Company registration no: 03628986 (England and Wales)
Charity no: 1071825

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

Legal and administrative information

Full name	The Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom
Registered company number	03628986
Registered charity number	1071825

Trustees:

Rose Gann	Chair
John Craig	Vice Chair & Honorary Secretary (Term ended June 2025)
Donna Smith	Honorary Secretary (Term started June 2025) & Professional Contribution
Stefan Wolff	Honorary Treasurer
Andrew Mycock	Vice Chair & Membership (Term ended June 2025)
Georgina Blakeley	Membership (Term started June 2025)
Indrajit Roy	Specialist Groups (Term ended June 2025)
Aleida Borges	Specialist Groups (Term started June 2025)
Heather Alberro	Early Career Network
Nicholas Allen	Publications
Manjeet Ramgotra	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Omar Khan	Lay-trustee
Ana Nunes	Schools & Students
Emma Foster	Teaching & Learning Network (Term started June 2025)

Company Secretary: Michelle Doyle Wildman, Chief Executive

All the above make up the PSA's Executive Committee.

Legal and administrative information

Registered office	**PSA Head Office** Elizabeth Meehan Suite Unit 2, Regent House 1-6 Pratt Mews London NW1 0AD
Bankers	**Bank of Scotland** Leicester Branch PO Box 1000 BX2 1LB
Independent examiners	**UHY Hacker Young** 14 Park Row Nottingham NG1 6GR

Report of the Trustees for 2025

The trustees, who act as directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in submitting their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Legal Status

The Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom, also known as the Political Studies Association (PSA and, below, as the Association), is a company limited by guarantee (number 03628986). The Political Studies Association is also a registered charity (number 1071825) and is subject to the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and the rulings of the High Court with regard to charities generally. The charity is registered for VAT (number 620.3514.86). The majority of members of the Executive Committee of the Association are the trustees of the charity and are personally accountable for the proper management of the Association and its assets. They are required to act prudently at all times in the best interests of the charity.

The Charities Act 2011 requires registered charities to make an annual return of accounts and activities. The Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charity SORP FRS 102) form the accounting framework for charities. The current guidance can be found at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity_requirements_guidance/accounting_and_reporting/

Objects and Membership

The Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom was founded in 1950. The objectives of the Association, set out in clause 3 of the company's Articles of Association, are "to promote the development of political studies and to encourage education and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government and in other branches of the political sciences".

The charity is governed by its Articles of Association and by-laws.

Any person holding an appointment in political studies and allied subjects in a higher education institution, and any other person whose participation is likely to be advantageous to political studies, may become a member. Some members (students, teachers in schools, public members) do not have full voting rights or receive the PSA's printed journals and this is reflected in a lower membership rate.

As of December 2025, the total membership was 1,387 (compared with 1,402 at the end of 2024). This included 564 standard rate members (at 591 at the end of 2024), 579 early career members compared to 517 in 2024 as well as 83 student members and 21 school members.

Trustees and Governance

The trustees of the Association constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee normally meets four times a year. At the end of 2025, there were 12 members, one of whom is a lay-trustee and another is appointed (as set out in by-law 4.13 and according to Article 11.18) as the Honorary Treasurer.

Under by-law 4.7, an elected trustee can serve for up to a total of two elected terms of three years and one year as a co-opted member (maximum six plus one years) but must then stand down from the Executive Committee for one full term (i.e., three years). Trustees can be co-opted to the Executive for a maximum period of one year before having a break of at least one year before undertaking another co-option.

Appointment to the elected positions on the Executive Committee is determined through a ballot of all members. In 2025, three trustee positions came up for election, and this process was overseen by Professor John Craig as Returning Officer. The successful candidates were Professor Georgina Blakeley, Dr Aleida Borges and Dr Emma Foster. Dr Donna Smith was also elected as Honorary Secretary in June 2025 for a three-year term.

All the trustees who served in 2025 are listed in the introductory section of this report. No trustee receives any remuneration.

A number of trustees act have oversight of specific areas of activity and work closely in support of the PSA staff tasked with delivery. The only formal standing committee which now exists is the Publications Sub-Committee which also involves all the PSA's journal editors and our academic publishers, Sage Publishing.

PSA New Strategic Plan 2025-28

Our Strategic Plan was published in January 2025 to mark the start of celebrating the charity's 75th year.

The Trustees approved the following vision, strategic goals, and values:

Our vision is for the PSA to play a leading role in enabling the research, teaching, and study of politics and related disciplines in the UK to:

- Be valued
- Be well-resourced
- Be practiced by a diversity of students, teachers, and scholars
- Be internationally renowned for its excellence
- And, to inform positive change in the world.

As the **home of Political Studies**, the PSA will be a vibrant community where everyone is welcome to join its membership and feel supported to give their best towards this vision.

The PSA will work towards this vision by focusing on **five strategic goals**:

- Goal 1: We will advocate for Political Studies and represent those who study, teach and research politics and international relations
- Goal 2: We will support our members as they proceed through their careers and sustain the discipline
- Goal 3: We will support and sustain a diverse community of students, scholars, and practitioners
- Goal 4: We will strive for excellence and impact in research and teaching
- Goal 5: We will ensure a confident and sustainable future for the Political Studies Association.

Our values:
We will implement these strategic goals by striving for:

- Inclusivity and diversity
- Excellence
- Community
- Collaboration
- Sustainability.

The PSA will continue to provide a space for people to come together and be supported to grow and develop as students, scholars, and practitioners of Politics and related areas.

For the PSA team of trustees and staff, there is an understanding that this plan is not set in stone with scope for it to evolve in the face of new opportunities or challenges.
We will report our progress annually, including at our Annual General Meeting. We will also seek to continue the conversation with our members as each of these strategic goals is tackled towards cementing our role as the home for the Political Studies discipline.

Alongside our activities to advocate for the discipline, in 2026 we hope to:

- Continue our digital developments with work on our Customer Relationship Management system, functionality in support of our specialist groups and in holding events
- Begin our membership and related reviews so that we meet the needs of our association and continue to offer compelling and helpful benefits
- Consider developments in our journal operations and performance.

Staffing & Premises

The Chief Executive, Michelle Doyle Wildman, continues to be supported by a team of officers covering operations, finance, events, communications and membership.

The PSA continued its agreement with the British Educational Research Association to share the association's premises.

As set out in the PSA's Strategic Plan 2025-28, a key priority for 2025 has been investing in and developing our digital capabilities to increase efficiencies and improve member experience. This resulted in the launch of a new website at the end of the year and a programme of Customer Relationship Management System developments planned for early in 2026.

Promoting Equal Opportunities

The Trustees are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, to providing opportunities for career development for all and to opposing all forms of discrimination. An Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) working group of trustees and PSA members was active in 2025 to further this aim in the association.

The PSA completed the second round of the *Diverse Voices* PhD support programme for historically marginalised scholars which was led by members of the EDI working group and our Diversity & Projects Officer. This programme supported six scholars and two associate scholars.

The PSA also supported pilot work by its Women and Politics Specialist Group on running a development programme for mid-career female academics. We also produced new resources to help EDI in the organisation including explanatory videos to encourage members of our community to be active bystanders.

Public Benefit

In preparing this report the trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, as set out in its publication 'Charities and Public Benefit: the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit' (January 2008, amended December 2011) and subsequent postings on the Public Benefit section of its website.

The Charities Act 2011 sets out the following, among others, as charitable purposes:

a) the advancement of education;
b) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science.

It also specifies a legal requirement "that every organisation set up for one or more charitable aims must be able to demonstrate that its aims are for the public benefit if it is to be recognised, and registered, as a charity in England and Wales". This is known as the public benefit requirement. There are two key principles, both of which must be met in order to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit:

Principle I: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits;
Principle 2: Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public.

The Association has provided a benefit to the public by carrying out the activities listed in this report in accordance with its charitable object "to promote the development of political studies and to encourage education and the advancement of learning in the art and science of government and in other branches of the political sciences".

As a learned society, our public benefit derives not simply from membership of the Association but from the wider dissemination by the Association of knowledge about politics and political science through the charity's events, publications, social media, and website – as set out below.

Activities for the Public Benefit

The Political Studies Association engages in a range of activities open to members and non-members alike. As described in more detail in other sections of this report, the Association organises a large number of events and produces a range of publications that serve to promote the understanding and development of political studies.

1. Publications

1.a. Academic Journals

The Association owns four academic, peer-reviewed journals: *Political Studies*; *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations (BJPIR)*; *Politics*; and *Political Studies Review*. These have been published under contract by Sage Publishing since January 2016. This arrangement provides a guaranteed and substantial source of revenue for the association through to the end of 2025 (as a current five-year agreement came into force on 1 January 2021). PSA signed a new contract with Sage Publishing which will commence in January 2026.

The latest data on these journals' impact is from 2024 and is listed below. 2025 Impact Factors will be released in June 2026.

- ***Political Studies*** had an Impact Factor of 2.8 in 2024, ranking it 56/325 in the category of Political Science and 26/170 in the category of International Relations. The 5 Year Impact Factor is 3.9, a 21.9% increase from the prior year. *Political Studies* published 82 articles in 2025, and had 562,140 downloads, a 5% increase from 2024. The 2025 acceptance rate for the journal was 13% and the time to first decision for authors was 29 days. This journal is edited by a team from the University of York.

- ***The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*** (BJPIR) had an Impact Factor of 3.4 in 2024, a 62% increase the previous year, ranking it 15/170 in the category of International Relations and 36/325 in Political Science. The 5 Year Impact Factor is 3.4, a 36% increase on prior year. *BJPIR* published 51 articles in 2025 and had over 386,000 downloads. The 2025 acceptance rate for the journal was 18% and the time to first decision for authors was 29 days. This journal is edited by a team from the University of Leeds.

- ***Politics*** had an Impact Factor of 2.5 in 2024, an increase on 19% in the previous year, ranking it 63/325 in the Political Science category and 29/170 in International Relations. The 5 Year Impact Factor is 3.0. *Politics* published 50 articles in 2025 and had over 249,000 downloads. The 2025 acceptance rate for the journal was 22% and the time to first decision for authors was 44 days. This journal is edited by a team based at the University of Glasgow.

- ***Political Studies Review*** (PSR) had an Impact Factor of 1.8 in 2024, ranking it 121/325 in Political Science. The 5 Year Impact Factor is 2.6, an increase on prior year (2.4). *PSR* published 35 articles in 2025, and had over 223,000 downloads. The 2025 acceptance rate for the journal was 19% and the time to first decision for authors was 45 days. The journal is currently edited by a team from the University of Portsmouth.

The PSA regularly reviews available data on submissions, acceptances, and reviewers. Original submissions to Political Studies, Political Studies Review, Politics, and The British Journal of Politics and International Relations all rose in 2025 compared to 2024. We also pay particular attention to diversity data where available, such as the gender of submitting authors and reviewers (where provided by the user), and the journals continue to see positive results and improvements in 2025, with female authors who wish to publish in the journals rising for Political Studies and Political Studies Review. The number of authors submitting who identify as non-binary has remained steady across the suite. In addition, there is continued positive uptake from female reviewers agreeing to review across the entire suite of journals.

1.b. Political Insight Magazine

In addition to its academic journals, the PSA publishes *Political Insight* - a full colour magazine-style journal of topical articles which aims to reach the wider community by making academic research accessible to practitioners, teachers, students, and the general reader. This is provided free of charge as part of PSA membership.

The most read article published in 2025 continues to be "Feminism: A Fourth Wave?" by Ealasaid Munro (published in 2024) with over 3,700 downloads and total downloads for Political Insight in 2025 were just over 76,000. The top downloaded article in 2025 that was published in 2025, was "Trump 2.0 and the New American Oligarchy" by Katie Pruszynski with 2361 downloads.

2. Conferences and events

The PSA organises an annual international conference and hosts events for its early career members and Teaching & Learning Network. In 2025, the PSA supported 49 Specialist Groups who also hold a wide range of events each year. The Association also collaborates with the British International Studies Association (BISA) to hold regular meetings with Heads of Department and other leaders.

2.a Annual International Conference 2025
75th Annual International Conference

This event was held as an in-person conference from 14 – 16 April 2025 and attracted 897 registrations.

2.b. Future PSA Conference Dates:

76th Annual International Conference 2026 will be held in Oxford at the Examination Schools, St Catherine's College and Wadham College from 30 March – 1 April 2026. In 2025 we introduced a new Academic Programme Committee for the PSA26 Annual Conference. This committee includes PSA trustees, Specialist Group convenors and representatives from Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University, as well as the PSA conference team staff.

3. Communications, Engagement, Advocacy and Prizes

The PSA's communication strategy focuses on delivering the 2025-2028 strategic plan and in particular on:

- Membership retention and growth;
- Increased promotion on all the ways people can get involved in the PSA; and,
- Advocating for and achieving higher profile support of the discipline.

The Association has an important role to play in helping to inform public debates on key political issues by bringing the attention of the public, the media and policymakers to the research and evidence being produced by academics working in the field of political studies through media relations, sharing journal outputs, encouraging members to submit evidence inquiries or consultations, and putting forward the names of academic experts to provide such advice and evidence. Increasingly, this is also achieved through working with partners and through social media activity.

The Association has continued to produce other material on key issues drawing on the research of PSA members (especially from our Specialist Groups) including regular blogs on the website. It also makes available reports and publications from other organisations that are of particular interest to PSA members.

In terms of expressing solidarity and supporting the Political Studies discipline, the PSA makes statements and writes open letters in its own right and in partnership with other learned societies. During 2025 this has included writing in support of colleagues facing the risk of redundancy and writing in June to the UK Government on the future of Political and International Studies and funding pressures in higher education with BISA and UACES.

3.a. Communication with Members

The Association communicates regularly with all of its members through its networks, working groups, Specialist Groups and dedicated print and digital comms channels including PSA News (published as a hardcopy and digital magazine twice a year), a fortnightly e-newsletter, the PSA website, and social media.

3.b. Digital Communications

The PSA posts simultaneously across X, Bluesky, LinkedIn and Facebook. We have continued to grow our following on Bluesky (now 5,460 compared to 2,637 in 2024) and LinkedIn (4,236 followers in 2025). X retains the biggest number of social media followers at 24.8k (compared to 25.5k at the end of 2024).

The Association's fortnightly e-newsletters and other bulletins continue to be effective forms of digital communications. Average open rates for e-newsletter were down slightly from 40.6% in 2024 to 37.8%. The PSA website hosted 70 news posts in 2025 (compared to 54 in 2024), including 32 blogs and statements concerning PSA business or the wider discipline.

3.c. Academic Prizes

Each year the Association awards a range of academic prizes relating to outstanding books, PhD dissertations, teaching, and career achievements. In 2025, after an extensive judging process, the following PSA prizes were awarded and celebrated:

- Dr Alexandra Meakin won the Sir Bernard Crick Prize for outstanding teaching (early career)
- Dr Susan Kenyon won the Vicky Randall Prize for outstanding teaching (open)
- University of Edinburgh's School of Social & Political Science/Centre on Constitutional Change and UK in a Changing Europe won the Jackie Briggs Prize for outstanding teaching by a team
- Populism and Women and Politics specialist groups jointly won the Specialist Group of the Year Prize
- The Scottish Election Study won the Pippa Norris Prize for Research by a Team
- Dr Alasia Nuti won the Richard Rose Prize for outstanding contribution to advancing knowledge in Political Studies by an early career scholar
- Dr Jessica Smith won the Joni Lovenduski Prize for outstanding professional achievement by a mid-career scholar
- Professor Paul Carmichael and Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira jointly won the Sir Isaiah Berlin Prize for outstanding professional contribution to Political Studies (open)
- Dr Asma Abdi won the Elizabeth Wiskemann Prize for dissertations of (in)equality and social justice
- Dr Daniel Casey won the McDougall Trust Prize for dissertations on elections, electoral

systems, and representation
- Dr Lucy Maycox won the Shirin M. Rai Prize for dissertations in international relations
- Dr Viviana Baraybar Hidalgo won the Walter Bagehot Prize for dissertations on government and public administration
- Dr David Guerrero won the Sir Ernest Baker Prize for dissertations in public theory
- Dr Ali Al Youha won the Lord Bryce Prize for dissertations on comparative politics
- Barbara Piotrowska, Christopher Hood, Maia King and Iain Mclean won the WJM Mackenzie Book Prize for *The way the money goes: The Fiscal Constitution and Public Spending in the UK (Oxford University Press).*

4. Research, Partnerships, Public Affairs and Impact

4.a. Professional Impact

Work to support our members in engaging with the Research Excellence Framework process (REF2029) has continued in 2025 in close collaboration with the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) and the British Academy (BA).

The PSA and BISA are working closely with the Chair and Deputy Chair of REF2029 sub-panel 19 and ensuring that our members and Heads of Department are kept informed and engaged on the REF2029 process.

The Association regularly participates in government, parliamentary and research council consultations on issues for which it has particular expertise and/or which may have a bearing on its own activities. The PSA was a founding member of the AcSS and remains an active participant in the work of the Academy and in the associated Campaign for Social Science and EDI working group. The latter programme also led to the PSA receiving academy and ESRC funding to further its EDI work.

The PSA is partnered with the British Academy on a new report on Politics and International Relations provision in UK higher education which was published and launched in January 2025. This is a very helpful source of evidence and analysis to inform our advocacy and EDI work.

With the publication of the Curriculum and Assessment Review's final report and a new post-16 skills and education in England white paper, political education in our schools and colleges was in the spotlight in 2025. The PSA informed the debate and responded to these developments in partnership with the AcSS, the British Academy and other partner organisations.

4.b. Parliamentary Internships

For the last seven years, the PSA has worked with the Parliamentary Scrutiny Unit to support PSA member PhD students on a four-month placement working with a select committee. Applications to the scheme continue to be of a high quality and the feedback from participants, their hosts and their academic supervisors is universally positive. In 2025, a placement was secured with the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee and the winning student will produce an account of their experience once this placement is over.

5. Teaching and Learning

5.a. Teaching & Learning Network

The PSA's Teaching and Learning Network (TLN), open to all academic members of the PSA, ran a number of roundtables at the PSA25 conference in Birmingham. They organised a popular series of interactive webinars throughout the year and held a successful annual PSA Teaching and Learning Network Conference. This took place on 4 - 5 September 2025 at Royal Holloway, University of London, welcoming submissions on topics relating to education in the fields of politics and related disciplines. The conference provided space for paper proposals and panels, roundtables, interactive workshops, and discussions of good practice.

5.b. Schools

The PSA continued to offer CPD sessions for teachers during 2025 in partnership with the Parliament Education Service. A seminar for UK-based teachers was held on 17 June focusing on 'The Work of a Peer'. Lord Philip Norton of Louth, recently appointed PSA Founding Fellow, was our esteemed keynote speaker. Teachers also took part in a Q&A with Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Leeds and Dr David Jeffery, University of Liverpool. The full day event included a tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords, and 100% of the attendees subsequently rated the event as 'very useful' or 'useful' for their work with students.

We continued our successful partnership with the Financial Times (FT) in running a Student Blog Competition, for students aged 16 to 19, supported by Shout Out UK. 74 students submitted excellent blogs on the subject "Can social media help save democracy?". Entries were judged by a panel from the PSA and the FT, and the winning blog was submitted by a student at the Taipei European School. The two UK-based runners-up were invited to present their blogs at an event for school students in the Houses of Parliament.

5.c. Undergraduates

We updated our "Guide to Studying Politics & International Relations at University" in 2025 in partnership with teaching-focused members, trustees and Founding Fellows as well as current or recent undergraduates. We hope this will be a useful resource for prospective students and their teachers as well as to PSA Schools members and Heads of Department.

6. The Early Career Network

The PSA is committed to supporting the next generation of political scholars and scientists through its Early Career Network (ECN), which exists to represent the interests of postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career academics. ECN membership, which ended the year comprising 517 individuals, is open to those who have started a doctoral degree up until three years after the completion of a doctoral viva.

In April 2025, the ECN hosted an online event focusing on the future of higher education in the UK, and organised their annual online conference in July 2025, with the theme of "Politics in an Age of Uncertainty", following which prizes were awarded to the best papers across the three days. The ECN committee played an active role at the PSA25 conference in Birmingham offering multiple opportunities for early career academics to engage and network with both senior academics and their peers, including a very popular early career mentoring session.

7. Specialist Groups

The PSA's Specialist Groups are at the heart of the Association, with a huge reach across diverse areas of interest and expertise. In 2025, the Association supported 49 Specialist Groups – including two newly formed: Autocracy & Regime and International Relations. The convenors of each group worked closely with both the PSA Team and other groups, to engage their members and hold innovative online and in-person events, with 39 events promoted through the Association's website during the year. In total, the specialist groups have an active membership of over 16,200. As well as events, the Specialist Groups also provide opportunities to develop and support early career academics (in support of our charitable goals and EDI strategy), work with partners in other disciplines, internationally and outside of academia to ensure their work is as impactful as possible.

As part of the PSA's 75th anniversary initiatives in 2025, a new Excellence & Impact Fund was launched. This was made available to PSA Specialist Groups to apply for funding to cover, or contribute towards, projects that demonstrated excellence and impact in showcasing research or innovations in Political Studies teaching and scholarship, and we were pleased to offer support to nine Specialist Groups.

8. International Links

The PSA has also maintained its close relationship with the American Political Science Association (APSA) in 2025 which including PSA members attending the 2025 APSA annual meeting and collaborating on the international partnerships Award to celebrate outstanding and innovative cross-national scholarly partnerships. The 2025 winning entry entitled 'Policing in Patriarchy' chronicled the impactful work in India on police responsiveness to women by Akshay Mangla from the University of Oxford and the University of Virginia's Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Sandip Sukhtankar. This was a multi-method research project focused on policing and gender-based violence which informed the strengthening of police training and practices aimed at improving women's security.

Ex-Trustee Professor Indrajit Roy has been very active as the PSA's IPSA representative this year attending conferences and council sessions to further international political science scholarship.

9. Our Founding Fellows

2025 was the PSA's 75th anniversary year, and as part of our celebrations to mark this milestone, we introduced a new PSA fellowship. The PSA Executive Committee chose to nominate and award 12 Founding Fellows in recognition of their important contribution to the PSA and discipline more broadly. The Founding Fellows were formally appointed at PSA25 Conference and were awarded with a lifetime membership. The Founding Fellows will continue to actively input and contribute to the PSA's strategic programmes and aims.

The financial management of the Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom is undertaken by the Chief Executive, the Head of Operations and Finance, and the Honorary Treasurer, in liaison with other staff and the senior leadership team. Reports are prepared for meetings of the Senior Leadership Team and the Executive Committee. The CEO has operational responsibility to ensure the strategy agreed by the Executive Committee is carried out.

Provision of information to the Independent Examiner
Each of the persons who were directors at the time when this report was approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's Independent Examiners are unaware;

- the director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any information needed by the charitable company's Independent Examiner in connection with preparing its report and to establish that the charitable company's Independent Examiners are aware of that information.

Income during 2025
Total income during 2025 was £932,186 compared with £996,962 in 2024.

One of the sources of income for the Association is subscriptions paid by members. In 2025, this amounted to £56,395 compared to £61,162 in 2024.

As part of the consolidation of the Specialist Groups, income of £24,608 was recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (2024: £158,743) which were raised directly by Specialist Groups. Both these amounts have been restricted to the relevant Specialist Group and significantly contribute to the uplift in income in 2024 (see note 20 for more details).

Expenditure during 2025
Total expenditure during 2025 was £909,764 compared with £868,144 in 2024.

As part of the consolidation of the Specialist Groups, expenditure of £31,916 was recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (2024: £47,433) which were expended directly by Specialist Groups. Both these amounts have been restricted to the relevant Specialist Group.

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in notes 14 and 19 to the accounts.

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

Investment Policy

Scope

This policy applies to all cash reserves and investments held by PSA, including funds placed in savings or deposit accounts, which are considered investments as per Charity Commission guidance.

Objectives

- **Preservation of Capital:** Protect the Charity's cash reserves to ensure funds are available for operational and programmatic needs.
- **Liquidity:** Maintain sufficient liquidity to meet short-term operational requirements and unforeseen circumstances.
- **Income Generation:** Maximize interest income on cash reserves within low-risk parameters to support the charity's activities.
- **Risk Management:** Diversify deposits across multiple institutions to maximise Financial Services Compensation Scheme ("FSCS") protection and minimise risk.

Guidelines

Funds will be placed in FCA-authorized UK banks or building societies using a mix of staggered fixed-term deposits and notice accounts to balance interest income with short-term accessibility. We may place deposits exceeding the £120,000 FSCS limit with well-funded, stable banks with strong credit ratings, diversifying across institutions to manage risk and prioritising low-risk, FSCS-protected accounts where possible. Ethical considerations will guide bank selection, and a portion of reserves will remain in instant access accounts to meet immediate needs.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Reserves Policy and the level of reserves are reviewed each year having regard to the Charity Commission publication CC19, 'Charity Reserves: Building Resilience' (January 2016), and a forecast of income and expenditure is prepared for the following year.

The reserves policy effective in 2025 (since January 2025) is: 'For so long as the Association shall own a property the market value of which is no less than £1.4 million, the PSA will retain the higher of £450,000 in cash or six months running costs which is around £298,000. The PSA will also designate some free reserves for key areas of strategic work and risks which will be drawn down and reassigned on a yearly basis.

Designated Funds for 2025 onwards

- **Fixed Asset Fund (£1,673,243)** which represents the associations' fixed assets.
- **Digital Fund (£100,000)** to cover capital and other digital infrastructure.
- ***Diverse Voices* Fund (£30,000)** which supports the Association's efforts to further equality, diversity, and inclusion in our discipline.
- **Conference Fund (£50,000:** PSA's annual conference and other association events hold risk in both income and expenditure; this fund will be used to cover any shortfalls.
- **Excellence and Impact Fund (£30,000):** For small grants for our members to benefit from
- **Strategic Developments Fund (£100,000):** to support the development and delivery of the PSA's 2025-28 strategic plan and programmes.
- **Maternity and Staffing Fund (£50,000):** to cover enhanced maternity pay for staff and any additional unforeseen staffing costs.

Executive Committee will continue to monitor the Reserves Policy and Designated Funds regularly.

After drawdown of Funds, PSA has free reserves of £657,937. The Trustees' note that free reserves exceed the charity's reserves policy and are evaluating future plans to ensure that these reserves are utilised in a manner aligned with the charity's long-term objectives and towards delivering the 2025-28 strategic plan.

Financial Assessment

Current Position and Plans for the Future: The figures demonstrate the Association is in a strong financial position with guaranteed income and predictable expenditure in the short to medium term. There is a clear commitment to the diversification of income and an expansion in membership. We also face the unknown impact of the currently proposed changes in relation to academic publication practices and the growth of open access and our income may reduce from 2025 onwards. The Association will continue to engage pro-actively with these developments and seek to influence the wider landscape in order to protect our core mission and our members' interests.

Professor Rose Gann
Chair, Political Studies Association

Date: 18/05/26

Michelle Doyle Wildman
Chief Executive, Political Studies Association

Date: 18/05/26

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of The Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's Independent Examiners are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's Independent Examiners are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Professor Stefan Wolff

Honorary Treasurer

Approved by the trustees on 18/05/2026

UHY Hacker Young
14 Park Row
Nottingham
NG1 6GR

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 20 to 34.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for Independent Examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Chris McKain

Chris McKain FCA
for and on behalf of

UHY Hacker Young
14 Park Row
Nottingham
NG1 6GR

Date: 26 MAY 2026

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income and Expenditure					
Income:					
Charitable activities	3	24,608	832,426	857,034	938,719
Investment income	4	-	75,152	75,152	58,243
Total		24,608	907,578	932,186	996,962
Expenditure:					
Charitable activities	5	31,916	877,848	909,764	868,144
Total		31,916	877,848	909,764	868,144
Net movements in funds for the year		(7,308)	29,730	22,422	128,818
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward at 1 January		111,310	2,661,450	2,772,760	2,643,942
Total funds carried forward at 31 December		104,002	2,691,180	2,795,182	2,772,760

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the net movement in funds for the year.

The restricted funds refer to the Specialist Group income and related expenditure.

The remaining income and expenditure arising in the year ended 31 December 2025 relates to unrestricted funds.

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	**7**	1,673,243	1,563,282
Current assets			
Debtors	**8**	98,389	218,765
Cash at bank		424,746	390,542
Investments		945,851	936,485
Total current assets		1,468,986	1,545,792
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	**9**	(123,455)	(98,122)
Net current assets		1,345,531	1,447,670
Total assets less current liabilities		3,018,774	3,010,952
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**11**	(223,592)	(238,192)
Net assets		2,795,182	2,772,760
Funds			
Unrestricted funds	**12**	2,691,180	2,661,450
Restricted funds	**12**	104,002	111,310
Total funds		2,795,182	2,772,760

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

For the year ended 31 December 2025, the charitable company was entitled to audit exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of the accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and Executive Committee, and were signed on their behalf by:

Professor Stefan Wolff

Honorary Treasurer

Approved by the trustees on 27/05/2026

Company registration number: 03628986

The notes on page 24 to 34 form part of these financial statements

THE POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash inflow from operating activities	**15**	109,338	69,144
Net cash inflow from operating activities		109,338	69,144
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest received		45,152	33,243
Rental income received		30,000	25,000
Investing in investments		(945,851)	(936,485)
Proceeds from investments		936,485	749,999
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(126,948)	(2,160)
Net cash flow from investing activities		(61,162)	(130,403)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing		(24,775)	(24,775)
Interest paid		10,803	14,030
Net cash flow from financing activities		(13,972)	(10,745)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		34,204	(72,004)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		390,542	462,546
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		424,746	390,542

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) published in October 2019 affecting reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the presentation of these financial statements are set out below.

Income

The principle sources of income are as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities. All income is accounted for on a receivable basis. Membership subscriptions received in advance are initially accounted for as deferred income and transferred to revenue by equal annual instalments over the period covered by the subscriptions.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Charitable activities include expenditure directly relating to the objects of the charity and those relating to the general running of the charity, including strategic planning processes that contribute to future development.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of expense for which it was incurred.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank and in hand and short-term deposits (considered to be 120 days or less).

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £1,000, including major computer software applications, are capitalised and included at cost. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value over their expected useful lives as follows:

Long leasehold property	1%
Fixtures and fittings	5%
Website development	20%

Funds

All income is available for the trustees to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objectives, apart from Restricted income of Specialist Groups (See note 20). No restricted funds are centrally held.

Taxation

Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Pensions

The charity is a member of a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

2 Legal Status of the Charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.

3 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Membership subscriptions	56,395	61,162
Income from Sage Publications	565,673	551,295
Annual conference gross income	123,532	103,548
Conference exhibition income	16,888	13,350
Support for events and awards	50,238	46,307
Parliamentary internships	3,000	3,000
Advertising	650	806
Room hire	300	218
Donations and grants	15,750	290
Specialist group income	24,608	158,743
Total – income from charitable activities	857,034	938,719

Of the above, restricted fund income totalled £24,608 (2024: £158,743) and £832,426 (2024: £779,976) related to unrestricted funds.

4 Investment income

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank interest received	45,152	33,243
Rental income	30,000	25,000
Total – income from investments	75,152	58,243

Of the above, restricted fund income totalled £nil (2024: £nil) and £75,152 (2024: £58,243) related to unrestricted funds.

5 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	446,445	337,201
National Office	75,837	159,480
International and external relations	5,590	3,571
Finance and resources	16,270	13,052
Irrecoverable VAT	19,289	17,627
Governance	32,903	22,927
Membership services	1,638	1,471
Conferences and events	118,467	117,189
Awards and prizes	282	320
Communication and engagement	7,798	3,881
Education and skills	501	1,432
Research and impact	59,868	66,527
Publications	124,876	123,466
Total – expenditure for charitable activities	909,764	868,144

All support costs are considered to be charitable activities on the basis that the Association is a membership body.

Restricted fund expenditure totalled £31,916 (2024: £47,433) and unrestricted fund expenditure totalled £877,848 (2024: £820,711).

6 Net income for the year

Net income is stated after charging:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	14,684	81,575
Independent Examination fees	4,000	6,000

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Long leasehold buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Website development	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 January 2025	1,454,737	200,973	129,372	1,785,082
Additions	-	1,248	125,700	126,948
Disposals	-	(2,865)	-	(2,865)
At 31 December 2025	1,454,737	199,356	255,072	1,909,165
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	29,556	64,949	127,295	221,800
Charge for the period	4,547	9,921	216	14,684
Eliminated on disposal	-	(562)	-	(562)
At 31 December 2025	34,103	74,308	127,511	235,922
Net book value				
At 31 December 2025	1,420,634	125,048	127,561	1,673,243
At 31 December 2024	1,425,181	136,024	2,077	1,563,282

8 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,889	25
Other debtors and prepayments	64,352	148,740
Accrued income	32,148	70,000
Total – debtors	98,389	218,765

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	16,292	4,378
Accruals	26,584	32,216
Social security and other taxes	8,338	-
Deferred income (note 10)	57,532	47,447
Bank loan	14,709	14,081
Total – creditors: amounts falling due within one year	123,455	98,122

The loan is a fixed rate loan secured on the property which has a carrying value of £1,420,634 (2024: £1,425,181).

The loan is with The Bank of Scotland and £238,301 remains outstanding at 31 December 2025 (2024: £252,272). The loan became repayable during 2018 and will continue to do so until 7 June 2038. The interest rate on the loan is fixed at 4.37% until 6 June 2028.

10 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Opening balance	47,447	25,777
Movement in the year	(47,447)	(22,777)
Deferred in the year	57,532	44,447
Total – deferred income	57,532	47,447

Deferred income relates to income received in advance for membership and conference exhibition fees.

11 Creditors: amount falling due in more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loan (falling due in less than 5 years)	62,028	60,708
Bank loan (falling due after 5 years)	161,564	177,484
Total – creditors: amounts falling due more than one year	223,592	238,192

12 Fund reconciliation

2025

	As at 1 January 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	2,661,450	907,578	(877,848)	-	2,691,180
Restricted Specialist Groups	111,310	24,608	(31,916)	-	104,002
Total Funds	2,772,760	932,186	(909,764)	-	2,795,182

2024

	As at 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	2,643,942	838,219	(820,711)	-	2,661,450
Restricted Specialist Groups	-	158,743	(47,433)	-	111,310
Total Funds	2,643,942	996,962	(868,144)	-	2,772,760

The restricted funds relate to the Specialist Groups (see note 20) that are affiliated with the company and the Trustees elected to recognise these within the financial statements as branches and consolidate their income and expenditure into the current year's results.

12 Fund reconciliation (continued)

Included within Unrestricted funds were the following designated funds:

- **Fixed Asset Fund (£1,673,243):** which represents the associations' fixed assets.
- **Digital Fund (£100,000):** to cover capital and other digital infrastructure
- ***Diverse Voices* Fund (£30,000):** which supports the Association's efforts to further equality, diversity, and inclusion in our discipline.
- **Conference Fund (£50,000):** PSA's annual conference and other association events hold risk in both income and expenditure; this fund will be used to cover any shortfalls
- **Excellence and Impact Fund (£30,000):** For small grants for our members to benefit from.
- **Strategic Developments Fund (£100,000):** to support the development and delivery of the PSA's new strategic plan and programmes.
- **Maternity and Staffing Fund (£50,000):** to cover enhanced maternity pay for staff and any additional unforeseen staffing costs.

13 Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	371,024	283,403
Employers NI	34,922	23,710
Pension	30,999	25,464
Recruitment and training	1,317	1,207
Other staff costs	8,183	3,417
Total – staff costs	446,445	337,201

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2024: 8). Employees with emoluments above £60,000 are as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£80,000 - £90,000	1	1

Pension contributions are paid to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees. The pension costs charge representing contributions payable by the charity during the year amounted to £30,999 (2024: £25,464).

The total employee benefits of key management were £263,390 (2024: £195,301), including pension contributions.

During the year and following a restructuring process, the charity paid compulsory redundancies of £10,354 (2024 - £nil) and settlements of £20,512 (2024 - £nil).

14 Trustees' expenditure

10 (2024: 14) of the charity's trustees were reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
SLT & EC Meetings	1,169	743
Travel	6,846	14,475
Total – trustees' expenditure	8,015	15,218

No remuneration was payable to the charity's trustees during the year (2024: nil).

15 Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year	22,422	128,818
Depreciation charges	14,684	81,575
Interest receivable	(45,152)	(33,243)
Rental income	(30,000)	(25,000)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	2,303	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	120,376	(104,136)
Increase in creditors	24,705	21,130
Net cash flow from operating activities	109,338	69,144

16 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	424,746	390,542

17 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2025 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes	At 31 December 2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents	390,542	34,204	-	424,746
Investments	936,485	9,366	-	945,851
	1,327,027	43,570	-	1,370,597
Loans falling due within one year	(14,081)	14,081	(14,709)	(14,709)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(238,191)	(110)	14,709	(223,592)
Total	1,074,755	57,541	-	1,132,296

18 Net assets note

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund balances at 31 December are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	1,673,243	-	1,673,243	1,563,282
Cash	320,744	104,002	424,746	390,542
Net current assets	697,193	-	697,193	818,936
Total net assets	2,691,180	104,002	2,795,182	2,772,760

19 Related Party Transactions

The payment of trustees' expenses has been disclosed in note 14.

20 Specialist Groups

As noted in the Trustees' Report, the Association works closely with a number of independent Specialist Groups. The finances of two of these special trusts, namely EPOP and American Politics Group are consolidated within these financial statements, and any income and relevant expenditure are restricted funds in nature. Work undertaken by these special trusts are jointly administered by the reporting charity and its funds are held for specific purposes which are within the general purposes of the reporting charity.

21 Operating leases commitments

Lessor
At the reporting end date the company had contracted with tenants for the following minimum lease payments:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	30,000	30,000
Between two and five years	5,000	35,000
	35,000	65,000