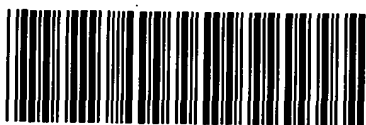


Registered Company Number 04015695
Registered Charity Number 1082267

**DARK HORSE THEATRE
REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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COMPANIES HOUSE

Dark Horse Theatre
Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

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**Dark Horse Theatre
Chair's Report
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

2022-2023 was a time of great change for Dark Horse. Our longstanding Executive Director Lynda Hornsby retired from the company after many years of dedicated service, most notably leading the company into a successful and sustainable future after the loss of our NPO funding. All of the staff, actors, students and trustees wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

The Dark Horse actors were out and about all year, participating in regional, national and international projects. The ensemble took to the streets with STIR as part of the Cultures of Place Festival in Huddersfield and at other venues across the region. They also continued to collaborate with the Separate Doors project and actor Firielle Al Ju'beh toured internationally with Palestinian company Khashabi Theatre. At the start of 2023 the full ensemble, led by Creative Director Amy Cunningham, returned to the stage in a regional tour of #Unit21, a stunning physical and multimedia performance that heralds the company's exciting new artistic direction.

As ever, we continued to train a new generation of learning disabled and neurodiverse performers through our training program supported by the Igen Trust. Grounded in the company's innovative Silent Approach, the students also trained with a range of specialist practitioners throughout the year, preparing them to follow our actors into successful careers in the industry.

As the year drew to a close we appointed Iain Bloomfield as the new Executive Director of Dark Horse. Iain has an extensive and prominent history of theatre leadership in Yorkshire as a founder member of Proper Job, Artistic Director of Twisting Yarns and the longest serving Artistic Director of Theatre in the Mill in Bradford. In these various roles he has consistently and carefully attended to the integration of learning disabled artists in the theatre sector. We are delighted and excited that he has joined Dark Horse and are very much looking forward to the next chapter towards achieving the company's mission for people with learning disabilities to be given equal opportunities to train and work in live, digital and recorded arts.

Signed



D A Calvert

Date 21/12/23

**Dark Horse Theatre
Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities

Introduction

Dark Horse:

- inspires people with learning disabilities to aim higher, giving them an equal opportunity for progressive, life long learning, training and employment.
- targets those who have little or no access to the arts, promoting social inclusion, often working with local people with and without learning disabilities in areas of high economic and social deprivation.
- seeks to encourage rather than cajole, practice rather than preach, enable rather than teach.
- continually seeks opportunities to collaborate with others to increase the impact its work has.

The company continues to evolve and thrive and is proud of its' achievements and levels of engagement, output and sustainability.

- Sustain levels of artistic output and engagement with actors, students and audiences post-pandemic.
- Sustain core staff team and offer freelance opportunities to deliver projects and further the work of the company.
- Develop our capability and capacity to use digital technologies and practice across all aspects of work.

Objectives and aims

The objective of the charity is for people with learning disabilities to be given equal opportunities to train and work in live, digital and recorded arts.

Achievements and Performance

#Unit21

Much of our activity during this year was spent bringing #Unit21 to the stage. Made in partnership with a wide range of theatre artists we were particularly proud of the work we created with neuro-diverse games designer, Richard Littlewood. Three years in the making the show finally saw an innovative and original hybrid that combined animation with live action that created a radical level of access to the performance – allowing complex ideas to be explored in ways that our learning disabled audiences could engage with in profound ways.

'The animation was clever in the way it explained deep concepts to the audience and for someone like XXX who would never usually understand, (XXX has Fragile X) it really helped him to understand the story, characters and themes on another level.' -

We were also extremely proud that we were able to use the ever growing ability of people under 30 to explore the world across multi-platforms with the audience being able to access online polls throughout the show, that allowed them to see the impact of concepts of 'adulthood' on their own lives.

The show played at The Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield; Choma Q Theatre in Leeds; The Lowry, Salford; The Junction, Goole; and Storyhouse, Chester to exceptional audience and funder feedback.

**Dark Horse Theatre
Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Student training

Following on from creating *The Garden (Online Edition)* and animated version of what would have been a live show due to the effect that the pandemic had on the rehearsal process, the student company were commissioned by Huddersfield Literature Festival to create *To Be Us* for the courtyard at The Lawrence Batley theatre which saw 6 performances. It was the final work that Libby Saunders did with the company. We wish her very well with her ongoing endeavours.

Social media

Following on from the films we released during lockdown and the social media following we were able to develop during the pandemic we continued to release TikTok's that regularly achieved many tens of thousands of engagements (and on two occasions over a million) and released a documentary 'Collected Particles' that highlighted our engagement work.

Taking a strategic view about the development of our social media 'voice' certainly paid off in terms of industry attendance at #Unit21 and has significantly changed our standing within the sector. It is our next strategic goal to capitalise on this further in the coming year.

Community engagement

The company continued to put flesh to the bones of its desire to be a community resource – continuing to work with both the police and student nurses, working with SEND education provision and in mainstream education.

We also worked closely with the Kirklees Cultural Leaders Group who are seeking a more strategic relationship with the wider cultural provision within the district.

Financial Review

At year end the charity unrestricted reserves had decreased to £54,205 (2022: £69,273).

The Coronavirus pandemic highlighted the importance of the trustees aim to maintain a healthy level of reserves. At least 6 months of expenditure, to cover working capital requirements to enable the company to continue its charitable activities during short term funding gaps and to pay for time sensitive one off projects that help to further the work of the company. Additionally, the trustees have also agreed that any actor or student from a socio economically deprived background will have their fees wholly or partially waived – no one will be excluded because of inability to pay fees. The current level of reserves also takes into account uncertainty about return to business as usual post the Coronavirus pandemic.

Beyond that investment and sound planning and timely fundraising should ensure that the company continues to be resilient and that the appropriate level of reserves is maintained.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

The board of trustees remained strong, filling any skills gaps that assist the company and its forward momentum. Coming out of the pandemic the company launched an Actors Steering Committee. Made up of the company actors the steering committee meets before every trustees meeting, following the agenda, commenting and discussing its content before that is fed back in the more formal Board of Trustees meeting. Meetings are held quarterly with the AGM towards the end of the year.

**Dark Horse Theatre
Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Staffing

The company continued with its core staff of 3.5 full time equivalent staff. Additional input from a regular volunteer finance assistant, freelance tutors and project workers, highly skilled professionals from the theatre and business worlds were also employed as required. Many on fixed term contracts in a variety of roles relevant to the work programme of a producing theatre company.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name

Dark Horse Theatre

Registered Charity number

1082267

Charity's principal address

Lawrence Batley Theatre
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD1 2SP

Trustees

D A Calvert
V A Javin
S J Diamant
S Hussain
C E Morris (resigned 07/06/2023)
D R Cuthbertson

Company Secretary

L Hornsby (resigned 11/06/2023)
I Bloomfield (appointed 12/06/2023)

Independent Examiner

Birdsall & Armstrong Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Kershaw House
80 Fitzwilliam Street
Huddersfield
HD1 5BB

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



D A Calvert

Date 21/12/23

**Dark Horse Theatre
Independent Examiners' Report
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dark Horse Theatre ("the Trust")

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed



Date 21/12/2023

Francesca Haigh ACCA FMAAT ATT(fellow)
Birdsall & Armstrong Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Kershaw House
80 Fitzwilliam Street
Huddersfield
HD1 5BB

Dark Horse Theatre
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including summary income and expenditure account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Prior year funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		1,326	-	1,326	4,060
Charitable activities:					
Actor training and workshops		48,986	38,700	87,686	102,759
Productions		5,328	73,985	79,313	5,000
Casting fees		952	-	952	4,605
Investments		1,272	-	1,272	10
Total		57,864	112,685	170,549	116,434
EXPENDITURE	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		4,083	-	4,083	4,950
Charitable activities:					
Actor training and workshops		88,091	32,744	120,835	127,311
Productions		-	42,651	42,651	21,488
Casting fees		1,390	-	1,390	1,040
Total		93,564	75,395	168,959	154,789
Net Income/(expenditure)		-	35,700	37,290	1,590 - 38,355
Transfers between funds	11	20,633	- 20,633	-	-
Net movement in funds		-	15,067	16,657	1,590 - 38,355
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		69,272	3,966	73,238	111,593
Total funds carried forward		54,205	20,623	74,828	73,238

Dark Horse Theatre
Balance Sheet
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Prior year funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8	231	-	231	1,621
Current assets					
Debtors	9	11,433	25,904	37,337	2,666
Cash at bank and in hand		48,362	25,220	73,582	94,618
Total current assets		59,795	51,124	110,919	97,284
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	- 7,817	- 28,505	- 36,322	- 25,667
Net current assets		51,978	22,619	74,597	71,617
Total net assets		52,209	22,619	74,828	73,238
Funds of the Charity	11				
Restricted income funds		-	20,623	20,623	3,966
Unrestricted funds		54,205	-	54,205	69,272
Total funds		54,205	20,623	74,828	73,238

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.



D A Calvert
Date

The notes on pages 9 To 15 form part of these financial statements.

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 General Information

Dark Horse Theatre Registered number 04015695 is a charitable company incorporated in England and Wales, Charity number 1082267. The registered office is Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 2SP.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with: the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011. Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014,

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

2.2 Funds structure

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified as a restricted fund. Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose.

2.3 Income

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is more likely than not that the resources will be received and the monetary value can be measure with sufficient reliability,

2.4 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

2.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures & fittings	20% straight line
Computer equipment	33.33% straight line

2.6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from Corporation tax on its charitable activities.

2.7 Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

2.8 Pensions

The charity operates a defined pension contribution scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Prior year funds £
3	Income				
3.1	Donations and legacies				
	Donations	1,326	-	1,326	4,060
3.2	Charitable activities				
	Actor training and workshops:				
	Grants	-	38,700	38,700	57,398
	Actor training fees	36,630	-	36,630	44,460
	External workshops	12,356	-	12,356	901
	Productions:				
	Grants	-	73,985	73,985	5,000
	Ticket sales	5,328	-	5,328	-
	Casting fees:				
	Other income	952	-	952	4,605
		55,266	112,685	167,951	112,364
	Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:				
	Arts Council England	-	58,284	58,284	30,026
	National Lottery	-	5,990	5,990	-
	Igen Trust	-	25,602	25,602	25,401
	Rix Thompson Rothenberg	-	5,000	5,000	-
	Rank Foundation	-	17,809	17,809	6,971
		-	112,685	112,685	62,398
3.3	Investments				
	Deposit account interest	1,272	-	1,272	10
4	Expenditure				
4.1	Raising funds				
	Fundraising costs	4,083	-	4,083	4,950
4.2	Charitable activities				
	Actor training and workshops:				
	Wages	53,394	29,124	82,519	88,469
	Social security	468	301	768	2,833
	Pensions	714	115	829	815
	Freelance staff	12,120	-	12,120	8,960
	Travel and accommodation	3,328	55	3,383	1,441
	Publicity	2,744	135	2,879	1,780
	Production and workshop costs	2,218	3,014	5,232	8,187
	Overheads	13,106	-	13,106	14,826

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

Charitable activities continued

Productions:

Freelance staff	-	23,089	23,089	6,250
Travel and accommodation	-	5,259	5,259	-
Publicity	-	1,000	1,000	452
Production and workshop costs	-	13,303	13,303	14,786
Casting fees:				
Depreciation of tangible fixed as	1,390	-	1,390	1,040

89,481	75,395	164,876	149,839
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5 Net Income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	1,390	1,490
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	5,439	5,934
Independent examiner's fees	1,075	775

6 Paid employees

6.1 Staff costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	82,519	88,469
Social security costs	768	2,832
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	829	815
Staff and volunteer expenses, travel, training	9,656	1,499
Freelance staff	35,209	3,460
Recruitment fees	1,170	-
	<u>130,151</u>	<u>97,075</u>

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022 - nil).

	2023	2022
	£	£
Total amount paid to key management	<u>20,037</u>	<u>35,087</u>

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

6.2	Average number of employees	2023	2022
		£	£
	Average number of employees during the year was:		
	Charitable activities	3	3
	Governance	1	1
		<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
7	Defined contribution pension scheme	2023	2022
		£	£
	Amount of contributions recognised	<u>829</u>	<u>815</u>
	The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. At the balance sheet date unpaid contributions of £47 (2022 £120) were due to the fund. They are included in Other Creditors.		
8	Tangible fixed assets		
		Computer equipment	Fixtures & fittings
		£	£
	Cost		Totals
	At 1 April 2022	7,396	950
	Additions	-	-
	At 31 March 2023	<u>7,396</u>	<u>950</u>
	Depreciation		
	At 1 April 2022	6,155	570
	Charge for the year	<u>1,200</u>	<u>190</u>
	At 31 March 2023	<u>7,355</u>	<u>760</u>
	Net book value		
	At 31 March 2023	<u>41</u>	<u>190</u>
	At 31 March 2022	<u>1,241</u>	<u>380</u>
9	Debtors and prepayments	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade debtors	15,080	8,100
	Bad debt provision	- 10,290	- 7,020
	VAT	3,451	963
	Prepayments and accrued income	<u>29,096</u>	<u>623</u>
		<u>37,337</u>	<u>2,666</u>

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

10	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
	Trade creditors	4,327	4,456
	Pension creditor	261	398
	Other taxes and social security	2,179	-
	Accruals	9,251	1,050
	Deferred income	20,304	19,763
		<u>36,322</u>	<u>25,667</u>

Deferred income relates to funds received to fund employment roles within the charity for periods exceeding the financial year.

11 Charity funds

11.1 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
F1-Igen Trust funding	2,162	25,602	27,741	-	23
The Rank Foundation	1,804	17,809	5,003	-	14,610
Arts Council England	-	58,284	42,651	15,633	0
Rix Thompson Rothenberg	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
National Lottery-Ignite	-	5,990	-	-	5,990
	<u>3,966</u>	<u>112,685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,395</u>	<u>-</u>
				<u>20,633</u>	<u>20,623</u>

11.2 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (previous reporting period)

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
F1-Igen Trust funding	599	25,401	22,640	-	2,162
Garden Project	-	5,001	5,001	-	-
The Rank Foundation	-	6,971	5,167	-	1,804
Culture Recovery Fund	-	25,025	27,173	2,148	-
	<u>599</u>	<u>62,398</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,981</u>	<u>2,148</u>
					<u>3,966</u>

The balances on restricted funds are all unexpended grants for the charity's projects.

Dark Horse Theatre
Notes to the Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

11.3 Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	69,272	57,864	- 93,564	20,633	54,205
	<u>69,272</u>	<u>57,864</u>	<u>- 93,564</u>	<u>20,633</u>	<u>54,205</u>

The reduction of the balance on unrestricted funds is due to expenditure exceeding income on normal charitable activities.

11.4 Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds (previous reporting period)

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	94,476	54,036	- 79,508	268	69,272
Organisational development	2,416	-	-	2,416	-
Artistic development fund	15,300	-	- 15,300	-	-
	<u>112,192</u>	<u>54,036</u>	<u>- 94,808</u>	<u>2,148</u>	<u>69,272</u>

12 Transactions with trustees and related parties

12.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustees received any remuneration or benefits during the financial year.

12.2 Related parties

There is a close relationship with Lawrence Batley Theatre. Included within these financial statements are administration and room hire (including rehearsal room hire) costs amounting to £8,802 (2022 £13,543) paid to Lawrence Batley Theatre. Included in creditors is £3,727 (2022 £4,349) due to Lawrence Batley Theatre and £2,200 (2022 £nil) is included in debtors relating to ticket sales collected by Lawrence Batley Theatre on behalf of Dark Horse Theatre.

Dark Horse Theatre
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME		
Income and endowments from:		
Charitable activities:		
Grants	112,685	62,398
Actor training and workshops	36,630	44,460
External workshops	12,356	901
Ticket sales	5,328	-
Other income	952	4,605
	167,951	112,364
Donations and legacies	1,326	4,060
Bank interest	1,272	10
Total Income	170,549	116,434
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on:		
Other trading activities:		
Bad debts	4,083	4,950
Charitable activities:		
Wages	82,519	88,469
Social security	768	2,832
Pensions	829	815
Freelance staff	35,209	3,460
Travel and accommodation	8,641	1,499
Publicity	3,879	2,232
Production and workshop costs	15,173	21,611
Rent of rehearsal space and venues	3,362	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,390	1,490
	151,770	122,408
Office and support costs		
Rent, rates and water	5,439	5,934
Rent of rehearsal space and venues	-	9,356
Insurance	1,674	1,038
Telephone	592	622
Postage and stationery	90	43
Sundries	716	1,387
Computer and website	647	899
	9,159	19,279

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Dark Horse Theatre
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
EXPENDITURE continued		
Finance:		
Bank charges	219	90
Management costs:		
Staff training and development	1,015	-
Organisational development	1,638	7,287
Accountancy fees	<u>1,075</u>	<u>775</u>
	<u>3,728</u>	<u>8,062</u>
Total expenditure	<u>168,959</u>	<u>154,789</u>
Net Income/expenditure	<u><u>1,590</u></u>	<u><u>- 38,355</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements