

**THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT
BENEVOLENT FUND**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST MARCH 2024

Charity Registration Number: NIC 107024

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The Board of Trustees present their report and financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and comply with the Fund's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

CONSTITUTION

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund was founded in 1972 under Charitable Trust, most recently revised in 2017, its purpose being helping and assisting the financial needs and affording support to the benefit of members of and former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants as set out in the Trust Deed. The Fund is recognised for charitable purposes by HM Revenue & Customs and registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 11th July 2018. Further information on the Fund and the members of the Board of Trustees can be obtained from the Secretary at the registered office address:

CHARITY ADMINISTRATIVE AND REFERENCE DETAILS

Charity name	The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund
Charity registration number	NIC107024
HMRC reference	XN48435
Registered office	Anderson House, Palace Barracks, Holywood, BT18 9QA
Trustees	The charity commission has accepted a request from the trustees for their personal details to be withheld. There were 14 trustees who served during the year.
Secretary	Mr B Kennedy (delegated day to day management of the Fund)
Investment managers	Julius Baer International Limited, 1 St Martins, Le Grand, London, EC1A 4AS Quilter Cheviot Limited, Montgomery House, 29/33 Montgomery Street, Belfast, BT1 4NX
Auditor	GMcG Belfast, Alfred House, 19 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EQ
Bankers	Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
Solicitors	Edwards & Company, 28 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure and related parties

Responsibility for the activities of the Fund is vested in and carried out by a Board of Trustees which meets at intervals throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees consists of elected members. Trustees are appointed or are eligible for re-appointment immediately following the completion of their term of office at a General Meeting of the Fund for a term of four years. The number of trustees shall consist of not more than fifteen.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is appointed annually at a General Meeting of the Fund.

Recruitment, appointment, induction and training

The Board of Trustees have been involved in the Fund for a number of years and so are familiar with its work. The trustees regularly review the requirements of the Fund and the possibility of a need for additional trustees. Any new trustees would be elected by the Board of Trustees. Appropriate training and induction is available to all trustees.

INVESTMENT POWERS AND POLICY

Under the trust deed, the trustees have unrestricted investment powers, and may invest at their absolute discretion. The trustees have appointed two independent investment managers, who have discretionary powers, with a mandate which is reviewed on a quarterly basis, to maintain and grow income, with a moderate risk profile.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund exists to provide assistance to those former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment and the extended Ulster Defence Regiment family who are in need of support as a consequence of poverty caused by sickness, disability, accident, infirmity, social exclusion or other adversity through the provision of grants and respite support.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The trustees of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide Public Benefits.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees believe that the Fund provides the following public benefits in supporting those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants who are in need:

1. The relief of poverty or assisting those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

PUBLIC BENEFIT (*continued*)

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund meets this purpose through the provision of grants or other assistance, both financial and through the provision of goods and respite support. The provision of this assistance has enabled the Fund to help lift its beneficiaries out of a potential poverty trap by alleviating some of the financial difficulties that they face, for example where statutory benefits do not cover what is required, where a beneficiary has special needs or a neurological, psychological or physical disability or where a beneficiary is facing homelessness or poverty as a result of a debt.

2. The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation.

The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund provides support to its beneficiaries in relieving social exclusion (due to poverty, financial or otherwise, by being a member of the Regiment or a widow, widower, dependant or family member of such member) by providing them with the opportunity to meet with other victims and survivors of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland and of other conflicts. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an opportunity for victims and survivors to avoid the poverty trap caused by social exclusion and all other hardships (financial or otherwise) that flow from such social exclusion, to reflect upon and share their experiences and to begin to come to terms with their involvement in such conflicts and the social, political and financial consequences relating thereto. In turn, this promotes healing and reconciliation among the beneficiaries and society as a whole. The 'poverty exception' applies in this case; the Fund seeks to relieve poverty in a number of circumstances and this is regarded as being for the public benefit even where there is a restricted or smaller potential group of beneficiaries. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. The charity's beneficiaries are those former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment or members or former members of the Royal Irish Regiment who are serving or have served on a similar limited commitment of service as the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment ("Home Service Conditions of Service") and their widows, widowers, dependants and families who are in need.

There may be a private benefit flowing from the purposes, which is incidental and necessary in the circumstances, where a trustee may have been a serving member of the Regiment in his/her past who may find him/herself in necessitous circumstances because of social or financial reasons.

The trustees are fully aware of the guidelines coming from The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. They believe they are operating entirely within those guidelines which have been released so far and look forward with confidence to the development of the Fund's work in the future.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the year the Fund undertook numerous welfare activities giving financial help to assist the needs and afford support to the benefit of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and their dependants. The Fund also sponsored numerous respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Regiment. During the year, 121 (2023 – 114) applications for benevolence were dealt with, 529 (2023 – 534) families benefited from respite in the apartments and 241 (2023 – 233) family or disabled ex-soldiers groups availed of respite activities during the year.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

The Fund also extended the Pilot Health Care Scheme for a further year with 783 (2023 – 604) beneficiaries now benefiting from the scheme. The overall increase in beneficiary contact during the year was 30% (2023 - 41%).

Total income for the period amounted to £283,744 (2023 - £309,148) and total expenditure for the period amounted to £578,486 (2023 - £514,625). Investments were held by Julius Baer and Quilter Cheviot as discretionary investment managers and there was a gain on investments of £896,153 (2023 – loss of £646,575) in the year.

The trustees continually review the level of welfare grants given and respite activities for family groups comprising of widows, bereaved parents, disabled ex-soldiers and dependants of former members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in relation to projected investment income and donations together with any surplus funds. Direct charitable expenditure increased in the year by £64,358 from £456,721 to £521,079.

The trustees consider that the Fund is in a satisfactory position to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Fund is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Fund, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate an exposure to major risks. In particular, the trustees instruct external accountants to review the accounting records and prepare interim management accounts during the course of the financial year. The trustees' attitude to investment risk is managed through the two professional investment managers. Where appropriate; systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks faced by the Fund.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of officers, volunteers and applicants. These procedures are periodically reviewed at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the Fund.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Details of income and expenditure for the year and of the year end financial position are given on pages 13 and 14 of the accounts attached to this report. There was an increase in the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio during the year and reserves increased by £601,411 in 2023/24 from £10,348,416 to £10,949,827. The trustees consider the financial position of the Fund as satisfactory in order to sustain its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

FUNDING

The principal funding is from donations and investments.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)*

RESERVES POLICY

Cash and deposit balances are maintained so as to be able to meet expenditure on charitable activities and other outgoings as they arise. However, the majority of the Charity's assets are held in investment funds and in fixed assets used to help fulfil its charitable objectives. The Charity's income is mainly derived from investment income and the Trustees are aware of the need to minimise the risk that the Charity cannot meet its obligations by maintaining the value of the charity's underlying investments. The Charity's obligations cannot be readily ascertained but the Trustees adopt a reserves policy which allows free reserves to be available in any financial year in line with an annual budget set in advance of the year. The total unrestricted funds of the charity are £10,949,827 (2023: £10,348,416) which includes fixed assets of £10,279,600 (2023: £9,836,237) leaving the charity with free reserves of £670,227 (2023: £512,179).

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

There have been no major changes in the year. The trustees are conscious of the ageing and declining beneficiary group and are currently engaged in a process of reviewing how the Fund helps those UDR Veterans in need; this will form part of a 5-year strategic plan.

STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The trustees 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).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 2019;
- 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; 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (*continued*)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

AUDITOR

GMcG Belfast offer themselves for re-appointment as auditor for the ensuing year.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Chairman

Date: 29th October 2024

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Fund's affairs as at 31st March 2024, and of its incoming resources and expenditure of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Basis of our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Alfred House
19 Alfred Street
BELFAST BT2 8EQ
DX 3910 NR BELFAST 50

Tel: +44(0)28 9031 1113
Fax: +44(0)28 9031 0777

Century House
40 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

Tel: +44(0)28 9260 7355
Fax: +44(0)28 9260 1656

17 Mandeville Street
PORTADOWN
Craigavon
BT62 3PB

Tel: +44(0)28 3833 2801
Fax: +44(0)28 3835 0293



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THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.



THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on pages 5 and 6, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material, if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform the audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and charity's financial results and position;
- Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered that the particular areas in the financial statements that were susceptible to misstatement were related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgements; recognition, classification and completeness of income. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included Charity legislation applicable to Northern Ireland, Charity's governing document, employment law, health and safety and tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.



THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (*continued*)

Audit response to risks identified:

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatements due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments including those relating to revenue recognition; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias; and evaluating the rationale of any significant transactions that are large, unusual or outside the normal course of the charity's activities.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement teams members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (*continued*)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Fund's Board of Trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Fund and the Fund's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mr Nigel Moore FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of GMcG BELFAST**

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Dated: 29.10.24

Alfred House
19 Alfred Street
Belfast
BT2 8EQ

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME				
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	2	68,579	68,579	134,417
Investments	3	215,165	215,165	174,731
TOTAL INCOME		283,744	283,744	309,148
EXPENDITURE				
Raising funds:				
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	8,165	8,165	7,892
Investment management costs	4	49,242	49,242	50,012
Charitable activities				
Benevolent fund management & distribution	5	521,079	521,079	456,721
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		578,486	578,486	514,625
NET EXPENDITURE		(294,742)	(294,742)	(205,477)
GAIN / (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS				
Realised gain on investments		109,541	109,541	47,494
Unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	13	786,612	786,612	(694,069)
NET GAIN / (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS		896,153	896,153	(646,575)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		601,411	601,411	(852,052)
Funds at beginning of year		10,348,416	10,348,416	11,200,468
FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		10,949,827	10,949,827	10,348,416

The Fund has no recognised gains or losses in the year other than those included in the net movement in funds.

All of the operations of the Fund are classed as continuing.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	1,109,864	1,140,363
Investments	13	9,169,736	8,695,874
		<u>10,279,600</u>	<u>9,836,237</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	34,735	25,499
Short term deposits	15	479,204	291,573
Cash at bank and in hand		195,971	227,043
		<u>709,910</u>	<u>544,115</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(39,683)</u>	<u>(31,936)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>670,227</u>	<u>512,179</u>
NET ASSETS	18	<u>10,949,827</u>	<u>10,348,416</u>
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted	17	<u>10,949,827</u>	<u>10,348,416</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29th October 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

CHAIRMAN

TRUSTEE

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash flow from operating activities	19	(480,897)	(331,592)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-	(8,624)
Payments to acquire investments		(1,724,627)	(1,977,453)
Receipts from sale of investments		2,146,918	1,813,391
Interest received		2,770	1,768
Dividends received		212,395	172,963
Net cash flow from investing activities		637,456	2,045
Cash flow from financing activities			
		-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities		-	-
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		156,559	(329,547)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023		518,616	848,163
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024		675,175	518,616
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		195,971	227,043
Short-term deposits		479,204	291,573
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024		675,175	518,616

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Funds

The unrestricted funds of the Fund consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources, including deferred incoming resources are credited to income funds and can be expended at the discretion of the trustees and have been included in the financial statements using the accruals basis except for donations, legacies and bequests which are included in the financial statements using the receipts basis.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gift is credited to income on a receivable basis.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity, however, it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Incoming recognition *(continued)*

Investment income is interest earned through holding cash at bank and dividends from investments held. Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102).

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated to activities on a time basis relative to and on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Expenditure is categorised under the following headings:

- Cost of generating funds comprises costs incurred in generating voluntary income and includes advertising, allocation of support costs and investment management costs;
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries and includes welfare costs, christmas grants, respite costs, charitable donations, media campaign, other direct costs and an apportionment of support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and other overheads have been allocated on the basis of time spent.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset less its estimated residual value over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:-

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation *(continued)*

Property	- 2% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	- 20% straight line
Land	is not depreciated

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at market value. Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments, in addition to realised gains/(losses) on sale of investments, are transferred to unrestricted funds. They include listed investments.

Current asset investments are short term investments with a maturity term of no greater than one year.

They include short term deposits and are recorded at their initial costs less impairment.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, bank overdrafts and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and normally have a maturity date of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Tax

As a charity, it benefits from various exemptions afforded by tax legislation. It is therefore not liable to corporation tax on income or gains falling due within those exemptions. Recovery is made of tax deducted from receipts under gift aid.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The following judgements including those involving estimates have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements and that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(i) depreciation method, asset useful lives and residual values

The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis considering the current and future market conditions.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations	39,716	39,716	34,499	34,499
Legacies	28,863	28,863	99,918	99,918
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<u>68,579</u>	<u>68,579</u>	<u>134,417</u>	<u>134,417</u>

3. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Dividends - equities	212,395	212,395	172,963	172,963
Interest - short term deposits	2,132	2,132	1,257	1,257
Interest - bank deposits	638	638	511	511
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<u>215,165</u>	<u>215,165</u>	<u>174,731</u>	<u>174,731</u>

4. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Investment manager fees	49,242	49,242	50,012	50,012
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	<u>49,242</u>	<u>49,242</u>	<u>50,012</u>	<u>50,012</u>

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Basis of allocation	Raising funds	Charitable activities <i>Benevolent fund management & distribution</i>	Investment management costs	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£
Direct costs					
Welfare grants	Direct	-	182,490	-	182,490
Christmas grants	Direct	-	35,181	-	35,181
Respite activities	Direct	-	51,956	-	51,956
Charitable donations	Direct	-	-	-	-
Property costs	Direct	-	131,230	-	131,230
Depreciation	Direct	-	30,499	-	30,499
Media campaign	Direct	-	5,690	-	5,690
Advertising	Direct	-	2,985	-	2,985
Support costs					
Administration salaries	Staff Time	7,170	64,525	-	71,695
NIC Employment allowance	Staff Time	(347)	(3,124)	-	(3,471)
Pension costs	Staff Time	142	1,277	-	1,419
Travel and conferences	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Travel welfare visits	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Mobile telephone charges	Time	54	488	-	542
Computer expenses	Time	195	1,753	-	1,948
Stationery and postage	Time	195	1,755	-	1,950
		<u>7,409</u>	<u>506,705</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>514,114</u>
Governance	Time	595	11,301	-	11,896
Bank charges	Staff Time	6	121	-	127
Miscellaneous	Staff Time	155	2,952	-	3,107
		<u>8,165</u>	<u>521,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>529,244</u>
Investment management costs	Actual	-	-	49,242	49,242
		<u>8,165</u>	<u>521,079</u>	<u>49,242</u>	<u>578,486</u>

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

5. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE *(continued)*

	Basis of allocation	Charitable activities			2023 Total £
		Raising funds £	<i>Benevolent fund management & distribution</i> £	Investment management costs £	
Direct costs					
Welfare grants	Direct	-	136,262	-	136,262
Christmas grants	Direct	-	34,250	-	34,250
Respite activities	Direct	-	54,216	-	54,216
Charitable donations	Direct	-	-	-	-
Property costs	Direct	-	109,224	-	109,224
Depreciation	Direct	-	30,028	-	30,028
Media campaign	Direct	-	9,430	-	9,430
Advertising	Direct	-	3,130	-	3,130
Support costs					
Administration salaries	Staff Time	6,852	61,668	-	68,520
NIC Employment allowance	Staff Time	(347)	(3,127)	-	(3,474)
Pension costs	Staff Time	148	1,329	-	1,477
Travel and conferences	Staff Time	8	70	-	78
Travel welfare visits	Staff Time	-	-	-	-
Mobile telephone charges	Time	34	309	-	343
Computer expenses	Time	145	1,309	-	1,454
Stationery and postage	Time	137	1,229	-	1,366
Depreciation of office equipment	Office Space	-	-	-	-
		<u>6,977</u>	<u>439,327</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>446,304</u>
Governance	Time	719	13,668	-	14,387
Bank charges	Staff Time	7	141	-	148
Miscellaneous	Staff Time	189	3,585	-	3,774
		<u>7,892</u>	<u>456,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>464,613</u>
Investment management costs	Actual	-	-	50,012	50,012
		<u>7,892</u>	<u>456,721</u>	<u>50,012</u>	<u>514,625</u>

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Audit services	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Other accountancy services	3,900	3,900	7,200	7,200
Consultancy	60	60	78	78
Legal services	1,936	1,936	1,109	1,109
	<u>11,896</u>	<u>11,896</u>	<u>14,387</u>	<u>14,387</u>

7. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS

Grant analysis 2024	Welfare grants £	Christmas grants £	Respite grants £	Total 2024 £
Grants to Individuals	143,037	35,181	51,956	230,174
Grants to Armed forces charities	39,453	-	-	39,453
Total:	<u>182,490</u>	<u>35,181</u>	<u>51,956</u>	<u>269,627</u>

Grant analysis 2023	Welfare grants £	Christmas grants £	Respite grants £	Total 2023 £
Grants to Individuals	107,615	34,250	54,216	196,081
Grants to Armed forces charities	28,647	-	-	28,647
Total:	<u>136,262</u>	<u>34,250</u>	<u>54,216</u>	<u>224,728</u>

8. NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	30,499	30,499	30,028	30,028
Auditor's remuneration	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
(Gain) on disposal of investments	(109,541)	(109,541)	(47,494)	(47,494)
(Gain) / (Loss) on fair value movement of investments	(786,612)	(786,612)	694,069	694,069
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

9. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £6,000 (2023: £6,000) and other services £3,900 (2023: £7,200).

10. TRUSTEES' AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise of the Trustees and the senior management team. The total amount of remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel in the year was £69,661 (2023: £66,034).

The trustees' neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil).

Nil (2023: Nil) trustees are accruing pension arrangements.

The trustees did not have any expenses reimbursed during the year (2023: £Nil).

11. STAFF NUMBERS AND REMUNERATION

The average number of monthly employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2024 FTE	2023 Number	2023 FTE
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	3	3	3
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	93,091	93,091	88,093	88,093
Social security	9,180	9,180	8,945	8,945
Defined contribution pension costs	2,045	2,045	2,103	2,103
NIC employment allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
	<u>99,316</u>	<u>99,316</u>	<u>94,141</u>	<u>94,141</u>

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) of more than £60,000.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Total	Freehold Land and Buildings	Furniture & Fittings	Office Equipment
	£	£	£	£
COST				
At 1 st April 2023	1,771,460	1,627,212	142,963	1,285
	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31st March 2024	1,771,460	1,627,212	142,963	1,285
	=====	=====	=====	=====
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st April 2023	631,097	499,616	130,326	1,155
Charge for year	30,499	25,139	5,230	130
	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31st March 2024	661,596	524,755	135,556	1,285
	=====	=====	=====	=====
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2024	1,109,864	1,102,457	7,407	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====
At 31 st March 2023	1,140,363	1,127,596	12,637	130
	=====	=====	=====	=====

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Land and buildings are held in the name of Cleaver Fulton Rankin Trustees Limited as nominee.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

13. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed Investments £
Market value at 1 st April 2023	8,695,874
Additions	1,724,627
Disposals	(2,037,377)
Revaluation	786,612

Market value at 31st March 2024	9,169,736
	=====

The investments of the Fund were managed and held on the Fund's behalf by Quilter Cheviot Limited, in the name of the nominee company, Quilter Nominees Limited and Julius Bär in the name of the nominee company Bank Julius Baer & Co Ltd.

Investments are accounted for at the balance sheet date at their fair value in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

At the date of approval of these financial statements there remains a lot of volatility and uncertainty in the markets.

14. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Tax repayment due	6,830	3,870
Amount owed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund	5,908	3,997
Prepayments and accrued income	21,997	17,632
	-----	-----
	34,735	25,499
	=====	=====

15. SHORT TERM DEPOSITS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Short term deposits	479,204	291,573
	=====	=====

Short term deposits are readily available.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other tax and social security	2,167	2,078
Accruals for grants payable	7,405	10,700
Accruals and deferred income	26,896	16,908
Other	3,215	2,250
	-----	-----
	39,683	31,936
	=====	=====

17. FUND RECONCILIATION

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at				Balance at
	1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Losses	31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	10,348,416	283,744	(578,486)	896,153	10,949,827
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	10,348,416	283,744	(578,486)	896,153	10,949,827
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at				Balance at
	1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains	31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted	11,200,468	309,148	(514,625)	(646,575)	10,348,416
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	11,200,468	309,148	(514,625)	(646,575)	10,348,416
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The unrestricted funds of the Fund consist of funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Fund.

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed assets	10,279,600	9,836,237
Cash and current investments	675,175	518,616
Other current assets / liabilities	34,735	25,499
Creditors less than one year	(39,683)	(31,936)
	-----	-----
	<u>10,949,827</u>	<u>10,348,416</u>

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	601,411	(852,052)
Dividends received	(212,395)	(172,963)
Interest receivable	(2,770)	(1,768)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	30,499	30,028
(Gain)/loss on fixed asset investments	(786,612)	694,069
Adjustment for cash transfer in previous year	-	20,000
(Gain) on disposal of fixed asset investments	(109,541)	(47,494)
(Increase) in debtors	(9,236)	(9,922)
Increase in creditors	7,747	8,510
	-----	-----
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(480,897)</u>	<u>(331,592)</u>

20. PENSIONS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Defined contribution pension plan

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £2,045 (2023: £2,103).

THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Former members of The Ulster Defence Regiment, who were also members of The Royal Irish Regiment, and their dependants, can be entitled to financial assistance from both The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund and The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund.

In those cases for administration purposes The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund make the total payment for financial assistance and are reimbursed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund for the financial assistance due by that Fund.

Payments made on behalf of The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund by The Ulster Defence Regiment Benevolent Fund and subsequently reimbursed by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund in the year amounted to £35,588 (2023 - £31,774). These transactions are excluded in the Statement of Financial Activities.

At the date of the balance sheet the amount owed to the Fund by The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund is £5,908 (2023 - £3,997). This balance is shown under "Debtors" in the notes to the financial statements.

22. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying amounts of the charity's financial instruments are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Measured at fair value through net income / expenditure:		
- Fixed asset listed investments (note 13)	<u>9,169,736</u>	<u>8,695,874</u>

The income, expenses, net gains and net losses attributable to the charity's financial instruments are summarised as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Income and expense</i>		
Financial assets measured at fair value through net expenditure:		
- Dividend income from equities	212,395	172,963
- Realised and unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	<u>896,153</u>	<u>(646,575)</u>