Company Registration No. 01215037 (England and Wales)
Registered charity number: 801026

# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

**(A not for profit company limited by guarantee)**

## DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**CHANTER, BROWNE & CURRY**
Chartered Accountants
1 Plato Place
72-74 St Dionis Road
London SW6 4TU.

# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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) (second edition - October 2019) - (Charity SORP (FRS 102) Revised).

**Objectives and Activities**

The charity's objects are to advance the education of the British public in the culture, art, science, religion, economy and contemporary history of the Arab world including by providing and maintaining a centre (hereafter referred to as "The Centre") for the dissemination of such information.

The charity owns and maintains a six-storey property at 1 Gough Square, off Fleet Street in central London, which houses The Centre. A number of organisations having objects similar to the The Arab British Centre are housed at The Centre, and contribute towards the costs related to the office space they occupy and the facilities they use.

The Arab British Centre has a specialised library - mainly in English - about the history, politics, arts and culture of the Arab world. The library has been compiled over many years and includes an extensive collection of Arabic fiction titles in English translation as well as essential out of print books rarely available elsewhere. The library is a public borrowing library.

The charity organises and promotes Arab-related arts and cultural events in the UK. It hosts a regular programme of activities including Arabic language courses, Arabic calligraphy and oud music courses. The Centre houses permanent and temporary collections of contemporary art inspired by the Arab world and recognises individuals and organisations working in similar fields through its Award for Culture. In addition to the charity’s regular on-site activities, it has produced a number of one-off projects in external locations and supports other organisations through its grants programme.

In planning its activities for the year, the charity's trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

**Achievements and Performance**

In 2025, the Arab British Centre's strategy centred on deepening the reach and rigour of its core UK programmes while beginning to lay the groundwork for its 50th anniversary in 2027. SAFAR Film Festival marked its 10th edition, reaching over 6,000 audiences across nine UK cities. The Centre's visual arts and heritage programmes, Tatreez Forest: Stitching Palestinian Heritage and As We Are, Might Have Been and Could Be, engaged contributors and artists from the UK and beyond, delivering exhibitions, workshops and community projects across Blackburn, London, Liverpool and Fes. Alongside these, the Centre delivered a wider programme of talks, publications, film screenings and panel discussions with partners across the UK, and continued to run its Taqasim music courses and Square Kufic Calligraphy course, engaging 148 students. The Centre also continued to host a base of resident organisations working across culture, education and advocacy, sustaining its role as a shared cultural hub in the City of London.

## Achievements and Performance (continued)

### SAFAR Film Festival

The SAFAR Film Festival marked its 10th edition in 2025, reaffirming its position as the UK's largest festival dedicated to independent Arab cinema. Taking place from 11–28 June across the UK, the festival welcomed over 6,000 attendees to more than 50 screenings across 14 venues and 9 cities including London, Oxford, Birmingham, Plymouth, Cardiff, Leeds, Manchester, Hull and Clevedon and online, presenting films spanning five decades and 12 Arab countries. The programme included 19 feature films and 10 shorts, with 9 UK premieres and two restored classics. The festival opened with the UK premiere of the restored version of Watch Out for ZouZou, directed by Hassan El Imam (1972) at Cine Lumiere.

This year's theme, "Past, Present, Perspectives" encapsulated a reflective journey through the evolution of Arab cinema, mirroring the socio-political and cultural landscapes of the Arab world.

SAFAR hosted over 20 Q&As, including one with the late Palestinian actor director Mohammad Bakri, Lotfi Achour, Carol Mansour and Khaled Mansour. Included in this year's programme were workshops and special events spanning a live cine-concert Unspoken Silences: Reclaiming Colonial Archives of Palestine presented by Lebanese artists Rana Eid and Cynthia Zaven, as well as community focused programmes. The festival continued to prioritise collaboration, working with a wide network of UK and international partners including Aflamuna Online, Shubbak Festival, Hekayyatna and British Council Lebanon.

SAFAR's Arab Film Development Workshop, led by Saeed Taji Farouky, supported six emerging filmmakers, contributing to its ongoing aim of nurturing future Arab British film talent. In addition this year, a week-long residency programme took place supporting 12 artists and film makers led by Bahia Shehab, Stephanie Van der Peer and Kaya Davies-Hayon on Arab Stardom. Each participant was given the opportunity to screen their final work as part of this year's festival programme at Garden Cinema in London.

A total of 6,062 attendees (4,041 in-person and 2,021 online) engaged with the festival. SAFAR 2025 festival partners included:

Venues: ICA (Institute for Contemporary Arts), Garden Cinema, Barbican, Cine Lumiere Genesis Cinema, Chapter Arts (Cardiff), Contact (Manchester), Curzon (Clevedon), Hull Independent Cinema, Midlands Arts Centre and Mockingbird (Birmingham), Hyde Park Picture House (Leeds), Plymouth Arts Cinema and Ultimate Picture Palace (Oxford). A online programme of films was made available through Aflamouna Online.

Supporters: Asfari Foundation, Bagri Foundation, British Film Institute, British Council, Barjeel Art Foundation and City of London.

Cultural Partners: Shubbak Festival, Telfaz 11, Gulf Photo Plus, Leeds Palestinian Film Festival, Bristol Palestine Film Festival, Tarwida, Falasteen on Film, Hekayyatna, Maona, Tape Collective, Muslim Social Justice Initiative and Souq Sounds.

**Achievements and Performance (continued)**

**Tatreez Forest: Stitching Palestinian Heritage**

The Arab British Centre continued the development of Tatreez Forest: Stitching Palestinian Heritage in collaboration with the Tatreez Collective. Contributors from 13 countries took part, alongside workshops held across five museums in England including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, The Palestine Museum in Bristol and at the Arab British Centre. The project brought together more than 400 Tatreez panels from across the world, a traditional Palestinian embroidery practice and symbol of cultural pride and resistance. The panels will be assembled into a series of large-scale 'Cypress trees' textile installations. Building on the momentum of the 2024 launch, the initiative has grown into a globally connected, community-driven project. Fabrication of the final artworks is scheduled for 2026, with plans to publicly display the completed installations in early 2026 at City Lit in London and across several UK locations.

The project was supported by the Barakat Trust's Hands on Islamic Art Grant, awarding funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**Visual Arts Project: As We Are, Might Have Been and Could Be**

The Arab British Centre's artist development programme, *As We Are, Might Have Been, and Could Be* , led by curator Jessica El Mal and supported by the Freelands Foundation, continued to expand in 2025, commissioning ten artists to develop and present new work across the UK and internationally. Exhibitions included:

***Legend of the Looms*** **by Ali Al-Jamri (Blackburn, UK)**

Fusing poetry, film and textiles, British Bahraini artist Ali Al-Jamri traced cross-cultural threads between handloom weaving and revolution. Commissioned by the Arab British Centre, Legend of the Looms featured a narrative debate poem between two handloom weavers: one from England's North West, where weavers were critical in working class movements around the Peterloo Massacre of 1819; the other from Bahrain, where weaving communities were pivotal in twentieth century reform movements. The exhibition ran from 01 February to 08 March 2025 at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, The public programme included the film screening, a Q&A with the artist and a family weaving workshop led by artist Ibukun Baldwin. An additional artist Q&A took place at the Anthony Burges Foundation during the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival on 17 July.

Visitor numbers across exhibition and events: 4469

***Limbs of the Lunar Disc by*** **Sarah Al-Sarraj, London and Liverpool**

The Arab British Centre presented Sarah Al-Sarraj's first solo show in London, Limbs of the Lunar Disc, at Mimosa House Gallery from 22 May to 8 June, in collaboration with Shubbak Festival. The exhibition explored time, ancestry, and ecological violence through a temporally nomadic tribe that traversed millennia to resist imperial destruction. The programme included a preview on 22nd May, alongside two public events: Ripples Across Different Timelines, a sonic performance by Gisou Golshani on 27 May, and Stories from the Satellite Dish, a conversation between Sarah Al-Sarraj and Dalia al-Dujaili, author of Babylon Albion (published by Saqi Books) on 31 May.

**Achievements and Performance (continued)**

They hosted a curator and art collector's brunch on 23 May with a specially curated ecological menu inspired by the exhibition, made by Fugazzi Fuzion and hosted by art consultant Mary Cork. It was attended by 20 people.

A different version of the show titled *Limbs of the Lunar Disc: Isthumus Ancient River* toured to the World Museum in Liverpool, which was on show from 11 July - 20 July, in collaboration with Liverpool Arab Arts Festival. Programmes included a Curator's Preview, attended by regional curators and arts professionals, and a free performance lecture by Sarah Al-Sarraj on Saturday 12 July.

Visitor numbers across two exhibitions and all associated events: 2268

**3oubour: A River Between Mountains (Fes and London)**

*3oubour, A River Between Mountains* is an international project including an online and in person artist residency, an exhibition series and a publication connecting Fes, Morocco and London, UK in partnership with A.MAL Projects, Takafes and with support from British Council, Arts Admin and Crafts Council.

*3oubour* was developed as part of the British Council's International Collaboration Grants programme, which supports UK and oversees organisations to make connections and create new work around the world. The project invited eight artists to critically consider the concept of technical knowledge and innovation, not just as something which always has to be 'new', but also as existing within the realm of inherited and locally bound practices that go back several centuries, and how these revelations could illuminate ways of being, sustainable thinking and collective acting in-between local and global contexts.

Artists commissioned for this project included: Dima Srouji, Mehdi Ouahmane, Alia Hamaoui, Nabil Himich, Monya Riachi and WWW (World War Water).

Over a four week residency in the medina of Fes – one of the oldest cities in the world and a UNESCO world heritage site renowned for its craft heritage – the artists collaborated with master craftspeople, who work with wood, tiles, metal, leather, tapestry, horn, jewellery, plaster and more. The exhibition showcased the artists' work in progress in a centuries old workshop in the medina from 20-27 September. Programmes included an opening night and an artist and curator tour for volunteers of a local cultural group, Dar Tadamoun.

A final exhibition of the new commissions took place at Crafts Council Gallery from 13 – 22 November. Alongside the exhibition, there was a public programme of events with the artists exploring craft, sustainability, technology and colonialism, including a 3oubour x Lab X performance at Arts Admin at Toynbee Studios, two panel discussions in collaboration with the Barakat Trust, a workshop for young people with National Saturday Club, and a closing night event with a singing workshop from Fatima Lahham and two musical performances from Sufi Al Andalus vocalist Hamza Bouzhar and experimental musician Sarah Rahman.

Visitor numbers:

Fez exhibition: 153
UK exhibition and events: 337

**Achievements and Performance (continued)**

**Other events and programmes**

**Who am I? North Arican Narratives** at Leeds International African Art Festival on 23 June: panel discussion between Hannaa Hamdache and Jessica El-Mal on North-African Creativity in the North-West of England. Hannaa Hamdace spoke about her artistic practice, in particular Mixed Other, her project which reflects on the racial categories in the UK census and forms. She explores the topic through film, workshops and cooking – her Mixed Other meal was presented at Bidston Observatory with the menu featuring the likes of Ras El Hanout Scones.

Attendance 45 people.

**An Evening with Hassan Blasim**

The Arab British Centre welcomed celebrated Iraqi writer Hassan Blasim. Hassan discussed his latest book, Sololand (translated into English by Jonathan Wright), a collection of three darkly funny novellas set in Iraq and northern Europe. The characters in these stories all find themselves in impossible positions – from the ISIS cook working undercover to retrieve ancient manuscripts from a desecrated site, to the refugee in Northern Europe unable to process the devastating dislocation of exile. This event was in collaboration with the collection's editor and founder of Comma Press, Ra Page.

Attendance: 20

**Archiving Gaza in the Present: Publication**

Archiving Gaza in the Present began as a two-day conference in 2024 organised by the Arab British Centre and the Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS. A year later a new publication published by Saqi and edited by Venetia Porter and Dina Matar brought together voices from Palestine and beyond to document the cultural erasure and to explore how creative and archival practices resist it. Contributions from curators, architects, artists, journalists, lawyers and scholars capture Gaza's once-vibrant cultural life – historic buildings, art centres, universities and museums that existed before October 2023 – now turned to rubble.

Featuring rich visual material – from fragmented WhatsApp testimonies to forensic documentation – and including artworks, maps and photographs, Archiving Gaza in the Present: Memory, Culture, Erasure is both a living archive and a call to action. It is a vital resource for understanding Gaza's cultural survival amid destruction.

Contributors include: Vera Tamari, Selma Dabbagh, Salman Abu Sitta, Shareef Sarhan, Bahaa Abudaya, Salman Nawati, Marion Slitine, Mohamed Abusal, Sarvy Geranpayeh, Hazem Harb, Malak Mattar, Marc-André Haldimann, Jawdat Khoudary, Béatrice Blandin, Georgia Andreou, Yasmeen Elkhoudary, Ayman Hassouna, Seif El Rashidi and Leena Ghannam, Muneer Elbaz, Omar Al-Qattan, Aser El Saqqa, Kegham Djeghalian Jr, Dina Asfour, Rachel Dedman, Omar Shweiki, Mohammedwesam Amer, Chin-Chin Yap, Emily Tripp, Ghada Dimashk, Nadia Yaqub, Fred Pearce, Caitlin Procter, Lina Khamis, Fionnuala Rogers, Joanna Oyediran, Atef Alshaer, Shatha Safi, Hiba Omari, Yara Sharif and Nasser Golzari.

**Achievements and Performance (continued)**

**Palestine Cinema Days**

Every year on 2 November, the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, Film Lab Palestine call upon cinemas, festivals and organisers around the world to screen Palestinian films. This global effort is a show of solidarity with Palestine, an act of amplification for censored Palestinian voices, and a contribution to shifting the distorted narrative.

SAFAR Film Festival and The Garden Cinema took part in the 2025 edition of Palestine Cinema Days Around the World, presenting a free screening of Tewfik Salah's 1972 classic The Dupes, preceding by an introduction of the film by Saeed Taji Farouky.

Attendance: 40

**South by South: A view from Tangier**, is a film programme curated by The Arab British Centre at South London Gallery (SLG) which screened on 19 November. The SLG's longstanding South by South Film programme, dedicated to African cinema, spotlights North African film as part of the Yto Barrada exhibition.

The first screening, Yasmine Benabdallah's Visions of a Dreamt Sunset (12 min 36 sec), begins in Tangier — Barrada's place of origin and return, and home to La Cinémathèque, whose legacy continues to shape Moroccan film and the city of Tangier. Set in Tangier, this film is a travelogue on loss and healing as well as a reflection on the colonial legacies of Tangier. The second screening Salma El Belghiti's DarHome (16 min), where young people from Tangier's disadvantaged neighbourhoods perform scripts based on their lives as a form of therapy. The third screening, Hicham Gardaf's In Praise of Slowness (17 min ), is a meditation on Tangier's rapid urbanisation, revealing resistance to capitalism through local rhythms of slowness.

The screenings were followed by a panel discussion with artist Hicham Gardaf and Imane Elkabli, from Marrakech Short Film Festival, chaired by Jessica el Mal.

**Arab British Centre Residents**

Since its establishment in 1977, The Arab British Centre has supported more than fourty resident organisations, nurturing a supportive environment in our building where organisations working in Arab-British relations can flourish and develop their work.

In 2025 our resident organisations were: The Barakat Trust, The British Palestinian Committee, Hoping Palestine, The Council for Arab Understanding (Caabu), the Centre for Transnational Development and Collaboration (CTDC) Friends of Birzeit University (FOBZU), Shubbak Festival, Zaytoun and the Asfari Foundation.

These residents play an integral role in the life of the Centre, contributing to a dynamic, year-round programme of events that engage diverse audiences.

**Courses**

***Music***: Throughout 2025, the Arab British Centre continued its Taqasim Music School courses, offering instruction in oud, darbuka and music literacy at various levels (119 students).

**Achievements and Performance (continued)**

***Square Kufic Calligraphy:*** **I**ed by artist Joumana Medlej, *Square Kufic Calligraphy* was a 6 weeks online course that ran from October to December, exploring the principles and practice of this geometric script, also known as khatt banna'i. Designed for participants of all levels, the course introduced the historical development of Square Kufic alongside its application in contemporary contexts (29 Students).

TOTAL Number of Students: 148

**Financial Review**

The attached financial statements summarise the charity's transactions for the year ended 31 December 2025. Total funds for the year show a deficit of expenditure over income of £185,358. Adding the gain on the investments of £197,178 gives a total surplus for the year of £11,820. Total funds at 31 December 2025 amounted to £2,174,130, comprising £7,045 unrestricted funds, £75,776 restricted funds and £2,091,309 endowment funds.

**Principal funding sources**

The charity's principal sources of funding are:-
(1) Charges for classes run by the charity:
(2) Contributions from resident organisations to the running costs of the Arab British Centre;
(3) Sponsorship and donations;

(4) Income from endowment funds and bank balances, including bank interest, dividends and interest on investments;

(5) Capital growth in investments.

**Investment policy**

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds. The charity has investments with Investec Wealth & Investment. The remainder of the charity's funds are held on bank deposit. The performance of the investments during the year has been satisfactory.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The expendable endowment fund is a restricted capital fund which is held to ensure the long-term survival of the charity, with the Centre as a physical hub for those working to promote understanding of the Arab world and its culture.

Transfers from expendable endowment fund are made to income funds at the discretion of the trustees. The trustees aim only to make transfers to income funds sufficient to cover the running costs of the Centre for the forthcoming quarter.

The charity is hoping to continue to build on its success in increasing the range of events and other activities with which it is involved. The charity's policy is to organise events and activities which meet the following criteria:-

1) Their direct costs are fully or substantially paid for out of sponsorship, donations or receipts; and
2) A risk assessment is carried out to ensure that any anticipated deficit on the event or activity is fully affordable out of the income fund.

**Plans for future periods**

The trustees and executive team are building on the Centre's flagship programmes and strategic partnerships to reach audiences across the United Kingdom, with nationwide delivery planned for 2025. Alongside this, we continue to offer a range of courses and events both online and in-person to deepen engagement. We have also intensified our fundraising initiatives, especially targeting trusts, foundations, and sources of unrestricted income. As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, we remain committed to adapting and innovating in response to the changing landscape, ensuring the charity's continued growth and impact.

## Reference and administrative details

| | |
|---|---|
| Registered charity number | 801026 |
| Company number | 1215037 |
| Registered office and principal place of business | 1 Gough Square<br>London<br>EC4A 3DE. |

## Our advisers

| | |
|---|---|
| Independent examiner | P.G. Browne FCA CTA<br>Chanter, Browne & Curry<br>Chartered Accountants<br>1 Plato Place<br>72-74 St Dionis Road<br>London SW6 4TU. |
| Bankers | Santander<br>Business Banking Centre<br>Clarence House, Clarence Place<br>Newport, Gwent NP19 7UP. |
| Solicitors | Russell-Cooke LLP<br>2 Putney Hill<br>London SW15 6AB. |
| Investment fund managers | Rathbones Investment Management |

## Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr Haroun Al-Mishwit (Interim Chairman)
Mrs Elizabeth Moriarty
Mr Maher Maksoud
Ms Fionnuala Rogers
Ms Imogen Ware (resigned 1 September 2026)
Ms Venetia Porter
Mr Hani Zaitoun (appointed 18 September 2025)
Ms Hanouf Al-Alawi (appointed 30 September 2025)

**Company Secretary**
Mrs Nadia El-Sebai

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Governing document

The Arab British Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 5 June 1975 and registered as a charity on 17 February 1989. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. By a written resolution dated 28 June 2011, the trustees adopted new Articles of Association in order to reflect current legislation including the Companies Act 2006. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

### Recruitment and appointment of the Council

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Council. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association, the first board meeting of each calendar year shall be known as the retirement board meeting. At the third retirement board meeting since their last appointment, a trustee shall retire. They shall be eligible for re-appointment if they have served less than six years in office. A trustee who has served six or more years in office at the relevant retirement board meeting must retire and cannot be re-appointed until they have had a period of at least two years out of office, unless on the recommendation of the majority of the board the trustee is re-appointed for one further consecutive term of duration to be determined by the trustees.

Unless otherwise determined by a General Meeting, the number of the members of the Council shall not be less than five nor more than twelve. Currently the only members of the charity are the members of the Council.

The Council seeks to ensure that only persons with an interest and knowledge of the Arab world are appointed as trustees. Extensive measures are in place to ensure that only trustworthy persons are appointed. These include taking up references and carrying out due diligence checks.

### Trustee induction

The trustees receive documents relating to the rules and obligations of trustees as set out by the Charity Commission.

### Organisational structure

The Arab British Centre has a Council of between 5 and 12 members who meet six times per year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Council has eight members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

### Risk management

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis, especially now that the charity is seeking to expand its range of activities. The trustees believe that by ensuring that the investment funds are restricted to expenditure on the charity's core function of operating and maintaining The Centre, in line with the wishes of the original fund donors, adequate resources will be available to secure the charity's long term survival.

The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

**Responsibilities of the Council**

Company law requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Council have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Council must not approve the financial statements unless the trustees are satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the charity and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the Council are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Small company exemption**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

This report was approved by the board of directors and trustees on 10 September 2026 and is signed on its behalf.

.....
Mr Haroun Al-Mishwit
Interim Chairman

# THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE

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

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Arab British Centre ("the company") for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 21.

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements 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 The Arab British Centre's financial statements 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**
Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2) the financial statements do not accord with such records; or
3) the financial statements do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4) the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities preparing their financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

……..
**P.G. Browne FCA CTA**

**Chanter, Browne & Curry**
Chartered Accountants
1 Plato Place
72-74 St Dionis Road
London SW6 4TU.

Date: 10 September 2026

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

| | Notes | 2025 Unrestricted funds | 2025 Restricted income funds | 2025 Endowment funds | 2025 Total funds | 2024 Total funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Income** | 1.4 | | | | | |
| Donations and grants | 3 | 117,256 | 89,221 | - | 206,477 | 267,850 |
| Charitable activities | 4 | 132,306 | 19,547 | - | 151,853 | 155,104 |
| Investments | 5 | 205 | - | 64,571 | 64,776 | 73,521 |
| **Total incoming resources** | | 249,767 | 108,768 | 64,571 | 423,106 | 496,475 |
| **Expenditure** | 1.5 | | | | | |
| **Raising funds** | | | | | | |
| Investment management costs | 6 | - | - | 11,404 | 11,404 | 14,390 |
| **Charitable activities** | 6 | 482,872 | 107,745 | 6,443 | 597,060 | 566,149 |
| **Total expenditure** | | 482,872 | 107,745 | 17,847 | 608,464 | 580,539 |
| Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments | | (233,105) | 1,023 | 46,724 | (185,358) | (84,064) |
| Gains/(losses) on investments | 7 | - | - | 197,178 | 197,178 | (49,729) |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (233,105) | 1,023 | 243,902 | 11,820 | (133,793) |
| **Transfers** | | | | | | |
| Transfers between funds | | 235,000 | - | (235,000) | - | - |
| Net movement in funds for the year | | 1,895 | 1,023 | 8,902 | 11,820 | (133,793) |
| **Reconciliation of funds** | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 5,150 | 74,753 | 2,082,407 | 2,162,310 | 2,296,103 |
| **Total funds carried forward** | | 7,045 | 75,776 | 2,091,309 | 2,174,130 | 2,162,310 |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

**THE ARAB BRITISH CENTRE**

**BALANCE SHEET**
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

| | Notes | 2025 Total funds | | 2024 Total funds | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 9 | | 826,861 | | 833,974 |
| Investments | 10 | | 1,322,380 | | 1,286,950 |
| | | | 2,149,241 | | 2,120,924 |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | 11 | 17,550 | | 9,155 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 72,612 | | 74,970 | |
| | | 90,162 | | 84,125 | |
| **Creditors:** amounts falling due within one year | 12 | 65,273 | | 42,739 | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 24,889 | | 41,386 |
| **Net assets** | | | 2,174,130 | | 2,162,310 |
| **Funds of the charity** | | | | | |
| Endowment funds | 14, 15 | | 2,091,309 | | 2,082,407 |
| Restricted funds | 14, 15 | | 75,776 | | 74,753 |
| Unrestricted funds | 14, 15 | | 7,045 | | 5,150 |
| **Total charity funds** | | | 2,174,130 | | 2,162,310 |

The Trustees consider that the charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the charity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and trustees on 10 September 2026.

……..
Mr Haroun Al-Mishwit
Interim Chairman

**Company Registration Number: 01215037**

## 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year, except where noted.

### 1.1 Basis of accounting

The Arab British Centre is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and registered as a charity. It is governed under its Articles of Association.

The Financial Statements have been prepared 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) (second edition - October 2019) - (Charity SORP (FRS 102) Revised), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of listed investments.

### 1.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

### 1.3 Fund accounting

The company has the following funds:-

(1) An expendable endowment. Transfers to income funds can be made at the discretion of the trustees.

(2) General unrestricted fund available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

(3) Restricted income funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### 1.4 Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when:-

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations are recorded as income in the accounting period in which they are received, except where the donor specifies that they should be used for a specific period.

Investment income is included in the financial statements when receivable.

1.5 **Resources expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Costs of generating funds comprise the investment fund's management charges.

Governance costs represents independent examiner's' remuneration.

All other expenditure is included under charitable expenditure. It comprises the cost of operating the Centre.

1.6 **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over the expected useful lives, as follows:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Freehold building | - | 100 years |
| Fixtures and fittings | - | 5 years |
| Computers | - | 3 years |

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.7 **Investments**

Fixed asset investments are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and the gain or loss on revaluation is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.8 **Debtors**

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered.

1.9 **Creditors**

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

**2 Legal status**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The company is registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

## 3 Donations and grants received

| | 2025 | | | | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Total funds |
| | £ | | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations received | 11,701 | 4,171 | - | 15,872 | 44,634 |
| Grants received | 105,555 | 85,050 | - | 190,605 | 223,216 |
| | 117,256 | 89,221 | - | 206,477 | 267,850 |

## 4 Income from charitable activities

| | 2025 | | | | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Total funds |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Contributions from users | 96,878 | - | - | 96,878 | 78,368 |
| Income from Arabic calligraphy classes | 5,465 | - | - | 5,465 | 2,580 |
| Income from Arabic classes | - | - | - | - | 1,600 |
| Income from music classes | 29,010 | - | - | 29,010 | 44,132 |
| Income from Islamic Art and Architecture classes | - | - | - | - | 8,970 |
| Income from events and functions | 299 | 14,162 | - | 14,461 | 14,661 |
| Income from Story Telling Workshop | - | - | - | - | 900 |
| Income from hire of boardroom | 644 | - | - | 644 | - |
| Income from merchandise | - | 5,385 | - | 5,385 | 3,893 |
| Library memberships | 10 | - | - | 10 | - |
| | 132,306 | 19,547 | - | 151,853 | 155,104 |

A number of organisations with similar objects to the charity, occupy the majority of the charity's property, and their presence is financially underwritten by the charity. The organisations contribute towards the costs related to the office space and facilities which they use.

## 5 Investment income

| | 2025 | | | | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Total funds |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Bank interest received | 205 | - | - | 205 | 273 |
| Dividends received from listed investments:- | | | | | |
| - UK investments | - | - | 64,155 | 64,155 | 72,442 |
| - overseas investments | - | - | - | - | 651 |
| Interest received from UK listed investments | - | - | 416 | 416 | 155 |
| | 205 | - | 64,571 | 64,776 | 73,521 |

## 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

| | 2025 | | | | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Total funds |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | | | | |
| Investment management costs | - | - | 11,404 | 11,404 | 14,390 |
| **Charitable activities** | | | | | |
| Cost of operation of the Centre:- | | | | | |
| Depreciation | 670 | - | 6,443 | 7,113 | 7,113 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 29,533 | - | - | 29,533 | 22,306 |
| Staff costs:- | | | | | |
| - gross wages and salaries | 212,729 | - | - | 212,729 | 202,607 |
| - employers' NICs | 16,156 | - | - | 16,156 | 16,394 |
| - pension contributions | 12,493 | - | | 12,493 | 11,885 |
| Office and other costs | 87,317 | 36,397 | - | 123,714 | 130,521 |
| Events, festivals and functions | 118,424 | 71,348 | - | 189,772 | 170,283 |
| | 477,322 | 107,745 | 6,443 | 591,510 | 561,109 |
| **Governance costs** | | | | | |
| Independent examination fees | 5,550 | - | - | 5,550 | 5,040 |
| | 482,872 | 107,745 | 6,443 | 597,060 | 566,149 |

No trustees received any remuneration. No trustees were reimbursed for expenses during the year.

Two employees were paid between £60,000 and £70,000 in the year. No employees were paid more than £70,000 in the year. The average number of employees during the year was 5 (2024: 5).

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension contributions charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund.

## 7 Gains/(losses) on investments

| | 2025 | | | | 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Total funds |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Gains/(losses) on sale of investments | - | - | (10,409) | (10,409) | (28,847) |
| Gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments | - | - | 207,587 | 207,587 | (20,882) |
| | - | - | 197,178 | 197,178 | (49,729) |

## 8 Taxation

As a charity, The Arab British Centre is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the two years ended 31 December 2025.

## 9 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings | Fixtures and fittings | Computers | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | | |
| At 1 January 2025 | 1,288,633 | 11,867 | 3,290 | 1,303,790 |
| Additions | - | - | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2025 | 1,288,633 | 11,867 | 3,290 | 1,303,790 |
| **Depreciation** | | | | |
| At 1 January 2025 | 455,937 | 11,867 | 2,012 | 469,816 |
| On disposals | - | - | - | - |
| Charge for the year | 6,443 | - | 670 | 7,113 |
| At 31 December 2025 | 462,380 | 11,867 | 2,682 | 476,929 |
| **Net book values** | | | | |
| At 31 December 2025 | 826,253 | - | 608 | 826,861 |
| At 31 December 2024 | 832,696 | - | 1,278 | 833,974 |

The trustees have reviewed the value of the freehold land and buildings. They are of the opinion that the market value at 31 December 2025 was not less than the net book value shown above. The freehold land and buildings were purchased in 2002.

## 10 Fixed asset investments

| Rathbones Investment Management | £ |
|---|---|
| At 1 January 2025 at valuation | 1,286,950 |
| Additions at cost | 152,551 |
| Disposals at cost | (324,708) |
| Net gain/(loss) on revaluation | 207,587 |
| At 31 December 2025 (cost = £1,151,828) | 1,322,380 |

**Total investments**

| | Total £ |
|---|---|
| Total value of investments at 31 December 2025 | 1,335,056 |
| Less: cash at brokers (included under current assets) | 12,676 |
| Fixed asset investments at 31 December 2025 | 1,322,380 |

The above investments are held to provide an investment return for the charity.

UK assets comprise 100% of the value of the fixed asset investments as at 31 December 2025.

## 11 Debtors

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Contributions receivable | 12,966 | 5,405 |
| Prepayments | 4,584 | 3,750 |
| | 17,550 | 9,155 |

## 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2025 £ | 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade creditors | 18,146 | 5,428 |
| Taxation and social security | 4,465 | 3,615 |
| Accruals | 5,550 | 5,040 |
| Deferred income (see note 13) | 22,069 | 13,613 |
| Other creditors | 15,043 | 15,043 |
| | 65,273 | 42,739 |

## 13 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises contributions from users occupying space at 1 Gough Square received in advance.

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Balance at 1 January 2025 | 13,613 | 30,624 |
| Amount released to income earned from charitable activities | (13,613) | (30,624) |
| Amount deferred in year | 22,069 | 13,613 |
| Balance at 31 December 2025 | 22,069 | 13,613 |

## 14 Statement of funds

**Statement of funds - current year**

| | Balance at 1 January 2025 | Income | Expenditure | Gains/(losses) on investments | Transfer in/ (out) | Balance at 31 December 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted income funds** | | | | | | |
| SAFAR Film Festival | 74,753 | 108,768 | (107,745) | - | - | 75,776 |
| **Unrestricted income funds** | 5,150 | 249,767 | (482,872) | - | 235,000 | 7,045 |
| **Endowment funds** | 2,082,407 | 64,571 | (17,847) | 197,178 | (235,000) | 2,091,309 |
| **Total funds** | 2,162,310 | 423,106 | (608,464) | 197,178 | - | 2,174,130 |

**Statement of funds - prior year**

| | Balance at 1 January 2024 | Income | Expenditure | Gains/(losses) on investments | Transfer in/ (out) | Balance at 31 December 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted income funds** | | | | | | |
| SAFAR Film Festival | 35,471 | 164,100 | (124,818) | - | - | 74,753 |
| **Unrestricted income funds** | 10,911 | 259,127 | (434,888) | - | 170,000 | 5,150 |
| **Endowment funds** | 2,249,721 | 73,248 | (20,833) | (49,729) | (170,000) | 2,082,407 |
| **Total funds** | 2,296,103 | 496,475 | (580,539) | (49,729) | - | 2,162,310 |

**Restricted income funds comprise the following:**

SAFAR Film Festival - grants received towards the Centre's costs in staging the film festival.

## 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

**Current year**

| | 2025 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted income funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | 608 | - | 826,253 | 826,861 |
| Investments | 30,000 | - | 1,292,380 | 1,322,380 |
| Current assets | 1,710 | 75,776 | 12,676 | 90,162 |
| Current liabilities | (25,273) | - | (40,000) | (65,273) |
| Net assets at 31 December 2025 | 7,045 | 75,776 | 2,091,309 | 2,174,130 |

**Prior year**

| | 2024 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted income funds | Restricted income funds | Endowment funds | Total funds |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | 1,278 | - | 832,696 | 833,974 |
| Investments | 30,000 | - | 1,256,950 | 1,286,950 |
| Current assets | (23,389) | 74,753 | 32,761 | 84,125 |
| Current liabilities | (2,739) | - | (40,000) | (42,739) |
| Net assets at 31 December 2024 | 5,150 | 74,753 | 2,082,407 | 2,162,310 |

## 16 Related party disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2025.