# SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WESTMINSTER GROUP ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Party Officers

Registered officers under the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("PPERA"):

Treasurer

Mr Peter Grant

Second Officer

Mr Stephen Flynn

**Party Headquarters** 

Gordon Lamb House

3 Jackson's Entry

Edinburgh EH8 8PJ

Auditor

AMS Accountants Corporate Ltd

**Chartered Accountants** 

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### Administrative information

The Scottish National Party Westminster group is an accounting unit of the Scottish National Party and is registered with the Electoral Commission under the Political Parties, Election and Referendums Act 2000 ("PPERA").

The Group consists of all SNP members of the UK Parliament. At the Annual General Meeting group members elect office bearers and an Executive Committee which is responsible for the day to day management of the Group and its staff.

Conduct of the Group's business is governed by the Group Standing Orders which have been approved by the National Executive Committee of the Scottish National Party.

### Review of political activities

Since May 2015 the Scottish National Party has been the third biggest political group in the House of Commons. At 31 December 2023 the group has 43 members (2022 - 45) representing 73% of all constituencies in Scotland

During 2023 the SNP Group has continued to be a strong voice for Scotland in opposing the Conservative Government's damaging policies both at home and abroad. We opposed the Government's financial policies which fail to support key sectors of our economy such as tourism and renewable energy and which leave millions of people struggling to cope with the cost of living. We have played a leading role in opposing oppressive policies on migration and in supporting a more humanitarian approach which recognises the vast benefits immigration can bring. We have supported the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza as well as an increase in urgent humanitarian aid.

A core part of our Parliamentary work has been to highlight the contrast between the UK Government's regressive policies and the SNP's positive vision of a fairer Scotland achievable only through independence. We continue to resist repeated attempts by the UK Government to diminish the standing of the elected national Parliament and Government of Scotland and to support the democratic principle that the people of Scotland have the right to decide their own constitutional future at a time of their choosing.

As the Third Party in the House of Commons the SNP has provided front bench spokespersons for all items of Parliamentary business other than those which clearly have no application to Scotland. The Parliamentary business includes ministerial question times, debates in the main Chamber and in Westminster Hall, urgent questions and ministerial statements. The Group is represented on all Select Committees, Public Bill Committees and Delegated Legislation Committees whose remit extends to Scotland.

#### Financial review

The group reported a deficit of £87,991 for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022 - surplus £122,711). This represented a planned use of accumulated balances which is likely to continue in 2024.

The Group's policy is to maintain sufficient balances to meet any reasonably likely change in circumstances during the year.

Mr Peter Grant

Treasurer

- 17/6/24

### STATEMENT OF TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires the Treasurer of the Group to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and of the surplus of deficit for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Treasurer is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- · provide details and explanations of any departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

Section 41 of the Act requires that the Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the Group at that time and to enable him to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Act.

Section 43 of the Act requires that the Treasurer is responsible for the delivery of the statement of the accounts to the Electoral Commission by the required deadline.

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

The Treasurer has taken all steps he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any information required by the auditor for the purpose of their audit and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The Treasurer is not aware of any relevant information of which the auditor is unaware.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WESTMINSTER GROUP

### To The Treesurer of the Scottish National Party Westminster Group

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We have audited the financial statements of the Scottish National Party Westminster Group ('The Group') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprises the Income and Expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 affairs of The Group as at 31 December 2023 and of its deficit 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 requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

### Basis for 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 Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other 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.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that The Group's 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 Party'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 Treasurer 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 Treasurer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, 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.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WESTMINSTER GROUP

### Responsibilities of Treasurer

As explained more fully in the statement of Treasurer's responsibilities, the Treasurer is 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 Treasurer determines 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 Treasurer is responsible for assessing The Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Treasurer either intends to liquidate The Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

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.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Group focusing on the provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"
- · Employment and pension legislation
- · Health and safety regulation
- · Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
- General Data Protection Regulation

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WESTMINSTER GROUP

We gained an understanding of how the party is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquires of management and those charged with governance. We corroborated these enquires through our review of submitted returns.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Group's financial statement to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how management and those charged with governance were remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how management and those charged with governance oversee the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statement where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk.

The following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Discussions with the Treasurer and management regarding their polices and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.
- Enquiries with the Treasurer and management for any reference to breaches in laws or regulations or indications of any potential litigation or claims, including any health and safety issues;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any non-compliance throughout our audit;
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of
  journal entries and other adjustment for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant
  transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing judgements made by management in
  their calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias.
- Making enquiries with the Treasurer and management on whether they had any knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- . Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud; and
- Addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry audit testing.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting material misstatements due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve international concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

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.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE TREASURER OF SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WESTMINSTER GROUP

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Treasurer of the Scottish National Party Westminster Group, in accordance with the Group's rules and section 43 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Treasurer those matters we are required to state to him in an auditors' report and for no other purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Treasurer for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

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Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors 18 6 24

Chartered Accountants Floor 2 9 Portland Street Manchester M1 3BE

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes .	2023 £	2022 £
Income			
Grant income	3	1,184,580	1,090,520
Miscellaneous Income	4	716,228	673,972
Total income		1,900,808	1,764,492
Expenditure:			
Office costs	5	10,431	23,914
Staff costs	6	1,458,443	1,284,581
Financing/Interest charges	7	1,200	1,837
Depreciation		13,332	12,981
Miscellaneous	8	505,393	318,468
Total expenditure		1,988,799	1,641,781
(Deficit)/Surplus before tax		(87,991)	122,711
Taxation	9	-	-
(Deficit)/Surplus after tax		(87,991)	122,711

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Income and Expenditure account.

The Income and Expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		202		2022	
	Notes	£	£	3	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		26,664		26,063
Current assets					
Debtors	11	222,587		320,846	
Cash at benk and in hand		518,951		457,564	
		741,538		778,410	
Creditors: amounts falling due within					
one year	12	(428,235)		(376,515)	
Net current assets			313,303		401,695
Total assets less current liabilities			339,967		427,958
Reserves					
Accumulated fund at start of year	13		427,958		305,247
(Deficit)/Surplus			(87,991)		122,711
			339,967		427,958

The financial statements were approved by the Treasurer on 15/6/24

Mr Peter Grant Treasurer

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023	:	2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	14		75,320		(121,722)
Investing activities Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(13,933)		(6,830)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(13,933)		(6,830)
Net cash used in financing activities					
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cas equivalents	h		61,387		(128,552)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of	year		<b>4</b> 57,564		586,116
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	ır		518,951		457,564

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The Scottish National Party Westminster Group is not incorporated in law and thus not bound by the Companies Act 2006. The Party is required to prepare financial statements in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act 2000 ('PPERA').

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102). The financial standards have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are in accordance with the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required by the guidance Issued by the Electoral Commission or is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Group. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

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 stated otherwise.

### 1.2 Going concern

The Treasurer has considered the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements with reference to the following:

The Group receives stable income in the form of Short Money, Pooled Income and Grant income from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and these income streams have been projected forward for the period to 31 December 2024 along with an expenditure budget which takes into account any potential impacts of high levels of cost inflation.

The group is projected to maintain a positive cash balance; as a result the Treasurer is satisfied that the Group will have sufficient resource to be able to continue to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

A General Election has been called for July 2024 and for all political groups represented in Parliament this creates uncertainty as to the size of the Group and therefore its funding streams in the new Parliament. The Treasurer is satisfied that appropriate contingency plans are in place to ensure that the Group is able to meet any liabilities arising before or following the General Election.

On this basis, the Treasurer is satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on the going concern basis.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.3 Income

Income is recognised when all of the following conditions have been met:

- · The Group is entitled to the income
- . There is reasonable certainty that the income will be received; and
- . The value of the income can be measured with reasonable and certainty

Applying these criteria to specific types of income results in the following treatment:

- Grants of 'Short Money' are received from the House of Commons Authorities each month and initially recorded as deferred income. When the Group has incurred expenditure which is allowable under the rules of spending 'Short Money', then funds are released from deferred income and recognised as income in the income and expenditure account to match this expenditure. Therefore, any grants received not yet spent are showing as deferred income in these financial statements.
- Pooled budgets income represents income received from the Independent Parliamentary Standards
  Authority and SNP MPs to contribute to the payment of parliamentary pooled services provided by
  the Group to the Group's MPs. Pooled budgets income is invoiced annually and recognised on a pro
  rata basis over the period to which it relates. Therefore, funds invoiced in advance of the delivery of
  services are recognised as deferred income in these financial statements.
- Grants are received from the Westminster Foundation of Democracy for dedicated expenditure. Any
  grants received not yet spent are shown as deferred income in these financial statements.

### 1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Office/computer equipment

33.33% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

### 1.5 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Group reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

### 1.7 Financial instruments

The Group has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Group's balance sheet when the Group becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank toans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Group's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.8 Pension costs

Contributions to the Group's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they became payable.

### 1.9 Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, the Treasurer is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are not considered to be any critical accounting estimates within these financial statements as all transactions are measured at cost.

### 3 Grant income

		2023 £	2022 €
	Short money income	1,184,580	1,090,520
4	Miscellaneous Income		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Pooled budgets income Westminster Foundation for Democracy Other income	519,427 195,916 885	515,897 157,150 925
		716,228	673,972
5	Office costs		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Office costs	10,431	23,914

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Employees
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The average monthly n	number of employee	es during the year was:
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The average monthly number of employees during the year was.	2023 Number	2022 Number
	28	24
Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs	1,227,923 124,986 105,534 1,458,443	1,076,978 124,141 83,462 1,284,581

None of the Registered Officers under PPERA received any remuneration in that capacity during the year (2022 - £nil).

### 7 Financing/interest charges

		2023 £	2022 £
	Bank charges	1,200	1,837
8	Micellaneous costs		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Research	104,757	141,980
	Travel and accomodation expenses	29,088	19,191
	Professional fees	277,937	117,546
	Training	15,895	4,210
	Sundry	77,716	35,541
		505,393	318,468

### 9 Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arose on ordinary activities for the year ended 31 December 2023 as the Group had no income liable to corporation tax (2022: £nil).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10	Tangible fixed assets	Office/comput	er equipment £
	Cost		40.044
	At 1 January 2023		124,344
	Additions		13,933
	At 31 December 2023		138,277
	Depreciation and impairment		
	At 1 January 2023		98,281
	Depreciation charged in the year		13,332
	At 31 December 2023		111,613
	Carrying amount		
	At 31 December 2023		26,664
	At 31 December 2022		26,063
	ALST DESCRIBE ZOZZ		
11	Debtors		
		2023	2022
	Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
	Trade debtors	178,748	242,746
	Other debtors	12,539	18,024
	Prepayments and accrued income	31,300	60,076
		222,587	320,846
			=====
12	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	orogicots. allouties talking due tridiii one your	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade creditors	11,240	-
	Deferred short money grants	134,997	97,803
	Deferred pooled budgets income	127,858	129,907
	Deferred WFD income	6,734	46,650
	Other taxation and social security	39,134	34,224
	Other creditors	108,272	67,931
		428,235	376,515

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13	Reserves		Total £
	At 1 January 2023 Deficit for the year		427,958 (87,991)
	At 31 December 2023		339,967
14	Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
	(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(87,991)	122,711
	Adjustments for: Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	13,332	12,981
	Movements in working capital: Decrease/(increase) in debtors Increase/(decrease) in creditors	98,259 51,720	(180,739) (76,675)
	Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	75,320	(121,722)

### 15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).