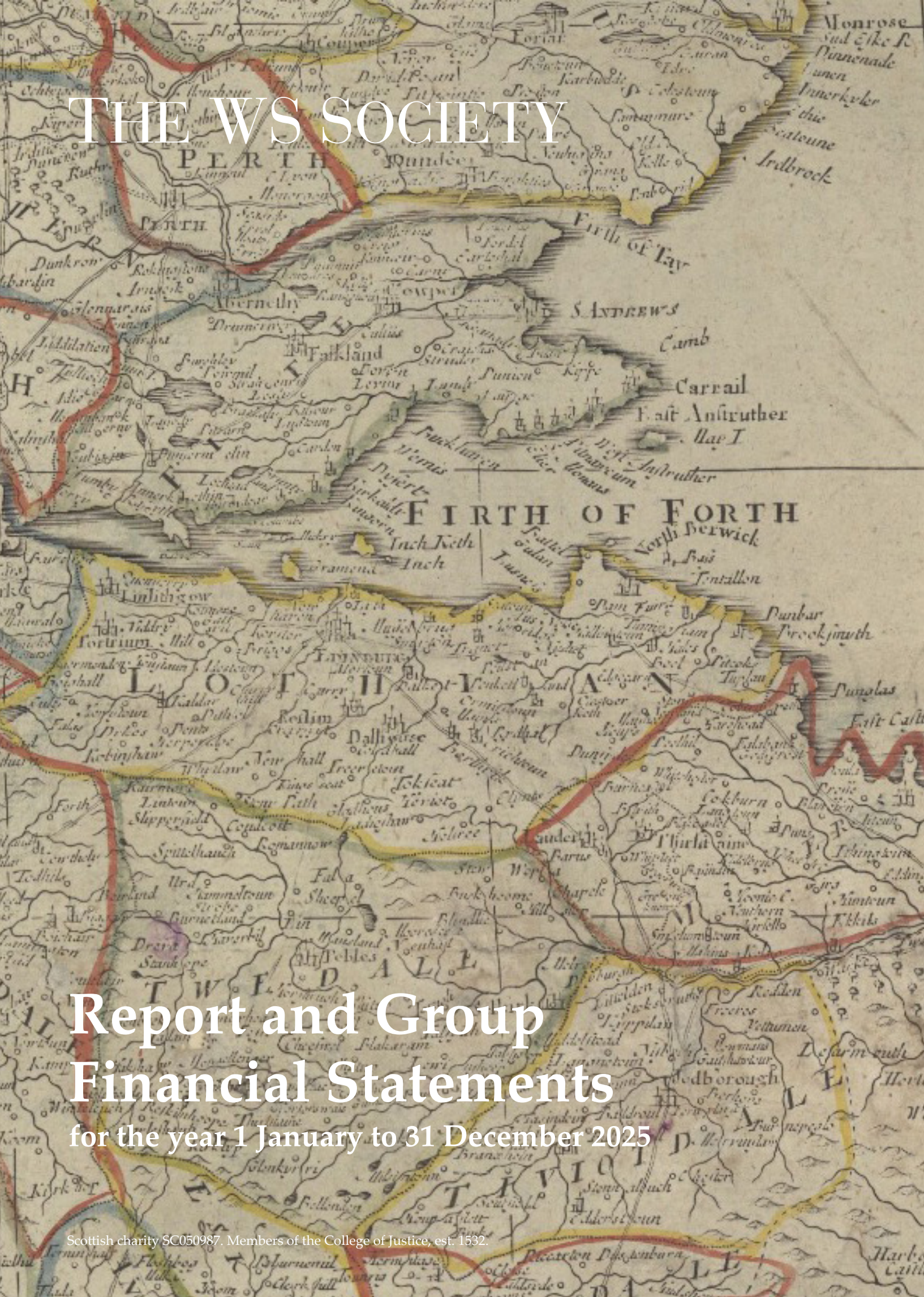




THE WS SOCIETY

Report and Group Financial Statements

for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025



Above: Design of the new Signet seal of His Majesty King Charles III adopted for use in the Court of Session. Prepared by an artist from the College of Arms, London.

Cover image: An extract from Robert Sayer, *A new and exact mapp of Scotland or North Britain described by N. Sanson and translated into English at the expense of Robert Sayer* (London: Laurie & Whittle, 1794). Sayer's map is one of over four hundred of the Signet Library's collection of maps and plans relating to Scotland, dating from the sixteenth century to the mid-twentieth. Non-Scottish maps include over thirty of England and Wales. These maps are all displayed on the website of the National Library of Scotland (www.maps.nls/collections/signet) and are freely downloadable for non-commercial purposes under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share-alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA) licence.

Foreword

Deputy Keeper of the Signet

I am pleased to present the WS Society's Report and Group Financial Statements for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025.

This was my first year as Deputy Keeper of the Signet, a great honour of which I am very proud. I believe passionately in the importance of our Society and its place within the College of Justice. I have no doubt about the benefits to lawyers of all ages of being part of this great institution. A glance through our Trustees' Report shows the impact of our uniquely diverse, fascinating, and above all worthwhile activities..

Our Society must always adapt to contemporary times. A greater proportion of our members these days pay their subscriptions out of their own pockets and not as a firm expense, compared to, say, twenty years ago. This has been a fundamental change. That is just one reason why the signing of a new contract with our partners, Heritage Portfolio Limited, was so important in 2025 because the Society cannot rely on subscriptions alone, vitally important as those remain.

We must diversify sources of income and capital investment. Heritage Portfolio have projected aggregate income to the Society of over £6.4 million over the twelve year term; they will invest £300,000 in the building and £100,000 towards the entrance lift project. We have embarked on fundraising for this project, pencilling in work to take place in January/February 2028. Listed Building Consent for the project is in place.

I look forward to welcoming you at our Annual General Meeting at the Signet Library, 5 pm on 23 June 2026.



Jim Cormack KC WS
Deputy Keeper of the Signet



THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year to 31 December 2025

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY’S SIGNET
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year to 31 December 2025

Contents	Page
Legal and administrative information	2
Report of the Trustees	3 - 20
Report of the independent auditor	20- 23
Group Statement of Financial Activities	24
Charity Statement of Financial Activities	25
Group and Charity Balance Sheets	26
Group and Charity Statement of Cash Flows	27- 28
Notes to the financial statements	29 - 41

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

For the year to 31 December 2025

Keeper of the Signet

The Right Hon. Lady Elish Angiolini LT KC WS

Trustees

Deputy Keeper

Jim Cormack KC WS

Treasurer

Tony Jones KC WS

Fiscal

Jennifer Skeoch WS

Office Bearers

Kim Leslie WS

Robert MacDuff-Duncan WS

Lynn McMahon WS

Clerk

Sarah Booth WS

Chief Executive

Robert Pirrie WS

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Investment Managers

Baillie Gifford & Co

Calton Square

1 Greenside Row

Edinburgh

Auditor

CT Audit Limited

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

61 Dublin Street

Edinburgh

EH3 6NL

Solicitors

Burness Paull

50 Lothian Road

Edinburgh

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

The Society is a charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and these accounts are in the format applicable under the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The Trustees submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Second edition – October 2019) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

KEEPER OF THE SIGNET

As she has done throughout her career, Lady Elish Angiolini LT KC WS continued in 2025 to exemplify the values of public service with her vitally important work on the Angiolini Inquiry, delivering her interim report on 'Prevention of sexually motivated crimes against women in public'. This ranks as one of the most pressing social issues of our times. Lady Angiolini pulled no punches in calling for zero tolerance and early detection of predatory behaviour. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, and all our members, we thank Lady Angiolini for undertaking this most onerous and at times distressing of tasks.

We also thank Lady Angiolini for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend our Diet of Admission and Annual Dinner in November 2025. We were delighted in the summer to host a Reception for Lady Angiolini as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when we invited a broad cross-section of representatives of civil and multi-faith society, many of whom made their first visit to the Signet Library.

DEPUTY KEEPER OF THE SIGNET

Jim Cormack KC WS completed the first year of his appointment as Deputy Keeper of the Signet. While undertaking a global management role with Pinsent Masons, requiring much international travel, Jim nevertheless chaired monthly Trustees' meetings and quarterly Council meetings, presided at two Diets of Admission, attended the annual Justice lecture, joined our Reception for the Lord High Commissioner, and gave a stellar performance as master of ceremonies at his first Annual Dinner as Deputy Keeper. Jim brings equanimity and dry humour to every meeting, and we thank him for his commitment and leadership.

At the 2025 AGM, Jim celebrated some key highlights, including our excellent CPD programme, new online Heritage Portal, development of students and junior lawyers, healthy stream of new members, and high-profile events. Jim echoed his own thoughts on membership by quoting fellow Trustee Jen Skeoch WS:

Being a WS has contributed immeasurably to my development – both in terms of the professional opportunities it has generated and from a personal perspective. I feel really strongly that the WS Society provides a platform for lawyers to engage with each other and share insight in a unique way. We all leave our 'day jobs' at the door and the focus is always on sharing knowledge and experience, helping each other to develop our skills and grow our networks, and honouring the integrity of our profession.

THE SIGNET

The Signet remains the authenticating mark for all Court of Session summonses and, with the creation of a new design for His Majesty The King, the court is to adopt a digital version. Throughout 2025, the Society's Chief Executive supported the offices of the Lord President and Principal Clerk of Session, Scottish Courts Service, Royal Mint, and Registers of Scotland with the commissioning and design of the new Signet. This involved research and advice on the history of the Signet's use in the administration of justice. Finalised in November 2025, the design is shown on the inside cover of these accounts. A physical Signet of the same design is being commissioned for use on ceremonial occasions.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's main objects are:

- a) To promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and education in law for public

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

benefit both within and beyond the legal profession, and to provide public forums for discussion of and information exchange on the law and legal practice.

- b) To promote best practice in the administration of law for public benefit in Scotland and elsewhere, by the provision of law library and research services and by the maintenance in the public interest of high standards of expertise and professional conduct among persons admitted to the Society.
- c) To advance the arts, heritage and culture by the preservation, conservation, curation, display and enhancement of the heritage and heritage assets comprised in the Signet Library, its collections, and contents.
- d) To promote equality and diversity in society, and to advance citizenship and community development, including promotion of civic responsibility, volunteering, and effectiveness in the charity sector.

The Society pursues its objects by:

- i) Delivery of a legal education programme of continuing professional education (CPD) across a broad range of legal subjects and practice areas, open to the legal profession, allied professions and interested parties.
- ii) Provision of law library resources and research support for the legal profession.
- iii) Providing a summer legal scholars programme open to students studying Scots law.
- iv) Providing access and support for academics and researchers to consult the Society's historical collections.
- v) Cataloguing, conservation, curation, display, and selective digitisation of the Society's historical library collections, incorporating volunteer and work experience opportunities.
- vi) Delivering a series of exhibitions and events accessible to the public on a range of legal, cultural, and historical subjects.
- vii) Maintaining the fabric and operational facilities of the Signet Library as a historic building to accommodate and support the Society's purposes and activities.

IMPACT OF ACTIVITIES

Reporting on the impact of the Society's activities is arranged under five headings: **(1) Education, (2) Law Library, (3) Membership, (4) History, heritage, arts, and culture, and (5) Community, citizenship, and charities.**

(1) Education

Central to the Society's impact as a charity are its activities in education and knowledge sharing in law and legal practice.

- By hosting specialist **CPD conferences**, the Society directly advances its charitable purpose of promoting the highest standards of legal education and practice. As a prominent body within the College of Justice, the Society ensures that practitioners remain at the forefront of legal innovation and ethical conduct. These conferences facilitate the sharing of expert knowledge, which ultimately improves the quality of representation for the public.

Over 450 delegates attended the Society's programme of six CPD conferences in the fields of charities and third sector, agriculture, professional negligence, private client, employment and sports. The programme was supported by LGT Wealth Management, Agricultural Law Association, Axiom Advocates, Compass Chambers, Lombardi Associates, Professional

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

Negligence Law Association, Marks & Clerk, and STEP Scotland.

The Society prides itself on the quality of the subjects and speakers at its CPD conferences. Delegate feedback is consistently strong, for example:

It was so wonderful to be invited to speak at the STEP/WS Society Private Client conference at the gorgeous Signet Library. I am so grateful for the very warm welcome I was given by everyone I met. It's always a pleasure to present to an engaged audience and to be part of a panel of distinguished speakers.

Had an excellent and insightful day – my third year attending the conference! All the speakers were very interesting and entertaining. It was an added bonus to have been able to meet and chat with a number of fellow professionals, and being able to put faces to names of people I have only ever had virtual contact with before. Plus, it was in the most beautiful venue in Edinburgh.

Excellent event as always. Speakers were all very informative and kept the audience interested (and entertained). Thank you.

- We welcomed nine bright law students to the Signet Library to participate in the Society's **Summer Scholarship Programme**. The programme is designed for law students to enhance their professional and personal development and offers a unique opportunity to spend two weeks in the Signet Library. Open to third- and fourth-year Scots LLB students, second year accelerated Scots LLB students and Diploma students, the scholars join a team-based research project on a legal issue, working towards an online presentation to external delegates and written report for publication on the Society's website (www.wssociety.co.uk/wsfeatures). With the resources of the Signet Library at their fingertips, WS Scholars have access to the latest materials while at the same time learning about 500 years of legal history.

This year's topics were: (1) an exploration of The Land Reform (Scotland) Bill; (2) an analysis of The Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025; and (3) exploring the legal issues around the Salt Path Scandal and published memoirs generally.

Feedback from students demonstrates the value of their experience at the Society:

I have had the most amazing and insightful two weeks at the WS Society participating in their Summer Scholars Programme. The history behind the Society and its intensive collections are beyond impressive. I thoroughly enjoyed exploring the library and its books. It is not every day you get the opportunity to hold a first edition of Stair from 1681! My inner bookworm was very happy.

Throughout the placement, I learned so much about the history of law and the legal profession, both through my research and through the many engaging conversations I had with legal professionals. I'm especially grateful to have attended several insightful networking events. Most of all, I feel very fortunate to have worked alongside such warm, capable, and supportive fellow Scholars. I gained so much knowledge, confidence, and appreciation for the profession which have provided me with many lessons I will take forward.

Each presentation was highly praised by attendees, which included WS members and wider legal professionals. Networking with WS members is a key element of the student's experience, as one member commented:

In advocating for the incredible work the Society does for our profession, I was delighted to meet a lovely group of current WS Summer Scholars – right in the middle of the Edinburgh Fringe buzz. We talked about career journeys, the space sector (big hit!), and the real life of working in an international firm like Fragomen. I hope our chat inspired them to be bold and brave.

- The Society's **modern outreach programme** is driven by the philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment. Using its world-class collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century works on history, travel, science, and philosophy, the Society engages new and diverse audiences to

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

participate in cross-disciplinary discourse inspired by the 'modern Athens' spirit of Scotland's Enlightenment period.

Included in the Society's annual outreach is participation in **the University of Edinburgh's Insights Programme**. The Insights Programme is specifically for students who come from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds and designed to remove some of the barriers to the professional world which prevent students from fulfilling their full potential. During the summer, the Society hosted ten students for a day in the Signet Library where they were given the opportunity to see the collections and receive mentoring. We see the students as not merely passive observers in a historic building, but active participants in the building's intellectual heritage.

A participant of the programme commented:

Coming from a background where I've sometimes felt like certain opportunities weren't for people like me, I used to doubt whether I had the same chances as others or even knew where to begin. This experience didn't just build skills; it gave me the confidence to believe that I deserve to aim high and take up space.

A US-based WS member also hosted a group of students:

I huge pleasure of spending the morning at Miles & Stockbridge DC office with the US cohort of [The University of Edinburgh] Insight students. What an amazing group. America can learn a lot from them.

- During the year, the Society provided two **Solicitor Traineeships** under flexible training contracts approved by the Law Society of Scotland. Following assignment of her traineeship to the Society in 2024, Diana Stoica qualified in January. Matthew Bruce completed his first year with the Society and started his 12-month secondment with Viallex in September.
- An audience of over 100 attended the annual **Justice Scotland's Annual Human Rights Lecture** at the Signet Library in the year. Following introductory remarks from Jim Cormack KC WS, Almira Delibegović-Broome KC, and Catherine Smith KC, writer and lawyer Philippe Sands KC delivered a fascinating lecture diving into the rule of law, impunity and accountability on the world stage.
- The Society continues to support the University of Edinburgh's School of Law **Mooting Society**. The Society provides accommodation free of charge for the Mooting Society's junior and senior competitive moots. Approximately 25 law students attended.
- Continuing its support for the **Scottish School Mock Court Case Project** (Scottish charity SC043342), the Signet Library hosted 150 school children and teachers for the charity's Awards Ceremony in December. Over 100 Scottish schools participate in the project. The Upper Library is provided to the Mock Court charity free of charge.

(2) Law Library

The Signet Library further fulfils its charitable mission by providing access to a first-class law library, including on-site access to Lexis Nexis and Westlaw, serving as a vital intellectual hub within the College of Justice.

In addition, the Society provides access to its world-class historic collections. By opening its doors to those outside its immediate membership, the Society preserves and promotes Scotland's legal and cultural heritage, supporting academic and other original research. This commitment to accessibility ensures that the library's unique archives, spanning centuries of legal evolution, continue to inform modern scholarship, thereby elevating the educational standards of the next generation of jurists and historians alike.

2025 saw the first externally funded research project undertaken at the Signet Library in the form of

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

the Jean Guild Grant from the Old Edinburgh Club to fund the mapping and conservation of the John Watson Institution Archive, and the beginning of the first collaborative doctorate to involve the Society in a long-term research project involving its own records.

Attendance at the Signet Library for private legal research by Writers to the Signet and other members is encouraged, including for small meetings and workspace (reflecting the change in office practice). 2025 saw a substantial increase in attendance at the library by Student members in particular, but the rich mix of Writers to the Signet, Affiliates, Associates, Retired and Student members has maintained and contributes to the positive and supportive working atmosphere we endeavour to create.

(3) Membership

Membership is the third strand of the Society's core functions as a legal institution and charity; it is an important mechanism in delivering the Society's charitable purposes to educate, enable knowledge sharing, and advance high standards in the legal profession as a public benefit.

Membership of the Society remains a vital catalyst for professional development and instilling institutional values. Joining the Society allows solicitors to step beyond their specific practice areas and align themselves with a 500-year tradition of excellence within the College of Justice. This affiliation provides more than just a prestigious credential; it fosters a unique cross-disciplinary community where seasoned practitioners and early-career lawyers exchange insights that elevate the quality of the entire legal sector.

By supporting the Society's charitable and educational initiatives, members contribute to the wider impact of the profession, ensuring that the Scottish legal system remains intellectually robust, ethically grounded, and publicly respected. Ultimately, a strong, engaged membership ensures that the Signet Library continues to serve as an enduring symbol of the rule of law and a centre for professional advancement for all who practice in Scotland.

The Society's **Diet of Admissions** ceremonies in 2025 were joyful occasions that underscored our commitment to growth and renewal within the legal profession. During the Spring and Autumn Diets, the Society welcomed dozens of new members across various categories. Presided over by the Keeper, Lady Angiolini, these ceremonies provided a formal platform for newly admitted members and their families to engage with the traditions of the College of Justice. By integrating newer generations into its historic framework, the Society fulfils its charitable mission to promote high standards of professional conduct and learning.

The Society continued to host **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** throughout the year. Exclusive to members, the groups are designed to encourage engagement across a wide range of interest, whether in legal practice or areas outside the law. Member-led, these initiatives effectively bridge the gap between technical legal training and broader cultural subjects, ensuring that the Society remains a multifaceted centre of sharing knowledge that benefits both the legal profession and the wider public interest. The Charities & Third Sector SIG opened its meeting to students at Robert Gordon's University (RGU). A WS member and lecturer at RGU commented:

Looking forward to an intergenerational conversation between the WS Charity SIG and my charity law final-year student. This will be a vital roundtable on the life cycle of a charity and a great opportunity for them to engage directly with professionals and gain a real-world perspective.

The Society's **Spotlight** articles serve as a vital tool for advancing its charitable mission of inclusivity and professional excellence. By showcasing members from a diverse range of backgrounds, practice areas, and career stages, these profiles dismantle traditional stereotypes and demonstrate that the WS Society is a modern, accessible home for all legal professionals. Highlighting these varied perspectives not only celebrates the individual achievements of our members but also enriches the collective knowledge of the legal sector. This visibility is essential for inspiring the next generation of lawyers, ensuring that the Society is recognised as a welcoming space where **diversity of thought and experience** is seen as a fundamental strength in upholding the rule of law.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

The Society is deeply committed to nurturing the **next generation of legal talent** by providing student members with direct access to the high calibre of practitioners within its ranks. Through initiatives such as the Student SIG and the annual Speed Networking event, the Society bridges the gap between academic study and professional practice. These forums allow students to engage in meaningful dialogue with senior lawyers and Writers to the Signet, offering them invaluable exposure to diverse career paths. By facilitating these **mentorship-style interactions**, the Society fulfils its charitable mission to advance legal education, ensuring that aspiring solicitors are both inspired and prepared to uphold the prestigious standards of the Scottish legal profession. One student commented:

[The speaker] offered frank and honest discussion to anyone interested in a career in criminal law. He encouraged us to be curious and spontaneous in seeking a traineeship based on his experience as a practicing lawyer. I'm grateful for the Society for making this fantastic event possible.

The Society benefits significantly from the governance of a **large and diverse Council**, currently comprising 21 members in addition to the Trustees, which ensures a broad representation of perspectives from across the legal profession. This robust structure enhances the Society's charitable purposes by drawing on a wide spectrum of expertise – spanning various practice areas, seniority levels, and geographic locations – to inform strategic decision-making. Such a comprehensive Council ensures that the Society's educational initiatives and public interest efforts remain relevant. Furthermore, this depth of leadership allows for more rigorous oversight of the Society's charitable assets and heritage, ensuring that the Signet Library and its resources are managed with the collective wisdom and accountability required to serve the public good effectively.

The Society makes several **charity appointments** each year. A number of the Society's members are appointed to boards and volunteer their time, lending their legal acumen to ensure these vital organisations operate effectively and ethically. Their commitment strengthens the charitable sector, providing a powerful blend of professional insight and civic responsibility to those who need it most. Writers to the Signet are appointed to the following board of trustees:

- Craigrook Mortification (SC001648).
- Fettes Trust (SC051259).
- John Watson's Trust (SC014004).
- Lothian Homes Trust (SC003369).
- Sir Henry Wade's Pilmuir Trust (SC023910).
- The Melville Trust (SC010302).
- The Watt Memorial Trust (SC016856)
- Walker Trust (SC002877).

(4) History, heritage, arts, and culture

These activities are designed to have an impact on people and groups through a range of educational and research visits, talks, lectures, tours and exhibitions. The impact is derived from facilitating access to the Signet Library's collections to advance research and knowledge in history, the arts and culture.

2025 saw the start of the first collaborative doctorate involving the Signet Library's own records, created in conjunction with the universities of Edinburgh and Stirling.

The Annual Online Exhibition was entitled '1890 and All That: Towards a New History of the WS Society' – see below under *Exhibitions*.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

- *Research visits:*
 - Professor Paschalis Kitromilides of the Academy of Athens on the collecting of David Laing.
 - Professor Stephen Brown, Trent University, Canada, on the history of newspapers.
 - David Brown on the career of Henry Dundas.
 - Brandon Clydesdale on the Enlightenment thought and legal career of John Dalrymple, 1st Earl of Stair.
 - Dr Tristram Clarke on the building of Edinburgh's North Bridge.
 - Kinga Kusik on Session Papers and WS Society Sederunt Books.
 - Lauriane Cherki on British convict transportation in the eighteenth century.
 - Dr Malcolm Noble on the 1824 Great Fire of Edinburgh.
 - John Fulton WS on the lives of Georgian women, various.
 - Dr Roxana Banu on the 1876 Judicature Act.
- *A selection of research assistance provided online to remote enquirers:*
 - Meg Worley, Colgate University on the 1684 Art of Short Writing by Tachygraphy.
 - Professor John Sawkins on the Church of Scotland and Quoad Sacra.
 - Michael Malcolm on Sidney Lockhart, Advocate.
 - Donald Howieson on Joseph Howieson, writer.
 - Professor Donald Meek on George Langland's Map of the Inner Hebrides.
 - Jodie Molloy on Alexander Fleming WS.
 - Robin Macgregor on Charles Balfour, writer.
 - Dr Rebecca Cornwell on the MS of James Robertson, naturalist.
 - Felicity McKenzie on John Watson WS.
 - Tristram Clarke on the erstwhile New Register House war memorials.
 - Kelsey Jackson Williams on early editions of works by George Buchanan.
- *Talks, publications, and tours:*
 - **Dr Robert Pirrie WS**, Chief Executive of the Society, delivered two distinct but intellectually linked talks. The first, entitled 'No True Scotsman', focused on the writings of the Victorian historian Thomas Babington Macaulay, Lord Macaulay, presented via Zoom and available to watch by the public on YouTube. The second was given to the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club, centred on Scott's legacy as both a literary and legal figure. The text of which has been published on the Society's website and Dr Pirrie's speech is publicly accessible on YouTube.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

- Dr Pirrie also presented a paper entitled 'Community, Church and King in Scotland, 1746-1830' at a Symposium at King's College London in honour of the late Professor Arthur Burns. This happened to coincide with the Keeper of the Signet, Lady Angiolini, serving as the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the king's personal representative to that historic assemblage. An extended version of Dr Pirrie's paper is to be published in an anthology of essays in honour of Professor Burns.

In May, **Dr Godfrey Evans**, Principal Curator of European Decorative Arts at National Museums Scotland and Trustee of the Virtual Hamilton Palace Trust (**VHPT**), delivered a comprehensive lecture titled "Scotland's Greatest Palace" at the Signet Library to an audience of over 100 people. The talk coincided with the launch of Dr Godfrey's monumental two-volume study, documenting the extraordinary rise and fall of Hamilton Palace as ancestral seat of the Dukes of Hamiltons.

- **Royal Photographic Society** lecture on Victorian photographers Hill and Adamson.
- January lecture series with three speakers: **RPJ Blake WS** (the Grants of Kilgraston), **Dr Chloe Kennedy** (Women in the Law) and **Dr Kit Baston** (*The Bibliotheca Polonica*).
- Article published in *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine October 2025 on John Watson's Institution records.
- **Edinburgh Decorative and Fine Art Society** tour and exhibition.
- Tour for Ukrainian women living in Edinburgh in exile.
- Training tours across the year for **Blue Badge Guides** and the concomitant creation of an overall guide to the Signet Library, its history and collections.
- Tour for **University of Aberdeen Bar Society**.
- **Exhibitions:**
 - The 2025 Annual Online Exhibition was '1890 and All That: Towards a New History of the WS Society'. The annual online exhibition represents a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to heritage and research, revisiting the foundational 1890 *History of the Society of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet* to provide a modernised, more inclusive narrative of our institution's evolution. By showcasing recent conservation, new scholarly research, and the digitisation of rare archival materials – including contributions such as the study of *The Bibliotheca Polonica* (a collection of 140 published Polish works held at the Signet Library) – the exhibition serves as a vital bridge between our historic legacy and a contemporary professional identity. This digital initiative has not only expanded the global reach of the Signet Library's collections but also demonstrates the Trustees' dedication to accessibility and academic excellence, ensuring that the Society's rich history remains accessible and relevant to members and the public alike in the twenty first century.
 - An Exhibition at the Annual Dinner marking the Anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's *The Bride of Lammermoor* and the discovery at the Signet Library of an early manuscript of Viscount Stair's *Institutions of the Law of Scotland*.
 - Visit of Abbotsford team to view our collections on Sir Walter Scott and planning of future exhibition collaborations.
 - Forth Bridge exhibition in the Upper West Library.
 - Hamilton Palace Exhibition to accompany lecture by Professor Godfrey Evans.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

- Exhibition on the early Church of Scotland for event in honour of Lady Angiolini.
- Exhibition on Scots in Seventeenth Century Italy for lawyers visiting from Italy as part of a broader initiative by the Italian Consulate General in Edinburgh to foster good relations between Italy and Scotland, and their respective business communities and legal professions.
- **Conservation and digitisation:** These are vital activities for the Society's charitable purposes of conserving and making accessible its historic collections. Conservation work on books and manuscripts at the Signet Library is undertaken by the Society's volunteer conservator Jo Hockey under the supervision of James Hamilton. James and Jo are also supported by Dr Kit Baston. Important achievements in the year include:
 - The valuation by Bonhams of the Signet Library's art and furniture was the occasion for the remapping and rehousing of the oil paintings in store.
 - The Signet Library's three **William Trotter** sofas were sent for external restoration and reupholstering. The sofas date from the early 1820s and form part of a complete set of pieces acquired to furnish the Upper Library. William Trotter was one of the greatest cabinetmakers in Scottish history. The presence of sofas reflect the tradition of a Scottish lawyers' library as a place for sociability and society as well as learning and study, comparable with the Long Library at Blenheim Palace.

Return of the Signet Library sofas was accompanied by the research undertaken on the sofas by the restorers.

 - A Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe manuscript on Scottish musical history was digitised and distributed to interested scholars.
 - A unique Georgian pamphlet on an early Dundee Scheme for Woollen Manufacture digitised and a digital copy donated rights-free to libraries and archives across Dundee.
 - The Signet Library's various editions and sets of State Trials were catalogued, cleaned and rehoused.
 - The Signet Library's catalogue of Thomas Ruddiman's 1757 sale was digitised.
 - Digital equivalents were created of the WS 1791 Club photograph album and of the Rifle Club photograph album.
 - An 1874 edition of Bishop Ewing's 'Cathedral or Abbey Church of Iona' was imaged as a very early example of the use of Heliotypes in a publication.
 - The Signet Library sets of the 1760s Douglas Cause Papers were catalogued and rehoused.
 - The Signet Library Trials Collection was re-catalogued.
- **Donations & Loans:**
 - Deposit on loan of the WS Society 1790 dining club papers in a deed box.
 - Smith's *Natural History of the Human Species* (Edinburgh 1848).
 - Deposit on loan by the Boswell family of portraits of Robert and Sybella Boswell, in addition to letters, manuscripts and other papers, and a punch bowl and jug belonging to ancestors of James Boswell.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

- The Boorlaw Book of Innerwick donated by R P J Blake WS.
- Letters, papers, books and photographs relating to James Christie (Assistant Librarian 1918-1961, Librarian 1961-1968) donated by his family.
- Penicuik House photographic glass negatives donated by Conservator Jo Hockey.
- Annan album placed with us on long term loan by Calum Ross WS.
- Papers of Melville and Lindsay WS donated by Donald Liddiard.
- Papers of Fyfe Ireland WS donated by Greig Honeyman WS.
- **Collaborations:**
 - Vilde Bentsen – cataloguing of Deputy Keeper of the Signet Sir Charles Logan's Papers.
 - Collaborative PhD with Universities of Stirling and Edinburgh on the nineteenth century cataloguing of the Signet Library.
 - Collaboration with TwentyTwenty TV for the programme 'A House Through Time' with research into John Steele, creator of the Signet Library's Corinthian Columns.
 - Provision to the National Library of Scotland of metadata for the cataloguing of an archive of historic plans of the Signet Library placed on deposit by us at the National Library in the 1970s and now digitised.
 - George Clark in regard to his new History of Morton Fraser.
 - Support for the National Library of Scotland (NLS) in their preparation for marking of NLS centenary.
- **Case Study: Portrait Re-discovery**

The Society's commitment to its charitable and educational heritage was recently exemplified by its successful effort to locate and recover the long-lost portrait of Vans Hathorn WS which started in 2025. As the 'founding hero' of John Watson's Institution, Hathorn was instrumental in transforming a modest legacy into the substantial endowment that established the school for orphans in 1828 (now the site of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art).

After an extensive search, the Society located the 1838 portrait – painted by Sir John Watson Gordon – in the care of Hathorn's descendants. In 2026, the family generously delivered it to the Signet Library on long-term loan. By displaying this significant piece of legal and social history near the grand staircase, the Society not only honours a key figure in the history of the College of Justice but also provides a public visual testament to the legal profession's enduring role in Scottish philanthropy and the education of the vulnerable.

(5) Community, citizenship, and charities

At its core, the Society fosters public trust in the law by promoting the highest standards of integrity and professional excellence among its members. By maintaining the historic Signet Library as a hub for research, education, and cultural exchange, we ensure that legal knowledge remains accessible and respected.

Through our focus on collegiality and mentorship, the Society encourages solicitors to look beyond their individual practices and contribute to the broader community, whether through pro bono

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

initiatives, educational outreach, or by upholding the rule of law as a fundamental civic duty. In doing so, the Society bridges the gap between ancient legal tradition and the modern responsibilities of an active, engaged citizen.

The Society remains an integral participant in the civic and constitutional fabric of Scotland, representing the legal profession at the highest levels of national ceremony. By participating in traditional services and formal installations alongside the senior judiciary and other historic estates, the Society reinforces its position as a cornerstone of the Scottish legal identity. These engagements go beyond mere tradition; they serve as a vital platform for the Society to demonstrate its continued relevance, foster a sense of professional community and ensure that the WS brand remains synonymous with the integrity and history of Scotland's public life.

Citizenship and civic responsibility

– Lord High Commissioner Reception

The Society was delighted to host a formal reception for the Lady Angiolini in her role as the Lord High Commissioner, His Majesty the King's personal representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Held within the atmospheric surroundings of the Signet Library, this event served as a significant civic occasion, bringing together senior figures from the judiciary, the legal profession, academia, and multi-faith representatives.

By collaborating in this traditional gathering, the Society fulfils its charitable mission to preserve Scotland's institutional heritage and maintain the visibility of the Signet Library as a site of national importance. Such events not only honour the long-standing constitutional links between the law, church and the Crown but also provide a unique platform for professional and public leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue, reinforcing the Society's position at the heart of Scottish public life.

– Retirement Reception for Senior Senators

In collaboration with other Scottish solicitor bodies, the Society was honoured to host a prestigious retirement reception for Lord Carloway, the Lord President, and Lady Dorrian, the Lord Justice Clerk, marking their retirement from their distinguished tenures at the head of the Scottish judiciary. As key figures within the College of Justice, their combined leadership has profoundly shaped the modern legal landscape, and the Signet Library provided a fittingly historic backdrop to celebrate their immense contributions to the rule of law.

By facilitating this landmark event, the Society not only fulfilled its charitable role in fostering professional collegiality but also underscored the enduring bonds among the constituent bodies of the College of Justice. The evening served as a powerful tribute to two of the most influential jurists of their generation, ensuring their legacy of service was honoured by their peers and the wider legal community in the heart of the College of Justice.

– Law Society of Scotland Admission Ceremonies

The Law Society of Scotland continues to use the Signet Library for its admission ceremonies. With the WS Society's own long-standing commitment to legal excellence and scholarship, it makes a profoundly fitting location for welcoming the next generation of legal professionals in Scotland. Across the year, the Signet Library hosted five ceremonies. A newly qualified solicitor commented:

Stepping into the Signet Library today felt like walking through the very history of Scots Law. To receive my admission certificate in such a breathtaking, storied setting and surrounded by the colleagues and mentors who supported me through the highs and lows of my traineeship was incredibly moving. It's more than just a piece of paper; it's the culmination of years of hard work and the beginning of a responsibility I'm honoured to take on. I couldn't imagine a more fitting

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

place to officially join the profession.

– WS Representation

The Society was proud to represent the legal profession at the St Andrew's Day service at St Giles' Cathedral — an occasion characterised, as one member noted, by its '*ceremony, tradition, and unmistakable Scottish charm*'.

Throughout the year, our members also maintained a visible presence at key national and legal events, including the installation of the Lord President and Lord Justice Clerk, the Opening of the Legal Year, and the service at St Giles' Cathedral marking the meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

– WS Annual Dinner and WS Fellows

The Annual Dinner 2025 was a landmark event for the Society, celebrated in the neoclassical splendour of the Signet Library and featuring the Right Honourable Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, as the guest speaker.

On this significant evening, Lord Hodge — the son of a Writer to the Signet — was admitted as a Fellow of the Society alongside the retired Lord President, Lord Carloway, marking a profound moment of continuity for the College of Justice.

Lord Hodge's address focused on the dual themes of change and continuity in the age of AI and populism. Guests described the evening as a '*top evening*', with one attendee praising the event as a '*lovely evening in a setting of effortless grandeur*'.

– Choir of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

The Signet Library's **Annual Carol Concert** stands as a highlight of the Society's seasonal calendar. Featuring the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral (SC014741), whose choristers include children aged 9 -14 years in its choir school and held within the stunning neoclassical surroundings of the Upper Library, the event brings together members, their families, and the wider public to celebrate Scotland's musical and legal traditions.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

During the year, the Society utilised its social media platforms and digital communication channels to further its charitable purpose of disseminating legal knowledge and promoting professional excellence.

By maintaining an active and engaging presence on platforms such as LinkedIn and Instagram, we expanded the reach of our educational programming beyond our immediate membership to the wider legal community and the public. These channels have served as vital tools for highlighting key developments in Scots law, promoting our CPD conferences, and showcasing our ongoing contributions to the rule of law.

Our digital outreach has been instrumental in raising awareness of the Signet Library's historic collections and architectural heritage, ensuring that our resources remain accessible to students, researchers, and the public, thereby fostering a broader appreciation for Scotland's legal and cultural history.

As our monthly editorial voice, the **Signet Post** e-bulletin has been essential in delivering updates on the Society's activities to a global audience of practitioners and scholars. Complemented by our social media outreach and annual *Signet magazine*.

The Society's commitment to justice and the rule of law was central to its digital outreach this year, particularly in its promotion of the **Angiolini Inquiry: Part 2 First Report**. Through the Signet Post and supporting social media channels, the Society highlighted the critical findings of Lady Angiolini regarding

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

the safety of women and girls in public spaces. By using our platform to disseminate these sobering findings and providing direct access to the full report and press video, the Society fulfilled its charitable mandate to engage the legal community and the public with matters of urgent national importance. This effort reinforces the Society's role in addressing systemic societal issues and our dedication to professional ethics and the protection of the vulnerable.

SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The Society is committed to a governance framework that balances its 500-year heritage with the requirements of a modern, transparent, and socially responsible charity.

To ensure the highest standards of professional integrity, we maintain a robust **Code of Conduct** and a transparent **Complaints Procedure**, overseen by the Society's Fiscal.

Our social responsibility is reflected in our status as a **Living Wage Employer**, ensuring fair compensation for all staff and reflecting our values as a modern employer. We have prioritised the **long-term viability** of our charitable missions by actively involving **early career colleagues** in our governance, fostering a pipeline of diverse leadership for the future.

A small but significant change to improve our environmental stewardship has been moving to a **digital first distribution model** with our conference programme delivery and member communications.

Alongside our dedicated executive team, the Society's success is underpinned by its dedicated **network of volunteers**, whose contribution is vital to the sustainability of our charitable mission. Beyond the 21 elected members of Council who provide strategic governance, dozens of additional members volunteer their time as Trustees, committee members, and leaders of our Special Interest Groups. These roles range from the rigorous oversight provided by the Treasurer and Fiscal to the creative curation of the Art, History, and Book Club SIGs. By involving volunteers from across all membership tiers, the Society ensures a diverse and multigenerational approach to leadership.

Our volunteer expertise keeps the Society's overheads sustainable and fosters a deep sense of ownership and collegiality within the Society, ensuring we remain a member-led institution that is both professionally relevant and culturally vibrant.

SIGNET LIBRARY BUILDING

Boilers

In early October, the gas-fired boilers for the building were replaced, the old ones having reached the point of permanent breakdown and parts obsolescence. The capital cost was £34,476 ex VAT shared 50/50 between the Society and Heritage Portfolio Limited (**HPL**).

Fire alarm

Throughout 2025, supplier ADT carried out surveys and prepared specifications and planning for the upgrade of the fire alarm system, with the installation of wireless detectors and a new control panel, all conforming with the requirements of the Society's building insurers, Ecclesiastical. That work has now been completed at a capital cost of £60,156.60 ex VAT, again shared 50/50 with HPL.

Cupola fresco

The cupola fresco in the Upper Library has suffered from an outbreak of flaking, a longstanding problem thought to originate in water ingress in the distant past. There is no evidence whatsoever of any current water ingress. Conservators have inspected the problem at close quarters, using a mobile scaffolding tower, applying a temporary fix with Japanese paper to prevent further deterioration. A full restoration which will take seven weeks to complete has been scheduled for January/February 2027, when the building is quiet because the Upper Library will not be useable due to the fixed scaffolding platform spanning the cupola space. The cost will be £21,820 and the Society is in discussion with a private charitable trust

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

interested in funding the project.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These are group accounts in the required statutory form and cover both the Society's activities as a charity, and trading activity conducted through the Society's subsidiary company, SignetCo Limited (SCL).

Scottish Solicitors Staff Pension Fund (SSSPF)

As reported in last year's report and accounts, early in 2025 the opportunity arose to buy out the Society's interest as an employer contributor to the SSSPF. We completed the transaction on 7 April 2025 and our discharge from the fund has been duly documented. As this was a one-off, exceptional transaction the cost of £83,750, which includes an actuarial fee for review of the redemption calculation, appears in the accounts as an extraordinary item. To finance the cost, the Society realised £100,000 from its investment portfolio.

Operating outcome

Overall, the consolidated result for the year was a deficit of £27,768 before the SSSPF extraordinary item. In recognition of our target to achieve break-even, as we did last year, in the course of 2025 we took steps to reduce expenditure. When added to the saving on annual SSSPF contributions, this means going forward next year there will be savings of circa £104,500.

Trading activity

SCL had an excellent year with turnover of £687,718 (74% from venue hire and hospitality commission, 26% governance and charity administration services) (2024, £726,440). SCL pays rent and a proportion of overheads and salaries to the Society and SCL's net profit of £82,555 is covenanted as gift aid to the Society.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In early 2026 the Society became aware that it had been a victim of a sophisticated embezzlement due to being let down by a third party supplier, despite the strong financial control environment being put in place by Trustees. The police and OSCR were notified and the sums involved have now been recovered. Action has been taken so that such a fraud cannot occur in future.

On behalf of the Society, thanks are due to the Deputy Keeper and fellow Trustees for their prompt and supportive action, and to the Society's Chief Executive and Principal Solicitor for all their work to ascertain and recover the loss, during an extremely stressful and unpleasant episode for everyone involved.

The Trustees have a risk management policy which comprises:

- Reviewing and updating the Society's Risk Register annually, taking mitigating actions, as necessary. The Risk Register sets out twelve strategic and operational risks, assigning a risk score before and after mitigating actions.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) designed to address identified risks.
- Procedures to minimise any potential risk should that risk materialise.
- In line with our commitment to safeguard our digital assets and protect the sensitive data we hold, the executive began the formal process of achieving accreditation under the UK Government's **Cyber Essentials** scheme this year. This strategic undertaking ensures that our IT infrastructure is defended against the most common cyber threats through five key technical controls. We anticipate the final audit and certification will be completed in 2026.

The main risks identified during the period involve the following:

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

- The risk of repeat pandemic-related conditions adversely impacting hospitality income. To mitigate the risk, SCL has the benefit of a minimum income guarantee from its venue hire and hospitality supplier.
- In common with historical buildings everywhere, there is the risk of unforeseen repair work arising to the fabric of the Signet Library. To mitigate the risk, the executive personnel inspect the building regularly for movement and cracking. In the longer term, under the Society's New Enlightenment strategy, a major fundraising strategy is to be pursued to finance a capital project to repair and conserve the external fabric of the building, install lifts, and improve accessibility.
- With a such a small executive team as the Society's, there is always the risk of losing key personnel through resignation or illness.
- The risk of third-party dishonesty and fraud. By engaging HL as noted above, the Society is assured of greater internal safeguards, through the separation of functions and explicit protocols, within the outsourced finance administration services provided by that firm.

RESERVES POLICY

At 31 December 2025, the total reserves of the Society (charity and group) were £3,229,243 (2024: £3,318,699) of which 76,479 (2024: £86,479) were restricted and 1,453,411 (2024: £1,433,926) were held in fixed assets or fixed asset investments; leaving free reserves of £1,699,353 (2024: £1,798,294). The trustees consider that reserves at this level are required in order to provide for the needs of maintaining and developing a sustainable operation of the Society and in maintaining its heritage assets, comprised of the Signet Library building and its library collections.

Investment policy: The Trustees pursue a policy intended to achieve a balance between income return and capital appreciation and take a cautious approach to risk. The policy aims to produce the best financial return within this risk level, whilst at the same time growing the real value of the assets over time. The investment objective is to generate a return ahead of inflation over the medium term, after expenses. This is designed to assist the Society in principle to maintain the real value of assets, although the current rate of inflation may make this more difficult.

Portfolio management: Baillie Gifford continue as the Society's investment fund managers and support the Trustees with monthly and quarterly reporting. The portfolio is invested in two Baillie Gifford funds, the Global Income Growth Fund and the Multi Asset Income Fund. The Global Income Growth strategy invests in companies which can deliver both a dependable income stream and real growth in income and capital. The Multi Asset Income Fund aims to produce monthly income, whilst seeking to maintain the value of that income and of capital in line with inflation (UK CPI) over five-year periods.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

FUND MANAGEMENT

At 31 December 2025 the value of the investment portfolio stood at £1,693,334 (2024; £1,771,272). Income generation over the period was £53,894 (2024; £55,049).

Baillie Gifford's focus continues to be to identify companies and other assets that can provide a robust and growing income over the longer term.

Ethical considerations: The Trustees are aware of the duties, in line with Section 4.2 of *OSCR Charity Investments: Guidance and Good Practice*, to act with care and diligence to ensure the assets invested align with the charitable objectives of the organisation. Specifically, Baillie Gifford considers environmental, social and governance issues when investing. Companies and assets (such as bonds, infrastructure projects, and property investments) are more likely to be successful over time if such factors are considered as part.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

New contract with Heritage Portfolio Limited (HPL)

A central feature of the Society's strategy is a new contract between SCL and HPL which was negotiated over 2025 and signed on 13 November 2025. The key features are:

- Commencement was backdated to 1 January 2025, resulting in a balancing payment of additional revenue to SCL of £45,487.83 under the new contract compared to the previous one. The contract runs until 31 December 2036.
- HPL project that under the new contract aggregate income to SCL over the 12-year term will amount to £6,424,907.
- HPL will invest £300,000 in improvements to the facilities at the Signet Library, including 50% of the cost of replacing the entire fire detector and alarm system for the whole building, bringing the system up to current standards and with the flexibility of wireless multi-sensor detectors.
- HPL will contribute £100,000 towards the cost of the project to install a lift between the main entrance lobby and the first-floor landing outside the upper library. This is the project for which the Society has a design solution which has been through the listed building approval process and is part of the Society's New Enlightenment strategy.
- HPL will cater for all WS Society events (e.g., Annual Dinner and CPD conferences) at cost (the estimated value to the Society of £25,000 per annum) and this arrangement will extend to the Society's member Dining Clubs.

With this new contract and associated income projections, the Trustees and Chief Executive are now updating the Society's New Enlightenment Business Plan, the existing plan having been superseded by the Covid pandemic, changes in market conditions, and the new contract with HPL. The New Enlightenment vision remains the long-term strategy for the Society and the Signet Library, with the lift project now envisaged as a standalone priority.

Entrance lift project

The Society has commenced fundraising for the lift project, with the installation planned provisionally for January/February 2028. With the retiral from practice of the Society's architect, Simon Laird, the Society has appointed the architectural practice Simpson & Brown to take the project forward, using the design and specification work undertaken by Simon Laird, subject to any necessary technical and regulatory updates. An application for renewal of the listed building consent is currently with the City of Edinburgh Council.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Society is an incorporated body, a corporation under Scots common law, and registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator under charity number SC050987. The earliest known written constitution of the Society was in 1594, but there are earlier records of Writers to the Signet as a collective body. Writers to the Signet form a constituent body of Scotland's College of Justice (est. 1532).

The Society's affairs are governed by its Regulations of Association, the latest version of which the Society adopted in general meeting on 10 November 2020.

Under the Regulations, the governance and management of the Society is vested in its Trustees, namely, the Deputy Keeper of the Signet, Treasurer, Fiscal, two Office Bearers and the Clerk (the **Trustees**). This group comprises the Society's statutory charity Trustees. The current Trustees are listed on page 2. Under the Society's Regulations, Trustees must be Writers to the Signet and selection of candidates is based on achieving a balance of experience in both legal practice and charity governance. Trustees do not receive any remuneration.

As permitted by the Regulations, the Trustees have established a Finance Committee comprising the Deputy Keeper of the Signet, Treasurer, Chief Executive and a suitably qualified independent appointment, Janet Stevenson FCA.

The Trustees delegate day-to-day management of the Society's activities to its Chief Executive, who also serves as the Society's senior in-house lawyer. The Trustees meet with the Chief Executive monthly (subject to holiday periods and occasional diary clashes).

A Council comprising the Trustees and 21 other Writers to the Signet forms a consultative body of members of the Society, each Council member serving for three years, with seven members retiring and being replaced each year at the Society's annual general meeting. Council meets three times each year when the Trustees report on the Society's affairs and consult on their decision-making. Council members do not receive any remuneration.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

Pay and remuneration of these individuals is set and reviewed by the Finance Committee by reference to market rates in legal practice for positions of equivalent seniority and considering the broad range of responsibilities, skills and competencies undertaken in the roles. Total salaries and key management personnel costs are summarised at note 8 of the accounts (p. 31).

TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The law applicable to charities in 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 the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)**

For the year to 31 December 2025

at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the charity's constitution. 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.

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

This concludes the Trustees' Report.

Approved by the Trustees on 2 June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Tony Jones
.....
Tony Jones KC WS
Treasurer and Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet (the 'parent charity') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year to 31 December 2025 which comprise the Group and Charity Statement of Financial Activities, the Group and Charity Balance Sheets, the Group and Charity Statement of Cash Flows, and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024, and of the group's and the parent charity's incoming resources and application of resources including the group's and parent charity's income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 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 group and parent 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 trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET

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 (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 Report of the Trustees; or
- 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 trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the accounts, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of the Chief Executive and the trustees on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- review of minutes of Trustee Meetings throughout the period; and
- obtaining an understanding of the control established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO
THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET**

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the 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.

CT Audit

CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh EH3 6NL

Date: 02 June 2026

CT Audit Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

For the year to 31 December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total Restated £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
Donations and sponsorship	2	8,990	3,217	12,207	7,958
Charitable activities					
Education and professionalism	3	161,293	-	161,293	155,648
Heritage	3	27,095	-	27,095	25,518
Community	3	20,264	-	20,264	21,178
Other trading activities					
Trading subsidiary income		687,724	-	687,724	726,440
Fundraising income		24,780	-	24,780	40,680
Investment income	4	53,894	-	53,894	55,049
Total income		984,040	3,217	987,257	1,032,471
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	510,730	-	510,730	499,069
Charitable activities	6	501,118	3,177	504,295	517,206
S75 debt on withdrawal from Pension Scheme		83,750	-	83,750	-
Total expenditure		1,095,598	3,177	1,098,775	1,016,275
Net (expenditure)/income before investment (losses)/gains		(111,558)	40	(111,518)	16,196
Net gains/(losses) on investments					
Realised gain on investment	10	336	-	336	(1,035)
Unrealised gain on investments	10	21,726	-	21,726	20,980
Net (expenditure)/income		(89,496)	40	(89,456)	36,141
Transfers between funds	14	10,040	(10,040)	-	-
		(79,456)	(10,000)	(89,456)	36,141
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	1,382,700
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		-	-	-	(24,000)
Net movement in funds		(79,456)	(10,000)	(89,456)	1,394,841
Fund balances at 1 January 2025	14	3,232,220	86,479	3,318,699	1,923,858
Fund balances at 31 December 2025	14	3,152,764	76,479	3,229,243	3,318,699

The net expenditure excluding the s75 debt on withdrawal from the pension scheme expense was £5,706 (net income £36,141)

The notes on pages 29 to 41 form part of these financial statements

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

For the year to 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	Notes	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	Restated
					£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
Donations and sponsorship	2	8,990	3,217	12,207	7,958
Donation under Gift Aid from SignetCo Limited		82,555	-	82,555	151,237
Charitable activities					
Education and professionalism	3	161,293	-	161,293	155,648
Heritage	3	27,095	-	27,095	25,518
Community	3	20,264	-	20,264	21,178
Other trading activities					
Fundraising events		24,780	-	24,780	40,680
Investment income	4	189,374	-	189,374	190,529
Total income		514,351	3,217	517,568	592,748
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	41,041	-	41,041	59,346
Charitable activities	6	501,118	3,177	504,295	517,206
S75 debt on withdrawal from Pension Scheme		83,750	-	83,750	-
Total expenditure		625,909	3,177	629,086	576,552
Net (loss)/income before investment gains/losses		(111,558)	40	(111,518)	16,196
Net (losses)/gains on investments					
Realised (loss)/gain on investments	10	(631)	-	(631)	(1,035)
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments	10	22,693	-	22,693	20,980
Net (expenditure)/income		(89,496)	40	(89,456)	36,141
Transfers between funds	14	10,040	(10,040)	-	-
		(79,456)	(10,000)	(89,456)	36,141
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	1,382,700
Actuarial gains/ (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		-	-	-	(24,000)
Net movement in funds		(79,456)	(10,000)	(89,456)	1,394,841
Fund balances at 1 January 2024	14	3,232,220	86,479	3,318,699	1,923,858
Fund balances at 31 December 2024	14	3,152,764	76,479	3,229,243	3,318,699

The net expenditure excluding the s75 debt on withdrawal from the pension scheme expense was £5,706 (net income £36,141)

The notes on pages 29 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
GROUP AND CHARITY STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS (Continued)**

For the year to 31 December 2025

	Notes	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 Restated £	Charity 2024 Restated £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	70,711	70,711	51,226	51,226
Heritage assets	9	1,382,700	1,382,700	1,382,700	1,382,700
Investments - listed	10	1,698,509	1,698,509	1,776,447	1,776,447
Investments - unlisted	10	-	100	-	100
		3,151,920	3,152,020	3,210,373	3,210,473
Current assets					
Stock		1,344	1,344	1,301	1,301
Debtors	11	390,605	387,190	207,342	246,822
Cash at bank and in hand		95,983	89,008	146,379	111,745
		487,932	477,542	355,022	359,868
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(410,609)	(400,319)	(238,487)	(243,433)
Net current assets		77,323	77,223	116,535	116,435
Total assets less current liabilities		3,229,243	3,229,243	3,326,908	3,326,908
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	-	-	(8,209)	(8,209)
Net assets excluding pension liabilities		3,229,243	3,229,243	3,318,699	3,318,699
Defined benefit pension scheme liability		-	-	-	-
Total Assets		3,229,243	3,229,243	3,318,699	3,318,699
Funds of the Association					
Unrestricted Funds		3,152,764	3,152,764	3,232,220	3,232,220
Restricted Funds	14	76,479	76,479	86,479	86,479
	15	3,229,243	3,229,243	3,318,699	3,318,699

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2 June 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:

Tony Jones

Trustee – Tony Jones KC WS

Charity No. SC0050987

The notes on pages 29 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
GROUP AND CHARITY STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS**

For the year to 31 December 2025

	Notes	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Net cash generated by/(used in) operating activities	16	(207,798)	(315,619)	45,175	(78,705)
Cash flows from investing activities					
Investment income		53,894	189,374	55,049	190,529
Purchase of fixed assets		(31,877)	(31,877)	(5,882)	(5,882)
Proceeds from sale of investments		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Net cash provided by investing activities		122,017	257,497	149,167	284,647
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of borrowings		(10,313)	(10,313)	(10,313)	(10,054)
Net cash used in financing activities		(10,313)	(10,313)	(10,313)	(10,054)
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(96,094)	(68,435)	184,288	195,888
 Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		151,554	116,920	(32,734)	(78,968)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		55,460	48,485	151,554	116,920
 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents					
Cash within investment portfolio		5,175	5,175	5,175	5,175
Cash at bank – current account		95,983	89,008	146,379	111,745
Bank overdraft		(45,698)	(45,698)	-	-
		55,460	48,485	151,554	116,920
 Group					
		At 31 December 2024	Cash Flows	Non Cash Changes	At 31 December 2025
Analysis of changes in net cash/(debt)					
Cash held within investments		5,175	-	-	5,175
Cash		146,379	(50,396)	-	95,983
Bank overdraft		-	(45,698)	-	(45,698)
		151,554	(96,094)	-	55,460
 Loans due within one year		(10,000)	10,313	(8,209)	(7,896)
Loans due after one year		(8,209)	-	8,209	-
		(18,209)	10,313	-	(7,896)
Total net cash/(debt)		133,345	(85,781)	-	47,564

**THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
GROUP AND CHARITY STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS (Continued)**

For the year to 31 December 2025

Charity	At 31 December 2024	Cash Flows	Non Cash Changes	At 31 December 2025
Analysis of changes in net cash/(debt)				
Cash held within investments	5,175	-	-	5,175
Cash	111,745	(22,737)	-	89,008
Bank overdraft	-	(45,698)	-	(45,698)
	116,920	(68,435)	-	48,485
Loans due within one year	(10,000)	10,313	(8,209)	(7,896)
Loans due after one year	(8,209)	-	8,209	-
	(18,209)	10,313	-	(7,896)
Total net cash/(debt)	98,711	(58,122)	-	40,589

The notes on pages 29 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year to 31 December 2025

1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet is a public benefit corporation under the common law of Scotland. It meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in £ Sterling which is the functional currency of the charitable group rounded to the nearest £.

Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate those of the Society and its wholly owned subsidiary undertaking SignetCo Limited, whose year end is 31 December 2025. The results of the sole subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements.

Significant judgements and estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. As 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. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 9 for carrying amounts of tangible assets.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the Society is entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income relating to training, education, course, and events is recognised in full when the event or training has taken place.

Grants from government and other organisations are included as income from charitable activities when it is probable that they will be received.

Member subscriptions are classified as income from charitable activities.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

1. Principal accounting policies (cont.)

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Society to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. Expenditure is shown net of recoverable VAT.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and legal fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Costs of raising funds

The costs of raising funds consist of investment management costs.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities include governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 6.

Charitable activities costs are those expended on meeting the charity's objectives. Governance costs are those of a constitutional, strategic, or statutory nature with respect to the general running of the charity, rather than day to day management. Costs directly attributable to Charitable activities are allocated to the appropriate activity. Support costs which cannot be directly attributed to an activity are allocated on the basis of an estimate of the time or resource expended on each activity. Resources expended are recognised on an accruals basis when a legal or constructive obligation to pay arises and are shown under the appropriate category.

Fixed assets

Items of capital expenditure may be capitalised at the discretion of the Trustees. All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost and depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office equipment	- 25% straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 8%-10% straight line

Heritage assets

The Society owns land and buildings at Parliament Square. In addition, the Library retains a sizeable collection of books, paintings and artefacts. A premium market valuation was undertaken by Bonhams 1793 Limited on 08 January 2025.

Further information is provided in note 9.

Investments

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based upon selling price lists less all further selling costs.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

1. Principal accounting policies (cont.)

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Pensions

The Society is a member of a defined benefit, multi-employer scheme for some employees and accounts for the pension scheme as a defined contribution scheme and recognises contributions to the pension scheme as they fall due. All employees, not in the defined benefit scheme, are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme and contributions are recognised for this scheme as they fall due. The defined contribution scheme for current employees is separate from the Society's membership of the Scottish Solicitors' Staff Pension Fund (SSSPF) which relates exclusively to former employees. SSSPF contributions appear under support costs in note 6.

Remeasurements changes comprise actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on the net defined benefit liability excluding amounts included in net interest. There are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses in the period in which they occur and are not reclassified to income/expenditure in subsequent periods.

The net defined benefit pension liability on the balance sheet comprises the total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation (using a discount rates based on high quality corporate bonds) less the fair value of the scheme assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly. Fair value is based on the market price information, and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. The value of a net pension asset is limited to the value that may be recovered either through reduced contributions or agreed refunds from the scheme.

Having reviewed the rules of the Scheme the Society has no entitlement to any surpluses in the scheme and as such no recognition of the surplus within the scheme has been recognised.

Financial instruments

The Society only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Funds

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds may include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the Corporation Tax Act 2010. Accordingly, there is no corporation tax charge in these financial statements.

Deed of Covenant

The Charity is party to a Deed of Covenant which states the Trading Company agrees and covenants to pay a qualifying charitable donation to the Charity which is equal to the lower of the Trading Company's taxable and distributable profits for the tax year. The Charity has accounted for and recognised the charitable donation under the Deed of Covenant in accordance with the relevant accounting standards for the tax year the donation has arisen.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2025	2024
Group and charity	£	£
Sponsorship income	8,640	5,500
Other charity donations	3,567	2,458
	<u>12,207</u>	<u>7,958</u>

Total income from donations and legacies amounted to £12,207 (2024: £7,958) of which £8,990 (2024: 6,017) was attributable to unrestricted funds and £3,217 (2024: £1,941) was attributable to restricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities

Group and charity	Education & Professionalism	Heritage	Charity & Community	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	120,496	20,083	20,083	160,662	168,072
Admissions	1,088	181	181	1,450	1,351
	<u>121,584</u>	<u>20,264</u>	<u>20,264</u>	<u>162,112</u>	<u>169,423</u>
Continuing Professional Development income	16,380	-	-	16,380	27,193
Joint venture event income	23,130	-	-	23,130	483
Library fees	199	-	-	199	905
Heritage event income	-	6,831	-	6,831	4,340
	<u>161,293</u>	<u>27,095</u>	<u>20,264</u>	<u>208,652</u>	<u>202,344</u>

Membership related income is allocated to charitable activities based on the Trustee's assessment of application of those funds by the charity.

Income from charitable activities is wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both 2025 and 2024.

4. Income from investments

	Group 2025	Charity 2025	Group 2024	Charity 2024
	£	£	£	£
Rental income – SignetCo Limited	-	135,480	-	135,480
Income from shares and securities	52,258	52,258	53,413	53,413
Interest receivable	1,636	1,636	1,636	1,636
	<u>53,894</u>	<u>189,374</u>	<u>55,049</u>	<u>190,529</u>

Investment income is wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both 2025 and 2024.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY’S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

5. Expenditure on raising funds

	Group 2025 £	Charity 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Charity 2024 £
Fundraising costs	35,522	35,522	53,507	53,507
Investment manager fees	5,519	5,519	5,839	5,839
Trading subsidiary expenditure	469,689	-	439,723	-
	510,730	41,041	499,069	59,346

Cost of raising funds is wholly attributable to unrestricted funds in both 2025 and 2024.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

6. Expenditure on Charitable activities

Group and charity	Education & Professionalism	Heritage	Charity & Community	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs					
Salary costs	156,421	58,941	11,335	226,697	213,232
Training	6,265	-	-	6,265	8,134
Library resources	84,550	-	-	84,550	92,256
Heritage events	-	746	-	746	1,316
Heritage library conservation	-	418	-	418	-
Charity and community events	12,702	-	12,267	24,969	4,959
Total direct costs	259,938	60,105	23,602	343,638	319,897
Support costs					
Rates	3,061	612	612	4,285	7,474
Insurance	10,711	1,785	1,785	14,281	12,949
Heat and light	12,425	2,071	2,071	16,567	19,642
Repairs and maintenance	8,270	1,378	1,378	11,026	12,458
Stationery and postage	1,042	521	260	1,823	1,353
Printing and photographs	1,007	504	252	1,763	1,310
Computer supplies	6,400	1,829	914	9,143	12,688
Telephone	2,323	664	332	3,319	2,344
Professional and consultancy	3,701	-	-	3,701	1,420
Accountancy fees	48,924	-	-	48,924	48,944
Marketing and PR costs	(957)	-	(68)	(1,025)	2,980
SSSPF pension costs	-	-	-	-	16,176
Training	1,416	-	-	1,416	2,484
Cleaning	9,569	1,196	1,196	11,961	14,083
Refreshments	347	-	-	347	(122)
Travel and entertainment	1,807	-	-	1,807	1,468
Miscellaneous	228	-	-	228	194
Bad debts	(4,467)	-	-	(4,467)	7,511
Depreciation	12,394	-	-	12,394	14,237
Bank charges	9,274	1,599	1,599	12,472	8,816
Governance costs – Audit fees	10,685	-	-	10,685	8,900
	138,160	12,159	10,331	160,650	197,309
Total	398,098	72,264	33,933	504,295	517,206
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	398,098	71,846	31,174	501,118	512,247
Restricted funds	-	418	2,759	3,177	4,959
	398,098	72,264	33,933	504,295	517,206

Charitable activities related expenditure is allocated to charitable activities based on the Trustee's assessment of application of those costs by the charity.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

7. Analysis of staff costs and key management personnel remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	441,262	427,339
Social security costs	45,501	46,375
Employer pension costs	19,981	20,182
SSSPF pension contributions	79,500	59,176
Other staff costs	1,041	1,238
	<u>587,285</u>	<u>554,310</u>
Less: recharged to SignetCo Limited	(269,895)	(255,535)
	<u><u>317,390</u></u>	<u><u>298,775</u></u>

The average number of employees during the period was 11 (2024;11)

One employee received employment benefits of between £170,000 and £180,000 (2024; one employee between £170,000 and £180,000) during the period. None (2024; none) of the Trustees were remunerated for their duties as Trustees during the period.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity during the period, including employers' national insurance, were £211,005 (2024: £208,002)

8. Tangible assets

Group and charity	Assets in Construction	Furniture & Fittings	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2025	-	66,895	1,173	25,795	93,863
Additions	1,500	26,753	-	3,624	31,877
At 31 December 2025	<u>1,500</u>	<u>93,647</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>29,419</u>	<u>125,740</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	-	23,936	1,173	17,528	42,637
Charge for period	-	6,937	-	5,454	12,392
At 31 December 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>30,873</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>22,982</u>	<u>55,029</u>
Net book value					
At 31 December 2025	<u><u>1,500</u></u>	<u><u>62,744</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>6,437</u></u>	<u><u>70,711</u></u>
At 31 December 2024	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>42,959</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>8,267</u></u>	<u><u>51,226</u></u>

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

9. Heritage assets

Group and charity	Furniture	Sculpture and Works of Art	Silver Art	Fine Art	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2025	787,900	48,000	196,000	350,800	1,382,700
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for period	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	-	-	-	-	-
Net book value					
At 31 December 2025	787,900	48,000	196,000	350,800	1,382,700
At 31 December 2024	787,900	48,000	196,000	350,800	1,382,700

The Society owns land and buildings at Parliament Square. In addition, the Library retains a sizeable collection of books, paintings and artefacts. A premium market valuation was undertaken by Bonhams 1793 Limited on 8 January 2025.

10. Investments

Group and charity

	2025	2024
	£	£
Listed investments - Market Value		
At 1 January 2025	1,771,272	1,851,327
Disposals (proceeds)	(100,000)	(100,000)
Realised gain/(loss) on disposal	(631)	(1,035)
Unrealised gains	22,693	20,980
Closing market value at 31 December 2025	1,693,334	1,771,272
Investment cash balance	5,175	5,175
Total investments at value at 31 December 2025	1,698,509	1,776,447
Cost at 31 December 2025	1,081,518	1,081,518

Investments which exceeded 5% of the total portfolio valuation at the year end are as follows:

Baillie Gifford Global Income Growth Fund C Income Ordinary	1,004,574	1,055,113
Baillie Gifford Multi Asset Growth Fund C Income Ordinary	688,760	716,159

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

10. Investments

Charity only

Unlisted investments	2025	2024
	£	£
SignetCo Limited, ordinary £1 shares	100	100

The charity owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of SignetCo Limited, a company registered in Scotland (SC699743). The company's principal activity is the administration and organisation of special events and catering at the charity's premises. During the year, the Society received from SignetCo Limited £82,555 (2024: £151,237) from SignetCo Limited.

The results of SignetCo Limited for the year to 31 December 2025 were as follows;

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover	687,724	726,440
Expenditure	(605,169)	(575,202)
	82,555	151,237
Distribution under Gift Aid	(82,555)	(151,237)
Profit for the period	-	-
Aggregate capital and reserves as at 31 December 2025	100	100

11. Debtors

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	90,195	45,891	137,231	41,485
Amounts due from group undertaking	-	82,555	-	151,237
Other debtors and prepayments	300,410	258,744	70,111	54,100
	390,605	387,190	207,342	246,822

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	2025	2025	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank overdraft	45,698	45,698	-	-
Trade creditors	127,297	121,268	73,052	71,436
Amounts owed to group undertaking	-	13,629	-	10,904
Accruals and other creditors	120,364	114,529	128,094	126,404
PAYE and Social Security	85,637	85,637	13,687	13,687
VAT	23,717	11,662	13,653	11,001
COVID-19 bounce back loan	7,896	7,896	10,000	10,000
	410,609	400,319	238,486	243,432

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

13. Creditors: amounts falling after more than one year

	Group and Charity	
	2025	2024
	£	£
COVID-19 bounce back loan	-	8,209
Borrowings: loans	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts repayable:		
Within one year	7,896	10,000
Between one and two years	-	8,209
Between two and five years	-	-
	7,896	18,209

The Bounce back loan is unsecured and is repayable by 60 monthly instalments from October 2021 at an interest rate of 2.5%.

14. Restricted funds

Group and charity	At 1 Jan 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
The WS Society Educational Scholarship	36,479	-	-	(10,000)	26,479
The Clark Foundation	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Christmas concert	-	2,417	(2,759)	342	-
The Old Edinburgh Club	-	800	(418)	(382)	-
	86,479	3,217	(3,177)	(10,040)	76,479

Group and charity	At 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
The WS Society Educational Scholarship	36,479	-	-	-	36,479
The Clark Foundation	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Christmas concert	-	1,941	(4,959)	3,018	-
	86,479	1,941	(4,959)	3,018	86,479

The Clark Foundation for Legal Education (SC018520) (the "Foundation") awarded £50,000 to The Society for the Writers to His Majesty's Signet. These funds are to be applied towards the cost of creating an education and outreach room in the lower ground floor of the Signet Library.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Group and Charity	Fixed Assets	Net Current Assets	Creditors Total 1 Year	2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	3,151,920	844	-	3,152,764
Restricted funds	-	76,479	-	76,479
	<u>3,151,920</u>	<u>77,323</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,229,243</u>

Group and Charity	Fixed Investments	Net Current Assets	Creditors Total 1 Year	2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	3,210,373	30,056	(8,209)	3,232,220
Restricted funds	-	86,479	-	86,479
	<u>3,210,373</u>	<u>116,535</u>	<u>(8,209)</u>	<u>3,318,699</u>

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2025	Charity 2025	Group 2024	Charity 2024
	£	£	£	£
Net movement in funds	(89,456)	(89,456)	1,394,841	1,394,841
Revaluation of heritage assets	-	-	(1,382,700)	(1,382,700)
Movement on defined benefit pension scheme	-	-	(19,000)	(19,000)
Add back depreciation charge	12,392	12,392	14,237	14,237
Deduct income from investing activities	(53,894)	(189,374)	(55,049)	(190,529)
Loss/(gain) on investments unrealised	(21,726)	(21,726)	(20,980)	(20,980)
Loss/(gain) on investments realised	(336)	(336)	1,035	1,035
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(183,263)	(140,368)	107,878	86,683
Decrease/(increase) in creditors	128,528	113,292	4,786	37,581
Decrease/(increase) in stock	(43)	(43)	127	127
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(207,798)</u>	<u>(315,619)</u>	<u>45,175</u>	<u>(78,705)</u>

17. Related party transactions

The charity received rental income from the subsidiary of £135,480 and gift aid donations of £85,555

18. Trustees expenses

None of the Trustees have received any remuneration or benefits from the charity in the year.

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

19. Pension scheme

The Employer was a participating employer in the Scottish Solicitors' Staff Pension Fund (in respect of former employees), which is a defined pension plan. It was a separate trustee administered entity holding assets to meet long term pension liabilities. The last formal actual valuation of the Fund was carried out as at 1 April 2023 and updated to 31 December 2024 by a qualified independent actuary. The major assumptions used by the actuary are shown below.

The results of the actuarial valuation of the whole Fund as at 1 April 2023 showed a deficit of £3,182,000. A recovery plan has been agreed with the Trustee to target removal of this deficit over a period of 7 years from 1 April 2023. The Employer pays a share of the contributions in proportion to its liabilities as at 1 April 2023.

In early 2025, an opportunity arose for the Society to buy out its obligations as an employer contributor to the Scottish Solicitors Staff Pension Fund ("SSSPF"). The transaction was completed on 7 April 2025 and the Society's discharge from the fund has been formally documented. As this was a one-off and exceptional transaction, the associated cost of £83,750, including actuarial fees incurred in reviewing the redemption calculation, has been presented separately in the Statement of financial activities

	31-Dec-24
	£000
Amounts recognised in Balance Sheet	
Fair value of Fund assets	729
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(700)
Surplus (Deficit) in Fund	29
Unrecognised surplus	(29)
Asset (liability) recognised	-
Net asset (liability)	-
Amounts recognised in Statement of Financial Activities	
Current service cost	-
Expenses	19
Interest cost	35
Interest income	(35)
Fund changes	-
Total amount recognised	19
Amounts taken to Other Comprehensive Income	
Return on Fund assets less interest income	(97)
Experience gains and (losses) arising on the Fund's liabilities	-
Impact of changes in actuarial assumptions on the Fund's liabilities	102
Effect of limit on surplus recognised	(29)
Total amount taken	(24)
Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation	
Opening defined benefit obligation	793
Expenses	19
Current service cost	-
Employee contributions	-
Interest cost	35
Actuarial losses (gains)	(102)
Expenses	(19)
Benefits paid	(26)
Closing defined benefit obligation	700

THE SOCIETY OF WRITERS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET
NOTES TO THE GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year to 31 December 2025

19. Pension scheme (cont.)

	31-Dec-24
	£000
Changes in the fair value of Fund assets	
Opening fair value of Fund assets	774
Interest income	35
Return on Fund assets less interest income	(97)
Employer contributions	62
Employee contributions	-
Assets distributed on settlements	-
Expenses	(19)
Benefits paid	(26)
Closing fair value of Fund assets	<u>729</u>

None of the Fund assets include any direct investment in the Employer's own financial instruments or any property occupied by, or other assets used by, the Employer.

Fair value of Fund assets	
Diversified Growth	92
LDI - Fixed	160
LDI - Real	88
Absolute Return Bonds	113
Semi Liquid Credit	142
Multi Asset Credit	111
Cash	29
Total fair value of Fund Assets	<u>729</u>

Principle actuarial assumptions:

Discount rate	5.50%
Retail price inflation	3.50%
Consumer price inflation	3.10%
Rate of inflation-linked revaluation of pensions in deferment	3.50%
Rate of inflation-linked pension in payment increases	2.25%
CPI (0,3)	3.65%
CPI (3,5)	No allowance
Cash commutation	S3PA tables
	CMI_2023
	[1.25%]
Post retirement mortality	projections

Stakeholder Pension Scheme

The Society offers a stakeholder scheme to all eligible employees. Employees contribute a minimum of 4% of pensionable salary, to qualify for a fixed employer contribution of 4%.

Contributions to the scheme are independently administered by an insurance company. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Society to the scheme and amounted to £19,981 (2024: £20,182). At the period end the Society had outstanding contributions totaling £0 (2024: £2,629).

CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 6NL

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

The Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material aspects, (or give a true and fair view) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, as issued by the Financial Reporting Council, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" and with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of the trustees, 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 following representations to you:

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 for preparing financial statements, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

We confirm that in our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view and in particular that where any additional information must be disclosed in order to give a true and fair view that information has in fact been disclosed. We confirm that the selection and application of the accounting policies used in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriate, and we approve these accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025.
2. We confirm that all accounting records have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit, in accordance with your terms of engagement, and that all 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 have given you unrestricted access to persons within the charity in order to obtain audit evidence and have provided any additional information that you have requested for the purposes of your audit.
3. We acknowledge that it is a criminal offence to make a false statement in this regard, and where any trustee either makes a false statement; is aware that the statement is false; is reckless in preventing this statement; or fails to take reasonable steps to prevent the trustees' report from being approved, we acknowledge that each trustee will be guilty of a criminal offence.
4. We confirm the charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the assets, except for those disclosed in the financial statements.
5. We confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and data used by us in making accounting estimates, and the related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

6. We confirm that we have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.
7. We confirm that the charity has no liabilities or contingent liabilities other than those disclosed in the financial statements.
8. We have disclosed to you the following actual or possible litigation and claims, the effects of which should be considered when preparing the financial statements and these have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
9. We confirm that there have been no events since the balance sheet date which require disclosing or which would materially affect the amounts in the financial statements, other than those already disclosed or included in the financial statements.
10. We confirm that we are aware of the definition of a related party for the purpose of the accounting framework being applied in the preparation of the accounts.

We confirm that there have been no material transactions with related parties other than transactions with group undertakings which are not required to be disclosed.
11. We confirm that the charity neither had, at any time during the year, any arrangement, transaction or agreement to provide credit facilities (including advances and credits granted by the charity) for trustees, nor provided guarantees of any kind on behalf of the trustees.
12. We confirm that the charity has not contracted for any capital expenditure other than as disclosed in the financial statements.
13. We confirm that the charity has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
14. We confirm that we are not aware of any possible or actual instance of non-compliance with those laws and regulations which provide a legal framework within which the charity conducts its business and which are central to the charity's ability to conduct its business, except as explained to you and as disclosed in the financial statements.
15. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of controls to prevent and detect fraud. We confirm that we have disclosed to you the results of our risk assessment of the risk of fraud in the business.
16. We confirm that there have been no actual or suspected instances of fraud involving management or employees who have a significant role in internal control that could have a material effect on the financial statements which we have not disclosed to you. We also confirm that we are not aware of any allegations of fraud by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others which we have not disclosed to you.

17. We confirm that all grants and other income, including those subject to special terms or conditions or received for restricted purposes, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period regarding the application of such income.
18. We confirm that, in our opinion, the charity's financial statements should be prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. In reaching this conclusion, we have taken into account all relevant matters of which we are aware, including the availability of working capital and have considered a future period of at least one year from the date on which the financial statements were approved.
19. We confirm that in our opinion the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole.
20. We confirm that we are not aware of any matters of material significance that should be reported to regulators. We confirm that all correspondence with regulators have been made available to you.
21. We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that:
 - so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you as auditors are unaware, and
 - each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.
22. We acknowledge that it is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly make you as an auditor, a statement (oral or written) that conveys, or purports to convey, information or explanations that you require in your capacity as auditor, or are entitled to require, that is misleading, false or deceptive in a material particular.

Yours faithfully

Tony Jones

Signed on behalf of the board of Trustees of The Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet

Date: 02 June 2026

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 6C00B506-FC10-8D5B-8025-74F3D7BB9367		Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with Docusign: 2025 WS Financial statements.pdf, WS Society - Letter of Representation...		
Source Envelope:		
Document Pages: 45	Signatures: 4	Envelope Originator:
Certificate Pages: 5	Initials: 0	Gemma Hawkins
AutoNav: Enabled		61 Dublin Street
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled		Edinburgh, Midlothian EH3 6NL
Time Zone: (UTC) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London		gemma.hawkins@ct.me
		IP Address: 86.111.173.10

Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: Gemma Hawkins	Location: DocuSign
02 June 2026 13:55	gemma.hawkins@ct.me	

Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
---------------	-----------	-----------

Tony Jones		Sent: 02 June 2026 14:19
Tony.jones@brodies.com		Viewed: 02 June 2026 14:56
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)		Signed: 02 June 2026 14:58
	Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style	
	Using IP Address: 147.161.237.96	

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Accepted: 02 June 2026 | 14:56
ID: 5ac39d3f-5a76-4747-9f59-9355768c1477

CT Audit		Sent: 02 June 2026 14:58
steven.smillie@ct.me		Viewed: 02 June 2026 15:15
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)		Signed: 02 June 2026 15:17
	Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style	
	Using IP Address: 194.140.216.2	

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Accepted: 02 June 2026 | 15:15
ID: bf3e0a42-c661-4391-b3b0-3941664b368d

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
-------------------------	-----------	-----------

Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
------------------------	--------	-----------

Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
-----------------------	--------	-----------

Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
------------------------------	--------	-----------

Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
---------------------------	--------	-----------

Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
--------------------	--------	-----------

Euan Morrison	COPIED	Sent: 02 June 2026 15:17
Euan.Morrison@ct.me		
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)		
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via Docusign		

Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Robert Pirrie RPirrie@wssociety.co.uk Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via DocuSign	COPIED	Sent: 02 June 2026 15:17 Viewed: 02 June 2026 15:29

Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
----------------	-----------	-----------

Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
---------------	-----------	-----------

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	02 June 2026 14:19
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	02 June 2026 15:15
Signing Complete	Security Checked	02 June 2026 15:17
Completed	Security Checked	02 June 2026 15:17

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
----------------	--------	------------

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure
--

ELECTRONIC RECORD AND SIGNATURE DISCLOSURE

From time to time, Chiene + Tait LLP (we, us or Company) may be required by law to provide to you certain written notices or disclosures. Described below are the terms and conditions for providing to you such notices and disclosures electronically through the DocuSign system. Please read the information below carefully and thoroughly, and if you can access this information electronically to your satisfaction and agree to this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure (ERSD), please confirm your agreement by selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

Getting paper copies

At any time, you may request from us a paper copy of any record provided or made available electronically to you by us. You will have the ability to download and print documents we send to you through the DocuSign system during and immediately after the signing session and, if you elect to create a DocuSign account, you may access the documents for a limited period of time (usually 30 days) after such documents are first sent to you. After such time, if you wish for us to send you paper copies of any such documents from our office to you, you will be charged a \$0.00 per-page fee. You may request delivery of such paper copies from us by following the procedure described below.

Withdrawing your consent

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

Consequences of changing your mind

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

How to contact Chiene + Tait LLP:

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: mail@chiene.co.uk

To advise Chiene + Tait LLP of your new email address

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at mail@chiene.co.uk and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

To request paper copies from Chiene + Tait LLP

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to mail@chiene.co.uk and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

To withdraw your consent with Chiene + Tait LLP

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:

- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to mail@chiene.co.uk and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

Required hardware and software

The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

Acknowledging your access and consent to receive and sign documents electronically

To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures' before clicking 'CONTINUE' within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to 'I agree to use electronic records and signatures', you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify Chiene + Tait LLP as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by Chiene + Tait LLP during the course of your relationship with Chiene + Tait LLP.



WS THE SIGNET LIBRARY