loan facility to INTO University of Stirling LLP. The University consolidates UoS Education Limited, all the transactions in year between the University and UoS Education Limited are eliminated on consolidation. The registered office of UoS Education Limited is Finance Office, Cottrell Building, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, FK9 4LA.

The University owns 100% of the issued share capital of ordinary shares in Machrihanish Marine Farm Limited, Stirling Salmon Limited, Stirling Aquaculture Ltd, Stirling University Residential Accommodation Limited (SURA), and SURE shelf Limited. These companies have filed dormant accounts for financial year 2023-24. As dormant companies, they still require to be consolidated within the Group accounts. The registered office of these companies is Finance Office, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, FK9 4LA

29 HE Support Funds

HE support funding from Scottish Government for student hardship.

	2024					2023
	Childcare £'000	Higher Education £'000	Nursing & Midwifery £'000	International Student Fund £'000	Total £'000	Total £'000
Allocation received in year	(193)	(354)	(39)	(12)	(598)	(683)
Expenditure	145	410	39	8	602	684
Bank Interest	(2)	(2)	(1)	0	(5)	(11)
Virements between funds	50	(54)	-	4	-	2
Funds to be returned to SAAS	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	(8)

30 Pension Schemes

The University participates in two pension schemes: the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) and the University of Stirling Pension Scheme (USPS). USS is a hybrid pension scheme, providing defined benefits (for all members), as well as defined contribution benefits. USPS is a defined benefit scheme. The assets of both schemes are held in separate trustee administered funds.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
USS: Contributions paid	11,866	13,259
USPS: Contributions paid	927	900
Total Pensions Costs Note 7 and 9	12,793	14,159

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

30 Pension Schemes (continued)

University Superannuation Scheme

The total credit to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (SOCl) is £36.3 million (2022-23: £7.0 million charge) as shown in notes 7 and 8.

Deficit recovery contributions due within one year for the institution are £nil (2022-23: £4.1 million)

A deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which required payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024, at which point the rate would increase to 6.3%. No deficit recovery plan was required under the 2023 valuation because the scheme was in surplus on a technical provisions basis. The institution was no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is as at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2023 valuation was the seventh valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions (the statutory funding objective). At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £73.1 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £65.7 billion indicating a surplus of £7.4 billion and a funding ratio of 111%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2023 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles (uss.co.uk/about-us/valuation-and-funding/statement-of-funding-principles).

CPI assumption	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the Fixed Interest and Index Linked yield curves less: 1.0% p.a. to 2030, reducing linearly by 0.1% p.a. from 2030
Pension increases (subject to a floor of 0%)	Benefits with no cap: CPI assumptions plus 3bps Benefits subject to a "soft cap" of 5% (providing inflationary increases up to 5%, and half of any excess inflation over 5% up to a maximum of 10%): CPI assumption minus 3bps
Discount rate (forward rates)	Fixed interest gilt yield curve plus: Pre-retirement: 2.5% p.a. Post retirement: 0.9% p.a.

The main demographic assumption used relate to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2023 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	2023 Valuation
Mortality base table	101% of S2PMA "light" for males and 95% of S3PFA for females.
Future improvements to mortality	CMI 2021 with a smoothing parameter of 7.5, an initial addition of 0.4% p.a., 10% w2020 and w2021 parameters, and a long-term improvement rate of 1.8% pa for males and 1.6% pa for females.

	2024	2023
The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:		
Males currently aged 65 (years)	23.7	24.0
Females currently aged 65 (years)	25.6	25.6
Males currently aged 45 (years)	25.4	26.0
Females currently aged 45 (years)	27.2	27.4

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

30 Pension Schemes (continued)

University of Stirling Pension Scheme

The University sponsors the University of Stirling Pension Scheme, a funded defined benefit pension scheme in the UK. The Scheme is set up on a tax relieved basis as a separate trust independent of the University and is supervised by a board of trustees. The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the correct benefits are paid, that the Scheme is appropriately funded and that scheme assets are appropriately invested. The Scheme was closed to future accrual in 2013.

The University pays the cost of the Scheme as determined by regular actuarial valuations. The Trustees are required to use prudent assumptions to value the liabilities of the Scheme whereas the accounting assumptions must be best estimates.

A formal actuarial funding valuation was carried out as at 31 July 2021. The University continues to make contributions to the Scheme, in 2023-24 this contribution was £927k. These contributions are payable for a period of seven years and four months from 1 August 2021 and will increase each year on 1 August at 3% per annum. The first increase applied on 1 August 2022.

The results of the 31 July 2021 valuation have been projected to 31 July 2024 with allowance for cash flows over the period and using the assumptions set out below. The figures in the following disclosure were measured using the Projected Unit Method.

The amounts recognised in the statement of financial position are as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Defined benefit obligation	(58,714)	(57,767)
Fair value of plan assets	55,146	56,383
Net defined benefit liability	(3,568)	(1,384)

The amounts recognised in comprehensive income are:

The current and past service costs, settlement, and curtailments, together with the net interest expense for the year are included in profit or loss. Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability are included in other comprehensive income.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Service cost:		
Past service cost	176	-
Administration expenses	283	259
Loss on plan introductions, changes, curtailments, and settlements	-	-
Net interest charge/(credit)	60	(250)
Charge recognised in profit or loss	519	9
Remeasurements of the net liability:		
Return on scheme assets (excluding amount included in net interest expense)	1,851	21,121
Actuarial loss/(gain)	741	(12,017)
Charge recorded in other comprehensive income	2,592	9,104
Total defined benefit cost	3,111	9,113

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

30 Pension Schemes (continued)

The principal actuarial assumption used:

	2024	2023
Liability discount rate	5.00%	5.20%
Inflation assumption – RPI (pre-2030)	3.20%	3.30%
Inflation assumption – RPI (post-2030)	3.20%	3.10%
Inflation assumption – CPI (pre-2030)	2.30%	2.40%
Inflation assumption – CPI (post-2030)	3.10%	3.00%
Rate of increase in salaries (pre-2030)	2.30%	2.40%
Rate of increase in salaries (post-2030)	3.10%	3.00%

Revaluation of deferred pensions:

	2024	2023
- in line with CPI inflation capped at 5% p.a. (pre-2030)	2.30%	2.40%
- in line with CPI inflation capped at 5% p.a. (post-2030)	3.10%	3.00%
- in line with CPI inflation capped at 2.5% p.a. (pre-2030)	2.30%	2.40%
- in line with CPI inflation capped at 2.5% p.a. (post-2030)	2.50%	2.50%

Increases for pensions in payment:

	2024	2023
- in line with CPI inflation capped at 3% p.a. (pre-2030)	1.95%	2.10%
- in line with CPI inflation capped at 3% p.a. (post-2030)	2.35%	2.40%
- in line with RPI inflation capped at 2.5% p.a. (pre-2030)	2.10%	2.20%
- in line with RPI inflation capped at 2.5% p.a. (post-2030)	2.10%	2.20%
- in line with RPI inflation capped at 5% p.a. (pre-2030)	3.05%	3.20%
- in line with RPI inflation capped at 5% p.a. (post-2030)	3.05%	3.00%

Expected age at death of current pensioner at age 65:

	2024	2023
Male aged 65 at year end:	85.0	85.1
Female aged 65 at year end:	88.1	88.3

Expected age at death of future pensioner at age 65:

	2024	2023
Male aged 45 at year end:	86.3	86.4
Female aged 45 at year end:	89.6	89.7

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

30 Pension Schemes (continued)

Reconciliation of scheme assets and liabilities:

	Assets £'000	Liabilities £'000	Total £'000
At start of period	56,383	(57,767)	(1,384)
Benefits paid	(2,904)	2,904	-
Administration expenses	(283)	-	(283)
Past Service Cost	-	(176)	(176)
Contributions from the employer	927	-	927
Interest income/(expense)	2,874	(2,934)	(60)
Return on assets (excluding amount included in net interest expense)	(1,851)	-	(1,851)
Actuarial losses	-	(741)	(741)
At end of period	55,146	(58,714)	(3,568)

The return on plan assets:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Interest income	2,874	2,657
Return on plan assets (excluding amount included in net interest expense)	(1,851)	(21,121)
Total return on plan assets	1,023	(18,464)

The major categories of scheme assets are as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Return seeking	13,695	14,526
Bonds/LDI	17,148	15,063
Corporates	9,720	8,944
Insured Annuities	595	648
Index Linked	5,513	5,409
Property	7,190	7,482
Cash	1,285	4,311
Total market value of assets	55,146	56,383

The Scheme has no investments in the University or in property occupied by the University.

In June 2023, the High Court judged that amendments made to the Virgin Media scheme were invalid because the scheme's actuary did not provide the associated Section 37 certificate. The High Court's decision has wide ranging implications, affecting other schemes that were contracted-out on a salary-related basis, and made amendments between April 1997 and April 2016. The Scheme was contracted out until 29 February 2016 and amendments were made during the relevant period. As such the ruling could have implications for the University. Following the Court of Appeal upholding the 2023 High Court ruling on 25 July 2024, the Trustees initiated the process of investigating any potential impact for the Scheme.

As the detailed investigation is in progress, the University considers that the amount of any potential impact on the defined benefit obligation cannot be confirmed and/or measured with sufficient reliability at the 2024 year end. We are therefore disclosing this issue as a potential contingent liability at 31 July 2024 and will review again in 2025 based on the findings of the detailed investigation.

A separate matter relates to historic pension increases for members that left the Scheme between 6 April 1997 and 30 December 2008. The Trustees are still investigating this issue and are yet to reach a decision on any potential rectification. As such no allowance has been made within the disclosures.

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

31 US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule

In satisfaction of its obligations to facilitate students' access to US federal financial aid, the University is required, by the US Department of Education, to present the following Supplemental Schedule in a prescribed format.

The amounts presented within the schedules have been:

- a) prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of certain fixed assets;
- b) prepared using United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2019 edition);
- c) presented in pounds sterling.

The schedules set out how each amount disclosed has been extracted from the financial statements. As set out above, the accounting policies used in determining the amounts disclosed are not intended to and do not comply with the requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Primary Reserve Ratio			Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31 July 2023	
Page	Line item/related disclosures	Expendable Net Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
46	SOFP - Income and expenditure reserve - unrestricted	Net assets without donor restrictions		189,113		137,465
46	SOFP - Income and expenditure reserve - endowment & restricted	Net assets with donor restrictions		6,012		5,634
46; 62	SOFP - NCA - Trade and other receivables + Related Party Debtor	Secured and Unsecured related party receivable	4,815		4,714	
46; 62	SOFP - NCA - Trade and other receivables + Related Party Debtor	Unsecured related party receivable		4,815		4,714
54	SOFP - Fixed assets - leasehold land and buildings	Property, plant and equipment net (includes Construction in progress)	250,635		237,953	
54	Note 11 - FLB + FFE at 31 July 2019 - Disposals - Impairment	Property, plant and equipment - pre-implementation		187,662		187,662
		Property, Plant and Equipment - post-implementation with outstanding debt for original purchase		-		-
54	Note 11 -	Property, Plant and Equipment - post-implementation without outstanding debt for original purchase		36,690		36,690
54	Note 11 - Assets in course of construction	Construction in process		13,920		13,920
46; 54	SOFP - Leasehold land and buildings	Lease right-of-use, net	319		319	
46; 54	SOFP - Leasehold land and buildings	Lease right-of-use asset pre-implementation		319		319
		Lease right-of-use asset post-implementation		-		-
		Intangible assets		-		-
46	SOFP - USS Pension Provision + Pension (liability)	Post-employment and pension liabilities		(3,568)		(49,596)

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

31 US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule (continued)

Primary Reserve Ratio			Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31 July 2023	
Page	Line item/related disclosures	Expendable Net Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
46; 57; 58	SOFP - 2021 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year + Unsecured loans <1 year	Long-term debt - for long term purposes	(109,880)		(102,745)	
46; 57; 58	SOFP - 2019 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year + Unsecured loans <1 year	Long-term debt - for long term purposes pre implementation		(86,846)		(86,846)
		Long-term debt - for long term purposes post implementation		-		-
57; 58	Note 18 - SFC Loans + net of repayments	Long-term debt - for construction in process		(23,034)		(15,899)
		Lease right-of-use of asset liability		-		-
		Pre-implementation right of use leases		-		-
		Post implementation right-of-use leases		-		-
		Annuities with donor restrictions		-		-
59	Note 20 - Expendable Endowments	Term endowments with donor restrictions		1,571		1,494
		Life income funds with donor restrictions		-		-
46; 59	SOFP - Income and expenditure reserve - restricted	Net assets with donor restrictions: restricted in perpetuity		4,442		4,140

			Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31 July 2023	
Page	Line item/related disclosures	Total Expenses and Losses	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
44; 50; 59	SOCI - Total expenditure - Movement on pensions - Expenditure on restricted endowments - Expenditure on restricted donations	Total expenses without donor restrictions - taken directly from statement of activities		171,842		158,804
44	SOCI - Share of operating deficit in joint venture + Investment Income + (Loss) on Investments + USS pension movement + Actuarial losses	Non-operating and Net Investment (loss)		25,951		25,823
44	SOCI - Investment Income + (Loss)/ Gain on investments	Net investment losses		(167)		(167)
44	SOCI - USS pension movement + Actuarial losses	Pension-related changes other than net periodic costs		26,308		26,308

15. Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

31 US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule (continued)

Equity Ratio			Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31 July 2023	
Page	Line item/related disclosures	Modified Net Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
46	SOFP - Income and expenditure reserve - unrestricted	Net assets without donor restrictions		189,113		137,465
46	SOFP - Income and expenditure reserve - endowment & restricted	Net assets with donor restrictions		6,012		5,634
		Intangible assets		-		-
46; 62	SOFP - NCA - Trade and other receivables + Related Party Debtor	Secured and Unsecured related party receivable	4,815	-	4,714	-
46; 62	SOFP - NCA - Trade and other receivables + Related Party Debtor	Unsecured related party receivable		4,815		4,714

Equity Ratio			Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31 July 2023	
Page	Line item/related disclosures	Modified Assets	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
46	SOFP - Non current assets + current assets	Total assets		367,634		353,071
46; 54	SOFP - Leasehold land and buildings	Lease right-of-use asset pre-implementation		319		319
		Pre-implementation right-of-use of asset liability		-		-
		Intangible assets		-		-
46; 62	SOFP - NCA - Trade and other receivables + Related Party Debtor	Secured and Unsecured related party receivable	4,815		4,714	
46; 62	SOFP - NCA - Trade and other receivables + Related Party Debtor	Unsecured related party receivable		4,815		4,714

Net Income Ratio			Year ended 31 July 2024		Year ended 31 July 2023	
Page	Line item/related disclosures	Net Income Ratio	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
46	SOFP - Movement in unrestricted reserves	Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		51,647		7,512
44	SOCI - SFC Grants + Tuition fees + Research grants + Other income + (Donations and endowments - restrictions - restrictions PRC) + gain on disposal of fixed assets	Total Revenues and Gains		175,197		167,914

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