



# Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

## ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

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# RBGE Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts

## Our Vision, Our Mission



### OUR VISION

A positive future for plants,  
people and the planet

### OUR MISSION

To explore, conserve and  
explain the world of plants

Nationally we are a key contributor to Scotland's response to climate change and biodiversity loss, guided by the Environment Strategy for Scotland

*"One Earth. One home. One shared future" and "Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero"*

Globally we work in partnerships across the world to support the sustainable use of plant biodiversity, and to promote planetary health and green recovery.

## Trustees' Report

In a world reeling from an unprecedented environmental crisis an urgent and powerful response is demanded. Tragedies across the continents have made us acutely aware of the intricate web of connections: the inseparable link between human survival and the environment, and the undeniable tie between social justice and sustainable development. In these challenging times, nature stands as the bedrock of our recovery. This is why the call for botanic gardens, with their unparalleled skills, expertise, and ingenuity, has never been more profound.

Meet the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), providing hope in the face of escalating destruction of natural habitats and the accelerating loss of plant diversity. Driven by its mission to **explore, conserve and explain the world of plants**, RBGE is at the forefront of plant research, education, and horticulture, proud of our commitment to a greener tomorrow.

Not limited by borders, RBGE is Scotland's botanical institute, playing a pivotal role in the delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, addressing plant health and biosecurity, and providing government with vital scientific expertise. Our contributions extend beyond environmental protection; we assist economic development, enrich education and skills, enhance health and wellbeing, foster social inclusion, promote international cooperation, and propel sustainable community development.

Beyond borders, RBGE is recognised as a global scientific resource, a centre of expertise, and a deliverer of training, and information that empowers people worldwide to safeguard species and ecosystems and preserve the earth's precious plant capital. We are the custodians of the National Botanical Collection; our four Gardens, Edinburgh, Dawyck, Logan, and Benmore, nurture around 13,500 plant species contributing to a wide range of collaborative *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation and research programmes and delighting around one million visitors each year. The extensive herbarium, boasting three million preserved plant specimens, covers over 300 years of biodiversity, the oldest specimen collected in 1697. The collection is one of the most active in the world and is used extensively by national and international scientists and horticulturists. It is currently undergoing a major digitisation programme which has imaged nearly three quarters of a million specimens which are freely available online. An extensive botanical library and archive completes the National Botanical Collection.

Our research programmes directly involve over 40 countries, delving into the diversity, distribution, and threats facing species, informing innovative and collaborative conservation strategies, and unlocking the potential for improving sustainable use. This vital knowledge enriches our understanding of crucial ecosystems, nurturing biodiversity, regulating climate, and bringing major benefits to society and communities. Across the globe, our pursuit of botanical data and adoption of cutting-edge DNA-sequencing technologies forge a united front in safeguarding our planet's future.

Central to our education and learning mission is inspiring the next generation, instilling the value of the natural world, and delivering specialised training at home and overseas. Our education programmes span taxonomy, biodiversity science, and conservation horticulture, botanical art and herbology, empowering individuals, community groups, and partners across 80 countries. Our people are the cornerstone of our success, and our soon-to-be-launched People Strategy aims to foster an even more positive working culture, ensuring that RBGE remains an employer of choice within our sector.

Our communication style echoes our passion for dialogue, inviting people to join our cause and act. Through guided tours, community participation, outreach projects, and an extensive and innovative arts programme, we engage with visitors and partners, inspiring and upskilling them to help create a more sustainable future. Embracing equality, diversity, and inclusion, we strive to enhance cultural

accessibility, broaden representation in science and horticulture, and shatter barriers to participation.

Fuelling our ambition is a sharpened focus on digital skills and infrastructure, leveraging technology to gather and disseminate information, optimise working practices, identify opportunities, and overcome challenges. Our forthcoming Digital Strategy sets the stage for ongoing value delivery to the communities we serve.

The Edinburgh Biomes Programme, a vital infrastructure project over the next five years, will safeguard our under-glass Living Collection, elevate horticultural, educational, and visitor infrastructure, and enhance research facilities. Combined with a recent review of the RBGE Brand, this substantial investment will solidify our impact for generations to come, securing our position as a world-leading botanic garden, a true force for positive change.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh – four gardens, one botanic world.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Structure

RBGE is a Scottish charity under the provisions of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 registered as SC007983. RBGE has a wholly owned subsidiary, the Botanics Trading Company Ltd (BTC) which carries out retail, catering, conference and events and consultancy activities across the four gardens. BTC donates its taxable annual profits available for distribution to RBGE in accordance with the Government's Gift Aid legislation and the company's financial results are consolidated into the RBGE Annual Report and Accounts.

The remit of RBGE is set out in the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985, which empowers the Board of Trustees, who are appointed by Scottish Ministers to:

- carry out investigation and research into the science of plants and related subjects and to disseminate the results of the investigation and research,
- maintain and develop collections of living plants and preserved plant material, books, archives and other related objects,
- keep the collections as national reference collections, and ensure they are secure and that they are available to persons for the purposes of study,
- provide advice, information and education, in any manner which seems appropriate to them, in relation to any aspect of the science of plants or of any related subject,
- provide other services (including quarantine) in relation to plants, and
- afford members of the public opportunities to enter any land managed by the Board for the purpose of gaining knowledge and enjoyment from the collections.

## Governance & Management

### Board of Trustees

Scottish Ministers appoint the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The following were members of the Board during the period covered by the Accounts:

#### Chair

Dominic Fry

## Trustees

- Sarah Cathcart
- Raoul Curtis-Machin (to June 2022)
- Professor Beverley Glover (to January 2023)
- Professor Sarah Gurr
- Dr David Hamilton
- Dr Ian Jardine
- Elizabeth Trevor
- Professor Ian Wall FRSE, FRICS, Hon FRIAS, FSAScot (to December 2022)

The Board of Trustees is responsible for developing and approving policy and strategy for RBGE. In practice, both are developed jointly by Trustees and management, and adopted formally by the Board. Management has a responsibility for ensuring effective processes and deployment of resources for optimum performance. Implementation and operation are solely the responsibility of the Regius Keeper and Executive and Senior Leadership Teams. The RBGE Strategy and Operational Delivery Plans along with the Framework Document are in place to enable RBGE and the Scottish Government to develop a shared understanding of the joint priorities over the medium term which contribute towards delivery of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes, and to ensure that RBGE's corporate communications and engagement strategies fully reflect these.

None of the Board members has any financial interests in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Details of relationships between RBGE and related parties are provided in Note 24 to the accounts.

When a requirement arises to appoint a new Trustee the RBGE works with the Scottish Government's sponsor team and Public Appointment Centre of Excellence (PACE) to ensure appointment rounds and other appointment activity is conducted in line with the Codes of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland. On appointment Trustees sign a code of conduct and complete a Register of Interests. The latter is renewed annually. They are given a Trustee Handbook that includes the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 that sets out the remit of RBGE, Scottish Government's 'On Board: A Guide for Board Members of Public Bodies in Scotland', the Framework Document, Risk Register, Staff Handbook and Statement of Roles and Responsibilities of RBGE Trustees. New Trustees meet with the Regius Keeper, Chair of Trustees and Board Secretary and are invited to an induction tour of the Garden. According to their skills and experience they take responsibility for activity areas by appointment to a committee. Training needs are assessed and met, and Trustees participate in an annual strategy day, usually held in September, where all major risks are reviewed. Further information on Organisational Risk Management, including the major risks RBGE has identified, is given in the Governance Statement on page 32.

The Board met four times during the period covered by the accounts. The Board operates in accordance with the 'Principles of Corporate Governance' as set out in 'On Board: A Guide for Board Members of Public Bodies in Scotland' published by the Scottish Government.

## The Regius Keeper and Accountable Officer

The Regius Keeper and Accountable Officer is Simon Milne MBE.

### Science Advisory Committee

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh also has a Science Advisory Committee. The aim of the group is to advise the RBGE Board of Trustees, the Regius Keeper, and the Director of Science, on:

- RBGE's science and biodiversity strategy
- The wider scientific, environmental and policy context in which RBGE's science sits, to inform its remit and collaborative opportunities
- Opportunities for increasing research grant income
- Opportunities for increasing the international profile and impacts of the scientific and biodiversity activities of RBGE

The members of this committee are:

- Professor Sarah Gurr (Chair)
- [Professor Beverley Glover](#)
- [Professor Janis Antonovics, PhD, FRS, FLS](#)
- [Professor John Grace, FRSE](#)
- [Professor Simon Hiscock](#)
- [Professor Thomas Meagher](#)
- Professor Michelle Price
- Professor Des B.A. Thompson DSC, FCIEEM, FRSE

### Audit Committee

The RBGE Board has set up an Audit Committee, chaired by a non-executive member. The Audit Committee meets four times per year to provide independent advice and assurance on the effectiveness of the internal control and risk management systems. In 2022/23 the Audit Committee completed a review of the effectiveness of its activities. The following were members of the Audit Committee during the period covered by the accounts:

- Dr Ian Jardine (Chair)
- Professor Ian Wall FRSE, FRICS, Hon FRIAS, FSA Scot (to December 2022)
- Amanda Forsyth FCA, FCSI
- Elizabeth Trevor

The Committee met four times during this period.

### Investment Committee

The following were members of the Investment Committee during the period covered by the accounts:

- Professor Ian Wall FRSE, FRICS, Hon FRIAS, FSA Scot (Chair) (to December 2022)
- Dr David Hamilton

The Committee met twice during the period covered by the accounts.

### Biomes Oversight Committee

The overarching purposes of the Committee is to provide assurance to the RBGE Board of Trustees

for the successful development and implementation of Edinburgh Biomes, to make decisions within the delegated authority of the Board of Trustees, and to challenge, guide and support the Senior Responsible Officer on the delivery of Edinburgh Biomes. The following were members of the Biomes Oversight Committee during the period covered by the accounts:

- Mr Dominic Fry (Chair)
- Professor Ian Wall FRSE, FRICS, Hon FRIAS, FSA Scot (to December 2022)
- Dr David Hamilton
- Mrs Lynda Johnstone
- Mr Simon Milne MBE
- Ms Joanne Hannah

The Committee met 10 times during the period covered by the accounts (meetings are held every 4 weeks, on three occasions a papers-only update was issued rather than holding a meeting due to organisational need).

## Strategy & Planning

RBGE Corporate and Business planning is set in five-year cycles by the Scottish Government however, due to the nature of its work, RBGE's overarching strategy looks significantly further forward. The key element of the overall strategic direction is the RBGE Strategy, on which our organisational development plans are built.

The RBGE Strategy 2021-26, Responding to the Biodiversity Crisis and Climate Emergency, was developed in 2020-21 concurrently with the underpinning Science and Biodiversity Strategy 2021-2030 and were published in 2021/22, these and the Operational Delivery Plan 2022/23 ensure alignment with the Scottish Government's updated Programme for Government, to include contributing to the green recovery and to meet new commitments to net-zero and a nature rich economy for Scotland.

## Performance Management

RBGE has a robust performance management system to assist the Executive and Senior Leadership teams with decision making. Departmental staff report on the progress of their deliverables, all of which are aligned to RBGE's strategic objectives. The Senior Leadership Team monitors performance against annual targets via exception reporting and action tracking undertaken on a quarterly basis. In addition, all staff performance is monitored via mid-year and end-of-year appraisal meetings with line managers to ensure that colleagues' objectives remain aligned to organisational objectives and on course for completion. To ensure ongoing good governance practices, the introduction of a refreshed appraisal system for the RBGE Board of Trustees has been implemented.

## Key Outcomes

- RBGE works closely with the Scottish Government to evidence the considerable contribution RBGE makes in fulfilling the National Outcomes for Scotland
- RBGE outcomes for 2022/23 are reported below. Targets quoted refer to 2022/23 targets.

In 2022/23 RBGE contributed to the following Scottish Government National Outcomes:



- **Environment:** understanding, protecting and rebuilding national and international biodiversity and natural capital: responding to the Biodiversity Crisis and Climate Emergency: delivering world leading international plant research, conservation and sustainability programmes; contributing to the journey to net-zero emissions, healthy diet, sustainable communities and quality greenspaces.
- **Economy & Work and Business:** Economic growth through tourism, entrepreneurial activity, and research funding; green recovery from Covid-19, job creation and upskilling for green renewal; fiscal multiplier of grant-in-aid
- **International:** contribution to the sustainable development of other nations, Scotland’s reputation for innovative and world leading botanical research and horticulture; plant diplomacy; sustainable communities
- **Education:** upskilling and engagement in science and horticulture, workplace and through-life learning, international capacity building and producing world leading botanists and horticulturists; green recovery from Covid-19 and behavioural change for a greener future
- **Communities:** health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, engagement with greenspace, quality of life, social development, equality, social inclusion and racial justice.



## Strategic Priorities

RBGE's work is guided by four Strategic Priorities:

- **KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING:** Unlocking knowledge and understanding of plants and fungi for the benefit of society
- **BOTANICAL COLLECTIONS:** Conserving and developing botanical collections as a global resource
- **LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT:** Enriching and empowering individuals and communities through learning and engagement with plants and fungi
- **SUSTAINING RBGE:** Ensuring a sustainable organisation



### Knowledge and Understanding: Unlocking knowledge and understanding of plants and fungi for the benefit of society

Our scientific research focuses on understanding the diversity of, and threats to species and biomes, their likely responses to environmental change, and developing enhanced strategies and actions for protecting and restoring biodiversity.

The Science and Biodiversity Strategy 2021-2030, is a direct response to the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency, reaffirming our focus on understanding plant and fungal diversity and biodiversity and ecosystem change, delivering science to enable the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and growing global capacity in biodiversity science, conservation and horticulture. It reflects the urgent need for widespread action to:

- Secure a nature-rich future in the face of global environmental change
- Develop nature-based solutions to climate change
- Support the sustainable utilisation of the planet's natural resources

To these ends, in 2022/23 we published 140 peer-reviewed papers; 84 of our papers that have been published in the last five years were cited more than 50 times, with highly cited papers covering a mixed portfolio including genomics, species checklists, phylogenetic classifications, macroecology, conservation, and biogeography.

11 species new to science were described, this reduced number is due in part to timing of publications, but also as a result of the cessation of field work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scientific Publications & Species Discovery	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Scientific publications in peer reviewed journals	124	126	134	141	140	<b>125</b>
Papers published in the last 5 years cited more than 50 times	40	53	69	73	84	<b>70</b>
No. of species new to science described	46	56	58	72	11*	<b>58</b>
No. of species revised in Monographs & Floras	295	315	72	121	81	<b>200</b>
No. of species in published Checklists	5,099	45	3,384	0	302	<b>4,673</b>

\* The reduced number of species described new to science is in part due to timing of publications; there is also a contribution from a cessation in field work during the Covid-19 pandemic

### Discovery science

In 2022/23, RBGE priorities for understanding plant and fungal diversity in Scotland and worldwide were: accelerating biodiversity discovery, characterisation and mapping to support conservation planning and land-use choices; and technological innovation – including large-scale use of genomic data for biodiversity characterisation and monitoring and development of data-portals and workflows to support large-scale analyses of biodiversity data and trends.

2022/23 highlights include:

- A new checklist to the flora of Singapore was published
- An updated phylogenetic framework of *Solanum* with 60% of species sampled was published in *American Journal of Botany*, providing a fundamental baseline for evolutionary work in *Solanum* relevant for a large group of researchers working on the economically important genus; we also [published](#) a new hemiepiphytic genus of four species in Solanaceae, *Doselia*, and submitted for review a major taxonomic revision of 62 *Solanum* species
- We [published](#) (in *Annals of Botany*) a new, stable phylogenetic framework for *Rhododendron* based on densely sampled plastome data, providing insights into drivers of diversification and adaptation
- A [special issue](#) of *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* was published focusing on *Begonia*, with papers covering extensive international collaboration providing new understanding to this mega-diverse genus, focusing on taxonomy, resolving phylogenetic conflicts, new species records, conservation assessments and updates to regional checklists
- Fieldwork funded by NERC was successfully carried out in Peru to collect *Inga* individuals and resulted in the collection of 400 silica gel dried samples to be exported with matching voucher collections that will be used to seek evidence for hybridisation to understand the ecology and evolution of a genus of trees important in agroforestry
- Three fieldtrips were made to AlUla, Saudi Arabia, making around 200 new records for the county
- We took part in two fieldwork expeditions in southeastern Nepal, collecting herbarium and DNA material of vascular plants and bryophytes supporting floristic inventory of Jalthal forest and wider *Flora of Nepal* studies. A series of protocols for the extraction of high-molecular-weight DNA from

recalcitrant plant species has been developed and reported on [Wellcome Open Research](#) as part of the Darwin Tree of Life project

- The Darwin Tree of Life team completed all lichen collections for Phase 1 of the project; we also [published](#) the first plant genomes from this project (wild and cultivated apples) and completed curation of the British Isles' largest genome, [mistletoe](#) (*Viscum album*)
- We [published](#) the first genome for *Streptocarpus rexii*, an important model species for plant developmental research
- The €20m EU Horizon2020 [Biodiversity Genomics Europe](#) programme was launched, focusing on DNA barcoding and Genome Sequencing, with RBGE as the DNA-barcoding lead. Several new appointments were made as part of this project, including a postdoc and network manager/communications lead
- The development of RBGE's Rhakhis software was completed, and significant improvements were made to data in the World Flora Online Checklist. A December 2022 edition of the [WFO Plant List](#) was published - the first to be delivered from the new Rhakhis software. RBGE was appointed as Co-Chair of the WFO council
- We co-authored a new, scalable, efficient DNA-based method to map the root systems of individual trees in natural, multi-species communities ([published](#) in *New Phytologist*)
- We appointed a new Taxonomy Research Leader (Southeast Asia) and backfilled the post of Integrative Taxonomy Researcher, enhancing capacity within the Southeast Asia team

### Global Environmental Change

Our priorities for global environmental change research were understanding, quantifying and predicting drivers of change leading to biodiversity loss, at scales ranging from individual species to major biomes; and developing and implementing rapid threat assessments to prioritise conservation actions and interventions to minimise biodiversity loss and extinction.

2022/23 highlights include:

- We [published](#) a study of *Ziziphus* (Rhamnaceae) in *Biotropica*, examining the biogeography of the genus to determine how functional traits relate to the distribution of species, and how these traits and distributions relate to human use, providing new information for sustainable management and conservation
- We [published](#) a paper in *Global Change Biology*, examining fire regimes and trends across the global tropics with specific emphasis on Madagascar, to quantitatively determine relationships among fire, vegetation, climate and people, demonstrating global uniformity in patterns of fire in open ecosystems but context dependence in forests. The results indicate an urgent need for understanding of regional differences in anthropogenic drivers of forest loss to appropriately mitigate forest fire risk in a changing climate
- We [published](#) a paper on plant specimen data from the Colombian Andes in *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, showing strong geographical and environmental sampling bias in online records, determining causes of sampling bias, identifying critical gaps and priority areas for plant sampling and making recommendations for strategies to increase sampling completeness
- We [published](#) a paper on climate change impacts in the Andes in *Journal of Biogeography*, providing a regional synthesis of impacts on Andean vegetation to guide research priorities

- We [published](#) an important global study of soil temperatures in *Global Change Biology*, showing crucially that soil temperature responses to climate change differ markedly from air temperature, with potentially critical impacts for modelling effects on terrestrial species and ecosystems
- We [published](#) a paper on global forest diversity gradients in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, showing that soil, topography and land-use interact to mediate the impact of temperature on tree diversity [video feature [here](#)]
- We [published](#) a meta-analysis quantifying the negative impact of woody encroachment upon grassy ecosystems worldwide in *Global Change Biology*, with implications for management of biodiversity and climate mitigation measures

### Conservation and Sustainability

Our priorities in conservation and sustainability were developing integrated strategies to support the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural capital and the maintenance of ecosystem services; and developing and implementing restoration plans that lead to net gains for biodiversity and/or nature-based solutions to climate change.

2022/23 highlights include:

- We [published](#) an almost complete genetic inventory of two rare montane willow species in the Cairngorms in *Environmental Research: Ecology*, supporting evidence-based restoration programmes
- Our collaborative seagrass restoration project began planting in the Firth of Forth and received the Nature of Scotland Awards Innovation Award 2022; our *Cicerbita alpina* restoration project received the Holyrood Green Giants Nature and the Environment Award
- We published a green paper with NatureScot, '[Building a Plant Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland](#)', and are now in the process of consulting on and finalising Scotland's Plant Biodiversity Strategy
- A new Head of the International Conifer Conservation Programme (ICCP) has been appointed and RBGE was designated as lead institution for the new BGCI Global Conservation Consortium for Conifers
- A new ICCP safe site has been established at Sculpture by the Lakes, Dorset; visits to 10 existing safe sites were made to survey ICCP collections; and 11 new potential safe sites have been identified
- We expanded Red listing of *Rhododendron* species to include the 120 taxa of Japanese *Rhododendron* with a new collaboration with Oxford Botanic Garden and Niigata Botanic Garden, Japan
- A special issue on Jalthal forest was published in ForestAction's Nepali journal *Hamro Ban Sampada*, with Community Forest User Group members jointly authoring the articles – a first for Nepal and these local people;
- The Nepal team published a bilingual field guidebook to 27 problematic invasive alien plant species of Nepal, available at: <https://nast.gov.np/book->
- We co-authored [a paper](#) in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London Series B* identifying hotspots for ecosystem restoration to maximise biodiversity and climate gains in tropical savannas, focused on Brazilian *cerrado*, which also highlights the need to conserve existing vegetation
- We co-authored two papers (<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf0869> and <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adf1466>) in *Science* to coincide with the UN CBD COP15,

highlighting the evolution, distribution, and use of, threats and opportunities to, the biodiversity of Madagascar

- We [published](#) a paper in *Journal of Applied Ecology* bringing together approaches to reporting on within species genetic diversity, resulting from an international collaboration using the RBGE-led *Genetic Scorecard* as a framework for mapping the wider landscape of approaches, with a view to harmonisation and coherence of communication around genetic diversity measures for conservation
- We [published](#) a key paper promoting best practice in reforestation for biodiversity outcomes in *Plants People Planet*
- We co-authored [a paper](#) providing a function-based typology for Earth’s ecosystems in *Nature*, a novel theoretical framework to guide globally standardized ecosystem policy and management
- We co-authored [a paper](#) in *Nature Plants* developing a methodology to select priority Extinct in the Wild species for ‘resurrection’ by germinating seed from herbarium specimens
- We co-edited a book, ‘*Conservation Translocations*’ – the first global authoritative text guiding this important restoration method
- We co-organised the fifth European Conservation Genetics meeting, in Edinburgh, with c. 200 delegates from 24 countries
- We attended the UN CITES COP19 meeting and took part in a roundtable discussion on biodiversity in preparation for UN CBD COP15

## Botanical Collections: Conserving and developing botanical collections as a global resource

Our work focuses on enhancing the National Botanical Collection held at RBGE as a scientific and cultural heritage resource and support the wider development of botanical collections, particularly in countries in the Global South.

### Enhancing the conservation value of living collections

Our priorities are increasing the number and diversity of threatened plant species in conservation collections to protect against extinction.

2022/23 highlights include:

- The new Living Collection database (IRIS) allows us to more accurately query the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of Threatened Species, we now know we have more than 1,000 IUCN threatened species in the Living Collection
- Planting at Logan focused on IUCN Red List checklist for vulnerable species

Conservation value of Collections	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
% Wild origin in the Living Collection	60%	57%	60%	64%	59%	<b>60%</b>
IUCN threatened species in the Living Collection	420	378	451	548	1,043	<b>400</b>

There was a large increase in the number of IUCN threatened species recorded in the Living Collection, from 548 in 2021/22 to 1,043 in 2022/23. This is in part due to the increased functionality that we now have with our new Living Collections database (IrisBG) that allows us to query the IUCN Red List more accurately, resulting in more detailed and accurate data now available on the accessions within our collections. The unusually cold weather in December 2022, killing off some sensitive plants, has reduce the percentage of wild origin accessions held in the Living Collection, however, now that field work has been resumed, this figure is expected to increase.

## Digitising our collections

Our priorities are digitisation of the preserved collections at RBGE and supporting wider development of the international digital collections infrastructure to enable global access.

2022/23 highlights include:

- A new Deputy of Director of Science/Head of Herbarium with responsibility for preserved Collections was appointed
- 184,790 herbarium specimens were digitised at high resolution in 2022/23 (c 836 specimens digitised per working day), we now have 744,341 herbarium specimens imaged and online, more than 24,000 over the target for the year
- Migration of data to the new Herbarium Collections database, Specify, was carried out, with further developments and increased functionality introduced throughout the year, and the system is now in active use
- A new system has been designed and implemented with UI development, documentation, and installation for Herbarium Image processing
- EU-funded DiSSCo Prepare and Synthesys+ projects were completed, representing a significant amount of work to develop the European Science Collections Research Infrastructure and collaboration
- A Digitisation Strategy for the Library and Archives has been completed

Digitising the Herbarium Collection	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Annual Herbarium specimen record downloads	2,004,718	651,870	791,996	884,827	802,821	900,000
Total Herbarium specimen records databased	921,876	972,121	985,578	1,094,225	1,238,408	1,254,225
Total Herbarium specimen images digitised and put on-line	468,253	505,017	512,324	559,551	744,341	720,000

## Caring for and maintaining our collections

Our priorities are maintaining a high standard of collection care and curation, data management, verification, and accessibility.

2022/23 highlights include:

- The Hitch and Dalby private herbaria collections have been moved to RBGE, enhancing the core collection of British/Scottish lichens at RBGE. Early examination of some of the Dalby collection from poorly collected areas of Scotland uncovered new records and one species new to science, with further examination of the materials to continue
- Library and Archives collection impacted by the flood in 2021 was fully returned to site and the Library Catalogue was updated to create a permanent record of items that were impacted by the flood
- The physical archives of the British Lichen Society (BLS) were transferred to the RBGE library, this transfer was funded by the BLS, supporting a student project to provide an inventory, and a report detailing outstanding issues
- Drone filming took place at Edinburgh, Dawyck and Benmore. The footage, using both a drone and handheld camera, captured the unique conservation stories at each Garden
- 10 IUCN red listed plant species were selected from the RBGE Living Collection, photographed and added to RBGE's image bank of threatened species

- Photography of the Edinburgh Biomes plant decant included one of the five *Dicksonia antartica* being felled in the fernery and its subsequent loading onto a trailer for relocation to Logan
- The large-scale triptych of the *Sabal mexicana* was photographed, and the images reproduced for display at the September's Patrons' Dinner
- Archives collection photography included the Jennifer Woods Art Collection, the Anne Dorward Begonia illustrations, Botanical paintings by Keith West, and the Hindmarsh Collection of botanical art
- RBGE's taxonomic and floristic Resource Centres and all other related websites driven by Padme have been reconfigured and the underlying CMS software redeveloped to make them compatible with accessibility standards
- As part of the Global Collection Group, we co-authored a [policy forum article](#) in *Science* surveying the holdings of the world's herbaria and natural history museums, aiming to catalyse collaborative collections-based efforts to support conservation and sustainability
- We hosted the joint Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) and NatSCA 2022 conference, with over 600 participants in total, both physical and virtual. The programme included symposia on mobilising specimens for fact-based conservation in the face of a global biodiversity crisis, liberating natural history collections data in biodiversity literature, and digitisation standards

Curation of Collections	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Living Collection: Total Number of Accessions	35,300	35,079	35,461	38,208	37,813	<b>35,350</b>
Living Collection: New Accessions	1,300	1,221	418	567	1,217	<b>1,000</b>
Library Collection: New Items added	1,500	2,246	4,535	2,625	2,879	<b>2,000</b>
Photography Collection: No. of new images added	-	11,161	5,504	14,120	19,507	<b>15,000</b>

### Enhancing the sustainability of collection management

Our priorities are reducing the environmental impacts of maintaining the collections, increasing their resilience to emerging threats and promoting biodiversity on our estates.

2022/23 highlights include:

- We achieved the UK Plant Healthy nursery certification, including preparing pest risk analyses, contingency plans and protocols, making RBGE the first public garden to achieve this standard
- The Cross-Party Group on Gardening and Horticulture re-formed in the Scottish Government; at its AGM, RBGE promoted conservation horticulture and the role of our horticulture and science work in helping with blue-green infrastructure and climate change adaptation
- Our Visiting Longwood Fellow successfully completed her leadership project investigating how blue-green infrastructure can be more widely adopted in Scotland's climate adaptation activity, and the role that RBGE and horticulture can play in making this happen
- There was continued interest in the rain garden for climate change mitigation, with visits from Scottish Government and CEO's of Scottish Local Authorities
- RBGE responded to the Scottish Government Peat consultation, and the UK Government (House of Lords) Inquiry into Horticulture



## Learning & Engagement: Enriching and empowering individuals and communities through learning and engagement with plants and fungi

Our work builds global capacity to respond to the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency by developing and sharing scientific, and horticultural knowledge through education and engagement with the public.

We focus on providing professional skills, information, and training to address the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and sustainable development.

We delight around 1,000,000 visitors per year from Scotland and around the globe, of all ages and abilities, and inspire them to meet their responsibilities in the protection of our fragile world and engage with students in over 80 countries through our on-line learning programmes.

### Access & Inclusion

Our priorities are maximising social and physical access across the four Gardens and providing high quality interpretation.

2022/23 highlights include:

- Implementing new interpretation and signage at Benmore, Dawyck and Logan for the 2023 visitor season
- Completion of Year of Stories reaching audiences at all four Gardens: 103 story panels and 20 audio features with an estimated 45K engagements at Edinburgh and 6.5K at the Regional Gardens to date
- We revised the Lichen Safari booklet and panels
- British Sign Language tours have been delivered at the Edinburgh Garden and have been scheduled for Benmore, Dawyck and Logan
- We adopted the Welco.me system to support visitors with access needs visiting the Garden and the system is now up and running on our website
- A *Nature* article on racial justice in botanic gardens provided a positive international platform for RBGE to present its case in addressing historical and contemporary failings in the system

### Training, Upskilling & Empowering Learners

Our priorities are training, upskilling and empowering learners and professionals of all ages, ranging from building global capacity in plant biodiversity science, conservation, and horticulture to informal recreational courses.

2022/23 highlights include:

- The science and education teams contributed significantly to skills development through the MSc course by leading teaching on multiple modules and supervising PhD students. Additional new PhD scholarships were secured
- There was a rise in students attending the MSc from 16 last year to 26
- The MSc field course took place in Scotland (for the first time) with 25 students attending, covering topics from Tropical Plant identification and Taxonomy and Collections modules and a one-day course on scientific writing
- Retention figures on the HND/BSc programme remain high

- First RBGE primary and secondary summer school programmes were delivered in July/August 22, attracting new audiences
- Launch of new careers online resources for young people on RBGE’s online learning platform PropaGate and RBGE presence at Developing Young Workforce careers events
- A four-day training course on *Flora of Nepal* account writing was delivered by RBGE staff to 25 people in Kathmandu
- Capacity building and local networking were priorities in Nepal during fieldwork expeditions, with meetings held with the Mayors of Letang and Dharan, the latter receiving significant publicity in Nepali media
- Two young person guarantee placements funded by City of Edinburgh Council started in April: the participants are gaining useful practical horticultural skills and an increasing knowledge of plants and their uses
- Four Foundation Apprentices took place this year, two in science and two across the business functions
- Overseas capacity building work includes working in partnership with the Chilean NGO Fundación Chilco specifically to develop an integrated conservation strategy for Vodudahue (a 750 ha Patagonian rainforest)
- The new Advanced certificate in Botanical illustration was launched and is now a core element of the education programme and continues to attract learners progressing between the certificate and diploma
- Volume 21 of *Sibbaldia* was completed, featuring the journal's first botanic garden profile from the continent of Africa: Gullelle Botanic Garden in Ethiopia, and an in-depth article on the cultivation of parasitic plants in gardens. Other topics covered in this issue include green roofs and roses in New Zealand, two articles on the cultivation and conservation of Ericaceae, how to set up a seedbank, and propagation of *Bambusa vulgaris*

Education & Student Satisfaction	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
No of early years sessions delivered	13	5	0	54	33	<b>80</b>
No of primary sessions delivered	280	252	0	0	71	<b>200</b>
No of secondary sessions delivered	60	21	0	0	10	<b>50</b>
HND/BSc student retention figure (%) *	-	-	80%	78%	102%*	<b>80%</b>
MSc student retention figure (%)	-	-	85%	85%	92%	<b>90%</b>
Total number of learners engaged	12,729	10,547	3,900	2,257	5,157	<b>7,000</b>
% of student satisfaction	-	-	65%	79%	75%	<b>80%</b>

Student satisfaction figure is an estimate only based on feedback, as the student satisfaction survey for this year is yet to be issued

\* HND/BSc student retention figure will be discontinued and replaced by tracking of HND/BSc student achievement of enrolled qualification as achievement of qualification provides a better measure of positive outcome for our students – Student numbers in each year are shown here, but people joining or bridging in from other courses, taking years out etc. means retention cannot readily be tracked. So, students recorded in 21/22 are not necessarily the same individuals recorded for the following year appearing as ‘retained’.

Schools programme figures were affected by several factors over 2022/23. Early years, primary and secondary sessions were all below target, however the focus of secondary school engagement in 2022/23 was on the delivery of larger career sessions, so while fewer sessions were delivered, the overall engagement was increased. Primary schools sessions were mainly impacted by cost of living crisis and the hugely increased transportation costs to the schools affecting affordability of visits.

Early years sessions were impacted by flooding issues in the outdoor nursery reducing the number sessions that we were able to offer. This has now been addressed.

## Online Learning & Engagement

Our priorities are leveraging the use of online learning, social media platforms and mobile apps to support environmental education and public engagement.

2022/23 highlights include:

- New Getting started with planting design course launched with 100 students enrolled within the first 6 months
- Transition to the new RHS level 2 online Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth and Development is well underway (launching Autumn 23). Support is still being provided to 435 students completing the previous version of the qualification
- Move to new learning platform host, CoSector, University of London completed to ensure enhanced system support and continuity of provision for students
- Extensive accessibility work continued by way of updating courses and performing an Accessibility Audit. This ensures compliance with the Public Sector Accessibility Regulations, thus enabling greater access to our students and an overall improved learning experience for all
- Work continues with Estates and Technology Services to review teaching space AV with the aim of ensuring these spaces are easier to use for tutors and in turn provide an improved learner experience
- 705 people signed up for the 'Botany for the Built Environment' online course which was developed in partnership with the University of Leeds to support urban planners and managers to make more socially and environmentally conscious decisions
- 30% of new enrolments on PropaGate were international learners, representing 87 countries. In total, 3,586 learners logged into PropaGate in 22/23
- Vital work to streamline the data protection/retention/storage processes for online learning was implemented
- Website traffic exceeded expectations with venue hire attracting 13.3k page views, job vacancies 13k, Christmas at the Botanics 12k and Education 10k page views
- Christmas at the Botanics delivered up to 6k visitors to the website at its peak in November/December and the trail's landing page was the most visited at 230k views. 78% of Christmas at the Botanics viewers were new to the site
- RBGE's webpage 'Our Work to Combat the Climate Emergency' attracted significant interest
- The BBC Antiques Roadshow broadcasts in April and May, drove peaks of traffic to the website (over 10,000 visitors each day)
- RBGE's tribute to HM The Queen reached an audience of 100k on social media and was viewed 1.7k times on the website

Online Learning	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
New PropaGate Course Enrolments: UK	525	521	2,946	2,105	1,220	<b>1,200</b>
New PropaGate Course Enrolments: International	108	63	689	460	503	<b>264</b>

Online Engagement	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
RBGE Website: Sessions	724,125	857,725	1,104,805	1,258,587	1,119,080	<b>1,000,000</b>
RBGE Website: Users	539,745	600,699	775,293	946,978	780,622	<b>750,000</b>
Botanic Stories: Posts	2,200	2,339	2,449	2,494	2,568	<b>2,500</b>
Botanic Stories: Unique Visitors / Sessions	38,000	62,811	80,307	83,790	88,658	<b>85,000</b>

Online Engagement	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Social Media: Facebook Friends/Likes	79,515	84,988	95,771	100,505	97,858	<b>105,000</b>
Social Media: X/Twitter Followers	25,629	28,692	31,489	33,247	34,404	<b>35,000</b>
Social Media: Instagram Followers	52,747	70,944	81,513	89,435	94,357	<b>93,000</b>
Social Media: LinkedIn	-	-	-	6,001	9,292	<b>10,000</b>
Social Media: TikTok	-	-	-	-	1,258	<b>5,000</b>

### Community Engagement

Our priorities are inspiring communities to celebrate, protect and enjoy the natural capital of Scotland and the world and to maximise health and wellbeing.

2022/23 highlights include:

- The 'in person' community engagement programme is now back up and running and Health and Wellbeing groups, Move More, the Garden Social and Cook Club back for their regular sessions
- The Restoration Forth Community Engagement project team represented the project at a wide variety of events including community picnics, beach cleans, primary school assemblies and conferences
- New community engagement online activity included an event delivered to 500 residents at 50 care homes across the UK
- 305 free Christmas at the Botanic tickets, using existing allocated RBGE slots, were issued to 31 different community groups

Community Engagement	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Engaging Gardens Programme	7,434	6,600	3,612	4,000	6,273	<b>8,000</b>
Skills-sharing programme	5,003	5,234	-	-	271	<b>300</b>
Restoration Forth Community Engagement	-	-	-	-	2,055	<b>3,000</b>

### Public Understanding & Engagement

Our priorities are using all our resources and programmes, from science and horticulture to the arts, to enhance public understanding of plants, fungi and environmental sustainability while contributing to Scotland's economy through being a major international tourist destination.

2022/23 highlights include:

- Total visits to the Gardens was 1,088,239 including 973,833 day visits, representing a 30% increase in visitors
- Public Engagement exhibitions and trails attracted 40,335 visitors to Inverleith House (Rhododendrons; In the Eddy of the Stream and Hallowe'en Trail).
- Exhibitions in the John Hope Gateway attracted an estimated 85,460 visitors (Forth Lines, 'With Love. From an Invader', 'We are nature; We are responsible' and Living Soil).
- RBGE was the host of BBC Antiques Roadshow in April and May, attracting audiences of over 3 million viewers, featuring RBGE experts and items from our preserved collections
- Our Christmas at the Botanic event recorded the highest number of visitors ever at 98,052 and a profit of £295K to RBGE
- The Remarkable Trees tour, delivered via Heygo live streaming tours, gained a 5-star rating

- A new edition of 'Plants from the Woods and Forests of Chile' was published. New book publications included 'The Yew Hedge' and 'the Hidden World of Mosses'
- There was extensive media interest in the Edinburgh Biomes news relating to the £4 million award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund
- RBGE's *Amorphophallus* bloom attracted extensive media interest

Visits & Public Engagement	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Day visits to the four Gardens	1,062,002	1,066,208	493,892	832,220	973,833	<b>966,460</b>
Additional out of hours visits	102,280	97,847	68,089	100,872	114,406	-
Total visits (day visits and additional visits)	1,164,282	1,164,055	561,981	933,092	1,088,239	-
Number of visits to RBGE Exhibitions (Edinburgh)	45,154	59,769	5,708	14,082	120,913	<b>95,000</b>
Audiences at Public Programme Events (Edinburgh)	-	-	-	4,759	68,475	<b>62,000</b>
Garden Tours attendees (in-Garden guided, BSL, online)	1,400	1,400	0	300	1,861	<b>3,000</b>
Income from all Garden (led) Tours (inc. online)	£8,621	£9,170	£0	£1,198	£16,083	<b>£12,000</b>

Christmas @the Botanics	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
C@tB: tickets sold	78,338	76,268	66,638	93,480	98,000	<b>95,000</b>
C@tB: percentage of first-time visitors to RBGE	23%	27%	31%	32%	33%	<b>33%</b>
C@tB: Income	£117,000	£114,534	£100,857	£311,735	£290,294	<b>£200,000</b>

Media coverage	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Media Messages: Press Cuttings	3,007	2,183	1,965	1,997	1,995	<b>2,200</b>
Media Messages: Digital Credits	1,992	1,757	1,499	2,718	2,833	<b>3,000</b>
Media Messages: Broadcasts	359	862	294	228	185	<b>310</b>

## Sustaining RBGE – ensuring a sustainable organisation

### Environmental Sustainability

Our priorities are reducing our carbon footprint; reducing waste, fossil fuel use and increasing recycling; developing sustainable supply chains and investing in green technologies and innovative green projects. 2022/23 highlights include:

- A Carbon Management Plan was completed and is being used to develop a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Environmental Policy
- Carbon management projects included:
  - JHG LED upgrade, saving 20 MW, equivalent to 3.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - Solar PV at Logan, with 35 kW capacity, capable of generating up to 30 MW in a year
  - Extensive LED upgrades at Balfour Building, House 20, and Inverleith House
- Changes were made to the rbge.org.uk website, resulting in a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from 1.70g to 0.97g for each homepage visit, a saving of 53%. Following upgrade to new software version and migration to a more cyber secure hosting environment, further reductions to the carbon footprint of the site were made from 0.97g to 0.77g for each homepage visit, saving a further 21%

Carbon footprint	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	target
Total carbon footprint (tCO2e)	3,114	3,043	2,273	2,288	2,460	<b>2,434*</b>

\* Carbon Footprint target for 22/23 calculated against baseline of 2019/20 as 2020 to 2021 had much lower footprints due to Covid-related closures of buildings and a reduction in travel. The target figure for next year allows for a return to pre-Covid levels of business travel

## Social Sustainability

Our priorities continue to be building an equal and fair work community through embedding racial justice, equality, diversity and inclusion principles and practices; developing quality, visible and accessible leadership and management; re-establishing and enhancing our volunteer programme post-pandemic; advancing our Research Associate community, work exchanges and secondments.

2022/23 highlights include:

- RBGE's first People Strategy started its development, incorporating the outcomes and recommendations from the Strategic Workforce Review of spring 2022
- Our Racial Justice Report was published on our website and available to the public, with an action plan in place to take matters forward
- New Disability and Neurodiversity staff inclusion networks were introduced
- The new Access Policy is on our website and available to the public
- A series of meetings between community groups for Black and minority ethnic people and RBGE representatives took place at Edinburgh and Benmore Gardens, facilitated by Backbone (a leading BAME outdoor environmental education organisation)
- As at March 22 our gender pay gap stood at 8.1% in favour of male employees, a reduction from the 10.66% reported at the end of March 2021

Volunteers	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	target
Volunteer attendances	2,877	4,418	374	641	1,721	<b>2,000</b>
Volunteer hours	14,811	17,786	1,244	2,201	7,755	<b>9,000</b>
Volunteer coordinator hours	2,333	4,146	280	651	1,818	<b>2,000</b>

## Infrastructure Sustainability

Our priorities are developing and maintaining secure, resilient and fit for purpose digital and physical estate environments, ensuring compliant and robust, corporate and information governance.

2022/23 highlights include:

- The Board of Trustees and Executive Team participated in a risk and opportunities workshop looking at RBGE's key strengths and biggest concerns, and potential opportunities and innovations for the immediate and longer term future
- A Senior Leadership Team planning conference was held looking at risks and opportunities, innovation, leadership, planning, prioritisation, budgeting and performance management
- A high-level Digital Strategy was produced and will be finalised following incorporation of the outcomes of a review looking at digital transformation
- An options appraisal for the Library and Herbarium was carried out and a report produced, which will be reviewed by the Executive Team in early 2023/24
- The Victorian Palm houses works elements of the Edinburgh Biomes programme have commenced and are progressing well

- Flood prevention works at the John Hope Gateway, Balfour Building resiliency works, and installation of a boiler in the nursery and a critical services generator were carried out reducing risk to infrastructure and increasing our resilience
- Infrastructure maintenance and development works included refurbishment of the main reception in the Balfour Building, upgrades at Benmore and Benmore Courtyard, a wood pasteurisation barn at Edinburgh, fire detection and security system upgrades at Edinburgh, and road and path works at Benmore, Edinburgh and Dawyck
- Installation of Decking at Dawyck and an Education Suite at Logan increase our income generating capacity

Cyber Security Incidents	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Reported Incidents	-	-	-	0	0	0
Number of Major Security Incidents	-	-	-	0	0	0
Number of Minor Security Incidents	-	-	1	0	1	0

Planned vs Reactive maintenance spend	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Planned works vs Reactive (% ratio)	70/30	57/43	62/38	48/52	55/45	70/30
Maintenance spend: Planned vs Reactive	£455k/£195k	£327k/£250k	£441k/£276k	£315k/£342k	£334k/£277k	443k/200k

### Economic & Financial Sustainability

Our priorities are contributing £50m+ "additionality" annually to the Scottish economy; developing apprenticeship, internship and work experience opportunities; growing commercial income, fundraising & philanthropy, and research grant activities; increasing collaboration and partnerships.

2022/23 highlights include:

- The Patrons programme included a Summer Garden Party and the Annual Patrons' Dinner with the focus on the Restoration of the Glasshouses and Edinburgh Biomes Project, and a Patron and donor event highlighting our work in Nepal
- Working in partnership with the Botanic Foundation we are increasing our activity and presence in the USA, setting up an American Friends Foundation
- Self-Generated income total was £3,742,717
- BTC profit was £1,488,390, more than £400k over budget
- Successful grant applications made from science this year totalled more than £2.1m

### Edinburgh Biomes fundraising:

- An NLHF Trustees' visit took place in September; 20 Trustees and staff spent a half day in the Gardens learning about the Palm House Restoration and broader work related to the Activity Plan
- A second Biomes 'Behind the Scenes' Engagement event was held in July
- Historic Environment Scotland confirmed a donation of £500,000 to restore the Heritage Palm Houses

### Other fundraising:

- Philanthropic income total was £1,675,129
- We received 44 pledges with a total pledged income of £2,047,301

- We had 15,014 individual donations
- We have 107 legacy pledgers, 11 added in this FY and surpassing the target of 100
- Legacy income was £88,960
- Visitor Giving received £121,169

#### Membership:

- We have 150 patrons
- 2,626 new members joined the Membership Scheme, bringing the membership total to 11,848
- Membership subscription income for 2022/23 was £235,567

#### Science Grant funding:

Submission of 23 grant applications in 2022/23, of which 14 have already been successful, to a value of £2,112,650, with particular growth in the research team working in the field of biodiversity genomics.

These included:

- Darwin Tree of Life extension funding secured to enable continued large scale genome sequencing of the plants of Britain and Ireland, from Wellcome Trust
- A Virtual Access - Synthesys grant for the *Cyrtandra* Resource Centre with RBGE collaborating with colleagues at Kew, Copenhagen and Vienna on databasing, imaging and georeferencing of *Cyrtandra* specimens for development of a shared open-access online resource
- Funding from the Plant Health Centre for Understanding the risks to Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) from a newly damaging Pestalotioid fungus; and for a project on biocontrols led by SRUC (Potential of biocontrol for the sustainable management of plant diseases in Scotland: Opportunities and barriers)
- Funding from BGCI to survey large UK gardens to understand biosecurity activities currently in place as well as concerns regarding pests and diseases'
- Two Nature Restoration Fund applications supporting restoration of ten of Scotland's rarest plant species and the Arkaig Landscape
- Two Royal Commission of AlUla-funded consultancy projects using DNA-barcoding to study the diet of wild and reintroduced herbivore species, and carrying out an ecosystem assessment in AlUla Nature Reserves, Saudi Arabia
- Funding from the Aliph Foundation to protect rock art sites and associated biodiversity in Soqatra, Yemen
- A joint NERC grant with the University of York to reduce commodity-driven forest and biodiversity loss (£109k to RBGE)

Development	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Philanthropic Income	£1,492,000	£1,268,000	£1,28,536	£1,788,488	£1,675,129	<b>£2,000,000</b>
Pledged Income	-	-	£282,965	£6,816,000	£2,047,301	<b>£2,900,000</b>
Number of Patrons	128	128	130	154	150	<b>165</b>
Number of donors *	551	784	1,433	1,407	1,050	<b>1,500</b>
Number of gifts	819	1,437	12,179	19,820	16,012	<b>20,000</b>
Number of registered alumni	-	30	457	514	558	<b>540</b>

Following some revision to Development indicators some targets were not set

\* Number of donors = unique individuals/organisations that have a record on our fundraising and donor management database



Membership	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Total number of Members	10,229	10,200	10,770	11,889	11,848	<b>13,981</b>
Number of new Members	1,769	1,750	1,594	2,266	2,626	<b>2,654</b>
Net increase in Members	347	-29	672	1,768	275	<b>2,000</b>
Membership retention*	80.03%	76.66%	82.2%	94%	88%	<b>80%</b>
Total Membership Subscription Income	£221,000	£239,000	£168,000	£241,000	£235,567	<b>£310,000</b>

\* Restated for 2021/22 to reflect new methodology

Grant Awards	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Number of Grant Applications	23	20	19	29	23	<b>25</b>
Number of successful awards	11	15	10	16	14	<b>15</b>
Value of successful awards	£2,110,202	£1,153,792	£303,836	£1,719,000	£2,112,650	<b>£1,500,000</b>

Commercial Income	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Target
Sales income from RBGE books	£5,000	£3,195	£10,751	£15,024	£22,063	<b>£20,000</b>
BTC profit total	£1,097,000	£836,000	£-47,000	£761,386	£1,488,390	<b>£1,050,000</b>

## Financial Review

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities on page 48 shows an overall movement on funds of £16,136k, mostly due an increase in restricted funds of £16,127k. Unrestricted funds have increased by £71k, after an increase of £773k in 2021/22. This is due to the continued recovery in the financial performance of the Botanic Trading Company as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on profits reduced. The increase in Restricted Funds is due to an excess of capital funds over depreciation (£7,724k); a small deficit of £183k on restricted projects, and £8,586k due to the revaluation of fixed assets. Endowment funds saw a deficit in the year of £62k.

The accounts have been prepared in a form directed by Scottish Ministers under paragraph 20(3) of Schedule 1 to the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 and on the basis of the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the accounts.

During the year the Garden received revenue grant in aid of £11.2m (2021/22: £11.9m) and capital grant of £10.9m (2021/22: £8.4m). The increase in capital grant was to fund the work on the Edinburgh Biomes project. Other grants, gifts and donations increased by £0.38m to £3.0m. Income from admissions to the Regional Gardens, education courses, rents, concessions, membership income and other activities was £1.61m compared to £2.1m in 2021/22, with the fall being mainly due to a reduction in Education income. Trading and commercial activity contributed £3.7m compared to £2.2m in 2021/22 as performance continued to improve as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reduced. Staff costs amounted to £12.7m (2021/22: £11.9m) and £7.7m (2021/22: £5.8m) was spent on other direct costs excluding depreciation and impairment.

Capital expenditure of £10.8m (2021/22: £8.5m) was incurred, of which almost £9.8m was spent on land and buildings and infrastructure. The biggest project spend in the year was on the Edinburgh Biomes project, with construction work commencing in September 2022 on the Victorian Palm House.

The Statement of Financial Activities for RBGE (page 47) shows an overall net movement on funds of £16,043k, mainly due to the increase in restricted funds detailed above. The impact of COVID-19

pandemic reduced significantly, with an increase in the level of income from gift aid received from the Botanics Trading Company. This increase was partly offset by the reduced revenue Grant-In-Aid from the Scottish Government.

The overall reserves remain healthy with an increase in group reserves to £79.2m from £63.0m. Unrestricted group funds have increased from £953k to £1,024k. Project funds have decreased from £1,120k to £937k as grants were spent during the period.

Uncertainty continues around the level of longer-term funding from Scottish Government which makes future planning difficult. However, Grant-in-Aid funding has been agreed for 2023/24 and discussions have taken place on future funding requirements. Ongoing discussions with our Scottish Government sponsor department indicate there are no concerns that there are any plans by SG to cease funding RBGE. It is therefore considered appropriate to prepare accounts on a going concern basis.

RBGE continually strives to increase revenue streams to offset the effect of the Edinburgh Biomes project which will further restrict income generation over the next few years.

### Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of the organisation is explained in Note 1 of the accounts. The Trustees' view is that a target level of £100k of unrestricted reserves for RBGE is desirable to give the organisation flexibility to cope with funding fluctuations. A small deficit of £2k in the year has seen the unrestricted reserves increase slightly to £206k at the 31 March 2023. This is likely to be reduced further in 2023/24 to the target level.

### Other Fixed Assets

Significant changes in other fixed assets are shown in Notes 11 and 12.

### Payment Policy

RBGE's policy is to settle all debts with its creditors within 10 days to comply with the Scottish Government requirement, but to ensure all debts are settled within 30 days. The average duration for 2022/23 was 25 days (21/22: 27 days), with 80% (2021/22: 78%) of invoices paid within 30 days. The improvement can mainly be attributed to continued improvement in processes related to homeworking.

### Investment Policy and Performance

It is the policy of RBGE to keep capital balances intact, and use only the income generated for expenditure related to the charity. However, in exceptional circumstances Trustees may, at their discretion, consider the use of capital for specific projects, in line with any stipulations made as part of the bequests. The portfolio is managed by Investment Managers using a Total Return approach. During the year, dividend and interest income of £31k was received; the investment portfolio decreased in value by 4.6%, net of fees. Gross of fees, the portfolio decreased by 3.9% against a benchmark of 1.4%.

An ethical investment policy was approved by the RBGE Board in 2018/19 and has been implemented but remains under constant review. This is available on the RBGE website.

## Sustainability Report 2022/23

### The Climate Change (Scotland) Acts 2009 and 2019

In the context of both the biodiversity and climate crises, RBGE's work has never been more critical. To perform our vital work often requires international travel, while our own expansive estate requires significant resources to operate and maintain, both of which affect our carbon output. RBGE recognises the need to routinely assess our working practices, to improve our facilities and our operations, and to modify our organisational behaviour and activities, in order to reduce our carbon footprint and lower our environmental impact.

In 2009, the Scottish Government set what remains one of the most ambitious pieces of climate change legislation anywhere in the world; to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. In an amendment to this, published as the Climate Change Emissions Act (2019), the Scottish Government brought forward this target to reduce all greenhouse gasses to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040.

Section 44 of the 2009 Act places duties on Scottish public bodies in relation to climate change. From 1/01/2011 any public body must, in exercising its functions, act:

- in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the Act's emission reduction targets
- in the way best calculated to help deliver any statutory programme for adapting to the impacts of climate change
- and in a way that it considers most sustainable

### Carbon Management Plan

In response to this legislation, RBGE developed a revised Carbon Management Plan for 2021- 2030 which outlines our pathway to Net Zero to align with Scottish Government objectives. It is also a critical time following international discussions on climate change at COP26 in November 2021 and considering the current energy crisis and cost of fuel. Our Carbon Management Plan contains over 100 projects that will directly contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions from the RBGE estate, as well as cost.

Our carbon reduction targets have been set at a 40% reduction by 2030 based on a 2019/20 baseline year, which will put us on track to Net Zero emissions by 2045. This includes a 5% reduction in gas and electricity each year, and a significant reduction in travel emissions compared to pre-pandemic levels.

We plan to achieve this through a combination of sustainable building upgrades, and careful operational management of our energy consumption and operational behaviours. We will also need to review and optimise our travel policy to ensure our essential international work can be carried out while being mindful of our carbon footprint.

A number of sustainability projects were completed in 2022/23, including several large-scale LED upgrades in the John Hope Gateway, Balfour Building, and House 20. The Gateway upgrade alone has saved RBGE 3.8tCO<sub>2</sub>e and over £4,000 in electricity costs in its first six months after installation. LEDs will continue to be rolled out across the estate as part of any general refurbishment works to maximise efficiencies and reduce costs. Two new solar PV arrays have been installed at both Logan and Dawyck which will generate electricity, reducing our dependence on the national grid and protecting us somewhat against increasing electricity costs.

Design works were completed for a new sustainable heating system and lighting upgrade at Benmore, to

be completed in Autumn 2023. This will include LED lighting and updated controls, as well as an air source heat pump, which will deliver efficient heating to the courtyard area.

### Carbon Footprinting

RBGE continues to fulfil our requirement to submit the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report (PBCCDR). This annual report provides a comprehensive overview of RBGE’s greenhouse gas emissions and our renewable energy projects. While this report was officially compiled and submitted in November, a preliminary summary of the information to be included is provided in the table below.

### RBGE Carbon Emissions 2022/23

Emissions Category		Total Carbon Emitted (tCO2e)		Percentage of Total Carbon		Cost of Carbon Emitted	
		2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
Buildings Electricity, Gas, & Biomass	Edinburgh	2035	2,150	90.0	95.0	£791,133	£506,883
	Benmore						
	Dawyck						
	Logan						
Transport	Fleet	17.28	37.7	8.8	4.5	£153,871	£63,546
	Business Travel	183.18	65.9				
Waste	Landfill	3.3	3.4	0.8	0.6	£52,495	£39,223
	Combustion	2.0	1.4				
	Compost	6.7	6.7				
	Anaerobic Digestion**	0.2	0.1				
	Recycling	1.9	1.8				
Water	Supply	11	6.8	0.5	0.3	£104,985	£84,947
	Treatment						
Renewables	Generated electricity	(9.7)	(9.5)	(0.1)	(0.4)	(£15,817)	(£16,270)
<b>Totals (Gross)</b>		<b>2,260</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>£1,086,667</b>	<b>£678,329</b>

During 2022/23, RBGE emitted 2,260 tCO2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This is similar to last year (less 11tCO2e), but we see a significant rise in costs of the associated emissions. This can be attributed in part to the energy crisis, but also the return to international business travel following the Covid-19 pandemic.

When comparing this year’s emissions to our baseline year for the Carbon Management Plan (2019), we are seeing a 25% decrease in emissions, which puts us on track with our reduction targets.

Gas consumption has decreased from last year, which is likely due to the Biomes project reducing heating requirements in the Glasshouses. Electricity has continued to increase in line with the return to office working, but carbon emissions have remained stable due to the increase in renewable energy being generated across the UK, which lowers the national grid carbon factor. In terms of cost, however, we see a significant increase due to rising energy prices. RBGE belongs to the Scottish Government Procurement Framework for electricity, which has protected us from the volatile energy market over the last few years by purchasing electricity in advance. However we are now starting to see the impact of price rises on our electricity costs, so it is imperative that we continue to reduce our energy consumption where possible.

Waste is overall similar to last year’s figures. Paper waste has reduced as staff are encouraged to operate a paperless working environment as far as possible. The number of staff working from home

has also caused a decrease in printing.

RBGE's carbon footprint for water has increased from last year which is likely due to increased occupancy of the buildings. We have also installed top up taps in partnership with Scottish Water, which allows visitors to refill their water bottles; reducing the need to purchase drinks in single use plastics. Further efficiencies in irrigation processes are planned by horticulture. In addition, we continue to monitor and report water consumption on a regular basis, allowing for quick identification and repair of any leaks.

The lifting of international travel restrictions has allowed RBGE staff to travel by rail and air again, though transport emissions are still well below pre-pandemic levels at 183 tCO<sub>2</sub>e compared to the 2019 figure of 399 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Several staff members have chosen to travel by cross-country rail which has around ten times less carbon than by plane, so these efforts should be commended and encouraged.

While measuring carbon emissions is integral to RBGE's progress towards Net Zero, it is important to note the other activities occurring at RBGE that are not necessarily captured within our emissions reporting but play a large part in the wider sustainability of the organisation. For example:

- Our Cycle to Work Scheme has been reviewed to allow purchase of e-bikes
- Engagement with MSc students on sustainability related dissertation projects
- Increased innovative recycling practices
- Continued partnerships with various organisations around Edinburgh and Scotland
- Online climate change and biodiversity short courses have been developed by education
- Sustainable materials and working practices are being included in the Biomes project
- Our procurement process is being adapted to include sustainability consideration
- BTC has developed a sustainable buying policy to ensure that all goods sold in the shop have ethical and environmental consideration

While this is not an exhaustive list of every sustainability related activity at RBGE, it does provide a glimpse into the many ways, big and small, that RBGE is implementing greener practices and behaviours across the organisation in tandem with our larger carbon-reduction goals.

## Legal and Administrative Details

### PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh  
20A Inverleith Row  
Edinburgh, EH3 5LR

### BANKERS

The Royal Bank of Scotland  
12 North West Circus Place  
Edinburgh, EH3 6SX

### SOLICITORS

Brodies LLP Solicitors  
15 Atholl Crescent  
Edinburgh, EH3 8HA

### AUDITORS

#### External

Audit Scotland  
102 West Port  
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

#### Internal

Henderson Loggie  
Ground floor, 11-15 Thistle Street  
Edinburgh EH2 1DF

### INVESTMENT ADVISERS

Brewin Dolphin  
Atria One  
144 Morrison Street  
Edinburgh EH3 9BR

## Appointment of Auditors

In terms of Schedule 1 to the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985, an auditor appointed by the Auditor General for Scotland audits the annual report and accounts prepared by the Board of Trustees in respect of each financial year. Scottish Ministers lay copies of it and the auditor's report before the Scottish Parliament.

## Disclosure of Relevant Audit Information

All reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that all relevant audit information has been disclosed to the auditors. So far as I am aware, all relevant information has been provided to the auditors.

*Dominic Fry*

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Dominic Fry  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

15 December 2023

*Simon Milne*

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Simon Milne MBE  
Regius Keeper and Accountable Officer

14 December 2023

## Statement of Board's And Regius Keeper's Responsibilities

Under paragraph 20 of Schedule 1 of the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985, the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is required to prepare, in accordance with best commercial practice, a consolidated statement of accounts dealing with the RBGE and its subsidiary companies (together referred to as the "group") for each financial year in the form and on the basis determined by Scottish Ministers. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and of its income and expenditure, Statement of Financial Position and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Board is required to:

- Observe the accounts direction issued by Scottish Ministers, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, and disclose and explain material departures in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in operation;
- Confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgements required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable

The Accountable Officer for the Scottish Government Rural and Environment, Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) has designated the Regius Keeper as the Accountable Officer for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh assets, are set out in the Financial Memorandum of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh issued by Scottish Ministers.

As the Accountable Officer, I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, all relevant information has been provided to the auditors.

## Governance Statement

### Scope of Responsibility

The Regius Keeper, as Accountable Officer, and the Board of Trustees, have joint responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the organisation's policies, aims and objectives, set by Scottish Ministers, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which the Regius Keeper is responsible in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to them in the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM).

The SPFM is issued by the Scottish Ministers to provide guidance to the Scottish Government and other public bodies on the proper handling of public funds. It is mainly designed to ensure compliance with statutory and Parliamentary requirements, promote value for money and high standards of propriety, and secure effective accountability and good systems of internal control.

In addition, the Regius Keeper is accountable to the Accountable Officer, the Director General Economy within Scottish Government, to enable them to discharge their overall responsibility for ensuring that RBGE, as a Scottish Government Non-Departmental Public Body, has adequate financial systems and procedures in place.

### Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the organisation's policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the organisation's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The process within the organisation accords with the SPFM and has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts and accords with guidance from the Scottish Ministers. The Regius Keeper has received assurances from all Directors about operations and internal controls under their remit and no issues have been identified.

## Organisational Risk Management

### Risk Strategy and Risk Management

With the wide range of activities at RBGE and the diverse groups of stakeholders it serves, it is essential that RBGE's approach to, and appetite for, risk is carefully assessed.

Strategic leadership on risk management comes from the Executive Team with oversight by the Board of Trustees. The RBGE Risk Register was updated regularly during the year by the Senior Leadership Team to allow the consideration and management of risks. Annually the Board of Trustees completes a review of the Key Strategic Risks; this review coincides with the Trustees' annual strategic review.

All risks are reported quarterly to ensure that the risk management process is embedded in the operational management of RBGE.



At the detailed level, individual Directors are responsible for the implementation of risk management and mitigation within their Division. The Senior Leadership Team monitors and reports on the progress of actions taken to manage risks and on the emergence of new risks which are updated in the quarterly performance report.

### Major Risks to RBGE Strategy

The high priority risks faced by RBGE were reviewed on a quarterly basis and their findings reported to the Board of Trustees. The Board carries out their own independent assessment once per year and the most serious risks that face the RBGE have been determined by the Board as follows:

- Decline in quality of infrastructure and equipment within the laboratory facilities  
Mitigating action: Refurbishment work has commenced to improve the laboratory space in line with current requirements.
- Risk of damage to the National Botanic Collections due to failing infrastructure - Living Collection  
Mitigating action: The Edinburgh Biomes project will upgrade the glasshouses and significantly improve the protection of the living collection. While the project is ongoing, we will continue to monitor future glass damage and initiate repairs when possible and continually review drainage requirements including ensuring all existing drains are fully functional.
- Risk of damage to the National Botanic Collections – Herbarium & Library & Archives Collections  
Mitigating action: Regular maintenance of building and utilities. All external contractors have dedicated protocol and supervision. Emergency response plan in place and key resources are familiar with the plan, with regular reviews taking place.
- Risk of loss or damage to the Living Collection from pest or pathogens  
Mitigating action: Annual review and update of RBGE's biosecurity policy. Ongoing monitoring and management of current outbreaks and monitoring and testing vulnerable plants in the collections for signs of infection
- Digital preservation / loss of digital assets  
Mitigating action: A new Digital Asset Management system that will integrate with current Collection Management systems has been procured and is currently being implemented.
- Effects of climate change/severe weather events  
Mitigating action: Review and understand the potential risks to the Living Collection, garden landscapes, buildings and infrastructure and plan mitigation action where and when possible, ensuring all equipment and materials required in the event of severe weather event are readily available.
- Instability arising in Science due to reduced funding availability and partnership dynamics  
Mitigating action: Actively pursue EU funding opportunities and Biodiverse Landscapes Fund from Defra, retain watching brief on downstream consequences of Brexit deal.
- Low financial resilience resulting from insufficient GiA in light of reduced self-generated funds  
Mitigating action: Continued regular updates to SG on impact of cost of living crisis, additional pay costs and the impact of inflation. Strengthening opportunities to diversify and grow income to improve financial contribution from BTC.
- Unsustainable financial model  
Mitigating action: Improvements to the budgeting process will ensure more scrutiny of future planned expenditure to reduce spend in areas that are not considered core to the organisation's objectives. Continue to update longer term budget forecasts to highlight areas of concern.
- Environmental Sustainability: carbon reduction  
Mitigating action: Prioritised task route map 2022-2030 agreed as part of the resources and planning process.

- Edinburgh Biomes: The project cannot meet the desired spend within the 12 month period  
Mitigating action: Robust cost plan and programme that are fully linked and monitored as the project develops. Options to be included for Plan B activities to allow the spend profile to be met in the calendar years. Regular updates to all stakeholders.
- Edinburgh Biomes: Financial requirement for each year are not fund matched.  
Mitigating action: Development team are working on funding applications to secure additional funding to meet shortfall. Programme needs to be agile to allow packages of work to be instructed that meets the funding. Grant drawdown from NLHF has been re-programmed to better meet funding profile.
- Edinburgh Biomes: Shortages of labour and supplies / Cost increases / Increased lead time of materials  
Mitigating action: Review of all sources of information in regard to available resources. Continual discussion with cost consultant, construction delivery partner and the wider supply chain on availability.

Detailed mitigation plans are in place to address the above as appropriate.

### Financial Management and Control

RBGE's policies relating to fraud are set out in the Staff Handbook and available on the intranet. These detail the steps taken to manage the risk of fraud and how to respond to fraudulent activity if it is suspected or discovered. Processes are in place to ensure that policies for counter-fraud are consistent with Scottish Government guidance, including a review of current counter-fraud activity.

There is a Whistleblowers Procedure set out in the Staff Handbook and a member of the Board of Trustees is appointed so as to be directly available to whistleblowers.

The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland (NFI) is a national detection exercise carried out by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Cabinet Office. RBGE participated in the 2022-23 exercise, the latest to take place. The results provide good assurance for the Board and the Senior Leadership Team on our internal control systems.

### Project Management

For major capital projects (valued at in excess of £2M) a Project Board, involving the Board of Trustees (and representatives of Scottish Government, as required), is established and a separate risk register is maintained for each such project. Smaller projects are managed directly by RBGE Directors and the Estates and Technology and Services Department. Major capital projects have Scottish Government sponsored gateway reviews and post project appraisals carried out. Non-capital projects, including externally funded research projects and consultancy work are managed through line managers within the Divisions and progress is monitored and significant financial variances are reported within the monthly management accounts.

### Best Value

In accordance with the principles of Best Value, RBGE aims to foster a culture of continuous improvement. As part of this regime, Directors and managers are encouraged to review, identify and improve the efficient and effective use of resources. Arrangements have been made to secure Best Value, as set out in the Scottish Public Finance Manual. Business cases for major capital investment are produced where spending limits require it.

RBGE set up an in-house procurement service in April 2020 to ensure compliance with regulations, directives and guidelines and to improve value and service. Previously, a member of the Scottish Government Shared Procurement Service was embedded at RBGE.

### Other Government Policies

RBGE subscribes to diversity initiatives and has successfully put in place processes to increase opportunities for equalities within the workplace. We pay, as a minimum, the Scottish Living Wage and have required all new bids for contracts to provide evidence that a similar intention exists by the bidding contractor. The RBGE engages with Scotland's Digital Future as much as resources can permit and reports separately under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act.

### Information Management

As one of Scotland's National Collections, RBGE holds unique information resources relating to its living and preserved collections of plants, its library and archives. Increasingly these information resources are being captured in digital form, which provides for the wider dissemination of information via the internet and also for digital archives to be securely backed up and managed within a Business Continuity Plan.

RBGE undertakes to ensure correct management of any personal data. There were three minor data related incidents in 2022/23, down from 6 the previous year. RBGE has implemented the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) by updating and strengthening policies and procedures, delivering training for Information Asset Owners and Administrators, understanding data flows in and out of the organisation and updating the Information Asset Register and Privacy Statements. To test the robustness of the systems put in place, RBGE's approach to GDPR has been audited and a number of recommendations have been implemented, with additional recommendations to be implemented in this year.

### Review of Effectiveness

The Regius Keeper (as Accountable Officer) and the Board of Trustees have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. RBGE's review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the Senior Leadership Team, supported by the findings of the programme of internal audit and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. The Regius Keeper has received assurances from all Directors about operations and internal controls under their remit and no issues have been identified.

At each quarterly Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees receive an update on key operational matters including risks from the Regius Keeper, and a copy of the quarterly Performance Report.

The Internal Auditors reviewed and reported on these areas as part of their 2022/23 audit plan:

- Records Management – overall satisfactory rating (Review carried out in 2021/22 and 2022/23, reported to June 2023 Audit Committee meeting)
- Payroll - overall good rating (Review carried out in 2021/22 and 2022/23, reported to September 2023 Audit Committee meeting)
- Asset Management - overall satisfactory rating (Review carried out in 2021/22 and 2022/23, reported to September 2023 Audit Committee meeting)

In addition there was a follow up report on the status of previous recommendations.

In the Internal Auditor's opinion, with the exception of the issues highlighted in relation to Cyber

Security, RBGE has adequate and effective arrangements for risk management, control and governance. Proper arrangements are in place to promote and secure Value for Money. This opinion has been arrived at taking into consideration the work undertaken during 2022/23 and in previous years.

The Internal Auditor's Reports made recommendations in several areas, none of which was classified as fundamental issues which required review by the Board. However, in last year's Cyber Security audit, a number of areas for improvement were highlighted that would help to achieve the control objectives. Work on these recommendations has commenced but they are not yet fully implemented.

### Assessment of Corporate Governance

The RBGE's arrangements for corporate governance comply with generally accepted best practice principles and relevant guidance as set out in the Scottish Public Finance Manual and therefore meet the governance requirements of the Board of Trustees and Scottish Government. There are no significant issues of governance / internal control to be reported.

*Dominic Fry*

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Dominic Fry  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

15 December 2023

*Simon Milne*

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Simon Milne MBE  
Regius Keeper and Accountable Officer

14 December 2023

## Remuneration & Staff Report

The information in the Annual Report is reviewed by the external auditors for consistency with the financial statements, and the information relating to the remuneration and pension benefits of board members and the Senior Management Team, fair pay disclosures, staff numbers, staff costs and number of exit packages has been audited by them. The sections on Remuneration Policy, analysis of each sex, Equal Opportunities, Diversity & Inclusion, Sickness Absence Data, Employee Consultation and Trade Union Activity, Staff engagement, Staff turnover percentage and Health and safety are not subject to audit.

### Remuneration Policy

RBGE reviews pay annually and pay settlements are negotiated within the pay policy agreed with the Scottish Government and are approved by the Remuneration Committee of the Board. The Remuneration Committee in approving the pay award has regard to:

- The need to recruit, retain and motivate suitably able and qualified people to exercise their different responsibilities;
- Regional/local variations in labour markets and their effects on the recruitment and retention of staff;
- Objectives for improving the public services including the requirement on departments to meet the output targets for the delivery of departmental services;
- Compliance with Scottish Government pay policy; and
- The affordability of the recommendation.

Remuneration for the Chief Executive is agreed in line with the Scottish Public Sector Pay Policy for Senior Appointments, agreed with the Scottish Government and is also approved by the Remuneration Committee of the Board.

### Trustees' remuneration

Trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services. Travelling and subsistence expenses of £1,482 (2021/22 £1,890) in relation to three Trustees have been charged as part of other direct costs – Note 10.

### Executive Team remuneration and pension benefits

	2022/23			2021/22		
	Salary	Pension	Total	Salary	Pension	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Regius Keeper</b>						
S Milne	110-115	43	150-155	105-110	43	150-155
<b>Directors</b>						
K Coghill	85-90	3	85-90	80-85	31	110-115
J Hannah	80-85	33	115-120	75-80	31	105-110
P Hollingsworth	85-90	-	85-90	80-85	24	105-110
E Lacroix	85-90	34	120-125	80-85	32	110-115
S Poliri *	20-25	8	25-35	70-75	29	100-105
K Reid **	20-25	7	25-30	80-85	33	115-120
R Curtis-Machin ***	40-45	16	55-60	-	-	-

\* Resigned in Q1 2022, Annual salary was 70-75

\*\* Resigned in Q1 2022, Annual salary was 80-85

\*\*\* Commenced employment in Q2 2022, Annual salary was 65-70

All of the above are members of the Civil Service pension arrangements. The Civil Service pension arrangements include the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Servant and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS) – known as Alpha.

### Employees earning over £60,000

The number of RBGE employees, including the Regius Keeper, whose emoluments as defined for taxation purposes amounted to over £60,000 in the year was as follows

	<b>2022/23</b>	2021/22
£60,000 - £69,999	15	2
£70,000 - £79,999	-	2
£80,000 - £89,999	4	4
£100,000 - £110,000	-	1
£110,000 - £120,000	1	-

### Staff numbers and costs

	<b>2022/23</b>	2021/22
Permanent Staff	254	249
Other staff	68	65
<b>Total Headcount</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>314</b>
	£000	£000
Staff Costs	<b>12,729</b>	<b>11,926</b>

Further detail on staff costs can be found at note 9 to the accounts.

### The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year analysed by function

	<b>2022/23</b>	2021/22
Horticulture	78.8	84.1
Science	46.9	47.1
Resources & Planning (inc Education)	68.4	59.0
Directorate	2.0	2.5
Visitor Experience	29.6	30.3
Development & Communication	17.8	17.6
Botanics Trading Company	21.4	19.0
Externally funded	23.7	19.1
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>288.6</b>	<b>278.7</b>

### The average headcount during the year analysed by function

	<b>2022/23</b>	2021/22
Horticulture	81.7	87.3
Science	52.7	54.4
Resources & Planning (inc Education)	74.7	66.5
Directorate	2.0	2.5
Visitor Experience	34.7	34.8
Development & Communication	21.3	20.5
Botanics Trading Company	28.3	25.5
Externally funded	26.4	22.0
<b>Total Headcount</b>	<b>321.8</b>	<b>313.5</b>

## Staff composition

	Female	Male	Non-binary	Total
Directors	3	2	-	5
Other employees	192	124	1	317
<b>2022/23 Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>322</b>
2021/22 Total	189	124	1	314

## Fair Pay Disclosure

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Band of highest paid director's remuneration (Chief Executive)	110-115K	105-110K
Percentage change in highest paid director's remuneration	4.7%	0%
Average salary of other employees	£34,559	£33,087
Percentage change in average salary of other employees	4.4%	0.5%

Year	25 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Median	75 <sup>th</sup> percentile
2022/23 Total pay	£23,886	£31,387	£36,507
2022/23 Ratio to highest paid director	4.71	3.58	3.06
2021/22 Total pay	£22,662	£29,779	£34,957
2021/22 Ratio to highest paid director	4.74	3.61	3.08

The banded remuneration, excluding pension benefits, of the lowest paid employee at RBGE in the financial year 2022-23 was £20-25k (2021-22: £15-20k). The band of the highest paid employee, excluding pension benefits, was £110-115k (2021-22: £105-110k). The increase in the highest paid director's remuneration, shown in the table above, is based on the mid-point of the bands and does not show the actual increase, which was significantly lower. Total pay does not differ from salary.

The ratios to the highest paid directors have fallen slightly in the year. This was due to the percentage pay increase received at lower bands being higher than the percentage increase received by the highest paid director. The increase in median pay was in line with the pay increase for most staff and fairly reflects the position for employees as a whole.

## Equal Opportunities, Diversity & Inclusion

RBGE continues to be actively committed to ensuring that all staff, volunteers, students and visitors are treated equally and without bias irrespective of their sex, marital status, age, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, disability, religion or social background, any pregnancy or maternity, gender reassignment, or marriage / civil partnership status in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

RBGE will avoid unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline, and selection for redundancy. Person and job specifications will be limited to those requirements necessary for the effective performance of the job. Candidates for employment or promotion will be assessed objectively against the requirements for the job, taking account of any reasonable adjustments that may be required for candidates with a disability. RBGE will comply with its obligations in relation to statutory requests for contract variations and will also make reasonable adjustments to its standard working practices to overcome barriers caused by disability.

## Sickness Absence Data

The average number of days of sickness absence per employee decreased in 2022/23 to 3.9 days (non-Covid) and 6.2 days (including Covid) compared to 4.8 (non-Covid) and 7.1 (including Covid) in 2021/22. The public sector average has also decreased in the same period to 5.3 days per employee (source – Office for National Statistics).

The total days of reported staff absence for the last 3 calendar years is shown below:

Year	20/21	21/22	22/23
Total Absence (days)	1,038	2,056 (incl COVID-19) 1,383 (excl COVID-19)	1,771 (incl COVID-19) 1,113 (excl COVID-19)

### Employee Consultation and Trade Union Activity

RBGE continues to recognise the Prospect and Unite trade unions for collective bargaining purposes. We updated our existing partnership agreement this year and continue to hold formal partnership meetings three times per year involving union officials. In addition informal meetings continue to be held monthly between our People & OD team and members of the Prospect branch committee to ensure positive employee relations.

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	<b>9.0</b>
Full time equivalent employee number	<b>8.0</b>

### Percentage of Time Number of employees

0%	0
1-50%	9
51-99%	0
100	0

The percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time was 0.07%. Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours was 55%.

### Staff engagement

RBGE does not participate in the Civil Service People Survey, but runs its own survey of staff on a regular basis.

### Staff turnover percentage

	<b>2022/23</b>	2021/22
Voluntary Turnover %age	7.0%	8.0%
Total Turnover %age	17.8%	12.2%

Voluntary turnover includes only resignations and elective retirements. Total turnover includes dismissals, end of fixed-term contracts, and staff reaching RBGE's default retirement age of 67.

### Health and safety

Health and safety at RBGE is managed through a number of regular divisional meetings, and biannual organisation-wide meetings. We have 3 health and safety advisors in post, 2 Prospect trade union health and safety representatives, and call upon the services of an external consultant as required.

### Compensation for Loss of Office

There were no voluntary exit scheme or compulsory redundancy departures at RBGE in the 2022/23 financial year. Exit costs are accounted for in full in the year of departure. 3 members of staff left RBGE and received ex gratia payments, totalling £89,740. 2 members of staff left due to the ending of fixed



term contracts that lasted more than 2 years and received redundancy payments totalling £6,373.

Exit package cost band	Number of compulsory redundancies	Number of other departures agreed	Total number of exit packages by cost band
£0,000 - £25,000	0 (0)	3 (2)	3 (2)
£25,000 - £50,000	0 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)
Total number of exit packages	0 (0)	5 (2)	5 (2)
Total cost /£	£0 (£0)	£96,113 (£18,293)	£96,113 (£18,293)

Figures in brackets represent 2021/22 comparison.

### Consultancy

Expenditure on consultancy for 2022/23 was £118,000 (2021/22: £96,000).

### Pensions

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 April 2015 a new pension scheme for civil servants was introduced – the Civil Servants and Others Pension Scheme or **alpha**, which provides benefits on a career average basis with a normal pension age equal to the member’s State Pension Age (or 65 if higher). From that date all newly appointed civil servants and the majority of those already in service joined **alpha**. Prior to that date, civil servants participated in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS has four sections: 3 providing benefits on a final salary basis (**classic**, **premium** or **classic plus**) with a normal pension age of 60; and one providing benefits on a whole career basis (**nuvos**) with a normal pension age of 65.

These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under **classic**, **premium**, **classic plus**, **nuvos** and **alpha** are increased annually in line with Pensions Increase legislation. Existing members of the PCSPS who were within 10 years of their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 remained in the PCSPS after 1 April 2015. Those who were between 10 years and 13 years and 5 months from their normal pension age on 1 April 2012 switch into **alpha** sometime between 1 June 2015 and 1 February 2022. Because the Government plans to remove discrimination identified by the courts in the way that the 2015 pension reforms were introduced for some members, it is expected that, in due course, eligible members with relevant service between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022 may be entitled to different pension benefits in relation to that period (and this may affect the Cash Equivalent Transfer Values shown in this report – see below). All members who switch to **alpha** have their PCSPS benefits ‘banked’, with those with earlier benefits in one of the final salary sections of the PCSPS having those benefits based on their final salary when they leave **alpha**. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or **alpha** – as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and **alpha** the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes.) Members joining from October 2002 may opt for either the appropriate defined benefit arrangement or a defined contribution (money purchase) pension with an employer contribution (**partnership** pension account).

Employee contributions are salary-related and range between 4.6% and 8.05% for members of **classic**, **premium**, **classic plus**, **nuvos** and **alpha**. Benefits in **classic** accrue at the rate of 1/80th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years initial pension is payable on retirement. For **premium**, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike **classic**, there is no automatic lump sum. **classic plus** is essentially a hybrid with benefits for service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per **classic** and benefits for service from October 2002 worked out as in **premium**. In **nuvos** a member builds up a pension based on his

pensionable earnings during their period of scheme membership. At the end of the scheme year (31 March) the member's earned pension account is credited with 2.3% of their pensionable earnings in that scheme year and the accrued pension is uprated in line with Pensions Increase legislation. Benefits in **alpha** build up in a similar way to **nuvos**, except that the accrual rate is 2.32%. In all cases members may opt to give up (commute) pension for a lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004.

The **partnership** pension account is an occupational defined contribution pension arrangement which is part of the Legal & General Mastertrust. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 8% and 14.75% (depending on the age of the member). The employee does not have to contribute, but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.5% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement). The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of **classic**, **premium** and **classic plus**, 65 for members of **nuvos**, and the higher of 65 or State Pension Age for members of **alpha**. (The pension figures quoted for officials show pension earned in PCSPS or alpha – as appropriate. Where the official has benefits in both the PCSPS and alpha the figure quoted is the combined value of their benefits in the two schemes, but note that part of that pension may be payable from different ages.)

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website [www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk](http://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk)

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Servant and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS) – known as “alpha” – are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but (insert employer's name) is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities.

The Scheme Actuary valued the PCSPS as at 31 March 2016. You can find details in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation.

For 2022-23, employers' contributions of **£2,477,006** were payable to the PCSPS (2021-22 £2,292,187) at one of four rates in the range 26.6% to 30.3% of pensionable earnings, based on salary bands.

The Scheme Actuary reviews employer contributions usually every four years following a full scheme valuation. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2022-23 to be paid when the member retires and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employers' contributions of **£37,858** (2021-22 £34,220) were paid to one or more of the panel of three appointed stakeholder pension providers. Employer contributions are age-related and ranged from 8% to 14.75%.

Employers also match employee contributions up to 3% of pensionable earnings. In addition, employer contributions of **£1,355** (2020-21 £1,345), 0.5% of pensionable pay, were payable to the PCSPS to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service or ill health retirement of these employees.

Contributions due to the partnership pension providers at the balance sheet date were **£0**.

Contributions prepaid at that date were **£0**.

## Independent auditor's report to the Trustees of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the Auditor General for Scotland and the Scottish Parliament

### Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements in the annual report and accounts of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the RBGE Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the 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 my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the body's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Auditor General for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed by the Auditor General on 16 March 2023. My period of appointment is five years, covering 2023/23 to 2026/27. I am independent of the body in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the body. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the body's ability to

continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the body's current or future financial sustainability. However, I report on the body's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the Audit Scotland website.

### Risks of material misstatement

I report in my separate Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my judgements thereon.

### Responsibilities of the Accountable Officer and Trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accountable Officer's Responsibilities, the Accountable Officer and trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Accountable Officer and 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 Accountable Officer and trustees are responsible for assessing the body'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 there is an intention to discontinue the body's operations.

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

My 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 my 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 decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the central government sector to identify that the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers are significant in the context of the body;
- inquiring of the Accountable Officer as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the body;
- inquiring of the Accountable Officer concerning the body's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the body's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

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

## Reporting on regularity of expenditure and income

### Opinion on regularity

In my opinion in all material respects the expenditure and income in the financial statements were incurred or applied in accordance with any applicable enactments and guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers.

### Responsibilities for regularity

The Accountable Officer and trustees are responsible for ensuring the regularity of expenditure and income. In addition to my responsibilities in respect of irregularities explained in the audit of the financial statements section of my report, I am responsible for expressing an opinion on the regularity of expenditure and income in accordance with the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

## Reporting on other requirements

### Opinion prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland on audited parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report

I have audited the parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report described as audited. In my opinion, the audited parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report have been properly prepared in accordance with the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers.

### Other information

The Accountable Officer and trustees are responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the Trustees' Report excluding the audited parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have

performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Trustees' Report and Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland.

#### Opinions prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland on Trustees' Report and Governance Statement

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers; and
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Ministers.

#### Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

#### Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual report and accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

#### Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline Murray".

Pauline Murray CPFA  
Audit Scotland  
4th Floor, 102 West Port  
Edinburgh, EH3 9DN  
15 December 2023

Pauline Murray CPFA is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 21 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

## RBGE Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Endowment Funds £000	2022/23 Total Funds £000	Restated 2021/22 Total Funds £000
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>						
Scottish Government	3	11,167	10,900	-	22,067	20,300
Donations and Legacies	4	1,962	2,329	-	4,291	2,662
Charitable activities	5	1,514	137	-	1,651	2,151
Other trading activities	6	227	212	-	439	286
Investments	7	14	-	31	45	25
<b>Total income and Endowments</b>		<b>14,884</b>	<b>13,578</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28,493</b>	<b>25,424</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds		367	-	-	367	418
Charitable activities						
Collections		5,958	1,139	-	7,097	7,163
Visitor offer		2,133	408	-	2,541	2,463
Education		1,902	364	9	2,275	2,012
Scientific research		4,546	4,126	-	8,672	6,668
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>14,906</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20,952</b>	<b>18,724</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	19	-	-	(84)	(84)	77
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(22)</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>(62)</b>	<b>7,457</b>	<b>6,777</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	19	-	8,586	-	8,586	3,510
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(22)</b>	<b>16,127</b>	<b>(62)</b>	<b>16,043</b>	<b>10,287</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 1 APRIL 2022 RESTATED</b>		<b>228</b>	<b>60,392</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>62,310</b>	<b>52,023</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 31 MARCH 2023</b>		<b>206</b>	<b>76,519</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>78,353</b>	<b>62,310</b>

All recognised gains and losses have been included within the Statement of Financial Activities.  
All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 51 to 71 form part of these accounts.

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Endowment Funds £000	2022/23 Total Funds £000	Restated 2021/22 Total Funds £000
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>						
Scottish Government	3	11,167	10,900	-	22,067	20,300
Donations and Legacies	4	770	2,329	-	3,099	2,662
Charitable activities	5	1,469	137	-	1,606	2,108
Other trading activities	6	3,493	212	-	3,705	2,226
Investments	7	17	-	31	48	23
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>		<b>16,916</b>	<b>13,578</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30,525</b>	<b>27,319</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising Funds	28	2,306	-	-	2,306	1,559
Charitable activities						
Collections		5,958	1,139	-	7,097	7,163
Visitor offer		2,133	408	-	2,541	2,463
Education		1,902	364	9	2,275	2,012
Scientific research		4,546	4,126	-	8,672	6,668
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	8	<b>16,845</b>	<b>6,037</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22,891</b>	<b>19,865</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	19	-	-	(84)	(84)	77
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>(62)</b>	<b>7,550</b>	<b>7,531</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	19	-	8,586	-	8,586	3,510
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>16,127</b>	<b>(62)</b>	<b>16,136</b>	<b>11,041</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 1 APRIL 2022 RESTATED</b>		<b>953</b>	<b>60,392</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>63,035</b>	<b>51,994</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 31 MARCH 2023</b>		<b>1,024</b>	<b>76,519</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>79,171</b>	<b>63,035</b>

All recognised gains and losses have been included within the Statement of Financial Activities.  
All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 51 to 71 form part of these accounts.



### Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	RBGE		Consolidated	
		2023	Restated	2023	Restated
		£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Other tangible assets	11	74,395	58,492	74,404	58,512
Intangible assets	12	410	243	410	243
Investments	13a	1,334	1,400	1,297	1,359
		<u>76,139</u>	<u>60,135</u>	<u>76,111</u>	<u>60,114</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Stock	14	137	126	361	283
Debtors	15	1,807	1,642	2,173	2,124
Current asset investments	13b	1	107	1	107
Cash at bank and in hand	23	5,131	3,330	5,709	3,675
		<u>7,076</u>	<u>5,205</u>	<u>8,244</u>	<u>6,189</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(4,862)	(3,030)	(5,182)	(3,264)
		<u>2,214</u>	<u>2,175</u>	<u>3,062</u>	<u>2,925</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>					
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>78,353</u>	<u>62,310</u>	<u>79,173</u>	<u>63,039</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	-	-	-	-
Provisions		-	-	(2)	(4)
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		<u><b>78,353</b></u>	<u><b>62,310</b></u>	<u><b>79,171</b></u>	<u><b>63,035</b></u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Accumulated surplus on the general fund	17	-	-	-	-
Board reserve fund: trustee funds	17	206	228	1,024	953
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		<u>206</u>	<u>228</u>	<u>1,024</u>	<u>953</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Capital revaluation reserve	17	29,814	21,228	29,814	21,228
Capital grants fund	17	45,768	38,044	45,768	38,044
Project fund	17	937	1,120	937	1,120
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		<u>76,519</u>	<u>60,392</u>	<u>76,519</u>	<u>60,392</u>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>					
Ferguson Bequest	17	1,167	1,145	1,167	1,145
Education Endowment	17	35	35	35	35
QMMG Endowment	17	30	30	30	30
Investments Revaluation Reserve	17	396	480	396	480
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>		<u>1,628</u>	<u>1,690</u>	<u>1,628</u>	<u>1,690</u>
		<u><b>78,353</b></u>	<u><b>62,310</b></u>	<u><b>79,171</b></u>	<u><b>63,035</b></u>

The Accountable Officer authorised these statements for issue on 14 December 2023

*Dominic Fry*

Dominic Fry  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
15 December 2023

*Simon Milne*

Simon Milne  
Regius Keeper and Accountable Officer  
14 December 2023

The notes on pages 51 to 71 form part of these accounts.

## Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2023

		<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities</b>	23	1,672	1,547
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest received		17	-
Payments to acquire fixed assets	11 & 12	(10,789)	(8,547)
Receipts from sale of fixed assets		7	6
Decrease in current asset investments		106	
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(10,659)</b>	<b>(8,541)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Capital funding from Scottish Government	3	10,900	8,400
Other capital grants	4	121	70
<b>Cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>11,021</b>	<b>8,470</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>2,034</b>	<b>1,476</b>
		<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		2,034	1,476
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		3,675	2,199
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		5,709	3,675

The notes on pages 51 to 71 form part of these accounts.

## Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of tangible fixed assets and investments at their market value. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with an Accounts Direction given by Scottish Ministers in accordance with paragraph 20(3) of Schedule 1 of the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985. The Accounts Direction can be found at the end of these accounts.

The Accounts Direction requires RBGE to prepare the accounts in compliance with the accounting principles and disclosure requirements of the edition of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) which is in force for the year for which the statement of accounts are prepared. As a non-departmental public body which is also a registered charity, the FReM requires that the accounts comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS102) (effective January 2015) and provide any additional disclosures as required by the FReM. In addition to the requirements of the SORP, our sponsoring department has also directed us to prepare an Income and Expenditure Summary which can be seen at note 26.

The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis which provides that the entity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The accounts are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts are to the nearest £1,000.

The charity's legal form and address of main office are shown at pages 5 and 30 of the Trustees' Report.

In preparing the accounts we have complied with FRS102 and SORP FRS102.

#### b) Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts, ("the Group") include the accounts of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh ("RBGE") and its subsidiary company, The Botanic Trading Company Limited ("BTC"), for the year ended 31 March 2023. The accounts were consolidated on a line by line basis for assets and liabilities.

#### c) Asset Policy

- i) The title to the land and buildings administered by the Board is held in the name of the Scottish Ministers. The Board holds a 99 year lease covering the use of these assets. Nevertheless, on the direction of the Scottish Ministers, these fixed assets have been valued and are included in the Balance Sheet. The method of valuation for specialised properties, that is land and buildings for which there is effectively no market, is depreciated replacement cost. Other properties are valued at open market value for existing use. The value of Tangible Fixed Assets is £74,395k. The value of Intangible assets is £410k.

- ii) All items of capital expenditure greater than £5,000 are treated as additions to tangible fixed assets. Land and buildings are subject to 5 yearly full revaluation by a valuer with indexation applied annually in the intervening years. Land and Buildings were valued as at the 31 March 2023, so no indexation was applied. Depreciation is charged on the basis of the revalued amounts for buildings and on historic cost for other tangible fixed assets. Historic costs are not disclosed as required by the SORP as, in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual, this adds no information of value to the accounts.
- iii) From 2017/18, Infrastructure has been separated from land and buildings and is held at depreciated replacement cost.
- iv) Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on all other fixed assets at rates calculated to write off their valuation, less estimated residual value, evenly over the remainder of their expected lives. The principal rates used are based on estimated lives as follows:

Buildings & Infrastructure	10-50	Years
Garden Machinery	5-10	Years
Scientific Equipment	4-5	Years
Office Equipment	3-10	Years
Motor Vehicles	4	Years
Intangible Assets	3-5	Years

#### d) Heritage Assets

A heritage asset is defined as a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

The collections of specimens, reference books and other material related to work at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh as at 31 March 2001 have not been capitalised in these accounts in line with HM Treasury Guidance for non-operational heritage assets. Individual items acquired after 1 April 2001 with a value at the date of acquisition in excess of £5,000 are capitalised. Under HM Treasury guidance, capitalised collection items are not depreciated or revalued.

The collections are truly “priceless” in that they cannot be valued meaningfully due to the number of items, lack of comparative market values and the diverse nature of the collections. It is not possible to obtain reliable cost or valuation information.

#### e) Income Policy

In the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA), Grant in Aid including Capital Grant is credited to income in the year for which it is received. Income from donations and other grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably. Government grants are recognised based on the performance model.

Income from activities is accounted for on a receivable basis, net of VAT, in line with IFRS 15, with the exception of income from the Membership Scheme that is accounted for on a cash

basis net of VAT. Gifts in Kind and Donated Services and Facilities have been included in the SOFA when they can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

#### f) Expenditure Policy

Within the Statement of Financial Activities the costs of the development and membership departments are shown as expenditure on raising funds. Staff and operating costs incurred in relation to governance are included within expenditure on charitable activities. These include internal and external audit, Trustees expenses and meeting costs. Charitable activities are those in furtherance of the RBGE's objectives. Indirect costs have been allocated on the basis of activity staff numbers. Liabilities and provisions are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing RBGE to the expenditure.

#### g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of RBGE. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are to be used for the purpose specified by the donor.

#### h) Reserves

Reserves are analysed under the headings Restricted, Unrestricted and Endowment Funds. Restricted funds are those given to RBGE for specific purposes. Unrestricted funds are divided into the Board Reserve Fund and the General Fund. Each fund is described below.

##### i) Board Reserve Fund

The Board of Trustees, with the approval of Scottish Ministers, may undertake certain activities, the profits from which, together with donations and funds from other sources, including the results of the Botanics Trading Company, are taken to the Board Reserve. These funds may be used at the Board's discretion under the terms of the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985.

##### ii) General Fund

The General Fund represents the surplus or deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account after taking into account the movement attributed to other specific funds (including the Board Reserve).

##### iii) Endowment Fund

These are donations to RBGE that have been made by way of endowment. The Trustees either have no power to convert the capital to income (permanent endowment funds) or they do have the power to convert the capital into expendable income (expendable endowments). All of the RBGE endowment funds are expendable.

#### i) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value or, if this is different by a material amount, their value to the business by reference to current costs. The carrying value of stock in the consolidated accounts is £361k (2022: £283k).

#### j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors represent balances due from customers at the year end, less any specific doubtful debts. Debts over one year old are provided for at 100%.

#### k) Liabilities and Provisions

Liabilities and provisions, including trade creditors, are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure.

#### l) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is made up by balances held with the charity's bankers which are available on demand. It also includes petty cash and float balances.

#### m) Investments

Investments are carried in the balance sheet at market value in accordance with the SORP. The unrealised surplus or deficit relative to cost is dealt with in the revaluation reserve. Investment in subsidiary companies represents share capital and long term loans.

#### n) Taxation

RBGE is a charity within the meaning of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and as such is a charity within the meaning of Para 1 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 2010 and is recorded on the index of charities maintained by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Charity Number SC007983). Accordingly, RBGE is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010) (formerly enacted in Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (ICTA)) or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. RBGE is registered, as a group, for Value Added Tax and claims partial recovery of input VAT.

#### o) Pensions

RBGE participates in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). This scheme is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme and participating organisations are unable to identify their share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reliable basis. The cost recognised within the Statement of Financial Activities will be equal to the contribution payable to the schemes for the year. Further details about the pension scheme is available in the Remuneration and Staff Report. In the past RBGE has also provided enhanced pensions to former employees who accepted early retirement and provision is made on an actuarial basis for the liability to those former employees at the time of their retirement.

#### p) Financial Instruments

Financial assets (represented by lending and receivables) are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining period of the instrument, using the following assumptions:

- No early repayment or impairment is recognised
- Where an instrument will mature in the next 12 months, the carrying amount is assumed to approximate to fair value.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

#### q) Foreign Currency Policy

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transactions.

r) **Intra Group Transactions**

Gains or losses on any intra-group transactions are eliminated in full. Amounts in relation to debts and claims between undertakings included in the consolidation are also eliminated.

s) **Gift Aid Payments from Subsidiary**

To ensure that there is clarity and consistency in how gift aid payments by subsidiaries are reported, Financial Reporting Standard 102, was updated in December 2017. Under the revised treatment, gift aid payments can only be recognised in the accounts when paid, although no tax charge needs to be shown in the subsidiary's accounts.

t) **Government Grants**

RBGE received Grant-in-Aid of £22,067k (2021/22: £20,300k) from the Scottish Government during the year. A further £185k (2021/22 £355k) was received from UK government entities to fund a number of RBGE's research projects.

## 2. PRIOR YEAR COMPARATIVES

### 2a. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The prior year comparatives restatement relates to the impact of the incorrect valuation of Buildings in 2018. The valuation overstated the value of the buildings at that date by 20% due to the inclusion of rebuilding finance costs within fixed assets in the original accounts. This also affects the depreciation charges and the revaluation account for both RBGE accounts and the group accounts.

As a result of this, the valuation of Land and Buildings at 31 March 2021 is £10,437k lower than previously reported, with cumulative depreciation £1,033k lower than previously reported, resulting in a net decrease in total fixed assets at the 31 March 2021 of £9,404k. The valuation of Land and Buildings at 31 March 2022 is £11,386k lower than previously reported, with cumulative depreciation £1,503k lower than previously reported, resulting in a net decrease in total fixed assets at 31 March 2022 of £9,883k.

An explanation of how those adjustments have affected the financial position and the financial performance reported previously is set out in the tables below.

	Fixed Assets		Revaluation	
	RBGE	Group	RBGE	Group
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Financial position – 31 March 2021</b>				
Balance in previously published accounts	58,014	58,044	(27,865)	(27,865)
Correction of buildings valuation	(10,437)	(10,437)	10,437	10,437
Effect on Depreciation charge	1,033	1,033	(694)	(694)
<b>Restated Balance as at 31 March 2021</b>	<b>48,610</b>	<b>48,640</b>	<b>(18,122)</b>	<b>(18,122)</b>
<b>Financial position – 31 March 2022</b>				
Balance in previously published accounts	68,375	68,395	(32,275)	(32,275)
Correction of buildings valuation	(11,386)	(11,386)	11,386	11,386
Effect on Depreciation charge	1,503	1,503	(819)	(819)
<b>Restated Balance as at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>58,492</b>	<b>58,512</b>	<b>(21,708)</b>	<b>(21,708)</b>

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £000</b>	<b>Total Funds £000</b>
<b>RBGE</b>				
<b>Financial performance – Year to 31 March 2021</b>				
Previously reported net movement in funds	314	1,821	290	2,425
Correction of buildings valuation	-	(10,437)	-	(10,437)
Reduction in Depreciation charge	-	1,033	-	1,033
<b>Restated net movement in funds</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>(7,583)</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>(6,979)</b>
<b>Financial performance – Year to 31 March 2022</b>				
Previously reported net movement in funds	19	10,656	90	10,765
Correction of buildings valuation	-	(949)	-	(949)
Reduction in Depreciation charge	-	470	-	470
<b>Restated net movement in funds</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10,177</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10,286</b>
<b>Group</b>				
<b>Financial performance – Year to 31 March 2021</b>				
Previously reported net movement in funds	6	1,821	290	2,117
Correction of buildings valuation	-	(10,437)	-	(10,437)
Reduction in Depreciation charge	-	1,033	-	1,033
<b>Restated net movement in funds</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(7,583)</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>(7,287)</b>
<b>Financial performance – Year to 31 March 2022</b>				
Previously reported net movement in funds	773	10,656	90	11,519
Correction of buildings valuation	-	(949)	-	(949)
Reduction in Depreciation charge	-	470	-	470
<b>Restated net movement in funds</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>10,177</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>11,040</b>



2b. Restated RBGE Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £000</b>	<b>Endowment Funds £000</b>	<b>2021/22 Total Funds £000</b>
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Scottish Government	11,900	8,400	-	20,300
Donations and Legacies	589	2,073	-	2,662
Charitable activities	2,074	77	-	2,151
Other trading activities	123	163	-	286
Investments	2	-	23	25
<b>Total income and Endowments</b>	<b>14,688</b>	<b>10,713</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25,424</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising funds	418	-	-	418
Charitable activities				
Collections	6,323	840	-	7,163
Visitor offer	2,174	289	-	2,463
Education	1,767	235	10	2,012
Scientific research	3,987	2,681	-	6,668
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>14,669</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18,724</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	77	<b>77</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>6,777</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>				
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	3,510	-	3,510
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10,178</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10,287</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 1 APRIL 2021</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>50,214</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>52,048</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 31 MARCH 2022</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>60,392</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>62,335</b>

2c. Restated Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Endowment Funds £000	2021/22 Total Funds £000
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Scottish Government	11,900	8,400	-	20,300
Donations and Legacies	589	2,073	-	2,662
Charitable activities	2,031	77	-	2,108
Other trading activities	2,063	163	-	2,226
Investments	-	-	23	23
<b>Total Income and Endowments</b>	<b>16,583</b>	<b>10,713</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27,319</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising Funds	1,559	-	-	1,559
Charitable activities				
Collections	6,323	840	-	7,163
Visitor offer	2,174	289	-	2,463
Education	1,767	235	10	2,012
Scientific research	3,987	2,681	-	6,668
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>15,810</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19,865</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	77	77
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>7,531</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>				
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	3,510	-	3,510
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>10,178</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>11,041</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 1 APRIL 2021</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>50,214</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>52,019</b>
<b>RESERVES AS AT 31 MARCH 2022</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>60,392</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>63,060</b>

### 3. GRANT-IN-AID

	RBGE		Group	
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Revenue Grant in Aid	11,167	11,900	11,167	11,900
Capital Grant	10,900	8,400	10,900	8,400
<b>Total Grant from RESAS</b>	<b>22,067</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>22,067</b>	<b>20,300</b>

### 4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	RBGE		Group	
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income from Botanics Foundation	580	385	580	385
Gift Aid from BTC	1,192	-	-	-
Grants from UK Government entities	185	356	185	356
Grants from EU	37	105	37	105
Other grants	1,820	1,247	1,820	1,247
Donations and Legacies	356	499	356	499
Capital grants – non-Grant-in-Aid	121	70	121	70
	<b>4,291</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>2,662</b>

### 5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	RBGE		Group	
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Admissions	369	426	369	426
Education charges	576	977	576	977
Rents receivable	61	58	27	26
Membership income	284	261	284	261
Other income from third parties	361	429	350	418
	<b>1,651</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>2,108</b>

### 6. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	RBGE		Group	
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trading company income	-	-	3,335	1,993
Commercial development	210	97	141	44
Commemorative programme	229	189	229	189
	<b>439</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>3,705</b>	<b>2,226</b>

Commercial development consists of theatrical events, venue hire, licensing and commercial publishing.

### 7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	RBGE		Group	
	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Dividends	30	18	30	18
Interest receivable	15	7	18	5
	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>

## 8. EXPENDITURE

	Staff costs £000	Dep'n & Imp £000	Other Direct Costs £000	Allocated Costs £000	2022/23 Total £000	Restated 2021/22 Total £000
Raising Funds	932	11	1,363	-	2,306	1,559
Charitable activities						
Collections	3,694	1,139	528	1,736	7,097	7,163
Visitor offer	1,214	408	297	622	2,541	2,463
Education	1,214	364	143	554	2,275	2,012
Scientific research	3,856	1,393	1,299	2,124	8,672	6,668
Support Costs	1,819	-	3,217	(5,036)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,729</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>6,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,891</b>	<b>19,865</b>

Support costs have been allocated as per note 1f. The cost of charitable activities includes the cost of support services (facilities management, finance, human resources, ICT, corporate services management, press and marketing) of £5,036k (2021/22 £4,673k).

## 9. STAFF COSTS

	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
Salaries	8,638	8,353
Social security costs	964	870
Staff pensions	2,337	2,170
Redundancy costs	96	18
<b>Total RBGE staff costs</b>	<b>12,034</b>	<b>11,411</b>
BTC staff costs	694	515
<b>Total Group staff costs</b>	<b>12,729</b>	<b>11,926</b>

## 10. OTHER DIRECT COSTS

	2022/23 £000	Restated 2021/22 £000
Botanics Trading Company	1,234	612
Depreciation	2,781	2,156
Impairment of fixed assets	534	-
Materials	848	622
Direct Project Costs	703	441
Repairs and Maintenance	907	1,061
Rates and Utilities	1,153	816
Trustees travel and subsistence	1	2
Staff travel and subsistence	167	73
General services	1,316	1,429
External Audit fees	22	18
Internal Audit fees	12	9
Legal, consultancy and other professional fees	484	690
	<b>10,162</b>	<b>7,929</b>

## 11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & Buildings	General Infrastructure	Assets under Construction	Garden Machinery	Scientific Equipment	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicles	RBGE Total	BTC	Group Total
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>										
At 1 Apr 2022	50,257	1,824	11,738	1,844	1,815	3,976	158	71,612	50	71,662
Additions	1,118	898	7,764	212	10	385	133	10,520	-	10,520
Disposals	(2)	-	-	-	(44)	(2)	(50)	(98)	-	(98)
Impairment	(534)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(534)	-	(534)
Transfers	(2,472)	728	1,744	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	568	-	-	-	-	-	-	568	-	568
At 31 Mar 2023	<b>48,935</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>21,246</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>4,359</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>82,068</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>82,118</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>										
At 1 Apr 2022	6,504	960	-	1,144	1,460	2,908	144	13,120	30	13,150
Charge for the period	1,745	321	-	178	103	315	7	2,669	11	2,680
Disposals	(2)	-	-	-	(44)	(2)	(50)	(98)	-	(98)
Transfers	(229)	229	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Backlog	(8,018)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(8,018)	-	(8,018)
At 31 Mar 2023	-	<b>1,510</b>	-	<b>1,322</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>7,673</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7,714</b>
<b>Net book value</b>										
At 31 Mar 2023	<b>48,935</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>21,246</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>74,395</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>74,404</b>
At 31 Mar 2022	<b>43,753</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>11,738</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58,492</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>58,512</b>

Land and buildings were revalued on 31 March 2023 by Jones Lang LaSalle Limited on the basis of fair value or market value for existing use, except for those properties and land which have such specialised use that they have no market value. Such properties and land are valued at depreciated replacement cost representing their value in use to the Group. Replacement costs were derived by the valuers on the basis of land values and estimated current construction costs, including professional fees, for each individual property. The amount by which replacement cost for each property was discounted to arrive at depreciated replacement cost was assessed by the valuers on the basis of the current condition and state of repair of the property concerned (rather than by time apportioning over the total estimated life of the property). Infrastructure assets have been separated from land and buildings and are held at depreciated replacement costs.

Tangible Fixed Assets – Restated Prior year comparatives

	Land & Buildings	General Infrastructure	Assets under Construction	Garden Machinery	Scientific Equipment	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicles	RBGE Total	BTC	Group Total
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>										
At 1 Apr 2021	44,568	1,457	6,648	1,384	1,678	3,356	185	59,276	56	59,332
Additions	1,298	367	5,464	500	177	667	-	8,473	-	8,473
Disposals	-	-	-	(40)	(40)	(47)	(27)	(154)	(6)	(160)
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	340	-	(374)	-	-	-	-	(34)	-	(34)
Revaluation	4,051	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,051	-	4,052
At 31 Mar 2022	<b>50,257</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>11,738</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>3,976</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>71,612</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>71,662</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>										
At 1 Apr 2021	<b>4,379</b>	<b>815</b>	-	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>10,666</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10,692</b>
Charge for the period	1,584	145	-	87	72	170	9	2,067	10	2,077
Disposals	-	-	-	(40)	(40)	(47)	(27)	(154)	(6)	(160)
Backlog	541	-	-	-	-	-	-	541	-	541
At 31 Mar 2022	<b>6,504</b>	<b>960</b>	-	<b>1,144</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>13,120</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13,150</b>
<b>Net book value</b>										
At 31 Mar 2022	<b>43,753</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>11,738</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58,492</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>58,512</b>
At 31 Mar 2021	<b>40,189</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>6,648</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>48,610</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48,640</b>

## 12. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	RBGE and Group 2023 £000	RBGE and Group 2022 £000
At 1 April	600	493
Software acquired during the year	269	73
Transfer from Assets under construction	-	34
Disposals	-	-
As at 31 March	869	600
Amortisation:		
As at 1 April	357	277
Charge for the year	102	80
Disposals	-	-
As at 31 March	459	357
Net Book Value		
<b>As at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>243</b>
As at 31 March 2022	243	216

## 13. INVESTMENTS

### a. Fixed asset investments

	Group Total £000	Listed £000	Subsidiary Undertakings £000	RBGE Total £000
Investments at cost as at 1 Apr 2022	850	850	41	891
Revaluation reserve as at 1 Apr 2022	509	509	-	509
Investments at valuation as at 1 April 2022	1,359	1,359	41	1,400
Less: Repayment of loan/conversion to grant	-	-	(4)	(4)
Add: Dividends received into fund	31	31	-	31
Less: Fund management fee	(9)	(9)	-	(9)
Less: Unrealised loss on revaluation at 31 March 2023	(84)	(84)	-	(84)
<b>Investments at valuation as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,334</b>
Cost as at 31 March 2023	872	872	41	913
Less: Repayment of loan/conversion to grant	-	-	(4)	(4)
Revaluation reserve as at 31 Mar 2023	425	425	-	425
<b>Investments at valuation as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,334</b>

## Subsidiary companies

The investment in the Botanics Trading Company Ltd represents a long term loan of £36,000 and £1,000 of share capital of the Botanics Trading Company Ltd which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The loan to the Botanics Trading Company Ltd is being repaid over twenty five years. It is secured by a floating charge over the assets of the company. Interest was applied at the Bank of England base rate plus 3%.

## Listed investments

Listed company investments form part of the Ferguson Bequest and the Education Endowment. The investment portfolio is invested in a range of securities. As at 31 March 2023 the portfolio was made up of 15.2% fixed interest, 71.2% equities, 12.3% alternative and 1.3% cash. The corresponding figures for 31 March 2022 were 14% fixed interest, 73% equities, 12% alternative and 1% cash.

No investment holdings were over 5% of the Portfolio Value.

### b. Current asset investments

As at 31 March 2023 £1k of cash was held in term deposit accounts (2022 £107k):

	RBGE		Group	
	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Term deposits	1	107	1	107

Current asset investments represent term deposits held with commercial banks in line with the credit risk policy.

### c. Financial instruments disclosures

#### i. Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the short-term lending of surplus funds to banks, building societies and other third parties as well as credit exposures to RBGE's customers. RBGE restricts deposits to the following banks (HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Lloyds TSB, Bank of Scotland, Co-Operative and Clydesdale) to a maximum counterparty limit of £300k. The treasury management policy is reviewed annually.

RBGE reviews the credit risk associated with financial institutions on a monthly basis and more regularly if market conditions are volatile or other information is made available on the financial security of UK banks and building societies.

#### ii. Liquidity Risk

RBGE does not have any external borrowings.



### iii. Market Risk

Changes in market interest rates influence the interest payable on borrowings and on interest receivable on surplus funds invested. RBGE is not considered dependent on interest receivable.

## 14. STOCKS

	RBGE		Group	
	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Heating oil	23	26	23	26
RBGE Shops (retail goods for resale)	-	-	224	157
Publications	114	100	114	100
	<u>137</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>283</u>

The current cost value of stocks, excluding heating oil, is not materially different from historic cost and accordingly no adjustment has been made to reflect current costs.

The stock of heating oil is held for precautionary purposes to ensure the protection of the living collections in the event of power loss, gas supply interruption or a national emergency.

## 15. DEBTORS

	RBGE		Group	
	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Prepaid expenditure and accrued income	1,421	1,242	1,432	1,247
Sundry debtors	260	243	741	877
Due by other group entities	126	157	-	-
	<u>1,807</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>2,173</u>	<u>2,124</u>

	RBGE		Group	
	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Balances with central government	122	308	120	309
Balances with local authorities	-	-	-	-
Subtotal of intra government balances	<u>122</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>309</u>
Balances with bodies external to government	1,685	1,334	2,053	1,815
	<u>1,807</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>2,173</u>	<u>2,124</u>

## 16. CREDITORS

<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>RBGE</b>		<b>Group</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Accrued charges	3,411	1,498	3,608	1,505
Holiday pay	148	158	148	158
Creditors – social security	237	233	248	244
Creditors – other	650	349	656	486
Creditors – VAT	11	-	15	4
Trade creditors – revenue	191	286	293	361
Trade creditors – capital	214	506	214	506
	<b>4,862</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>3,264</b>

<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>RBGE</b>		<b>Group</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Balances with central government	259	233	274	249
Balances with local authorities	-	9	-	9
Subtotal of intra government balances	259	242	274	258
Balances with bodies external to government	4,603	2,788	4,908	3,006
	<b>4,862</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>3,264</b>

## 17. STATEMENT OF RESERVES

	<b>Restated at 31 March 2022 £000</b>	<b>Income £000</b>	<b>Expend- iture £000</b>	<b>Transfers £000</b>	<b>Reval- uation £000</b>	<b>Group As at 31 March 2023 £000</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>						
General fund	-	13,575	(13,602)	27	-	-
Board reserve	953	3,341	(3,243)	(27)	-	1,024
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>16,916</b>	<b>(16,845)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,024</b>
<b>Restricted</b>						
Capital revaluation reserve	21,228	-	-	-	8,586	29,814
Capital grants fund	38,044	11,028	(3,304)	-	-	45,768
Projects fund	1,120	2,550	(2,733)	-	-	937
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>60,392</b>	<b>13,578</b>	<b>(6,037)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,586</b>	<b>76,519</b>
<b>Endowments</b>						
Ferguson bequest	1,145	31	(9)	-	-	1,167
Education endowment	35	-	-	-	-	35
QMMG endowment	30	-	-	-	-	30
Investments revaluation	480	-	-	-	(84)	396
<b>Total endowments</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(84)</b>	<b>1,628</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,035</b>	<b>30,525</b>	<b>(22,891)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,502</b>	<b>79,171</b>

The Reserves of the organisation are explained in Note 1 of the accounts. The Capital Grants Fund represents funding for expenditure which has been capitalised as Tangible Assets in the balance sheet where either the funds received were subject to restrictions or the funds were Government Capital Grant in Aid. This reserve will fund the future depreciation costs arising from those assets.

Projects are where the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh receives money from third parties to fund various activities such as specific areas of research and developments in the Garden. The Ferguson Bequest is an endowment fund for botanical projects. The Education Endowment was established to support the educational activities of the RBGE. The QMMG Endowment is the Queen Mothers Memorial Garden endowment and was established to support the maintenance of the Queen Mothers Memorial Garden.

## 18. ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowments £000	Total £000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	-	74,814	1,297	76,111
<b>Current Assets</b>	6,208	1,705	331	8,244
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	(5,182)	-	-	(5,182)
<b>Creditors &gt; 1 year</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Provisions</b>	(2)	-	-	(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>76,519</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>79,171</b>

## 19. REVALUATION RESERVE

	Tangible Fixed Assets 2023 £000	Investments 2023 £000	Total 2023 £000	Restated Total 2022 £000
At 1 April	21,228	480	21,708	18,121
Surplus/(deficit) arising on revaluation in year	567	(84)	483	4,129
Difference between depreciation based on revalued amounts and historic cost	8,019	-	8,019	(542)
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>29,814</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>30,210</b>	<b>21,708</b>

The revaluation reserve relating to investments is attributable to the Ferguson Bequest and the Education Endowment.

## 20. CAPITAL GRANTS FUND

	RBGE		Group	
	2023 £000	Restated 2022 £000	2023 £000	Restated 2022 £000
At 1 April	38,044	31,718	38,044	31,718
RESAS capital grant	10,900	8,400	10,900	8,400
Other capital grants	121	70	121	70
Gain/(loss) on sale of fixed assets	7	3	7	3
Less depreciation	(2,770)	(2,147)	(2,770)	(2,147)
Impairment of fixed assets	(534)	-	(534)	-
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>45,768</b>	<b>38,044</b>	<b>45,768</b>	<b>38,044</b>
Scottish Government capital grant	30,232	22,236	30,232	22,236
Gateway capital grants	13,746	13,849	13,746	13,849
Other capital grants	1,790	1,959	1,790	1,959
	<b>45,768</b>	<b>38,044</b>	<b>45,768</b>	<b>38,044</b>

## 21. TRADING SUBSIDIARY

A summary of the results of the wholly owned subsidiary the Botanics Trading Company Ltd. is shown below. All values are historic costs.

<b>Profit and Loss Account</b>			<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Turnover	3,335	1,993	Fixed assets	9	20
Cost of sales	(672)	(545)	Current assets	1,295	1,160
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>2,663</b>	<b>1,448</b>	Current liabilities	(446)	(415)
Other expenses	(1,378)	(688)	Loan from RBGE	(32)	(36)
Interest receivable	6	-	Provisions	(2)	(4)
Interest payable	(3)	(2)		<b>824</b>	<b>725</b>
<b>Net profit</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>758</b>	Share capital	1	1
Gift aid to RBGE	(1,192)	-	Accumulated	823	724
Tax on profit	2	(4)	(loss)/profit		
				<b>824</b>	<b>725</b>
<b>Retained (loss) / profit for the year</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>754</b>			

The company donates its taxable profits, allowable for distribution from reserves, to RBGE under the gift aid scheme on an annual basis.

## 22. CONSULTANCY SUBSIDIARY

The wholly owned subsidiary the Centre for Middle Eastern Plants Ltd. is now a dormant company.

## 23. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Restated</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
		<b>£000</b>
Net income as per SOFA	7,550	7,531
Depreciation charge	2,782	2,157
Impairment of Fixed Assets	534	-
Capital GIA	(10,900)	(8,400)
Other capital grants	(121)	(70)
(Gain)/loss on sale of fixed assets	(7)	(6)
Unrealised (gain) on investment	84	(77)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments inc fees	(39)	(14)
Increase in stocks	(78)	(9)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(49)	(710)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors & provisions	1,916	1,145
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>1,547</b>

#### Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	RBGE		Group	
	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash in hand	5,131	3,330	5,709	3,675
Total cash and equivalents	5,131	3,330	5,709	3,675

## 24. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is a non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) which is regarded as a related party. During the year, RBGE has had a number of material transactions with RESAS.

The Regius Keeper is, ex officio, a Trustee of the Sibbald Trust and a Director of the Botanics Trading Company Ltd (BTC) and the Centre for Middle Eastern Plants Limited (CMEP). RBGE received £34k of restricted funding income for the Sibbald Trust in 2022/23. The Director of Science/Deputy Keeper was a Director of CMEP for the whole year. The Director of Enterprise and Director of Resources & Planning were Directors of BTC for the whole year. The Director of Horticulture & Learning and the Director of Resources & Planning were Directors of the Botanics Energy Company for the whole year. Two RBGE Trustees can be appointed to the Botanics Foundation Board in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Foundation. Professor Sarah Gurr and Elizabeth Trevor held these positions during the year. At an RBGE Board meeting of 28 February 2018, the Trustees agreed that any unapplied self-generated income should be donated to the Botanics Foundation, in addition to legacies received, to support the objectives of RBGE, as the Foundation Board see fit. As a result legacies and donations to the value of £193,800 that were received in 2022/23 will be transferred directly into the Foundation's name.

The Botanics Trading Company (BTC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of RBGE. A summary of the BTC results are disclosed at note 21.

The Botanics Energy Company was established during 2021/22 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of RBGE, but did not carry out any operations.

During the year, none of the Trustees, members of key management staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with RBGE. Donations and other income from the Trustees to RBGE amounted to £899 in 2022/23 (2021/22: £1,445).

## 25. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

As at 31 March 2023 there were capital commitments contracted for but not provided for in the accounts of £11,340,000 (2022: £222,846). This relates to the Edinburgh Biomes project.

## 26. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

	Notes	RBGE		Group	
		2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
<b>Income</b>					
Scottish Government - Revenue grant in aid	3	11,167	11,900	11,167	11,900
Donations and Legacies excl capital grants	4	4,170	2,592	2,978	2,592
Charitable activities	5	1,644	2,147	1,599	2,105
Other trading activities	6	439	286	3,705	2,226
Investments	7	45	25	48	23
		<b>17,465</b>	<b>16,950</b>	<b>19,497</b>	<b>18,846</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Staff costs	9	12,034	11,411	12,728	11,926
Other operating costs		5,420	4,976	6,665	5,603
		<b>17,454</b>	<b>16,387</b>	<b>19,393</b>	<b>17,529</b>
Donation to Botanics Foundation		(194)	(188)	(194)	(188)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(183)</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>1,129</b>

The group deficit of £90k comprises a deficit of £22k of unrestricted RBGE funds, a surplus on BTC of £93k, a surplus of £22k on endowments and a £183k deficit from restricted project funds. In addition to this, the Restricted Capital Grants fund relating to depreciation was underspent compared to new grants received by £7,724k; and the endowment had a £84 revaluation loss. Once this is taken into account the net income for the year – as recorded in the Consolidated SOFA at page 48 – is £7,550k.

## 27. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

No significant events have occurred since 1 April 2023 that will have an impact on these accounts.

## 28. RAISING FUNDS EXPENDITURE

Reconciliation of RBGE total to consolidated expenditure within the statement of financial activities.

	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
RBGE total expenditure per SOFA	367	418
BTC Cost of Sales	672	545
BTC Expenses	1,378	692
BTC Interest payable	3	2
<b>Less inter group transactions</b>		
Rental	(34)	(32)
Accountancy Fees	(11)	(11)
Salary Allowance	(58)	(45)
Support Services	(8)	(8)
Interest Payable	(3)	(2)
<b>Total consolidated amount per SOFA</b>	<b>2,306</b>	<b>1,559</b>

## Accounts Direction

### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH DIRECTION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS

The Scottish Ministers, in pursuance of paragraph 20(3) of Schedule 1 of the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985, hereby give the following direction.

The statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2006, and subsequent years, shall comply with the accounting principles and disclosure requirements of the edition of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FRM) which is in force for the year for which the statement of accounts are prepared.

The accounts shall be prepared so as to give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and of the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year.

This direction shall be reproduced as an appendix to the statement of accounts. The direction given on 17 October 2002 is hereby revoked.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Signed by the authority of the Scottish Ministers

Dated: 9 December 2005