

SSERC LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Scottish Charity number SC017884

Company number SC131509

SSERC LIMITED

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SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Objectives and Activities

SSERC offers a broad portfolio of products and services to schools and Local Authorities, principally in support of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and including digital skills and computing science) areas of the curriculum. These services can be broken down into three main stands of activity:

- The Advisory Service for Local Authority and other members.
- Provision of Professional Learning (PL) for childminders, early years, primary and secondary teachers and school and college technicians.
- STEM engagement activities, which includes the operation of the STEM Ambassador Programme in Scotland, the Young STEM Leader Programme, the Nuffield Research Placement Programme, the Scottish STEM Placement Programme and ESERO Space Champion in Scotland.

Advisory Service

It is important that risks are managed responsibly and sensibly. We believe that health and safety legislation should not be a barrier to the provision of valuable learning experiences for young people. As a result, we offer a range of training courses and guidance materials which discourage bureaucratic and over complex methods of risk management. Our range of services include:

- Specialist Health & Safety advice for schools and Local Authorities.
- Unlimited access to specialist advisors in Primary Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Technology, Technician Services and Health and Safety.
- Guidance and compliance advice for Radiological Health & Safety legislation through our Radiation Protection Adviser.
- Free courses for curriculum leaders covering the management of Health & Safety. We also provide other specialist Health & Safety courses, including Radiological Protection, which are heavily subsidised or free.
- Access to the SSERC website (www.sserc.org.uk), which contains curriculum support materials and Health & Safety advice and resources. This includes exemplar Risk Assessments for both specific subject and whole school activities.
- Professional development programmes for managers, teachers and technicians.
- Recommendations on equipment and design of specialist accommodation.
- Free consultancy and technical information.
- Apparatus testing for safety, performance and conformance with standards.

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)

Objectives and Activities (continued)

Professional Learning

SSERC works with a range of partners, including the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, STEM Learning, and the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT). We deliver a programme of experiential PL for early years, primary and secondary teachers, student teachers and technicians focussing on STEM.

Our professional learning offering includes online courses, twilight events and live broadcast SSERC Meets, as well as daytime face-to-face courses. Our curriculum coverage spans early years, primary and secondary sectors and we offer events for education practitioners, teachers and technicians. Our varied portfolio includes:

- Courses for probationers and newly qualified teachers.
- Subject specific courses for teachers and practitioners in early years, primary and secondary sectors.
- Health and Safety courses for teachers and technicians.
- Design and manufacturing courses for technology teachers.
- Courses targeted at science and technology support staff (many of these courses are levelled and credit-rated by SQA within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework).
- Leadership courses for Curriculum Leaders and Heads of Faculty.
- The annual Technician Conference.

STEM Ambassador Programme in Scotland

The STEM Ambassador Hub operates the STEM Ambassador Programme across Scotland on behalf of STEM Learning.

STEM Ambassadors work with young people to bring STEM subjects alive through real life experiences. They are volunteers from 17 years and above, representing a vast range of STEM-related jobs across the UK. Our ambassadors include apprentices, zoologists, set designers, climate change scientists, engineers, farmers, geologists, nuclear physicists and architects. They help to open the doors to a world of opportunities and possibilities which come from pursuing STEM subjects and careers. They not only inspire young people; they also support teachers in the classroom by explaining current applications of STEM in industry or research. STEM Ambassadors work with young people to bring STEM subjects alive through real life experiences.

More information can be found on our dedicated website at www.stemambassadors.scot

Young STEM Leader Programme

The Young STEM Leader Programme (YSLP) is an exciting initiative funded by the Scottish Government. This development supports young people in both school and community settings to inspire each other to get involved with STEM. Working with various partners, the focus is on training and support for young people enabling them to act as positive role models in STEM. We have also developed a framework of accreditation routes which provide formal recognition for participants of the programme. More information about the programme can be found at www.youngstemleader.scot/

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Achievements and Performance

SSERC launched an exciting professional learning programme covering Leadership in STEM Education, which was designed at SCQF Level 11. Over the 12-month programme, delegates develop leadership skills, as well as exploring key current educational policies in STEM and measuring their impact. Initial feedback is very positive and SSERC will run this programme again during 2023-24.

We were delighted that Provost of Fife, Jim Leishman, formally opened the SSERC Digital Garden. This is a collaborative programme between SSERC and King's Road Primary School in Rosyth. The learners worked with SSERC staff to turn an area of wasteland at SSERC HQ into a digital garden, where digital devices monitor water moisture levels, as well as controlling greenhouse watering and ventilation. There are QR codes to identify plants and a movement monitored camera captures wildlife movement that can be accessed by the school.

SSERC launched the Honorary Fellowship Award, made to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to STEM learning and training in Scotland, throughout their career, and demonstrate the values associated with SSERC. The inaugural recipient was Paul Beaumont, in recognition of a long and distinguished career within STEM education and training. SSERC is making plans to award another Honorary Fellowship during autumn of 2023.

Information about other specific activities and achievements of SSERC during the year can be found in our Annual Report, which is available on the SSERC website www.sserc.org.uk/annual-reports/

Financial Review

There was a net decrease in the level of unrestricted funds in the year of £207,198 (2022: decrease £308,880) before other recognised gains or losses. After the £2,217,000 defined benefit pension scheme gain on re-measurements (2022: £1,281,000 gain), unrestricted funds carried forward at the year end are positive £1,200,442 (2022: negative £809,360).

The FRS102 Actuarial Valuation for Accounting Purposes as at 31 March 2023 highlighted a net pension asset of £1,217,000 (2022: deficit of £1,913,000). Theoretically, this asset represents SSERC's ability to reduce pension contributions to the Lothian Pension Fund in the future. However, there have been significant swings in the FRS 102 valuation in recent years, both negative and positive. This introduces a level of doubt as to whether SSERC will see any gain because of this valuation. As a result, the pension asset has been excluded from SSERC's reserves.

The results of the triennial actuarial valuation are due before 31 March 2024, from which SSERC will gain a clearer picture of the likely future pension contributions. Therefore, the Directors will review whether to include the pension asset within SSERC's accounts, in future years, after that report.

There was a net decrease in the level of restricted funds in the year of £16,972 (2022: decrease of £27,681) leaving restricted funds carried forward at the year end of £114,585 (2022: £131,557).

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Reserves Policy

SSERC has considered the reserves required, including all current and future liabilities. SSERC's Reserve Policy is that free reserves must equate to at least six months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. In previous years, the Board defined free reserves as unrestricted funds less 20% of the pension scheme liability. As already reported, following many years of pension deficits, the Lothian Pension Fund accounting valuation saw a positive movement, turning a deficit of £1.9 million into an asset of £1.2 million, but this asset has not been recognised in the financial statements.

The balance of unrestricted funds at 31 March 2023 is £1,200,442, which is approximately equivalent to 11 months of the unrestricted expenditure during 2022-23.

Given the volatility in recent years regarding the pension valuation, the Directors have decided to wait until the next triennial actuarial valuation before reviewing the reserves policy. The triennial review will assess all assumptions underpinning the valuation.

Plans for the Future

Supported by Ocean Winds, SSERC is currently developing an expansion of the Young STEM Leader Programme to SCQF Level 7. This presents a unique opportunity for SSERC to build on the success of our existing offers, including the STEM Ambassador Programme and Education Industry Partnerships. As well as providing the next step for YSLs in schools and community groups, it is hoped that the award will encourage more young people in colleges to consider becoming a Young STEM Leader.

Structure, Governance and Management

Chair of Board

Alan Nimmo resigned as Chair of the Board during the year. We thank Alan for his service to the Board over the last five years. As of 10 January 2023, Alistair Wylie was appointed Interim Chair of the Board. Alistair has a career in education spanning 30 years and is currently Managing Director of Bell-Wylie Consulting, a multi-disciplinary education consulting company based in Scotland.

Governing Document

SSERC Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 29 April 1991 and registered as a charity at the same time. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes the objectives and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Directors

Under the Articles, Directors are appointed by the Board based on approval by a Nominations Committee (a sub-committee of the SSERC Board). Members may make suggestions to the Nominations Committee. The cap on the number of Directors is 20. The Board considers that a board of 20 persons is adequate for the Company's requirements; this cap has never proved an issue; and the Nominations Committee will seek to ensure that the board is comprised of individuals with appropriate skills and interests. The current Board of Directors and Trustees membership can be found at www.sserc.org.uk/who-we-are/

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Director Induction and Training

Most Directors are familiar with the work of the organisation prior to appointment being, in the main, drawn from a local Authority or STEM Education background.

All new Directors are provided with training led by the Chief Executive Officer, supported by SSERC's solicitors, Morton Fraser, and other SSERC staff. They are also invited to discuss the workings of the organisation with the Chief Executive Officer and encouraged to explore the company's website in order to familiarise themselves with the context within which it operates.

Risk Management

The Risk Register is reviewed and updated by the Senior Management Team before each meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee (a sub-committee of the SSERC Board). Internal controls ensure that risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are also in place, and regularly updated, to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation and best practice.

Insurers underwrite some of the risks to the Company and its operations. The costs of such insurance, in particular professional indemnity (PI), employer's liability and public liability were maintained at a similar level to last year but remain substantial. For the next financial year, it is expected that turnover and staff costs will remain at a similar level because of the organisation's involvement with grant funded Professional Learning projects.

Organisational Structure

SSERC Limited has a Board of Directors of up to 20 members who meet at least quarterly. The Board, consisting of local authority officers and local and national politicians, is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the organisation. There are three sub-committees of the Board:

- Audit & Risk Management Committee, which examines and then advises the whole Board, through the Risk Register, the control of risks faced by SSERC.
- Nominations Committee, which will review the structure, size and composition of the Board and make recommendations about any changes or succession planning.
- Staff and Remuneration Committee, which will determine the framework for the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer, the executive directors and other members of the organisation as it is designated to consider.

The Board delegates responsibility for the day-to-day provision of services to the Chief Executive Officer. Along with the senior management team, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for supervision of the staff team and ensuring that staff develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Related Parties

Where complimentary to the organisation's objectives, SSERC Limited is guided by both local and National policy. SSERC, or individual staff members, are represented on or are invited to attend regular meetings of a number of organisations or interest groups including:

- Association of Directors of Education in Scotland
- Association for Science Education, Health and Safety Group
- Education Scotland
- National STEM Learning Centre
- Scottish Government
- Primary Science Teaching Trust
- Scottish Technicians' Advisory Council
- Skills Development Scotland
- Scottish College STEM Partnerships
- The CLEAPSS Steering Committee
- The Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee (MISAC)
- SQA
- Scottish Funding Council

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Reference and administrative details

Charity Name: SSERC Limited

Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC017884

Company Registration Number: SC131509

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Quartermile Two
2 Lister Square Edinburgh EH3 9GL

Principal Office: 2 Pitreavie Court, South Pitreavie Business Park
Dunfermline KY11 8UU

Directors

C Adamson MSP (resigned 31 March 2023)	E McGowan, Aberdeen City Council
K Creighton, Dumfries & Galloway Council (appointed 24 March 2023)	S McGill, Stirling Council (resigned 13 May 2022)
G Dempster, Association of Head Teachers and Deputes in Scotland	A McGuire, West Lothian Council (appointed 17 August 2022)
D Dodds, West Lothian Council (resigned 5 May 2022)	K McNeill, ADES (appointed 14 September 2022)
J Hamilton, Stirling Council (resigned 5 December 2022)	L Murtagh, Falkirk Council (appointed 17 June 2022)
R Holme, University of Dundee	A Nimmo, Falkirk Council (resigned 1 January 2023)
R Hunter, Stirling Council (appointed 17 June 2022)	J Reid, Larbert High School
N Inglis, Perth College (resigned 5 December 2022)	S Reynolds, Inverclyde Council (appointed 22 August 2022)
K Leslie, Fife Council	K Stewart MSP (appointed 8 May 2023)
D Maxwell, Dumfries and Galloway Council	A Taylor, Perth and Kinross Council
E Maxwell, Stirling Council (appointed 11 September 2022)	K Tucker, Aberdeenshire Council
	J Wilson, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (resigned 13 June 2022)
	A Wylie, Ministry of Education, UAE

Company Secretary

Morton Fraser, Solicitors
Quartermile Two
2 Lister Square
Edinburgh EH3 9GL

Core Senior Management Team

A MacGregor	Chief Executive Officer
I Woodley	Director of Finance

Extended Senior Management Team

E Mitchell	Head of Early Years and Primary
C Lloyd	Head of Advisory Service
G Rough	Head of STEM Programmes

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Reference and administrative details (Continued)

Auditors

Geoghegans
Chartered Accountants
6 St Colme Street
Edinburgh EH3 6AD

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
52-54 East Port
Dunfermline KY12 7HB

Solicitors

Morton Fraser, Solicitors
Quartermile Two
2 Lister Square
Edinburgh EH3 9GL

Directors' Responsibilities Statement

The Directors (who are also Trustees of SSERC Limited for the purposes of Charity law) are responsible for preparing the Directors Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing these accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SSERC LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (Continued)

Statement of Disclosure to the Auditor

In so far as the directors are aware;

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

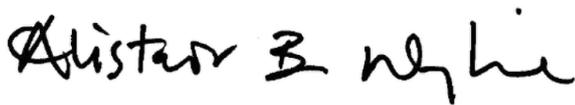
Auditors

A resolution proposing the re-appointment of Geoghegans, as auditor of the charitable company, will be placed at a forthcoming Board meeting.

Small Company Exemptions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice — Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102) and the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 15 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



A Wylie
Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF SSERC LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of SSERC Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cashflows 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

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 charitable company 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 directors' 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 charitable company'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 directors 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 directors' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are 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 AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF SSERC LIMITED (continued)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors (who are also the trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of charity law) 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 directors 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 directors are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company 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 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF SSERC LIMITED (continued)

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

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

- The nature of the industry, control environment and business performance of the charitable company
- The requests of our enquires with management and Directors about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we consider the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override and inappropriate income recognition.

We also obtain an understanding of the legal and regulatory environment in which the charitable company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and those which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Charities FRS 102 (2019), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's directors, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and directors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's directors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Iain Binnie

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Geoghegans, Statutory Auditor

6 St Colme Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6AD

15 September 2023

Geoghegans is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SSERC LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Grant income – Covid-19	3	-	-	-	8,665
Charitable activities	4	1,095,352	1,500,406	2,595,758	2,463,202
Investment income	5	15,821	-	15,821	1,474
Total income		<u>1,111,173</u>	<u>1,500,406</u>	<u>2,611,579</u>	<u>2,473,341</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	(1,263,371)	(1,517,378)	(2,780,749)	(2,749,902)
Other expenditure	7	(55,000)	-	(55,000)	(60,000)
Total expenditure		<u>(1,318,371)</u>	<u>(1,517,378)</u>	<u>(2,835,749)</u>	<u>(2,809,902)</u>
Net expenditure		(207,198)	(16,972)	(224,170)	(336,561)
Other recognised gains:					
Defined benefit pension scheme re-measurements	19	2,217,000	-	2,217,000	1,281,000
Net movement in funds		2,009,802	(16,972)	1,992,830	944,439
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		(809,360)	131,557	(677,803)	(1,622,242)
Total funds carried forward	14/15/16	<u>1,200,442</u>	<u>114,585</u>	<u>1,315,027</u>	<u>(677,803)</u>

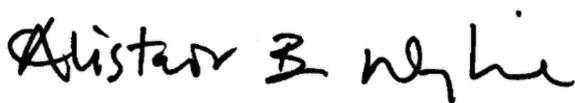
SSERC LIMITED

**BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 March 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	<u>94,697</u>	<u>92,223</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	11	142,949	94,949
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,311,989</u>	<u>1,302,734</u>
		1,454,938	1,397,683
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(213,608)</u>	<u>(236,709)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,241,330</u>	<u>1,160,974</u>
		1,336,027	1,253,197
Provisions and liabilities	13	(21,000)	(18,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	19	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,913,000)</u>
		<u>1,315,027</u>	<u>(677,803)</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
– <i>Unrestricted</i>	14	1,200,442	1,103,640
– <i>Pension reserve</i>	14	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,913,000)</u>
		1,200,442	(809,360)
Other funds – <i>Restricted</i>	15	<u>114,585</u>	<u>131,557</u>
	16	<u>1,315,027</u>	<u>(677,803)</u>

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

Approved and authorised for issue of the Board of Directors on 15 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



A Wylie
Director

Company Registration Number: SC131509

SSERC LIMITED

**RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<i>Net expenditure for the year (as per the SOFA)</i>		(224,170)	(336,561)
Adjustments for:			
Actuarial gains		2,217,000	1,281,000
Depreciation		25,306	28,427
Investment income		(15,821)	(1,474)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(48,000)	10
(Decrease)/increase in creditors and provisions		(20,101)	34,744
(Decrease) in defined benefit pension liabilities		<u>(1,913,000)</u>	<u>(908,000)</u>
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>		<u>21,214</u>	<u>98,146</u>

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

		2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>		<u>21,214</u>	<u>98,146</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Investment income		15,821	1,474
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(27,780)</u>	<u>(34,544)</u>
<i>Net cash flow used in investing activities</i>		<u>(11,959)</u>	<u>(33,070)</u>
<i>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</i>	17	9,255	65,076
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	17	<u>1,302,734</u>	<u>1,237,658</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17	<u>1,311,989</u>	<u>1,302,734</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
at 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

A summary of principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year is set out below.

Company status

SSERC Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Scotland. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 6 of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

SSERC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Directors believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Directors have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements.

The Lothian Pension Fund valuation continues to be volatile however as at 31 March 2023 showed an asset position of £1,217,000 (limited to £Nil per the Balance Sheet) and the budgeted income and expenditure remains sufficient with the level of reserves for the charitable company to be able to continue as a going concern.

Income

Income is recognised when the charitable company has entitlement to the funds, when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income, including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised in the period in which they are receivable, which is when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource.

Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donations must only be used in future accounting years; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charitable company has unconditional entitlement.

Income from charitable activities includes income from subscriptions, conference and course income which is recognised when the charitable company has delivered goods or services and is therefore entitled to the income, receipt is probable and the income can be reliably measured.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charitable company, which is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes any irrecoverable VAT.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charitable company in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charitable company and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charitable company.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows :

Fittings and equipment	-	3 to 7 years
Computer equipment	-	3 to 10 years
Tenants' improvements	-	3 to 7 years
Motor vehicles	-	5 years

Minor fixed asset additions costing less than £1,500 are written off in the year of acquisition.

Debtors

Trade debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charitable company has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

The charitable company only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Pensions

The charitable company is a member of the Lothian Pension Fund which is a multi-employer Local Government defined benefit pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company and pensions payable under the scheme are based on final pensionable salary. In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102 the operating costs of providing these benefits are recognised in the SOFA in the accounting year in which the benefits are earned by the employees and related financing and other costs are recognised in the year in which they arise.

The charitable company also operates a NEST defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the this pension scheme are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Where designated, these are unrestricted funds set aside by the directors for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by the donors.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

2 Net income and expenditure		2023	2022
<i>This is stated after charging :</i>		£	£
Directors' PII		1,000	1,000
Auditors' remuneration – audit		7,990	7,210
Auditor and its associates' remuneration – other services		3,425	3,265
Depreciation		25,306	28,427
		<u>25,306</u>	<u>28,427</u>

3 Grant income - Covid-19				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
CJRS Grants	-	-	-	8,665
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,665</u>

All grant income relating to Covid-19 was unrestricted in the prior year.

4 Income from charitable activities				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Local authority contributions	739,826	-	739,826	719,627
Grants receivable	4,266	1,500,406	1,504,672	1,499,608
Training courses	202,446	-	202,446	146,755
Wider STEM engagement activities	88,854	-	88,854	32,453
Subscriptions	23,537	-	23,537	21,549
Other charitable activities income	36,423	-	36,423	43,210
	<u>1,095,352</u>	<u>1,500,406</u>	<u>2,595,758</u>	<u>2,463,202</u>

Income from charitable activities in the year was £2,595,758 (2022: £2,463,202) of which £1,095,352 (2022: £974,680) was unrestricted and £1,500,406 (2022: £1,488,522) was restricted.

5 Investment income				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest received	15,821	-	15,821	1,474
	<u>15,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,821</u>	<u>1,474</u>

Investment income was unrestricted in both the current and prior year.

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Grants payable	17,067	4,819	21,886	5,599
Staff costs (note 9)	754,597	1,203,835	1,958,432	1,972,560
Property costs	169,084	35,377	204,461	189,656
Supplies and services	125,996	163,949	289,945	298,638
Other operating and administration costs	173,594	109,398	282,992	260,567
Governance costs (note 8)	23,033	-	23,033	22,882
	<u>1,263,371</u>	<u>1,517,378</u>	<u>2,780,749</u>	<u>2,749,902</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities in the year was £2,780,749 (2022: £2,749,902) of which £1,263,371 (2022: £1,233,699) was unrestricted and £1,517,378 (2022: £1,516,203) was restricted.

7 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Net interest on net assets/(liabilities) of defined benefit pension scheme	<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>

Other expenditure was unrestricted in both the current and prior year.

8 Governance costs	2023 £	2022 £
Audit and accounting fees	11,415	10,475
Legal fees	350	-
Staff costs (note 9)	<u>11,268</u>	<u>12,407</u>
	<u>23,033</u>	<u>22,882</u>

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

9 Staff costs and numbers	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	1,265,440	1,168,990
Social security costs	138,016	121,666
Pension costs	317,244	287,311
Pension strain costs of defined benefit pension scheme	-	94,000
Operating costs of defined benefit pension scheme	249,000	313,000
	<u>1,969,700</u>	<u>1,984,967</u>
<i>Allocated:</i>		
Charitable activities (note 6)	1,958,432	1,972,560
Governance costs (note 8)	11,268	12,407
	<u>1,969,700</u>	<u>1,984,967</u>
 Average number of employees (full time equivalents):		
Company employees	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>

One employee received emoluments in the range £90,000 to £100,000 and one employee received emoluments in the range £60,000 - £70,000. In addition, pension benefits were accrued for these employees under a defined benefit arrangement. (2022: One employee received emoluments in the range £90,000 to £100,000 and one employee received emoluments in the range £60,000 to £70,000. In addition pension benefits were accrued for these employees under a defined benefit arrangement).

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £225,355 (2022: £254,524). The key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Finance (2022: Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Finance and The Director of Advisory Service).

33 (2022: 35) of the company employees are members of the Lothian Pension Fund.

4 (2022: 1) of the company employees are members of the NEST Pension Scheme.

No travel costs were reimbursed to directors in the year (2022: None).

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

10	Tangible fixed assets	Tenants' Improvements £	Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures & Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
	Cost					
	At 1 April 2022	510,947	10,835	158,717	153,762	834,261
	Additions	-	-	6,020	21,760	27,780
	Disposals	-	-	-	(4,199)	(4,199)
	At 31 March 2023	<u>510,947</u>	<u>10,835</u>	<u>164,737</u>	<u>171,323</u>	<u>857,842</u>
	Aggregate depreciation					
	At 1 April 2022	479,762	10,835	145,413	106,028	742,038
	Charge	9,224	-	2,520	13,562	25,306
	Disposals	-	-	-	(4,199)	(4,199)
	At 31 March 2023	<u>488,986</u>	<u>10,835</u>	<u>147,933</u>	<u>115,391</u>	<u>763,145</u>
	Net Book Value					
	At 31 March 2023	<u>21,961</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,804</u>	<u>55,932</u>	<u>94,697</u>
	At 31 March 2022	<u>31,185</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,304</u>	<u>47,734</u>	<u>92,223</u>
11	Debtors				2023 £	2022 £
	Due within one year					
	Trade debtors				70,325	79,543
	Prepayments and accrued income				65,526	9,624
	Other debtors				4,098	2,782
					<u>139,949</u>	<u>91,949</u>
	Due after one year					
	Prepayments and accrued income				3,000	3,000
					<u>142,949</u>	<u>94,949</u>
12	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year				2023 £	2022 £
	Trade creditors				23,587	26,917
	Taxation and social security costs				33,589	35,166
	Accruals				61,606	68,029
	Deferred income				61,632	74,297
	Other creditors				33,194	32,300
					<u>213,608</u>	<u>236,709</u>

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
at 31 March 2023

12 **Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)**

Deferred income

2022/23	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Released in year £	Deferred in year £	Balance 31 March 2023 £
Science for Secondary Probationers	3,680	(3,680)	-	-
In Service Days for Moray Local Authority	5,468	-	-	5,468
Technician Courses	1,200	(1,200)	-	-
Welding Skills (Fife)	400	(400)	-	-
Digital Skills Course	550	(550)	-	-
EIP Partnership Aberdeen	6,364	(6,364)	-	-
EIP Partnership Glasgow	11,500	(11,500)	4,356	4,356
EIP Leidos Partnerships	6,250	(6,250)	1,685	1,685
EIP Ocean Winds	17,502	(17,502)	8,544	8,544
EIP Neptune Energy	18,630	(18,630)	7,993	7,993
Residential Events	993	(993)	-	-
Practical Techniques for Biologists	1,760	(1,760)	-	-
ENTHUSE Leadership Course	-	-	2,666	2,666
ENTHUSE Supporting STEM Course	-	-	1,920	1,920
Ocean Winds Support for Young STEM Leaders	-	-	19,750	19,750
EIP Partnership Aramco	-	-	3,750	3,750
EIP Partnership Spectris	-	-	1,750	1,750
EIP Partnership Intergen	-	-	3,750	3,750
	<u>74,297</u>	<u>(68,829)</u>	<u>56,164</u>	<u>61,632</u>

The above income has been deferred on the basis that it relates to 2023/24 SSERC activities.

SSERC LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2023**

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Deferred income

2021/22	Balance 1 April 2021 £	Released in year £	Deferred in year £	Balance 31 March 2022 £
Science for Secondary Probationers	6,880	(6,880)	3,680	3,680
In Service Days for Moray Local Authority	5,468	-	-	5,468
Advanced Higher Chemistry	3,680	(3,680)	-	-
Meet Micro:bit Course	320	(320)	-	-
Practical Techniques for Recent Biologists Course	960	(960)	-	-
Income from Fife Council for garden work	700	(700)	-	-
Wellcome Trust Contract	31,167	(31,167)	-	-
Technician Courses	-	-	1,200	1,200
Welding Skills (Fife)	-	-	400	400
Digital Skills Course	-	-	550	550
EIP Partnership Aberdeen	-	-	6,364	6,364
EIP Partnership Glasgow	-	-	11,500	11,500
EIP Leidos Partnerships	-	-	6,250	6,250
EIP Ocean Winds	-	-	17,502	17,502
EIP Neptune Energy	-	-	18,630	18,630
Residential Events	-	-	993	993
Practical Techniques for Biologists	-	-	1,760	1,760
	<u>49,175</u>	<u>(43,707)</u>	<u>68,829</u>	<u>74,297</u>

The above income was deferred on the basis that it relates to 2022/23 SSERC activities.

13 Provisions for liabilities	2023 £	2022 £
Dilapidation charge	<u>21,000</u>	<u>18,000</u>

The provision for lease dilapidation is in respect of ensuring the premises are returned to their original condition. This provision will come into effect on termination of lease with Fife Council.

14 Unrestricted funds

2022/23	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	1,103,640	1,111,173	(1,014,371)	-	1,200,442
Pension reserve	<u>(1,913,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(304,000)</u>	<u>2,217,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(809,360)</u>	<u>1,111,173</u>	<u>(1,318,371)</u>	<u>2,217,000</u>	<u>1,200,442</u>

SSERC LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2023**

14 Unrestricted funds (continued)

2021/22	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	At 31 March 2022 £
General funds	1,036,289	984,819	(917,468)	-	1,103,640
Pension reserve	(2,821,000)	-	(373,000)	1,281,000	(1,913,000)
Designated funds:					
Physics summer school	3,231	-	(3,231)	-	-
	<u>(1,781,480)</u>	<u>984,819</u>	<u>(1,293,699)</u>	<u>1,281,000</u>	<u>(809,360)</u>

Physics Summer School – These funds reflected the surplus on this annual event and were available to support future Physics events. This fund ended in the year to 31 March 2022.

15 Restricted funds

2022/23	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2023 £
Scottish Government Professional Learning in Science & Technology	-	821,665	(821,665)	-
PSTT Sustainability and Extension	24,571	15,000	(24,481)	15,090
PSTT Strategic Partnership	60,678	50,000	(66,720)	43,958
STEM Learning Course Management	7,072	123,962	(115,113)	15,921
Skills Development Scotland – Interactive e-learning	1,580	-	(1,563)	17
Scottish Metals	1,565	-	(1,000)	565
Young Stem Leader Programme	8,939	215,000	(223,939)	-
Royal Society of Biology (Scotland)	1,445	-	(930)	515
Biochemical Society	5,000	-	-	5,000
STEM Learning: STEM Ambassadors in Scotland Hub	-	208,010	(199,502)	8,508
Edina Trust	2,749	32,000	(7,730)	27,019
STEM Enrichment	16,943	34,270	(53,727)	(2,514)
Digital Xtra Fund	1,015	499	(1,008)	506
	<u>131,557</u>	<u>1,500,406</u>	<u>(1,517,378)</u>	<u>114,585</u>

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2022

15 Restricted funds (continued)

2021/22	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2022 £
Scottish Government Professional Learning in Science & Technology	-	821,655	(821,655)	-
PSTT Sustainability and Extension	42,752	15,000	(33,181)	24,571
PSTT Strategic Partnership	26,761	50,000	(16,083)	60,678
STEM Learning Course Management	41,131	92,909	(126,968)	7,072
Skills Development Scotland – Interactive e-learning	3,595	-	(2,015)	1,580
Scottish Metals	1,065	500	-	1,565
Young Stem Leader Programme	16,442	256,500	(264,003)	8,939
Scottish Government Digital Skills	3,524	-	(3,524)	-
Royal Society of Biology (Scotland)	1,445	-	-	1,445
Biochemical Society	5,000	-	-	5,000
STEM Learning: STEM Ambassadors in Scotland Hub	-	198,012	(198,012)	-
Edina Trust	17,403	20,300	(34,954)	2,749
Scotland Loves Local Award	120	-	(120)	-
STEM Enrichment	-	25,905	(8,962)	16,943
Digital Xtra Fund	-	4,491	(3,476)	1,015
Education Scotland Enhancing Professional Learning	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	250	(250)	-
	<u>159,238</u>	<u>1,488,522</u>	<u>(1,516,203)</u>	<u>131,557</u>

The purpose of each restricted fund is as follows:

Scottish Government Professional Learning in Science & Technology

Scottish Government grant to support Science & Technology education in Scotland through a programme of Professional Learning.

PSTT Sustainability and Extension

Grant provided by the Primary Science Teaching Trust to raise confidence and competency of primary school teachers in science and technology.

PSTT Strategic Partnership

Grant provided by the Primary Science Teaching Trust to provide staff to support the PSTT Sustainability and Extension programme above.

STEM Learning Course Management

Grant funding provided to support teacher and technician CPD.

Skills Development Scotland – Interactive e-learning

Grant to develop and deliver a package of Interactive e-learning sessions for teachers.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2022

15 Restricted funds (continued)

Scottish Metals

Grant provided from the Scottish Association for Metals to support the attendance of delegates to the Engineering Bench Skills Course and the Scottish Universities Technology School.

Young Stem Leader Programme

Scottish Government grant for a new initiative supporting young people in both school and community settings to inspire each other to get involved in STEM.

Royal Society of Biology (Scotland)

This grant is to support the costs of future Royal Society of Biology (Scotland) annual teacher meetings.

Biochemical Society

This grant will support teacher placements in STEM industries.

STEM Learning: STEM Ambassadors in Scotland Hub

Funds received for SSERC to act as a STEM Ambassador Hub for Scotland.

Edina Trust

This grant funded resource boxes for schools participating in SSERC Meets.

STEM Enrichment

The STEM Enrichment fund co-ordinates Nuffield Research Placements within Scotland. These placements enable students to deepen their understanding of STEM and STEM- related subjects, skills, and research, and encourage them to pursue further studies and careers in STEM. The negative year end balance in 22/23 will be offset against further receipts due in 23/24.

Digital Xtra Fund

This funding, in furtherance of the VEX GO Robotics Challenge initiative, is to provide teacher training on incorporating robotics within STEM based lessons.

Scottish Government Digital Skills

Scottish Government grant to purchase IT equipment and infrastructure to support the education of digital skills within the CLPL project.

Scotland Loves Local Award

This grant from Scotland's Towns Partnership funded a local community project.

Educational Scotland Enhancing Professional Learning

This grant is to fund online STEM equipment training sessions for school technicians.

Arnold Clark Community Fund

Grant provided by the Arnold Clark Community Fund for a digital garden.

SSERC LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2023**

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

2022/23	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	94,697	-	94,697
Net current assets	1,126,745	114,585	1,241,330
Provisions	(21,000)	-	(21,000)
Pension liability	-	-	-
	<u>1,200,442</u>	<u>114,585</u>	<u>1,315,027</u>
2021/22	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	92,223	-	92,223
Net current assets	1,029,417	131,557	1,160,974
Provisions	(18,000)	-	(18,000)
Pension liability	(1,913,000)	-	(1,913,000)
	<u>(809,360)</u>	<u>131,557</u>	<u>(677,803)</u>

17 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2022 £	Cashflows £	At 31 Mar 2022 £
Cash in bank and in hand	<u>1,302,734</u>	<u>9,255</u>	<u>1,311,989</u>

18 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2022: none).

19 Pension commitments

The charitable company operated a NEST defined contribution pension scheme on behalf of its employees in the year. Employer contributions of £3,286 (2022: £68) have been made during the year. At 31 March 2023 contributions amounting to £337 (2022: £68) are payable and are included in creditors.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2023

19 Pension commitments (continued)

The charitable company is also an employer member of the Lothian Pension Fund and provides benefits based on career average pensionable pay (although any benefits built up to 31 March 2015 are based on final pensionable pay). The assets of the Fund are held separately from those of the company and are controlled by independent trustees on behalf of the members. Contributions to the Fund are centrally calculated as a whole for all participating employers and they are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations, the most recent valuation being as at 31 March 2020. Contributions to the Fund are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account and although centrally calculated provide a fair basis to spread the cost of pensions over the employees' average working lives with the company. The contributions of the company were 25.3% of pensionable salary during the year.

An allowance for full GMP equalisation was included within the 31 March 2020 funding valuation position and therefore the allowance is automatically included within the 31 March 2023 results. It is understood that any further GMP equalisation rulings are unlikely to be significant in terms of impact on the pension obligations of a typical Employer. As a result, there is no allowance for this made within the calculations.

An allowance for the estimated impact of the McCloud judgement was included within the 31 March 2020 valuation and has been carried forward in the 2023 results. No explicit additional adjustment for McCloud has been added to the current service cost for 2022/2023.

	2023	2022
	£	£
The LPF pension charge for the year	<u>562,958</u>	<u>600,243</u>

The main financial assumptions are as follows:	2023	2022
Pension increase rate	2.95%	3.20%
Salary increase rate	3.45%	3.70%
Discount rate	4.75%	2.70%

Mortality assumptions:

Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2020 model, with a 0% weighting of 2020 data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.50% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are summarised below:

Current pensioners	- male	19.9 years	20.3 years
	- female	22.9 years	23.1 years
Future pensioners*	- male	21.2 years	21.6 years
	- female	24.7 years	25.0 years

* Figures include members aged 45 as at last formal valuation date.

SSERC LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2023

19 Pension commitments (continued)

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
The total cost recognised in the year were as follows:		
Current and past service costs	562	597
Net interest expense	<u>55</u>	<u>60</u>
Recognised in net expenditure	<u>617</u>	<u>657</u>
Recognised in other (gains)/losses:		
Total remeasurements recognised in OCI	(3,434)	(1,281)
Asset ceiling adjustment	<u>1,217</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(2,217)</u>	<u>(1,281)</u>
Total (gain) recognised	<u>(1,600)</u>	<u>(624)</u>
Amounts recognised in the balance sheet were as follows:		
	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Present value of funded obligations	(6,364)	(9,097)
Fair value of plan assets	7,581	7,184
Asset ceiling loss	<u>(1,217)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,913)</u>
Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligations were as follows:		
		2023
		£000
Opening defined benefit obligation		(9,097)
Current service cost		(562)
Interest expense		(252)
Actuarial gains		3,473
Contributions by scheme participants		(80)
Benefits paid		<u>154</u>
		<u>(6,364)</u>
Changes in the fair value of the pension plan assets were as follows:		
		2023
		£000
Opening plan assets		7,184
Interest income		197
Actual return on plan assets (excluding interest income)		(39)
Contributions by charity		313
Contributions by scheme participants		80
Benefits paid		<u>(154)</u>
		<u>7,581</u>

SSERC LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)
at 31 March 2023**

19 Pension commitments (continued)

The amount that each major class of pension plan assets constitutes of the fair value of the total plan assets is split as follows:

	2023	2022
Equity instruments	72%	71%
Bonds	15%	13%
Property	8%	7%
Cash	5%	9%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The return on plan assets was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Interest income	197	127
Actual return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	<u>(39)</u>	<u>564</u>
	<u>158</u>	<u>691</u>

20 Other financial commitments

	Equipment		Land and Buildings	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases were as follows :				
Expiry Date :				
Within one year	6,353	6,353	140,000	140,000
Within two to five years	<u>17,695</u>	<u>24,048</u>	<u>233,800</u>	<u>373,800</u>

21 Capital commitments

There were contractual commitments for the remainder of the CRM Dynamics implementation system contracted but not provided for as at 31 March 2023 of £4,352 (2022: Contractual commitments for the CRM Dynamics implementation system contracted for but not provided in the financial statements of £21,760).

22 Taxation

As a charity, SSERC is exempt from tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charitable company.