CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 01.01.2025 **Period start date** **To:** 31.12.2025 **Period end date**

Charity name: Society for the Social History of Medicine

Charity registration number: 278414

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the Society set out in its Constitution are to advance the education of the public in the social history of medicine and in pursuance of that purpose to promote research and disseminate the results.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The charity's main activities in furtherance of its objects are the editing and production of a journal, *Social History of Medicine* https://academic.oup.com/shm which includes research articles and book reviews. Also, the production of a series of scholarly books, *Social Histories of Medicine* https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/social-histories-of-medicine/ . The Society maintains an international membership, holds a biennial conference and sponsors selected other relevant scholarly conferences. The Society also represents the subject in relevant policy-making bodies. Publication in our outlets and attendance at conferences is open to non-members. Membership for students and the unwaged is subsidized with the added benefit of reduced conference charges. Support is also offered through bursaries for students and early career members to attend relevant conferences. With its activities the Society aims to foster understanding for and raise the profile of the social history of medicine both in the UK and internationally. This includes lobbying activities relevant to members, and more broadly, history of medicine as a discipline, and responding to issues in relation to the strategies of relevant funding bodies such as the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council or the Wellcome Trust. Funds raised from sales of the journal and other relevant publications enable the trustees to fund its commitments and maintain a financial reserve.
Statement confirming whether the trustees	Para 1.18	The trustees of the charity have paid due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission

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have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit		on public benefit. All trustees of the Society are volunteers. They are supported by paid, part-time administrative support which was put in place in April 2018 on a self-employed/freelance basis.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	As detailed in each section below, in 2025 the charity operated through its usual activities to meet the objects of the charity. The Society continues with publication activities producing an academic peer-reviewed journal and book series. The Society also held activities and distributed networks funds due to funding received from the Wellcome Trust. ***Membership*** Membership is linked to publication of the Society's peer reviewed journal, *Social History of Medicine* and subscription to the journal constitutes membership of the Society. 2025 saw the publisher continue with a variety of membership options for online only or online & print, plus a 2-year subscription. The publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP), report that there were 196 members at the end of 2025, which is a decrease on

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		the previous year (217 members in 2024), due to no conference being held in 2025. It is expected that membership will rise again in 2026 as the Society's biennial conference attracts new student members. In terms of broader membership data, 48.5% of members remain standard personal members (22 print, 73 online). This is broadly in line with – though at the lower end of – recent trends (61% in Jan 2024; 52%, 2023; 60%, 2022; 57% 2021, 55.5% 2020; 49.6% 2019; 57.2% 2018). In turn: **Student members:** 34.8% (n. 68), 20 print, 48 online, compared with 33% in 2024, 31% in 2023, 27% in October 2022, 30% in 2021, 30.3% in 2020; 38.7% in 2019, 30.7% in 2018. **Seniors:** 6.7% are seniors (3 print, 10 online), compared with 7% in 2024 and 9% in 2023 (n=9 print, 6 online). **Developing countries:** 4.1% (1 print, 7 online) compared to 7% in 2023, 3.7% (n=2 print, 4 online) in 2022 and 3% in 2021. **Unwaged:** 4.1% (8 online) compared to 3.6% in April 2024 and 2.4% in 2023. Overall, 46 opted for print membership (23.5%). This is slightly higher than 2024 (18%), but trends seem to indicate that print membership is about 20% of members (23% in April 2023; 27% in 2023). It is worth noting that 14% (n= 29) of our members have taken up the 2-year membership option, which seems broadly consistent with 2024 trends (10% in November 2024; 14% in April 2024) but is a large increase on 2023 (4.3%) and an increase on 2022. Finally, with regards to geographical location, 61.9% our members continue to come from the UK, which is broadly consistent with ongoing trends (60% in April 2024; 70% in Jan 2024, 66% in 2023, 60% in October 2022, 58% in 2021, 58.7% in 2020; 59.5% in 2019; 53.9% in 2018). Most of the remaining members are from North America [Canada (n=5), the United States (n=18)] at 11%, compared to 11% in November 2024; 10% in April 2024; 13% in Jan 2024, 15% in 2023, 14% in October 2022. A similar proportion of members register from Europe (12.75%), with the

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		remaining members spread across institutions in Asia and Oceania. Australia and New Zealand (n=12) and India (n=5) predominate here. The Society has two members who do not subscribe via OUP, and their payments are recorded in the accounts. The Executive Committee have been in discussions with OUP about moving the journal to an online only format from 2027 and taking membership back in-house. ***Publications*** The Society's journal *Social History of Medicine* continued in 2025 to receive an increased number of submissions (original and revised) with a total of 268 (205 in 2024; 175 in 2023). The Society published 4 issues of the journal for 2025 (Volume 38). For the year a total of 37 original articles were published. There were 59 book reviews published in the 4 issues of volume 38 (56 in volume 36 in 2024). The book series with Manchester University Press, *Social Histories of Medicine* continues to prosper with a total of 44 books and 3 in press. Three awards of £2,000.00 were made for the 2024/5 book development award (deadline of 15 March 2025). This was due to only one award made in 2023. Since the last return books published were: R. Elder and T. Schlich (eds.), *Technology, health and the patient consumer in the twentieth centur*y (2025); S. Heydon, *Implementing a global health programme: Smallpox and Nepal* (2025); R. Moul, *Brutal treatments: Medicine and colonial violence at the end of empire* (2025); S. Crook, *Unhappy mothers: Women, motherhood and social change in postwar Britain* (2025); V. Bates, *Feeling blue: Colour and the modern hospital* (2025). During 2025, The Gazette format was reviewed by the Executive Committee, and a new editor joined the board in October 2025. The first new-style newsletter format will be delivered monthly from January 2026.

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		Conferences/Workshops The Society invites applications for conference funding three times a year. A total of £7,493.87 in new grants was awarded in 2025 to support conferences in the history of medicine (totals claimed for conference funding for 2025 = £8,730.00 (made up of £3,130.00 from 2025 awards and £5,600.00 from conference awards made in 2024). New conference awards included: Plants and People: the cultivation and propagation of botanical knowledge among non-professional communities, c.1600-1800 (University of Cambridge, July 2025). Durham University Medieval and Early Modern Student Association's 19th Annual Conference: 'Illuminating Nature: Explorations of Science, Religion, and Magic' (Durham University, July 2025). Policing and Public Health, c.1800-2000 (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, September 2025). Representing, Reshaping Reenacting: Performance studies and practices as methods for the history, philosophy, and social studies of science and medicine (Charité Museum of Medical History, Berlin, November 2025). Thorny matters: Histories of health phenomena in between ethics, law and life in South-West Asia and North Africa (SWANA), (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, April 2026) The Ethics of Medical Photography: ECR training workshop (de Montford University, May 2026). Who Cares? Psychiatry in the English-speaking world #2: Theories & Policies (Université Paris Nanterre (France), March 2026). ***Student and early career travel bursaries*** In 2025 a total of £8,221.59 was awarded in travel bursaries for students and early career academics to attend and present papers at

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		international and UK based conferences. All awards were claimed in 2025. ***Prize winners*** The Society awards an annual prize, the Roy Porter Essay Prize worth £500, for the best original unpublished essay in the social history of medicine. For the 2024/5 competition, the Society also awarded two further £100 prizes for Commended essays. The 2024/5 Roy Porter Prize was awarded to: Charlotte Stobart (University of Manchester) '"'She Types with Her Toes': Examining Experiences and Representations of Polio-Disability through The British Polio Fellowship Newsletter, The Bulletin, 1963-1973'. Commended essays: Elena Danieli (Università di Bologna and Université Paris Cité) 'Portraits of an Art: Truth, Representations, and Scientific Trajectories in French and British Obstetric Illustrations from the Second Half of the 18th Century' Zhilin Chu (University of Cambridge) 'Vaccination of Dogs: Rabies Control and Colonial Rivalries in the Shanghai Concessions, 1920s–1940s'. The competition received 17 submissions, a higher number than the previous year. The winner of the 2025/6 Roy Porter Essay Prize is scheduled to be announced in summer 2026. ***Web and Social Media*** The Society's website hosted on WordPress for 2025 attracted 26.8K overall views, less than 2024 with 31K views but higher than 2023 with 23.4K views. A total of 11.8K visitors, slightly down compared to 2024 with 12.4K visits but higher than 2023 with 10.1K visits. Most popular pages were the home page, prizes, AGM and SSHM lecture and history of medicine call for conference papers. The website continues to have international reach with most site visitors from the UK, followed by the United States, India, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Australia,

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		Italy, Ireland and China. Work in 2025 focussed on updating and curating a new presentation of the Society's website for launch in 2026. For social media the Society monitors accounts on Bluesky (12.4K followers) and from September 2025, a company page on LinkedIn (548 followers). The Society uses its platforms for global community networking by sharing events, new publications and conference call for papers. **Wellcome Funded Events and Networks Grants** As a result of the successful grant applications in 2021 (see additional information). The Society held the third and final event: A Mid-Career Writing Retreat in April 2025. A total of 5 Network Grants were awarded to the networks listed below. All networks had held their events by November 2025. UK Disability History and Heritage Hub Mapping Public Health Military Welfare History Network JOINT Twentieth-Century Psy-Disciplines and LGBTQIA+ Communities

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	In October 2021 the society applied for two grants from the Wellcome Trust. One for £25,000 to fund Society events (over 48 months). The application was successful and grant funds are administered via the University of Strathclyde. Wellcome funds will enable bringing scholars together for physical meetings is essential to create the safe space needed for such sensitive discussions as anti-racism, facilitated by a clinical professional and academics experienced in this area, and regarding concerns about careers. All three planned events have now taken place, an anti-racism

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		workshop, a precarity workshop and mid-career writing retreat. Another grant application for £25,000 was to support the objective of directing funding to networking and networked events. These serial activities promise the space to be both innovative and sustained; a space that has often been limited in the field of the history of medicine and health. What these sustained conversations will do is provide room for creativity and thinking, offering transformative scholarship and assuredly facilitating links and work that would otherwise prove impossible, especially due to our current availability of £1500 per conference funding application, limited so as to support as many activities as possible. Full reports will be available in 2026.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity's assets during 2025 amounted to £100,231 in cash reserves at the end of the period. Applications in 2025 for conference travel bursaries were at a lower level than 2024 due to being a non-conference year (Society conferences are biennial with the next conference due to take place in 2026).The trustees will continue to utilise the reserves accumulated during the pandemic by making more bursary and conference funding available, particularly in biennial conference years.
Statement explaining the	Para 1.22	The Society's trustees have a policy of

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policy for holding reserves stating why they are held		holding reserves to cover one year's cover cash flow requirements and for any potential gaps in income. In addition, extra reserves of £60,000.00 are being held should the running of the journal be affected as a consequence of Plan S and publishers' commitment to transitioning their journals to open access through the Transformative Journal model. The reserves are held in a savings account. The trustees continue to discuss ways to reduce excess reserves. With the withdrawal of conference support from Wellcome Trust, the Society now supports its own biennial conference at a host institution estimated in the region of £15,000. For 2026 there are plans to substantially support members' attendance through a targeted bursary scheme for members who are students, early career, unwaged or precariously employed on short-term contracts.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£ £90,245 (2024: £93,421)
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The trustees have reviewed major risks. Procedures are in place to manage these risks. Income flow remains steady, and as the Society does not have employees, risks are limited. Any issues arising are discussed during Executive Committee meetings. The Committee meets three times per year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity is almost wholly reliant on the income generated by its journal and other publications. As detailed above, the Society re-invests much of its income into promoting the academic field of the social history of medicine through support for conferences and bursaries for individual researchers.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	

Doc ID: f52447898571274d6cd6381301327ec20b93dd6c

Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The charity was formed by a written Constitution, which was updated in 2012 and again in 2022 and is available to download on the SSHM website https://sshm.org/values-of-the-society-for-the-social-history-of-medicine/
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	The charity is governed by its trustees, the elected members of the Executive Committee (EC), which meets at least three times a year.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Chairperson and other officers are elected by the EC from their members. EC members must be members of the Society and are elected by the membership and serve a term of three years. The Officers of the Society are the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and tenure of office is three years in each instance. Office holders may, at the end of their term of office, complete their term of EC membership. Office holders may also complete their tenure of office even if their elected period of membership of the Executive Committee has expired. Candidates for EC must be proposed and seconded by other members of the Society. The journal and book series editors are *ex officio* members of the EC (without voting rights) and are not trustees of the charity.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	New Executive Committee members are directed to Charity Commission's guide, The Essential Trustee (CC3) which explains the main legal responsibilities trustees have. Also, to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) as a suggested resource to find out more about becoming a charity trustee.

Doc ID: f52447898571274d6cd6381301327ec20b93dd6c

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Society for the Social History of Medicine
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	278414
Charity's principal address	University Of Kent School of History, Room N3 Rutherford College Canterbury Kent CT2 7NZ

Doc ID: f52447898571274d6cd6381301327ec20b93dd6c

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Lisa Smith Cresswell	Chair/EC Member		
2	Dr Claire Jones	Secretary		
3	Dr Richard McKay	Treasurer		
4	Dr Beatriz Pichel	EC Member	Re-elected 6 October 2025	
5	Dr Rosemary Cresswell	EC Member		
6	Dr Rebecca Wynter	EC Member	Re-elected 6 October 2025	
7	Dr Stephen Mawdsley	EC Member	Stepped down August 2025	
8	Dr Vanessa Heggie	EC Member		
9	Dr Manikarnika Dutta	EC Member		
10	Dr Martin Moore	EC Member		
11	Dr Felicity McGeown (formerly McKee)	EC Member		
12	Dr Elsa Richardson	EC Member	Elected 6 October 2025	
13	Dr Neil Pemberton	EC Member	Elected 6 October 2025	
14	Dr Fabiola Creed	EC Member	Elected 6 October 2025	
15	Dr Yuliya Hilevych	EC Member	Elected 6 October 2025	
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Doc ID: f52447898571274d6cd6381301327ec20b93dd6c

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Financial	Paul Cowham, MA, FCA, DChA	Withington Works, Withington Baths, 30 Burton Road Manchester, M20 3EB

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Other optional information

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial

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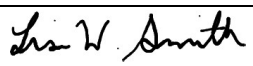
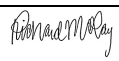
statements; and
– prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and the Constitution. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Lisa Smith	Richard McKay
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	27/07 /2026	

Doc ID: f52447898571274d6cd6381301327ec20b93dd6c

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

I report on the accounts for the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 15 to 16 and have been prepared using the receipts and payments method.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Cowham

Paul Cowham FCA DChA
Withington Works
Withington Baths
30 Burton Road
Manchester, M20 3EB

20 August 2026

Doc ID: f52447898571274d6cd6381301327ec20b93dd6c

The Society for the Social History of Medicine

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the year ending 31 December 2025

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Receipts	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities						
Royalties OUP	34,384	-	34,384	30,231	-	30,231
Royalties Book Series	1,895	-	1,895	1,137	-	1,137
Donation - Medical Heritage Library	9,003	-	9,003	-	-	-
Wellcome Trust Reimbursement	-	808	808			
Membership Fees	14	-	14	14	-	14
Miscellaneous income	150	-	150			
	45,446	808	46,254	31,382	-	31,382
Investment income						
Interest	1,465	-	1,465	1,356	-	1,356
Total Receipts	46,911	808	47,719	32,738	-	32,738
Payments						
Administration - Exec Secretary	7,669	-	7,669	7,000	-	7,000
Honoraria *SHM* Co-Editors	6,000	-	6,000	6,000	-	6,000
Editorial Assistants' Fees	560	-	560	600	-	600
Editorial Office Expenses (postage etc)	1,570	-	1,570	1,046	808	1,854
Editorial Board & Book Series Editorial Expense	2,378	-	2,378	2,507	-	2,507
Executive Cttee Meeting Expenses	5,603	-	5,603	1,229	70	1,299
Website & Dropbox	346	-	346	213	-	213
	24,126	-	24,126	18,595	878	19,473
Biennial conference bursaries	-	-		8,163	-	8,163
Bursaries	8,222	-	8,222	6,549	-	6,549
Conference grants	8,730	-	8,730	9,967	-	9,967
Biennial Conference costs	-	-	-	14,605	-	14,605
Prizes	4,830	-	4,830	700	-	700
	21,782	-	21,782	39,984	-	39,984
Independent Examination	700	-	700	600	-	600
Bank Charges	495	-	495	757	-	757
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,195	-	1,195	1,357	-	1,357
Total Payments	47,103	-	47,103	59,936	878	60,814
Net of receipts/(payments)	(192)	808	616	(27,198)	(878)	(28,076)
Bank+cash brought forward	101,423	(808)	100,615	130,352	(1,661)	128,691
Transfers	-	-	-	(1,731)	1,731	-
Cash surplus/(deficit) in the year	(192)	808	616	(27,198)	(878)	(28,076)
Bank+cash carried forward	101,231	-	101,231	101,423	(808)	100,615

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The Society for the Social History of Medicine
Statement of assets and liabilities
For the year ending 31 December 2025

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets - microphones	1,198	-	1,198	1,198	-	1,198
Debtors – money owed to the charity	-	-	-	-	808	808
Cash assets						
Bank deposit account	90,000	-	90,000	90,346	-	90,346
Bank current account	10,231	-	10,231	11,077	(808)	10,269
	-					
Net cash assets	100,231	-	100,231	101,423	(808)	100,615
Net assets	101,429	-	101,429	102,621	-	102,621
Liabilities	11,184	-	11,184	9,200	-	9,200
Total assets at the end of the period	90,245	-	90,245	93,421	-	93,421

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