Charity registration number 1183175 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number SC049746 (Scotland)

NASS

Axial SpA
works silently.
We don't.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity registered numbers 1183175 and SC049746

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Independent auditors
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society for the year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Objectives and activities

Our vision

A future with timely diagnosis and holistic care, supported by a united axial SpA community.

Our Mission

Transforming axial SpA futures: creating a social movement for change and an empowered community.

We do this by:

- Putting people with axial SpA at the heart of what we do, and leading the debate about the future of axial SpA care and support.
- Raising awareness and educating people about axial SpA through public awareness campaigns and healthcare professional education.
- Supporting people to live well with their condition through specialist support and advice.
- Generating evidence to demonstrate that improvements in diagnosis time, care and self-management are possible through research, pilots and demonstration projects.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

a. Strategies for achieving objectives

In accordance with the provisions set out in its Constitution, the Trustees have adopted the following strategy for the period 2025 – 2029 to meet NASS' principal objects:

<u>To ensure that people with axial SpA are diagnosed within twelve months of symptom onset and receive the information and support they need</u>

- Create a 'playbook' for NHS organisations to help them implement our approach and embed it within NHS systems and improvement programmes.
- Create demonstration projects to implement the full package of activities in a co-ordinated way at local level, underpinned by a rigorous measurement framework, to serve as exemplars.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

- Strengthen our focus on data and scientific publications to make the case for change.
- Help capacitate rheumatology departments to design and deliver supported self-management for newly diagnosed patients.
- Continue with national campaigning, awareness raising, and influencing work.

To create and embed a gold standard approach to treatment and care, integrating lived experience and clinical perspectives

- Create a Gold Standard in Treatment and Care for Axial Spondyloarthritis across the entire pathway following diagnosis, including recommendations for the collection of Patient Reported Outcome Measures and Patient Reported Experience Measures.
- Support implementation of the Standard by creating a toolkit and measurement tool to support departments.
- Propose a national minimum data set for axial SpA.

To support and empower people to live well with axial SpA and feel part of a supportive community

- Develop our self-management programme work: co-produce and pilot new ways of delivering online supported self-management; create a final *Your SpAce* module on activity and exercise; continue growing and supporting our community through online peer support meetups; continue running ad hoc *My AS, My Life* webinars to maintain an up-to-date video library.
- Ensure branches feel supported by NASS: our branches are run by volunteers and we want to make the work they do enjoyable and stress-free; maintain and expand the branch network; develop more NASS affiliated groups.
- Continue to offer a diverse range of materials to help people exercise confidently and safely and develop new and updated exercise resources to meet the needs of our diverse population.
- Review our membership offer to maximise recruitment, retention and satisfaction; develop a membership recruitment campaign; improve the members area of the website and create tailored membership journeys; offer more exclusive member webinars run more face-to-face community events; and review our membership support platform.

To influence, advocate and educate for axial SpA

- Deliver HCP education: across all four nations, including in primary care, rheumatology, other secondary care services such as ophthalmology, and private practice; support professional bodies and Royal Colleges to develop core rheumatology training, ensuring axial SpA is embedded and considered at undergraduate and post graduate level; run national and locality online peer to peer meetups.

- Work closely with professional bodies to gain their endorsement; promote our work to

HCPs at national and international conferences and events; and showcase examples of good practice

- Continue to engage Parliamentarians in Westminster and the devolved nations and promote national implementation of the Act on Axial SpA 'Playbook'; contribute to national consultations from government and arm's length bodies.
- In our communications: build on our social media presence with a continued move from broadcast to social mode with the aim of building our online community; use the stories of people living with axial SpA to demonstrate the day to day realities; and continue to work with other organisations to support their campaigns, and maintain our presence on key dates such as World AS Day, World Arthritis Day and, Bone and Joint Week.

To ensure that NASS is able to deliver its ambitious programmes

- Provide strong financial management: maintain cost efficiency through supplier review; streamline financial processes; further improve budgeting and forecasting through better use of historical data and scenario planning; hold reserves in excess of six months in fixed-term saving accounts; and continue to provide financial management training to all staff and trustees
- Strengthen our work as a data-driven organisation: stay abreast of the latest research; build a data strategy into the design of each new programme; harness insights across our work; use our data to inform NHS health policy and clinical practice.
- Grow our income by a minimum of 6% p.a.
- Maintain and optimise our current cloud-based systems.
- Build new staffing capability in the areas of data and insight, volunteer management, communications and, policy and public affairs as our finances improve.
- Review Board level governance against Charity Commission guidelines.
- Introduce a new risk management framework.

b. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives and achievements

The charity fulfils its objectives by:

- Providing information to people living with axial SpA
- Supporting people through a Helpline service and welfare benefits advice
- Providing a wide range of self-management resources, including webinars, videos and on-line meetings
- Supporting our network of local branches which are led by volunteers and provide regular group physiotherapy sessions
- Campaigning amongst policy makers, Parliamentarians and health service leaders

- Providing support to rheumatology teams and primary and secondary care

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

professionals who are working to reduce diagnostic delay and improve the quality of care
- Raising public awareness of the condition and of NASS
- Supporting research studies
- Contributing to public consultations relating to musculoskeletal health and the management of spondyloarthritis.

c. Volunteers

NASS is heavily dependent on 250 volunteer members who provide support at branch level. Volunteer members are unpaid and NASS' accounts do not reflect the value to NASS of the many hours work provided free to us. The Trustees are fully conscious of this value and recognise that the work of NASS would be considerably curtailed without the support provided by volunteer members.

Our NASS branches offer regular, physiotherapist-led group exercise for anyone living with axial SpA. They are subcommittees of NASS and are led by a committee usually comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We support our branches with a suite of resources, regular promotion of their activities, online meetings and a named member of staff who is available Monday to Friday to help with any problems or issues.

d. Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit

NASS provides public benefit by:
- working with statutory bodies and others that provide for the treatment and welfare of people affected by axial SpA
- educating people affected by axial SpA, as well as healthcare professionals and the public, on the condition and best management
- helping people reach their potential and live their best lives
- promoting research into the management and cure of axial SpA and its causes
- disseminating the results of research related to axial SpA.

In so doing, NASS improves the lives of those affected by axial SpA, particularly in relation to their ability to contribute positively to the prosperity of their communities and the country as a whole.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Achievements and performance

a. Summary

2025 was a very strong year for NASS. Our work on reducing the time to diagnosis is having an impact at UK level, and our approach has been formally adopted by the NHS in England. Our Information and Support service is well established, well regarded and used by thousands every year, and our self-management programme has further evolved and been supported by National Lottery grants. Our work had a strong presence among healthcare professionals through national and international events, in service training and through our peer to peer network. Internally, we implemented a diversified investment strategy, strengthened cybersecurity and undertook a review of governance at Board level. Highlights include the following:

- Our *Act on Axial SpA* is having an impact at UK level. Data from our time to diagnosis survey of 800 recently diagnosed patients at 50 rheumatology departments indicate that the average time has now fallen to 7.6 years.
- Our public awareness campaign has reached a total of 7,000,000 people, with 47,000 people having completed our online symptom checker and started their journey to diagnosis.
- We trained 500 healthcare professionals (and a total of 1,200 since 2023)
- We published the evidence from our work in four scientific journals
- We partnered with NHS England to launch a national Playbook to achieve earlier diagnosis
- We supported 5,053 people living with axial SpA through our Helpline
- We helped more than 200 people to access £1,200,000 of welfare benefits
- Our 69 branches supported 1,300 people with physiotherapy and hydrotherapy
- Our self-management programme directly supported 1585 people with axial SpA, and reached 75,126 through video and webpage views.
- Our Guidebooks supported 11,294 people
- Our membership increased by 3%

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

b. Key performance indicators

Performance against key indicators was as follows:

- **Fundraising ratio:** every £1 spent on income generation activities raised £5.57 in income
- **% of expenditure on charitable activities:** 66% of our expenditure was directly related to charitable activities
- **total annual value of successful benefit applications for our members.** We helped members to secure £1,200,000 of welfare support payments
- **Numbers of people reached through our self-management programme:** 102,915
- **Helpline requests processed within two working days**: 94%.

c. Review of activities

<u>To ensure that people with axial SpA are diagnosed within twelve months of symptom onset and receive the information and support they need</u>

In 2021, we published a route map to achieve a Gold Standard time to diagnosis of one year. Starting from a baseline average of 8.5 years, the achievement of this goal will require transformational change including a significant increase in awareness of the condition among health care professionals (HCPs) and the general public, a critical mass of clinical leaders who will improve healthcare performance in axial SpA, the widespread use of technology to support referral decisions, the routine use of pathways to ensure that patients are referred directly to rheumatology for assessment, and consistent use of agreed national protocols for imaging.

Above all, to attain such a dramatic change in time to diagnosis we must win hearts and minds, build a social movement of people who want to work with us to create change, and demonstrate proof of concept for our ideas.

2025 was the fourth full year of implementation of our route map.

Our public awareness campaign has now reached more than 7,000,000 people since we began in 2021. A total of 47,000 people have completed our online symptom checker and started their journey to diagnosis.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Since 2023 we have educated a total of 1,200 HCPs. In 2025 this included running a peer to peer network, and delivering bespoke education sessions including to 244 private physiotherapists, 121 student chiropractors, 51 physiotherapists in the Highlands, 24 dietitians, and training to Hereford and Worcester Primary Care network.

Data from our time to diagnosis survey of 800 recently diagnosed patients at 50 rheumatology departments indicate that the average time has now fallen to 7.6 years.

In 2025, we published the *Axial SpA Playbook* which brings all of the data and learning together from our work in the first four years of campaign to assist health care professionals to reduce the time to diagnosis. In April, the NHS England formally adopted the Playbook through its Getting it Right First Time programme. Following a launch at the British Society of Rheumatology conference we developed a package of support to help with implementation. We overhauled the *Act on Axial SpA* website, with the Playbook at the centre, and made key areas of work more prominent.

2025 also saw the beginning of a large-scale place-based intervention to build on the work that we did previously in Belfast. Three rheumatology teams from North Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust were selected to implement the full playbook across the region, which will include a full public awareness campaign.

We continued to make the case for change through research and data and published five manuscripts in scientific journals, with a further four conference abstracts presented and published in scientific journals.

<u>To create and embed a gold standard approach to treatment and care, integrating lived experience and clinical perspectives</u>

Our healthcare quality improvement (QI) programme Aspiring to Excellence came to an end in 2025, having supported 23 rheumatology departments with QI teaching and coaching and a national learning network to share their experience and data. The programme has nurtured improvement projects across the pathway covering diagnosis, physiotherapy services, employment, self-management programmes, flare clinics and the setting up of specialist axial SpA clinics.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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To support and empower people to live well with axial SpA and feel part of a supportive community

Axial SpA is a condition that requires a great deal of information, support and guidance for people to manage their symptoms effectively and ensure optimal long-term outcomes. There are few formal patient education programmes for axial SpA and many people report feeling isolated and have never met anyone else with the condition. NHS backlogs and the rheumatology workforce crisis are such that this need is ongoing.

Our Helpline service supported 5,053 enquires. The NASS Helpline is often the only place people can turn to for help and support and we responded to 78% of queries within 1 working day and a total of 94% within 2 working days. Key reasons why people contact the NASS Helpline include:

- Support with finding out if symptoms are axial SpA or another condition
- Receiving a new diagnosis of axial SpA and wanting to understand how it is managed
- Understanding how axial SpA is managed medically
- Physiotherapy, exercise and how to join a local NASS branch
- Support with understanding disability benefits
- Advice and signposting on employment and housing
- Emotional support (including bereavement, mental health and feeling isolated).

We provide support to people with axial SpA who struggle financially due to their condition to: understand the disability benefits that they are entitled to and the process for applying; make a claim, explain the full impact of axial SpA and the reasons they need extra care or help with their mobility or daily living; and appeal a decision if they have been refused disability benefits. Last year, we wrote 270 supporting letters, and helped people receive £1.2 million in disability benefits, with an average of £4,980 per person per year.

Most NHS physiotherapy departments only offer short-term six-session physiotherapy courses during working hours with no further support. Our branch network across the UK offers regular in-person or online weekly or fortnightly group sessions for people with axial SpA, led by qualified physiotherapists. They benefit from: regular physiotherapy and hydrotherapy sessions which help to improve their mobility and flexibility to reduce stiffness; a peer support network of qualified physiotherapists and members where they can seek specialist advice and support; and a place where they can meet new people. NASS provides support to committees to find venues and physiotherapists for exercise sessions, recruit, welcome and support new and current members, and re-open and set up new branches. In 2025 we opened one new branch, NASS Torbay, and we estimate that 1,300 people have used one of our 69 branches to access regular exercise sessions over the past 12 months.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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We have 68 branches meeting face to face for gym and/or hydrotherapy sessions. We are very pleased to report that 39 of these branches are able to offer hydrotherapy. Nine currently offer online sessions, including our all-UK online branch. We supported all branches in logistical conversations with hospitals, health professionals and venues and with promotion of their branch. Overall, branches are in a relatively stable situation. While low numbers may be a challenge with some branches, in other areas there are now waiting lists, especially for hydrotherapy.

Our supported self-management programme gives people with axial SpA the skills and tools they need confidently to manage their symptoms and live well with the condition and is produced in partnership with people living with axial SpA and healthcare professionals. In 2025, the main strands of the programme comprised:

- Your SpAce (online modules and meetups)
- The National Lottery projects in England, Northern Ireland and Wales
- My AS, My Life
- Member webinars

Through these, we directly supported 1585 people with axial SpA, and reached 75,126 through video and webpage views.

Our ambition is that every person newly diagnosed with axial SpA is signposted to *Your SpAce* for the information and support they need, enabling them to learn more about the condition and build skills to manage the impact it has on their life. In 2025, the *Your SpAce* videos were watched 8,400 times and webpages visited 30,000 times. Our meetups provide a much-needed community for people who are at the start of their axial SpA journey or who are struggling and feeling isolated. In 2025, we ran eight online meetups, reaching 866 people with 387 attendees. We had many regular attendees and it has grown into a really welcoming community. Some people join as soon as a few days after their axial SpA diagnosis and find the chance to speak to others with their condition, especially those living with it for a number of years, to be reassuring.

The National Lottery funded projects in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. We ran two 'introduction to axial SpA' sessions for people living in England, reaching 124 people. We provided bespoke Helpline support to 56 people. In collaboration with all NHS Trusts in Northern Ireland, we ran two six-session online courses and reached 58 people. We presented the work at the Allied Health Professions Research and Innovation Conference in Belfast. We ran a course of three online sessions and one in-person session for people in Wales, reaching 38 people.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Rheumatology appointments are short and can be overwhelming. We make our range of guidebooks available to rheumatology departments free of charge. They make these available at their clinics, giving people the time and space to read and understand more about living with axial SpA. Then, they can ask further questions by calling the NASS Helpline or at follow up medical appointments. One of our most popular guidebooks was our Guide to Biologic Therapies. We updated this in April 2025 to become the Guide to Advanced Therapies, to reflect a new clinical guideline on this topic from the British Society of Rheumatology. A total of 11,294 people received NASS guidebooks in 2025.

Finally, our website was used 516,000 times, and our social media audience was 41,500.

Membership

NASS exists because of its members. As a membership organisation, the people living with axial SpA who join us are not an audience but a community, and our work is shaped by and accountable to them. This year that community grew by 3%, from 4,324 to 4,415, as we re-engaged lapsed members and put a membership retention plan in place. We also deepened what membership offers, with two new members-only webinars reaching 500 people in total.

In September we held our first in-person Members Day since 2022, alongside our AGM, welcoming 120 attendees including members and their friends and family. The event brought together rheumatologists, physiotherapists, researchers, coaches and patient advocates for expert talks and practical wellbeing sessions on living well with axSpA, covering self-management, energy management, Tai Chi Qigong, treatment developments, research and digital tools. Dedicated sessions helped friends and family understand and support loved ones with the condition, and the day closed with a recognition and thanks to Raj Mahapatra for his ten years as Chair.
Feedback was strong, with every respondent saying they enjoyed meeting others with the condition and found out new information about axSpA.

<u>To influence, advocate and educate for axial SpA</u>

Regarding our Policy and Parliamentary activity, in England we met to discuss the *Act on Axial SpA* campaign, in particular the costs associated with delayed diagnosis, with Dr Caroline Johnson MP (Shadow Health Minister), Markus Campbell-Savours MP and Sonia Kumar MP. In Wales, we continued to be key stakeholders in the MSK Strategic Network, contributing to the development of the Community Pathway for Spondyloarthritis, and Low Back Pain which are used in primary care and were published at the end of 2025. We were also key contributors to the All-Wales Community and Primary Care Integrated Musculoskeletal (MSK) Service Specification which is due to be published in

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
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2026. In Scotland, we continued to be members of the Cross Party Group for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions in Scottish Parliament. Alongside other patient groups we ran a survey of people with immune-mediated inflammatory conditions looking at service provision across a range of conditions. The Long Term Conditions Framework was published by Scottish Government and we were able to contribute, attending focus groups and responding to the consultation.
We supported UK-wide campaigns including Homecare Services for people who have their biologic medication delivered, and Pathways to Work Green Paper (a government consultation which we responded to and provided case studies to the Disability Benefits Consortium for use in their Parliamentary work).

We spoke at healthcare conferences including the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR), The Royal College of GPs, British Society for Spondyloarthritis, British Society of Rheumatology and at regional axial SpA rheumatology networks.

<u>To ensure that NASS is able to deliver its ambitious programmes</u>

We completed the annual audit and received no recommendations for improvement from the auditor. We implemented a diversified investment strategy. We renewed our Cyber Essentials certification and implemented comprehensive security enhancements including SentinelOne and DNS Filter. We completed a Salesforce remediation project and engaged a database specialist to optimise the system and tailor it to our needs, helping us make better use of our data. We maintained a safe and compliant office environment, completing all required Health & Safety checks and fire safety inspections. In addition to role-specific training, staff undertook training sessions in cyber security, and an introduction to neurodiversity. In fundraising, the Winter Appeal generated £24,000. We had a very successful launch of the NASS Lottery in April and held a second football tournament. We made contact with all legacy inquiries and interested parties, updated our Legacy copy on our website and ran a Legacy campaign during Remember a Charity Week.

d. Factors relevant to achieve objectives

Our income was higher in 2025 than 2024 our expenditure continued to be lower since the cost reduction measures put in place in 2023. As a consequence, our overall financial position improved.

We continue to have excellent relationships with a wide range of healthcare professionals, professional bodies, health consortia and other charities, all of which has enriched our work and strengthened its impact.

e. Fundraising activities and income generation

Raising funds for NASS

Thank you to everyone who supported us in 2025 by donating or fundraising. We don't receive public funding and couldn't do our work without the generosity of our supporters. The money we raise ensures that we're here to transform axial SpA diagnosis and care, and offer practical support and advice to anyone affected by the condition.

At the national level we met 94.7% of our total income budgeted target and our income in 2025 amounted to £898,702 (£874,158 in 2024). Income at branch level amounted to £187,822 in 2025 (£179,640 in 2024).

In 2025 our income generation activities included:

- ***Community and events fundraising:*** In 2025, 51 people raised money for NASS by organising an event in their community (or through birthday fundraising), 50 fundraisers took on challenge events (running, swimming, walking etc) or joined one of our fundraising events (Stretch-tember, Walk Your AS Off and Winter Walks). Collectively, these activities raised £72,715 including Gift Aid. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each individual fundraiser who dedicated their time and effort to support our cause. We would also like to thank the corporate companies who took part in our Football Tournament that raised £11,250.
- ***Donations and individual giving:*** In 2025 we had 174 regular donors, 368 people supported us through our Winter Appeal and 297 people donated to NASS for the first time.
- ***Corporate Donations:*** We extend our thanks to the corporate companies that have generously supported us through direct donations and matched donations. Your support is invaluable in helping us continue our mission.
    - Microsoft Corporation
    - Sony Interactive Entertainment
    - The Capital Group Companies, Inc.
    - The Adaptavist Group

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

- ***Trust fundraising:*** We would like to thank the following grant-making organisations that supported us, collectively giving £105,919:
    - The Bernadette Charitable Trust
    - The Chamifealion Charitable Trust
    - The Forest Trust
    - Garfield Weston Foundation
    - The Hetton Charitable Trust
    - The Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust
    - Marsh Christian Trust
    - Miss Summers and Miss May's Charitable Settlement
    - Peter Harrison Foundation
    - The Schroder Charity Trust
    - The Sutton Byre Charitable Trust
    - The G C Gibson Charitable Trust
    - The Grace Trust
    - The Grand Charity
    - The Hamilton Wallace Trust
    - The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust

- ***Legacies:*** In 2025, we recognised legacy income of £241,056 from 17 estates, including amounts received during the year (£144,867) and income recognised in accordance with our legacy accounting policy. We are deeply grateful for these generous gifts, which make a lasting difference to people affected by axial SpA.
- ***Investments:*** Our residential properties generated £35,657 of rental income, and cash savings generated £6,091 of interest income.
- ***Funding from pharmaceutical companies:***
  We would also like to thank the following companies that supported us in 2025:
    - AbbVie Ltd: £15,000
    - Eli Lilly and Company: £10,000
    - Janssen-Cilag Limited: £10,000
    - UCB Pharma Ltd: £180,000

Any relationship NASS has with a pharmaceutical company is underpinned by the following principles:

- **Independence** – The independence of NASS must not be compromised by the relationship with an external organisation or by the agreed working arrangements. The financial benefit must be made available for the support of our charitable activities without restriction. We will not allow funders to influence our campaigning, policymaking, research or fundraising for their own purposes. We will ensure our editorial independence is maintained and all information produced by NASS will be based on the latest evidence, informed by our Medical Advisory Board.
- **Transparency** – Any relationship with an external organisation is not an endorsement of their product or organisation and will be made transparent to our members, supporters, staff and the general public including in our annual Report and Accounts. All partnerships will be governed by a written agreement which will detail requirements and expectations from each party.

- **Benefit for those living with axial SpA** – Any relationship formed with an external organisation must be positive for NASS members and people living with axial SpA and in furtherance of our charitable aims.
- **Regulation and good practice** – All funders must comply with all relevant laws and regulations, as well as good practice. This includes full compliance with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry's Code of Practice.
- **Use of NASS logo** - our logo may only be used following written approval from NASS. We may use a funder's mark where relevant to the relationship including in webinars, event banners, on our website or on press releases where appropriate. The use of a funder’s trademark will have no impact on the independence of the charity.
- **Sharing expertise and knowledge** - We will work with funders to share non-product expertise and knowledge. This may include participation in networking events and meetings

- **Privacy policy** - In line with our privacy policy NASS will not, under any circumstances, share the personal data of any of our service users or supporters with a pharmaceutical company.
- **Alignment with our strategy and values** - Any collaboration or cooperation with pharmaceutical companies will be assessed against the ethics, desirability and practicality in relation to the overall plans and work of NASS.

Fundraising responsibly

We rely on the generosity of our donors and fundraisers to do our life-changing work and have processes and policies in place to ensure that we fundraise responsibly.

- We are a member of the Fundraising Regulator and pay an annual levy
- We are transparent about our fundraising and treat donors and fundraisers respectfully and fairly
- We provide personal stewardship to anyone who is taking part in a fundraising activity for us; this includes ensuring people are aware of the risks of taking part in activities
- We explain how to opt out of communications and people are easily able to unsubscribe from emails
- We adhere to data-protection legislation and provide information on our website about our data-privacy policy, and how to opt-out of communications
- We take all reasonable steps to opt-people out of communications if they request to no longer hear from us
- We respond quickly and efficiently to any complaints about fundraising. We received no complaints in 2025

- We mitigate the risk of not reaching our fundraising targets by reviewing management accounts monthly, monitoring income levels, and reforecasting. We take appropriate actions if fundraising income falls below anticipated levels.
- We are registered with Hammersmith and Fulham Council as a Small Society Lottery under Paragraph 42 of Part 5 of Schedule 11 to the Gambling Act 2005. During the year, we ran two fundraising raffles (Summer and Festive) which raised £8,913, and in 2025 we introduced monthly NASS Lottery, operated by Bee Ethical Ltd, which raised £14,478. Collectively these activities generated £23,391 of income. After deducting prizes and administrative costs of £8,446, a net amount of £14,945 was retained as unrestricted income to fund our charitable activities.

f. Investment policy and performance

To minimise the risk of potential loss of funds and maintain financial security, a portion of our funds is held in cash within a reputable bank.

Additionally, the charity has made strategic investments in two properties we own which provide a consistent and reliable source of income for our charitable initiatives.

All investments are carried at market value.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Financial review

The year saw an increase in total income to £1,086,523 (2024: £1,053,798) and a reduction in total expenditure to £1,086,721 (2024: £1,090,496), resulting in a broadly break-even position with a deficit of £198. It should be noted that total income includes £241,056 of legacy income recognised in the year in accordance with our accounting policy, of which £96,189 had not yet been received at the year end.
Including an unrealised revaluation gain on investment properties of £45,000, the net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £44,802 (2024: deficit of £36,698). This continues the improving trajectory from the prior year and demonstrates a more sustainable financial position as we progress through the 2025–2029 strategic period.

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

The charity's trustees closely monitor its reserves. To ensure adequate cash reserves, the Board of Trustees decided to take out a loan against the properties owned by NASS. The loan increased the charity's liquidity and its free cash reserves.

b. Reserves policy

The charity's funds at the end of the reporting period are as follows:
Unrestricted funds: £780,889
Restricted grants: £49,539
Branch funds: £216,182

NASS holds two investment properties which are not used for direct charitable purposes but from which NASS derives rental income. In the event of financial need, these properties could be sold to release additional funds, providing a further layer of financial resilience beyond the free reserves position.

Our readily available unrestricted reserves ("free reserves") amount to £371,767 (2024: £331,465). This is calculated as follows:
Unrestricted funds: £780,889 less: Net equity in investment properties (fair value £700,000 less mortgage £290,878): (£409,122) = Free reserves: £371,767

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

NASS must raise income each year from voluntary sources and total income is likely to fluctuate from year to year.
As a general policy, we currently aim to hold 6-9 months of free reserves. Our current free reserves represent approximately 4 months of actual operating costs. The reserves policy is under review and an updated policy will be presented for trustee approval in 2026, taking into account the level of predictability in our income sources, the extent to which our cost base is flexible or committed, and the longer-term financial sustainability of the charity. Our largest income sources, legacies and pharmaceutical grant funding, come at irregular intervals, and the majority of our costs are committed, principally in the form of staff who deliver our charitable objectives.

c. Material investments policy

The Charity holds two properties that are rented out to private tenants. Properties were chosen as a reliable source of income for the Charity and the expected income is set at £34,000 per annum. Both properties are let to private tenants.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have adopted appropriate policies necessary to limit or mitigate the risks faced by NASS. The principal risks are:

- Loss of income: NASS seeks to broaden and expand its income from all sources. Nevertheless, NASS is dependent upon voluntary income, both at branch level and at national level, and aims to increase its membership locally and nationally
- Loss of reputation: NASS seeks at all times to maintain its independent viewpoint. Grants from pharmaceutical companies are strictly controlled so as to ensure that our independence is not compromised
- Loss of staff: NASS has a reward strategy to ensure that the charity is able to recruit and retain high quality staff. It also has a set of HR policies to provide the appropriate framing for all HR matters.

In the course of 2025, one pharmaceutical partner discontinued their funding. All remaining relationships were reviewed to ensure continued alignment with NASS's policy on independence, transparency and public benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that editorial oversight, campaigning priorities and policy engagement activities remained wholly independent and were not influenced by any external funding arrangement

NASS has a safeguarding policy and set of procedures applicable to beneficiaries, staff, trustees and volunteers. Staff are trained in safeguarding and NASS branches have a training resource. The safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

e. Financial risk management objectives and policies

Effective management of financial risk is a high priority. Given the importance of accurate financial projections and reporting, we have taken a comprehensive approach to ensure that we consistently maintain a high standard in all aspects of financial management. It includes implementing robust budgeting and costing methods, adhering to donor-imposed restrictions, maintaining strong financial systems and controls, regular reporting and ensuring adequate reserves and cash flow management. We also conduct regular audits and financial reviews to maintain transparency and accountability. We have a range of policies and procedures to achieve these objectives. We employ processes and controls to guarantee accurate financial forecasting and reporting. We follow a well-defined procedure for expenditure approval, ensuring that any spending is fully authorised, and documented accordingly. Furthermore, we take great care to keep detailed records of all restricted funds, which helps to ensure complete transparency and accountability in their utilisation.

Collaborative budgeting methods are also used to ensure our financial management practices are practical and efficient. These policies and practices reflect our commitment to sound financial management, compliance, transparency, and accountability.

f. Principal funding

In 2025 NASS received its funding from various sources, with a notable distinction between income generated at the national level (83%) and that at the branch level designated for their specific use (17%). 91% of branch income came from subscriptions, 5% from donations and 4% from fundraising activities.

At the national level, our income for 2025 was diversified across various categories. The largest single source of funding was legacies (27%), followed by grants from pharmaceutical companies (24%), designated for specific projects (restricted), along with a contribution towards general operational expenses. Other sources of income were as follows:

- Trusts & other grants: 12%
- Donations: 11%
- Membership subscriptions: 10%
- Fundraising: 9%
- Investments: 5%
- Trading and other income: 3%

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered with the Charity Commission in April 2019. The rules and regulations of the CIO are set out in its Constitution, adopted by the Board of Trustees on 14 September 2019.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Rajeevendra Kumar Mahapatra	Chair (Stepped down as Chair 23 September 2025)
Hannah Elizabeth Bruce	(elected 6 September, 2025; elected Chair 23 September 2025)
Mike Frankl MBE	Treasurer (elected 6 September 2025)
Dr Jane Freeston	(elected 6 September 2025)
Dr Raj Armanani	
Prof Antoni Tuck Yin Chan	
Paul Curry	
Jo Davies	
Rachel Davis	
Gillian Eames	
Claire Jeffries	
Dr Lesley Jane Kay	
Nicholas Reid	Treasurer, (Retired 6 September 2025)
Prof Hasan Imam Syed Tahir	(retired 6 September 2025)
Alexia Katherine Dreese Granatt	(retired 6 September 2025)

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The governing body of NASS is a Board of Trustees consisting of elected Trustees. Only members of NASS may be appointed as Trustees and the maximum number is twelve.

At every annual general meeting of the members of NASS, one third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled by the charity trustees. Such persons shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of their appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded.

The Chair and Treasurer are approved by the Board and selected from among the trustee group. Their term of office as Chair and Treasurer is consistent with their term of office as a trustee. In advance of each AGM members of NASS are widely encouraged to nominate a fellow member as Trustee.

On appointment, new trustees are asked to spend a half day in the NASS central office for a briefing with the Chief Executive and staff to understand how the society works. Formal training is provided when required.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustees meet quarterly to review matters of policy and to make appropriate judgements, directions and decisions on CIO issues. Trustees delegate authority on some matters to a Finance and General Purposes Committee consisting of the Chair, the Treasurer, up to three appointed Trustees and the Chief Executive and Head of Finance and Administration. This Committee meets four times per year. NASS also has a Medical Advisory Board which acts in advisory capacity only. Day to day management of NASS is undertaken by the Chief Executive and their staff. The trustees consider the Chief Executive and management team as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

All new trustees receive an induction programme which includes the organisation’s structure, scheme of delegation, NASS constitution, strategic plan, business plan and budget, trustee code of conduct and CC3, *The Essential Trustee*. Periodic training is provided (e.g. how to read management accounts).

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

e. Pay policy for key management personnel

Every three years we commission external HR consultants to undertake independent benchmarking of all roles. The last review was in November 2023. Our medium term aim is to pay at the midpoint. The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

f. Related party relationships

There are no related party relationships. NASS is a member of various umbrella groups, including the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance, The Axial SpA International Federation, National Voices, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, the Disability Benefits Consortium and the Prescription Charge Coalition and The Alliance (Scotland). Our membership of these bodies does not impact on the operating policies adopted by the charity.

g. Financial risk management

Further to the risks identified above, in 2025 trustees approved an updated risk management strategy.

h. Trustees' indemnities

NASS holds Trustee Indemnity insurance through Markel UK, providing cover with a limit of 1 million pounds against any wrongful act claim made against a Trustee.

Plans for future periods

Our proposed priority areas for 2026 are:

To ensure that people with axial SpA are diagnosed within twelve months of symptom onset: we will

- work to ensure widespread implementation of the Playbook and encourage its update in the devolved administrations
- deliver a place-based intervention with three rheumatology teams in Bath and Bristol to implement an integrated package of activities
- publish the first results from the time to diagnosis survey
- conduct a Freedom of Information request to better understand MRI waiting times
- undertake an evaluation of the impact of the symptom checker on people’s journey to diagnosis.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

To create and embed a gold standard approach to treatment and care, integrating patient and clinical perspectives*:* we will

- research funding sources to take forward work to develop a gold standard approach to in treatment and care that goes beyond pharmacologic interventions
- work with healthcare professional groups to promote our values based standards and corresponding toolkits.

To support and empower people to live well with axial SpA and feel part of a supportive community: we will

- Continue to run the Helpline and Disability Benefits Support service at current levels
- continue to promote the *Your SpAce* modules and videos
- conclude our National Lottery-funded project
- seek funding for new projects focusing on physical activity, supporting older people, the newly diagnosed and those whose axial SpA is difficult to manage
- implement new membership pricing along with tailored and automated stewardship journeys for an improved experience for our members and improve membership retention
- continue to run the popular series of member webinars.

To influence, advocate and educate for axial SpA: we will

- continue to present our work at BSR, BRITSpA, EULAR, SpA Academy, RCGP conference, and regional axial SpA rheumatology networks
- strengthen our work with primary care
- secure a Westminster Hall debate on delayed diagnosis as well table Parliamentary Questions
- support the MSK Clinical Network and Rheumatology sub-network in Wales.

To ensure that NASS is able to deliver its ambitious programmes: we will

- anchor income generation activity around our Golden Anniversary
- introduce a corporate membership scheme
- open an online shop
- invest in strengthening our use of the Salesforce CRM system
- introduce a new membership platform
- strengthen the management of our websites
- implement the recommendations from the Board governance review
- hold a staff away day.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Celebrate our Golden Anniversary: we will
- have a communications programme that will seek to convey our role in transforming care for people with axial SpA for 50 years, and encourage people to help us power the next 50
- hold a conference to bring together the axial SpA community, celebrate the work of NASS and the advances in axial SpA diagnosis and treatment, celebrate those who have contributed, and look to the future
- hold a Parliamentary event

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales and Scotland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the Memorandum of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- that Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, BKL Audit LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Hannah Bruce

Date: 28/07/2026

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows 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 charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, 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 charity 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 Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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:

- Enquiring of management around actual and potential litigation and claims
- Reviewing board meeting minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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. This risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

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.

Other matters

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.
This has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with current Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BKL Audit LLP

BKL Audit LLP
35 Ballards Lane
London
N3 1XW

Date: 11/08/2026

BKL Audit LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds Branches 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds Branches 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	3	508,338	179,813	238,523	926,674	350,642	166,681	356,992	874,315
Other trading activities	4	109,964	7,020	-	116,984	125,170	12,165	-	137,335
Investments	5	41,748	-	-	41,748	41,354	-	-	41,354
Other income	6	131	988	-	1,119	-	794	-	794
Total income		660,181	187,821	238,523	1,086,525	517,166	179,640	356,992	1,053,798
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	7	161,021	408	-	161,429	150,867	315	-	151,182
Charitable activities	8	463,652	193,429	268,211	925,292	410,541	187,752	341,021	939,314
Total expenditure		624,673	193,837	268,211	1,086,721	561,408	188,067	341,021	1,090,496
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	45,000	-	-	45,000	-	-	-	-

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds Branches 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds Branches 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Net income/(expenditure)		80,508	(6,016)	(29,688)	44,804	(44,242)	(8,427)	15,971	(36,698)
Transfers between funds		9,311	(9,674)	363	-	2,791	(2,890)	99	-
Net movement in funds		89,819	(15,690)	(29,325)	44,804	(41,451)	(11,317)	16,070	(36,698)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		691,070	231,873	78,832	1,001,775	732,521	243,190	62,762	1,038,473
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		780,889	216,183	49,507	1,046,579	691,070	231,873	78,832	1,001,775

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**14**		1,338		-
Investment property	**15**		700,000		655,000
			701,338		655,000
Current assets					
Debtors	**17**	143,388		39,832	
Cash at bank and in hand		528,988		640,653	
		672,376		680,485	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**18**	(41,428)		(42,676)	
Net current assets			630,948		637,809
Total assets less current liabilities			1,332,286		1,292,809
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**19**		(285,707)		(291,034)
Net assets			1,046,579		1,001,775
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds - Branches	**23**		216,183		231,873
Restricted income funds	**24**		49,507		78,832
Unrestricted funds	**22**		780,889		691,070
			1,046,579		1,001,775

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28/07/2026

....
H Bruce

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	**28**		(147,430)		(200,086)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,466)		-	
Investment income received		41,748		41,354	
Net cash generated from investing activities			40,282		41,354
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(4,517)		(3,566)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(4,517)		(3,566)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(111,665)		(162,298)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			640,653		802,951
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			528,988		640,653

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered with the Charity Commission in April 2019. The rules and regulations of the CIO are set out in its Constitution, adopted by the Board of Trustees on 14 September 2019.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 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:

Computers	Straight line - 25%

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.

1.7 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity 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).

1.9 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity 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 charity's balance sheet when the charity 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.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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 loans 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 charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity’s accounting policies, the trustees are 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.

Critical judgements

Legacies

A critical judgement is made in determining when legacy income is recognised. Legacy income is recognised only when the charity is entitled to the income, receipt is considered probable and the amount can be measured reliably. This judgement involves assessing the stage of probate, the validity of the charity’s entitlement, the likelihood of receipt and whether any material uncertainties remain. Where these conditions are not met, legacy income is not recognised until the uncertainty is substantially resolved.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements **(Continued)**

Fair value of investment properties

Investment properties are stated at fair value, with changes recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Determining fair value involves significant judgement, including assumptions about market conditions, rental yields, vacancy rates and comparable property values. The trustees consider these judgements to be significant due to the inherent uncertainty in property valuations and the sensitivity of valuations to changes in key assumptions. Where appropriate, valuations are supported by assessments performed by an independent qualified valuer.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds Branches 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds Branches 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	96,884	8,914	619	106,417	139,920	6,016	48,992	194,928
Legacies	241,056	-	-	241,056	102,838	-	-	102,838
Grants	83,015	-	237,904	320,919	24,000	-	308,000	332,000
Membership fees	87,383	170,899	-	258,282	83,884	160,665	-	244,549
	508,338	179,813	238,523	926,674	350,642	166,681	356,992	874,315

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds Branches 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds Branches 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Trading	25,999	-	25,999	-	-	-
Fundraising events	83,965	7,020	90,985	125,170	12,165	137,335
Other trading activities	109,964	7,020	116,984	125,170	12,165	137,335

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Rental income	35,657	34,450
Interest receivable	6,091	6,904
	41,748	41,354

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds Branches 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds Branches 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Other income	131	988	1,119	-	794	794

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds Branches 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds Branches 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity						
Seeking donations, grants and legacies	11,945	-	11,945	4,024	-	4,024
Staging fundraising events	7,700	408	8,108	8,606	315	8,921
Fundraising for membership	-	-	-	956	-	956
Other fundraising costs	23,678	-	23,678	38,726	-	38,726
Staff costs	80,321	-	80,321	71,460	-	71,460
Support costs	37,377	-	37,377	27,095	-	27,095
	161,021	408	161,429	150,867	315	151,182

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Reduce delay to diagnosis	Gold Standard approach to treatment and care	To support and empower people and a supportive community	To influence, advocate and educate for axial SpA	Total	Every Patient Every Time	A connected and Supportive Community	Empower, Inform and Inspire	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs									
Staff costs	226,880	19,184	184,728	1,452	432,244	262,810	33,780	164,094	460,684
Other staff costs	3,679	370	1,370	1,654	7,073	7,387	978	420	8,785
Courier & distribution of materials	1,490	187	4,194	12	5,883	2,518	4,155	1,808	8,481
Literature, brochures and information	88	-	5,112	-	5,200	4,738	4,184	14,356	23,278
Promotion of activities and materials	9,860	-	3,684	-	13,544	5,957	-	562	6,519
Organising professional events	19,806	-	10,884	2,049	32,739	23,503	-	484	23,987
External technical providers	1,191	21,600	340	8,400	31,531	28,721	-	-	28,721
Attending professional events	2,285	-	100	-	2,385	16,180	-	-	16,180
Branch network expenditure	-	-	191,175	-	191,175	-	186,191	-	186,191
	265,279	41,341	401,587	13,567	721,774	351,814	229,288	181,724	762,826
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	250
Share of support and governance costs (see note 10)									
Support	105,702	8,927	88,213	676	203,518	99,838	15,107	61,293	176,238
	370,981	50,268	489,800	14,243	925,292	451,652	244,395	243,267	939,314

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

8 Expenditure on charitable activities **(Continued)**

Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	185,504	21,931	244,224	11,993	463,652	158,474	56,643	195,424	410,541
Restricted funds - Branches	-	-	193,429	-	193,429	-	187,752	-	187,752
Restricted funds	185,477	28,337	52,147	2,250	268,211	293,178	-	47,843	341,021
	370,981	50,268	489,800	14,243	925,292	451,652	244,395	243,267	939,314

9 Grants payable

	Empower, Inform and Inspire 2024 £
Grants to individuals	250

10 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	87,522	62,646
Depreciation	128	-
Other staff costs	17,425	8,671
Premises costs	28,099	49,215
Travel & accomodation expenses	1,381	2,434
IT and Communications	35,699	21,252
Office costs	5,615	3,819
Insurance, legal & professional	19,913	17,604
Other support costs	2,253	2,517
Bank charges and interest	23,164	22,786
Governance	19,696	10,889
	240,895	201,833
Analysed between:		
Fundraising	37,377	25,595
Every Patient Every Time	-	99,838
A connected and Supportive Community	-	15,107
Empower, Inform and Inspire	-	61,293
Reduce delay to diagnosis	105,702	-
Gold Standard approach to treatment and care	8,927	-
To support and empower people and a supportive community	88,213	-
To influence, advocate and educate for axial SpA	676	-
	240,895	201,833

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Employees	11	12

11 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	495,180	432,110
Social security costs	41,859	42,183
Other pension costs	63,048	58,754
	600,087	533,047

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
In the band £110,001 - £120,000	1	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel consists of the CEO, Head of Information and Support Services, Head of Policy and Health Services and the Head of Finance and Administration. The total employee remuneration and benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £325,454 (2024:£288,381).

12 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).
During the year ended 31 December 2025, expenses totalling £188.89 were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 Trustees (2024 - £58.95 to 1 Trustee). Expenses in both years related to travel expenses.

13 Gains and losses on investments

Gains/(losses) arising on:	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Revaluation of investment properties	45,000	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	19,539
Additions	1,466
At 31 December 2025	21,005
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2025	19,539
Depreciation charged in the year	128
At 31 December 2025	19,667
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2025	1,338

15 Investment property

	2025
	£
Fair value	
At 1 January 2025	655,000
Net gains or losses through fair value adjustments	45,000
At 31 December 2025	700,000

Investment property comprises residential flats let. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out by an independent valuer with reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties and a formal valuation made post the year end. The valuation was made on an open market value basis.

16 Contingent asset

At the balance sheet date the charity had been notified of a legacy with an estimated gross value in the region of £100,000.
The legacy has not been recognised as income or as a debtor in these financial statements as, at the reporting date, receipt was subject to significant uncertainty. In particular, the estate is potentially subject to DWP challenge, the outcome of which may affect both the ultimate entitlement and the amount distributable to the charity.
As a result, the trustees consider that the amount cannot be measured with sufficient reliability, and that the criteria for income recognition under the Charities SORP have not yet been met. The legacy has therefore been treated as a contingent asset.
The trustees will recognise the legacy as income in the period in which entitlement is confirmed, receipt becomes probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

17 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	36,682	13,404
Other debtors	100,235	13,129
Prepayments and accrued income	6,471	13,299
	143,388	39,832

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	20	5,171	4,361
Other taxation and social security		456	4,659
Trade creditors		35,801	33,656
		41,428	42,676

19 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	20	285,707	291,034

20 Loans and overdrafts

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans	290,878	295,395
Payable within one year	5,171	4,361
Payable after one year	285,707	291,034

The bank loan is repayable by monthly instalments of capital and interest and is due for final repayment 25 years from the date of first drawdown.

Interest is charged at a variable rate of 3.5% per annum above the Bank of England base rate.

The loan is secured by a first legal charge over the charity's investment properties at Flat 26 and Flat 27, 1 Victoria Villas, Richmond, London, and by a charge over the charity's bank account.

The loan is subject to financial covenants, including a loan-to-value covenant and minimum cash balance requirements, which are monitored by the trustees.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2025 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	63,048	57,630

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

22 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	691,070	660,181	(624,673)	9,311	45,000	780,889

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	732,521	517,166	(561,408)	2,791	-	691,070

23 Restricted funds - Branches

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
	231,873	187,821	(193,837)	(9,674)	216,183

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	243,190	179,640	(188,067)	(2,890)	231,873

24 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Branch Development Fund	10,009	-	(6,198)	420	4,231
Fergus Rogers Fund	1,502	-	-	-	1,502
Aspiring to Excellence	7,941	21,000	(28,336)	(25)	580
Ophthalmology/Gastroenterology project	18	-	(17)	(1)	-
Self Management Programme	20,314	27,523	(45,955)	-	1,882
Gold Standard Delay to Diagnosis	36,831	180,000	(185,534)	-	31,297
Health Inequalities	2,127	-	(2,138)	26	15
Treatment Switching Survey Fund	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Members day	-	-	(33)	33	-
Cimzia Select Programme	90	-	-	(90)	-
	78,832	238,523	(268,211)	363	49,507

Previous year:	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Branch Development Fund	10,740	-	(842)	111	10,009
Fergus Rogers Fund	1,752	-	(250)	-	1,502
Aspiring to Excellence	8,611	96,000	(96,670)	-	7,941
Cimzia Select Programme	150	-	-	(60)	90
Ophthalmology / Gastroenterology project	18	-	-	-	18
Self Management Programme	18,072	48,992	(46,750)	-	20,314
Gold Standard Delay to Diagnosis	13,271	212,000	(188,440)	-	36,831
APPG	688	-	(736)	48	-
Round Table	7,110	-	(7,110)	-	-
Health Inequalities	2,350	-	(223)	-	2,127
	62,762	356,992	(341,021)	99	78,832

24 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Branch Network Funds
The Branch Network Funds support the local activities of NASS Branches, which offer regular physiotherapy or hydrotherapy sessions led by qualified instructors. Each Branch raises its funds and decides how to utilise them for specific activities. In the event of a branch ceasing operations, any remaining funds will be reclassified as unrestricted funds. A portion of these funds may be directed into the Branch Development Fund, to support our branches' continuous growth and development.

Branch Development Fund
The Branch Development Fund is created through donations from local NASS Branches. It aims to ensure the establishment and promotion of all Branches, and it provides start-up grants to new Branches and funds for ordering promotional materials such as posters and leaflets.

Fergus Rogers Fund
The Fergus Rogers Fund was established in memory of Fergus Rogers to assist people with axial SpA in purchasing specific items that can improve their quality of life. It is used to provide support for those in financial need to obtain essential items recommended by their healthcare professionals.

Aspiring to Excellence Fund
The Aspiring to Excellence Fund supports a multi-year quality improvement program to transform healthcare for people with axial SpA. The fund facilitates strategic partnerships between NASS, BRITSpA, and the NHS transformation unit, bringing together rheumatology teams and service improvement experts. It is utilised for various activities, including recruitment to the program, learning sessions, online coaching, podcasts, and the development of an audit tool to track the time to diagnosis.

Ophthalmology / Gastroenterology Project Fund
The Ophthalmology/Gastroenterology Project Fund supports the Gold Standard time to diagnosis program and its efforts to improve the identification and referral of suspected axial SpA in Ophthalmology and Gastroenterology. It finances the involvement of clinical associates from both specialities in gathering intelligence and understanding the current landscape. Additionally, the fund covers the development of educational materials, audits, posters, surveys, and policy reports.

The Self-Management Programme
The Self-Management Fund covers the costs of NASS's Supported Self-Management Program, which equips people with axial SpA with the skills and tools to manage their symptoms confidently. It supports various aspects of the program, including online resources, self-management sessions, and regional events held in conjunction with local NHS rheumatology departments.

Delay to Diagnosis - Gold Standard Fund
The Delay to Diagnosis - Gold Standard Fund is utilised to implement The Gold Standard Time to Diagnosis program for axial SpA. It supports various activities such as producing campaign impact reports, conducting economic analysis, delivering landscape reports, reviewing the use of MRI in diagnosis, and running public awareness campaigns.

APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for Axial Spondyloarthritis Fund
The APPG Fund is established to oversee the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines for Spondyloarthritis and its Quality Standard. It supports the functioning of the parliamentary group. It is used to conduct meetings, national inquiries, and parliamentary receptions to engage with MPs on axial SpA NHS services.

NASS Voices
The NASS Voices Fund supported regional events to facilitate interactions between local people with axial SpA and their rheumatology healthcare professionals. It helped cover the costs of venue payments and other expenses for organising these events. This fund was closed in 2023.

Round Table
The Round Table Fund supported wider policy work and national discussions on axial SpA in the UK. Although there was no activity in 2022, the fund was carried forward to continue its purpose in 2023. The Round Table meeting took place in 2024 and the fund has since been closed.

24 Restricted funds (Continued)

Health Inequalities Fund
The Health Inequalities Fund finances a qualitative study focusing on people's experiences with axial SpA through the lens of sex, gender, and gender identity. It covers expenses related to recruitment for focus groups and data collection.

Treatment Switching Survey Fund
Fund restricted to the delivery of a research survey examining attitudes towards switching biologic treatments in axial spondyloarthritis. The funding will support the design, delivery and analysis of the survey, involving patients and healthcare professionals, and the production of associated findings and outputs.

25 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds Branches	Restricted funds	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2025:				
Current assets	1,338	-	-	1,338
Investment properties	700,000	-	-	700,000
Creditors due within one year	365,258	216,183	49,507	630,948
Creditors due in more than one year	(285,707)	-	-	(285,707)
	780,889	216,183	49,507	1,046,579

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds Branches	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
At 31 December 2024:				
Investment properties	655,000	-	-	655,000
Current assets	369,780	231,873	78,832	680,485
Creditors due within one year	(66,265)	-	-	(66,265)
Creditors due in more than one year	(267,445)	-	-	(267,445)
	691,070	231,873	78,832	1,001,775

26 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	22,035	22,035
Between two and five years	18,362	40,397
	40,397	62,432

27 Related party transactions

One trustee received a retirement gift with a value of £383 in recognition of their voluntary service to the charity. (2024 - none).

28 Cash absorbed by operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	44,804	(36,698)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(41,748)	(41,354)
Fair value gains and losses on investment properties	(45,000)	-
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	128	-
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(103,556)	(1,267)
(Decrease) in creditors	(2,058)	(120,767)
Cash absorbed by operations	(147,430)	(200,086)

29 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 January 2025	Cash flows	At 31 December 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	640,653	(111,665)	528,988
Loans falling due within one year	(4,361)	(810)	(5,171)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(291,034)	5,327	(285,707)
	345,258	(107,148)	238,110

National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society

Unit 6, Cambridge Court, 210 Shepherds Bush Road, London, W6 7NJ

Date: 28/07/2026

Your ref: **N0557/IS/TJ**

BKL Audit LLP
35 Ballards Lane
London
N3 1XW

Dear Sirs

National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS)

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31 December 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the results and financial position of the Charity in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

GENERAL

1. We have fulfilled as trustees our responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) which give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all management and shareholders meetings, have been made available to you. We also ensured you had unrestricted access to persons from whom you determined necessary to obtain audit evidence.
2. We confirm that the financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
3. We believe that the effect of uncorrected misstatements is immaterial both individually and in total.

4. We understand that, under the FRC Ethical Standard, the provision of audit and non-audit services by you to ourselves gives rise to a potential threat to independence. We confirm that you have explained to us the threats and the safeguards that you have put in place to address the potential self-review threat.

INTERNAL CONTROL

5. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal control systems to prevent and detect fraud. We confirm that following our risk assessment, in our opinion, the financial statements are not materially misstated because of fraud.

6. We have disclosed to you all instances of known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements. We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by current or former employees, analysts, regulators, or others.

7. We confirm that the income and expenditure of all branches is accurately shown in the financial statements.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

8. We confirm that assets are included on the balance sheet at no more than their recoverable amounts and that liabilities are included at their expected cost to the Charity.
9. We confirm that the fixed assets including the investment property are recorded in the financial statements at no more than their recoverable amount.
10. We confirm that there are no legacy debtors held at the year end.
11. We confirm that the Charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Charity's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
12. We confirm that we have recorded or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in the notes to the financial statements all guarantees that have been given to third parties.
13. We confirm that we have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

14. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

LEGAL CLAIMS

15. We confirm that all claims in connection with litigation that have been or are expected to be received have been properly accrued for in the financial statements.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

16. We confirm that we are not aware of any irregularities, including fraud, involving management or employees of the Charity; nor are we aware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the Charity's constitution which might prejudice the Charity's going concern status or that might result in the Charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. We further confirm that no allegations of such irregularities, including fraud, or such breaches have come to our notice.

TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

17. We confirm that all transactions with related parties have been disclosed in the financial statements. We have made available to you all relevant information concerning such transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with the requirements of Charity law or accounting standards.

POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

18. We confirm that there have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

GOING CONCERN

19. We believe that the Charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding and or support will be more than adequate for the Charity's needs. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern

need to be made in the financial statements.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

20. We confirm that all grants, donations and other monies, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been properly recorded in the financial statements as restricted funds.

21. We confirm that expenditure from restricted funds during the year is as shown in the financial statements. We further confirm that there have been no breaches of terms or conditions in this application of income.

22. We confirm that legacy income is correctly classified as unrestricted and is complete.

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief that the above representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the above representations to you.

We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that, so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware. Each trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully

Trustee
Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

2025 Accounts Pack - National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society

Final Audit Report 2026-08-11

Created:	2026-08-11
By:	Cheryl Herbertson (Cheryl.Herbertson@bkl.co.uk)
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