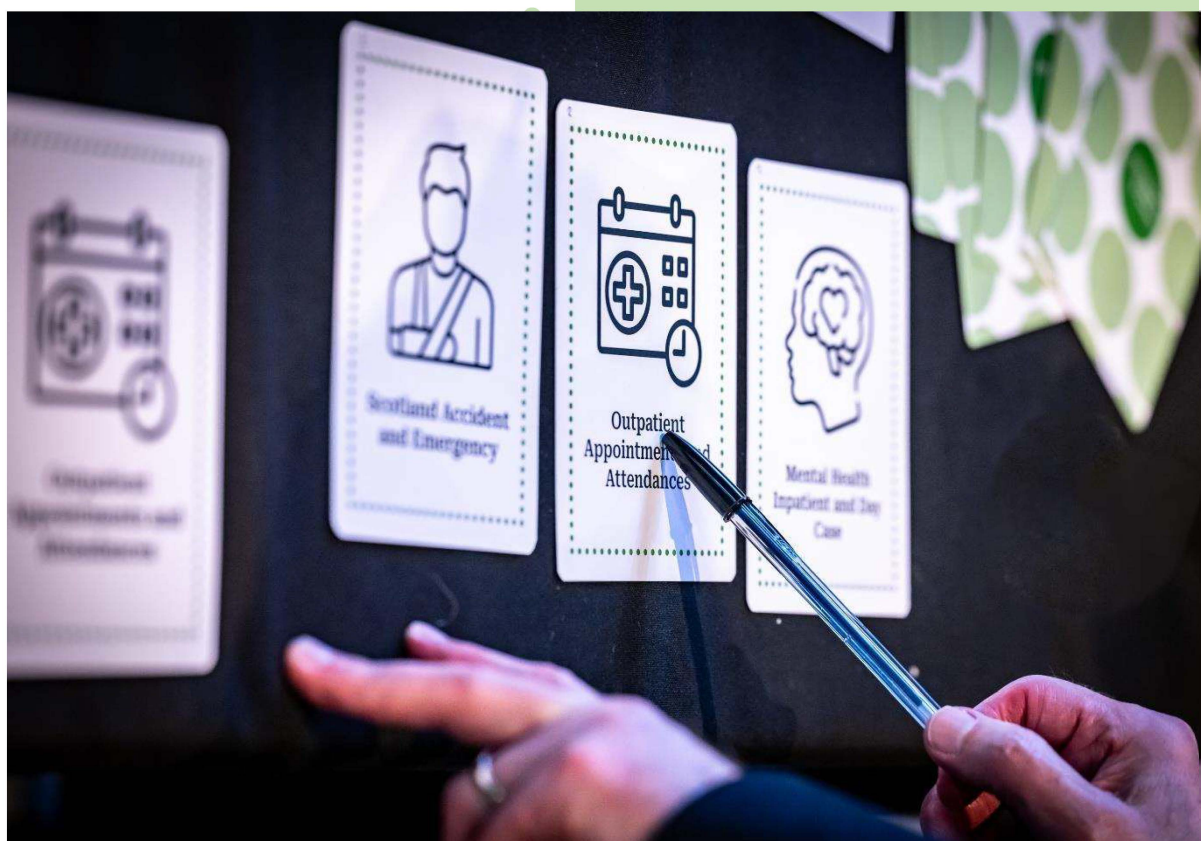


Research  
Data  
Scotland

# Annual Report

## 2024-25



Company Registration No. SC677016

Charity Registration No. SC051305

## Forewords



### Paul Boyle, Chair of the Board

As Chair of the Research Data Scotland Board, I am delighted to share the Trustee Report for the financial year 2024-25, which highlights some of the organisation's achievements and impact to date across a range of areas. It is excellent to see the progress RDS and its partners and stakeholder organisations have made towards faster, simpler access to public sector data for research in Scotland.

Notwithstanding the significant advances made by RDS this year, there is more to do to realise the full potential of the Researcher Access Service. In particular, there remain several datasets that would be of significant value to researchers, and we will continue to work with data owners to realise that potential. Despite this, RDS has delivered notable developments this year, and I particularly welcome the steps taken towards obtaining Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status, which allows RDS to compete for funds from UKRI and other public funders.

RDS is making a real difference to research and policy making in Scotland and our ambition is that this will grow further over the years to come.



### Roger Halliday, Chief Executive Officer

Research Data Scotland (RDS) was established in 2021 with a core aim to make it quicker and simpler to access data for research in Scotland. It's a guiding principle that has informed our work since day one, and this year saw RDS and our partners make significant progress towards that shared vision.

The initial launch of the Researcher Access Service in April 2024 was the culmination of a year of full development, and it marks a significant milestone in RDS's journey. Since then, we've continued to develop the service, working with our partners, users and the public to scale up and improve the Researcher Access Service to meet user needs and improve data access provisions across Scotland.

Alongside this, we have made progress in several other key areas across the Scottish data for research system, and you'll find more information on these projects and RDS's impact throughout this report.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the great strides RDS has made this year - our colleagues, partners, users, members of the public and others. I look forward to continuing to work together to improve Scotland's data for research systems, saving time, money and lives.

Contents

Our vision and mission ..... 3

Progress and Milestones..... 5

1. Aligning approaches, demonstrating trustworthiness ..... 6

2. Shaping and Delivering Researcher Services ..... 7

3. Unlocking Scotland’s Data ..... 8

4. A sustainable system ..... 9

Case study: Research Data Scotland’s impact ..... 10

Risk identification and management ..... 12

Financial review..... 13

Trustees’ responsibilities in relation to the financial statements ..... 16

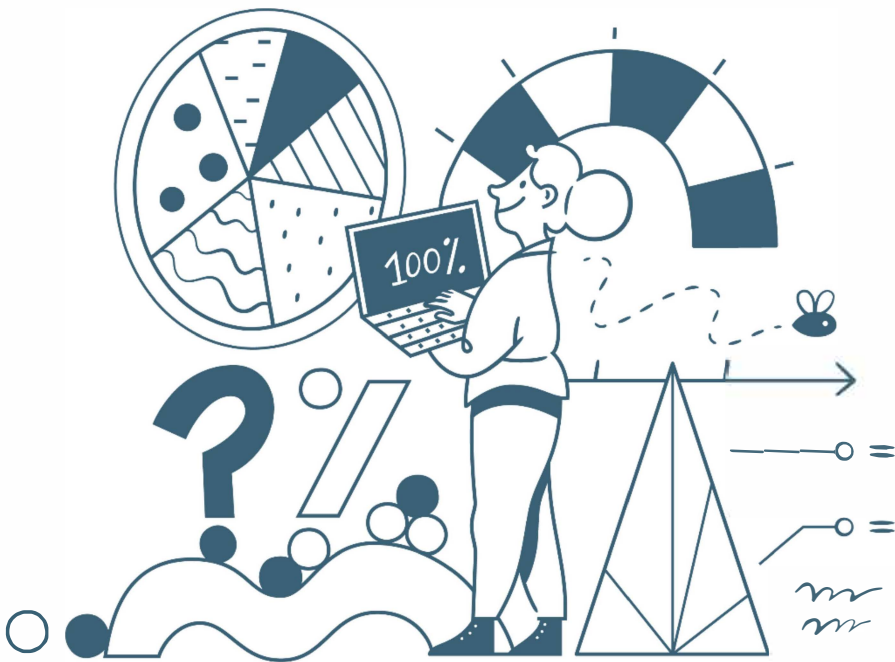
Independent Auditor’s Report..... 17

Statement of Financial Activites ..... 22

Balance Sheet..... 23

Cashflow Statement ..... 24

Notes to Financial Statements..... 25



# Report of the Trustees for year ended 31 March 2025

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounting (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

## Governance and Administrative details

The legal and administrative information on page 37 forms part of this report. The organisation is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated as a registered Charity (SC051305) and registered Company (SC677016) on 8 October 2020. The organisation is governed by its Articles of Association created September 2021 and updated August 2022.

## Structure, Governance & Management

Our current Trustees are detailed on page 37. The number of Trustees shall be not less than three and no more than ten. The Board of Trustees meets four times a year and supports RDS's directors in adopting the right long-term strategy and priorities, assesses company performance, monitors key risks and ensures resources are managed effectively. It is supported by two subcommittees dealing specifically with Finance, Audit & Risk and Remuneration and Nominations.

Roger Halliday, Chief Executive Officer of Research Data Scotland, serves as Company Secretary since date of incorporation.

## Our vision and mission

Research Data Scotland's (RDS) vision is to promote and advance health and social wellbeing in Scotland by enabling timely and cost-effective access to public sector data about people, places and businesses. Using this data, we facilitate collaborative data-driven research and innovation in the public good.

To achieve this vision, our current priorities are to:

- Coordinate access to the excellent data already collected about people, places, and businesses in Scotland.
- Facilitate working across boundaries to collaborate on common datasets.
- Enable access to the analytical tools researchers need to bring cutting edge insights that inform great decisions.
- Facilitate research on different scales, from large international studies to simple and quick analyses of individual datasets and support accredited researchers to use the latest data science and geospatial approaches.

Our values



**INTEGRITY**

We keep front and centre of our work the public value of the decisions we are supporting through data and intelligence, acting in honourable ways in our decisions at all times.



**TRANSPARENCY**

We will proactively share information, insights and innovations so that we learn faster together and build trust in what we do.



**COURAGE**

We believe that we can make things better, will be prepared to try new things, embrace ambiguity and challenge the status quo to create a new and thriving service that benefits the public, public bodies, the 3rd sector, scientific discovery and industry.



**COLLABORATION**

We deliver better results when we work in a truly interdisciplinary and "once for Scotland" way, and are transparent and respectful of how we keep the public informed about use of their data.



**HUMILITY**

We have a lot to learn from others; and aim to be open-minded about the gaps in our knowledge, led by listening to the users of our services, our partners, and the public.

# Progress and Milestones

## 2024-2025 Progress

Over the course of 2024-25, RDS made substantial progress across its strategic priorities, advancing our mission to enable faster, simpler, and more secure access to Scottish public sector data for research in the public benefit. We launched new services, strengthened public engagement, expanded access to high-value datasets, and laid the groundwork for long-term sustainability. Our work was recognised nationally through awards, partnerships, and inclusion in key government reports.

Our Business Plan is focused on four key pillars:



Aligning approaches and demonstrating trustworthiness



Shaping and delivering researcher services



Unlocking Scotland's data

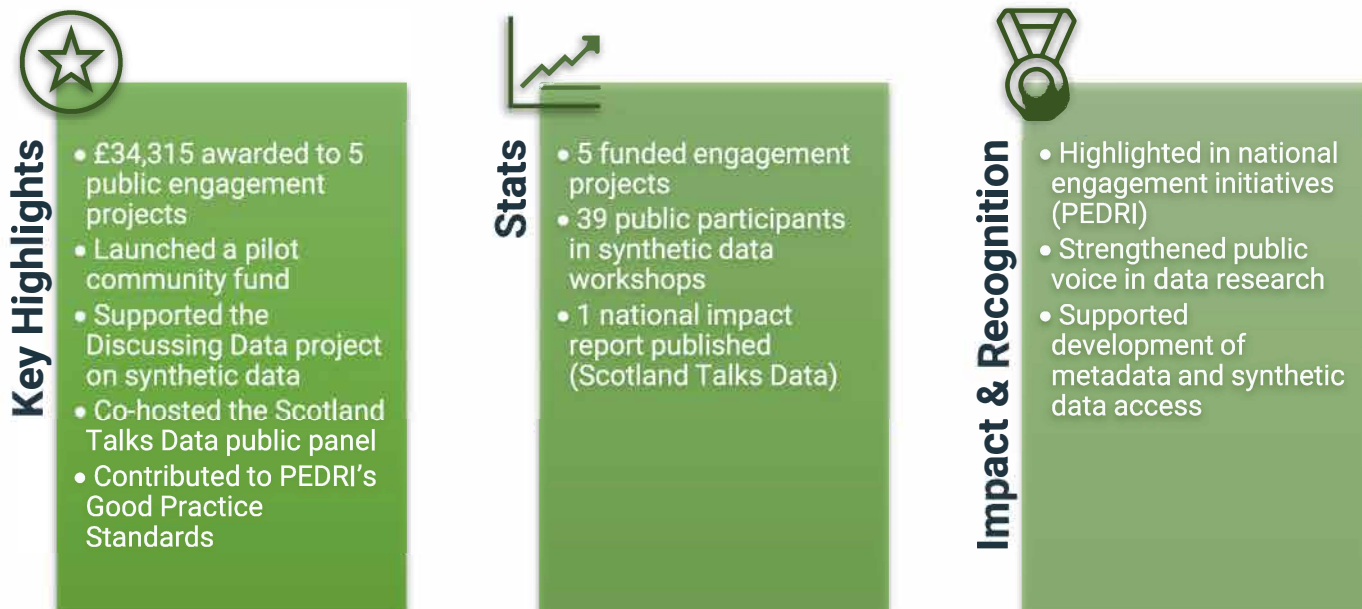


Building a sustainable system

# 1. Aligning approaches, demonstrating trustworthiness

## 2024-2025 Progress

This year, we strengthened public trust in data use through meaningful engagement, transparent practices, and collaborative governance. We relaunched the Public Engagement Fund, supported national initiatives, and contributed to shaping best practice standards across the UK.



## 2025-2026 Key Priorities:

- Reduce the burden on Statistics and Health & Care PBPPs with approvals for scientific research requests
- Diversify IAOs using RAS
- Agree a set of policies and standards that underpin RAS with partners
- Develop a model to simplify private sector use of health data for research
- Increase understanding and awareness of a unified Scottish Research Infrastructure
- Coordinate the national and regional safe havens, linking national and regional models to support more efficient working
- Embed good practice in public engagement and involvement to build confidence in data research for public benefit
- Understand and increase the impact of data on research
- Continue to increase number of RAS projects where data was accessed by researchers

## 2. Shaping and Delivering Researcher Services

### 2024-2025 Progress

Over the past year, we've made major strides in improving how researchers access and use public sector data. The launch of the Researcher Access Service marked a significant milestone, streamlining access to key datasets and enabling faster, more transparent research. We also deepened engagement with users and strengthened our approach to data security and governance.



#### Key Highlights

- Launched the Researcher Access Service (April 2024)
- £50,000 awarded through Accelerator Awards
- Introduced a public Data Use Register
- Expanded outreach to universities and research groups
- Delivered synthetic data workshops and metadata enhancements



#### Stats

- 9 datasets included in the Researcher Access Service
- 3 synthetic data workshops delivered
- 1 new metadata platform adopted (MetadataWorks)



#### Impact & Recognition

- Nominated for Best Digital Innovation (Business Charity Awards)
- Nominated for Data for Good Initiative of the Year (British Data Awards)
- Ongoing development with eDRIS and expansion to non-health datasets

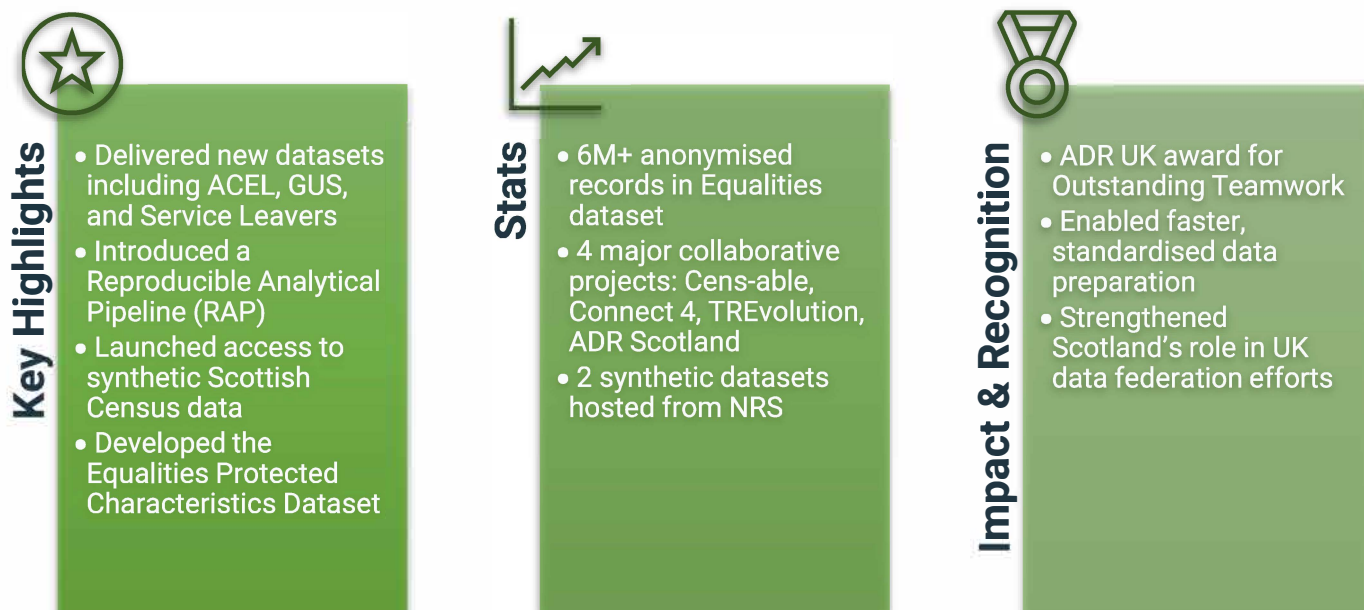
### 2025-2026 Key Priorities:

- Work with eDRIS research analysts reduce the feasibility time
- Establish a way of systematically capturing data to improve services.
- Reduce time between submission application and RAS panel decision
- Standardise and enhance quality of Scottish datasets included in the RDS metadata catalogue
- Increase availability and use of synthetic datasets by researchers
- Work between RDS & eDRIS analysts to build efficiencies in how project data is delivered

### 3. Unlocking Scotland's Data

#### 2024-2025 Progress

We continued to expand and improve access to high-value datasets, enabling deeper insights into public services and outcomes. Through ADR Scotland and other partnerships, we delivered new datasets, developed synthetic data tools, and contributed to major UK-wide data infrastructure projects.



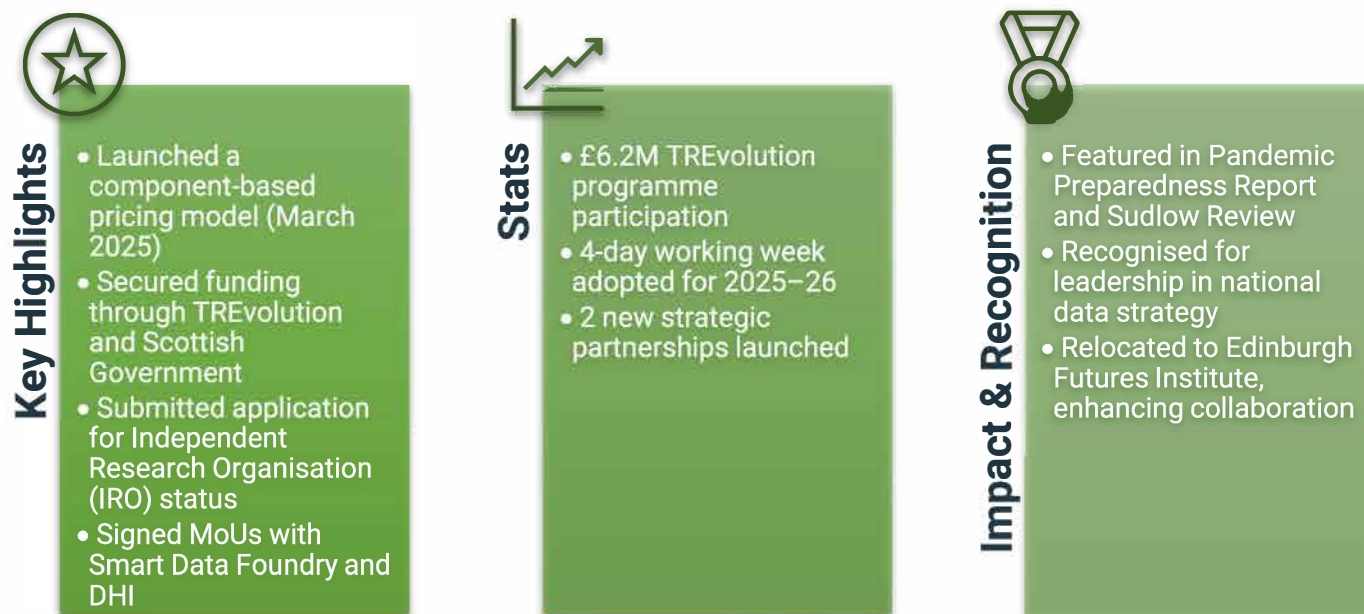
#### 2025-2026 Key Priorities:

- Reduce the cost & effort taken to ingest datasets
- Ensure relevant datasets are updated in NSH within a year of publication
- Increase the range and quality of datasets available for research
- Evidence impact with the private sector, universities and research funding bodies
- Increase the interest in doing data driven research

## 4. A sustainable system

### 2024-2025 Progress

We've taken important steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of RDS, including launching a new pricing model, securing additional funding, and building strategic partnerships. Internally, we've focused on culture and wellbeing, successfully piloting a four-day working week and relocating to a new collaborative space.



### 2025-2026 Key Priorities:

- Implement capacity / people management framework to ensure delivery efficiency
- Secure £3.8m of new income for 2025/26 via 3 main income streams
- RDS to win external recognition for the contribution it is making to improving data for research
- In depth analysis on Critical National Infrastructure and RDS' role

# Case study: Research Data Scotland's impact

## Understanding antidepressant treatment patterns in severe mental illness



### Background

Antidepressant prescribing in Scotland has increased over the last 30 years and continues to grow, with **one in five adults** receiving antidepressant prescriptions in a year, and more than half of those (**six in ten adults**) receiving long-term treatment over two or more years [1].

With these figures continuing to rise, it's vital that we enable researchers to generate timely insights that improve our understanding of the effects of antidepressant use, guiding policy decisions and improving lives.

Funded by RDS through the [Accelerator Awards](#), this research project explores the impact of how antidepressants are prescribed for people with severe mental illness.

The study is led by [Matthew Iveson](#), Senior Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, and was among the first to access data through the [Researcher Access Service](#). Launched in April 2024, the Researcher Access Service makes it faster and simpler for researchers to access data through a streamlined approvals pathway.

This project uses electronic prescribing records to examine patterns of antidepressant use within patients living with severe mental illness and track changes to treatment - such as frequent switching between different antidepressants.

It also aims to examine the consequences of these patterns in terms of the healthcare utilisation and mortality risk of individuals living with severe mental illness.

## Research Data Scotland's impact

Much of Matthew's past research has utilised the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel (PBPP) pathway for requesting access to data, which often involves additional time, resources and administrative work for researchers.

While the PBPP pathway is designed to ensure that projects meet requirements for demonstrating public benefit and proper information governance, it can be confusing and time-consuming and can lead to significant delays in researchers being granted access to data.

The Researcher Access Service streamlines this process by introducing a risk-based assessment at the first stage of the approvals process. If the project meets the criteria for the Researcher Access Service, the application is fast-tracked through a streamlined pathway via a dedicated approval panel, enabling faster access to data for certain projects, without compromising on the security of the data.

For a previous study using around half the number of datasets and with around a tenth of the sample size, Matthew found that the PBPP data access process took around five months. Using the Researcher Access Service, Matthew's journey for his current project took just **97 days**.

Matthew said: "Applying through the Researcher Access Service felt faster and more straightforward than the PBPP route that I'm used to, and the frequent communication with eDRIS and RDS staff on the portal has been really useful. The service won't be applicable to everyone, but if you're only planning to use the core datasets in your research and are happy to use the National Safe Haven then it will definitely save you time and effort."

The impact of faster, simpler data access cannot be overstated. By streamlining the data access process, Research Data Scotland is ensuring that researchers spend less time overcoming administrative hurdles and more time on what matters most – generating insights that can improve, and even save, the lives of people in Scotland.

### How could this research help inform policies and improve lives?

Understanding the patterns and consequences of antidepressant use can improve the lives of those living with severe mental illness by helping them to find effective treatments quickly.

The research project's findings will help inform clinical decision making in these complex cases and minimise treatment burden on those living with severe mental illness.

Furthermore, the researchers will produce tools that add value to national prescribing data, making it easier to examine treatment response and to track medication use in future research. The research team are also planning to run a stakeholder workshop, bringing together patients living with mental illness, medical professionals and healthcare policy makers to highlight medication-related challenges faced by patients and to co-design meaningful changes to policy.

To learn more and stay updated on the team's research, [visit the project blog](#).

# Risk identification and management

The Board of Trustees regularly examines the major operational and strategic risks faced by the organisation. A Finance, Audit and Risk committee meets quarterly inviting strategic risk owners for deep dive discussions.

Our risk management approach is robust and embedded in the internal governance and culture to ensure we consistently and actively identify and mitigate risks.

## Key Strategic Risks and Outlook 2024-25

### 2024/25 – Principal Risks



#### **Data availability**

High

Progress slowed due to delayed decision-making and approvals with key partner agencies, causing delays to data availability.



#### **Funding & Income**

Medium

Funding is secure, but income diversification remains a key priority.



#### **Stakeholder Responsibilities**

Medium

Key delivery timelines have shifted due to lack of clarity of responsibilities with external partners and stakeholders.



#### **Information Governance**

Low

Compliance maintained, but resource constraints ongoing and being monitored.

For the majority of 2024-25, the most significant risk was funding and income generation. This was mitigated by securing 25/26 funding through Scottish Government grant, however, remains amber as income diversification via commercial income remains a key focus.

Other top risks relate to dataset access and the complexity of stakeholder dependencies, both of which have shifted timelines for key deliverables throughout the year. We have responded by diversifying engagement with Information Asset Owners, implemented formal agreements and reviewed service and deliverable timelines.

## Looking ahead to 2025-26

- We anticipate increased delivery pressure as the service expands. Prioritisation and robust planning model in place to mitigate risk.
- A focus will be on transitioning from grant dependency towards commercial and collaborative income.
- New data access routes may introduce legal or technical risk. We are proactively working with partners to manage this.

## Financial review

The financial year ending 31 March 2025 was the fourth year of operating for the charity since it was established from within Scottish Government in 2020. Scottish Ministers agreed to fund the organisation for a five-year period to March 2026. A new business case for further funding from 1 April 2026 to 2031 was submitted in May 2025.

The accounts this year show an annual loss of £114,376 resulting in a reduction of total funds to £965,937 at 31 March 2025, a decrease from £1,080,313 from the year previous.

Working closely with Scottish Government throughout the year, a total of £4.4m of grant funding was made available to RDS which included £1.3m deferred (unclaimed) from the previous financial year. Scottish Government policy is not to pay in advance of need. A total of £4.2m was claimed from Scottish Government as we worked with them in their attempts to make savings across its portfolio. In addition, RDS received £668,600 (£557,167 net income) from Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) through Scottish Government for the ADR Scotland programme, £8,518 in service delivery income for our first invoiced RAS project following its launch in April 2024 and £1,277 in late payment interest from HMRC.

A post year adjustment reducing the charity's income was made following HMRC's decision (May 2025) to consider that the ADR income we received via Scottish Government was within the scope of VAT. Scottish Government have kindly agreed to pay the VAT on the 23/24 income but for the 24/25 income we will have to fund the VAT ourselves. Although RDS intends to treat ADR income in 25/26 within the scope of VAT we have submitted a final appeal for a review of HMRC's decision. If this is successful VAT will be returned to Scottish Government. RDS has applied for further funding to assist the ADR programme and the next stage will be funded direct as a grant via University of Edinburgh as part of a collaborative agreement removing this income from the scope of VAT.

Total income for the year, adjustment included, was £4.764m (an increase from £4.4m received in 23/24) and in accordance with our reserves policy of maintaining £1m total funds held our expenditure budget was limited to the level of income ensuring no large loss of funds.

Total expenditure decreased slightly from £4.998m in 23/24 to £4.878m and our spending pattern was consistent with previous years with staff costs being our largest expense at £2.6m (54% of total spend) increasing from £2.3m in 23/24. Our project costs which include our technical and IT spending, public and user engagement activities, grant giving and project support costs decreased from £2.5m in 23/24 to £2m (42% of total spend), operational costs decreased from £198k in 23/24 to £164k (3%) and legal, accounting and governance costs increased from £20k in 23/24 to £38k (1%).

In terms of project support costs, RDS paid Public Health Scotland £760k for the development and management of its eDRIS service within the national safe haven – compared to £758k in the previous year.

Internally the charity reports income and expenditure in the form of monthly management accounts and quarterly finance reports using the following departments:

- Communication and Partnerships

- Data
- Digital
- Operations
- Governance
- Funded Projects (variable depending on funding)

## **Finance Audit & Risk Committee**

The FAR committee is one of two committees run by the Trustees (the other being the Remuneration and Nomination Committee) and meets quarterly prior to the full board meeting reviewing financial and risk matters.

## **Investment policy**

The charity does not hold or own any investments, and the Trustees do not plan to own any at this time but do not rule out ownership in the future as part of a future sustainability model.

## **Pension Liability**

The charity does not have any pension liability. A contribution scheme is operated by the charity with NEST as its chosen provider.

## **Grant Giving policy**

The charity will provide grants to organisations or researchers for the benefit and improvement of the data or research environment.

In the year we paid grants totalling over £336k (previous year £725k) completing the funding of our second System Development Fund to the Scottish Safe Havens together with funds for Public Engagement, Synthetic data and new fund to support the newly launched Research Access Service.

## **Reserves policy**

Total funds held at 31 March 2025 are £965,937. Reserves held were budgeted to be higher but were reduced following the VAT adjustment of our ADR income. The funds are all considered to be restricted due to level of grant funding received from Scottish Government compared to other sources. The Trustees accept that any reserves held by the charity would be first reimbursed back to Scottish Government (per clawback clauses contained within the grant agreement) should trading cease but do not accept that this is a loan.

The Board remain committed to the current policy of holding free reserves equating to six months of annual core expenditure. The Board consider that reserves of this level would be sufficient to ensure that, in the event of a significant drop or delay in funding, RDS would be able to continue its specialist activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised or services transferred.

As the charity continues to develop, growing significantly in the last few years but still reliant on Scottish Government funding no definite figure can be provided for its annual core costs we still estimate this to be around £2m (once additional project activity is removed) and therefore reserves for six months would be approximately £1m.

No designation of funds is required leaving a reserves balance of £965,937. The Trustees acknowledge that this is below the level required and are satisfied with the

charity's budget for 25/26, commitment from Scottish Government and strategy to increase reserve levels in future as it starts to manage system delivery and the flow of funds to its partners.

## Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of the Research Data Scotland for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

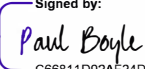
The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information'

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the trustees on 30th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:  
  
 C66811D92AF24D7...  
 Name: Paul Boyle (Chair)

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Research Data Scotland (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

1. give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
2. have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
3. have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

## Other information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees, which includes the director's report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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

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

### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud**

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

In identifying and assessing the risks or material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we considered the following;

- The nature of the charity, the environment in which it operates and the control procedures implemented by management and the trustees; and
- Our enquiries of management and trustees about their identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but were not limited to;

- Regulations and legislation pertinent to the charity's operations.

We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material impact on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements, such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. We evaluated management and trustees' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of management override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to;

- Posting inappropriate journal entries.

#### **Audit response to the risks identified;**

Our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following;

- Gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management, trustees and legal advisors concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- In addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; evaluating rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:

Wbg (Audit) Limited

142BED1F16784DD...

Rory McCall BAcc CA (Senior Statutory Auditor) 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
168 Bath Street Glasgow G2 4TP

For and on behalf of Wbg (Audit) Limited, Statutory Auditor

Wbg (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**  
(Including an Income and Expenditure account)

|                                    | Note | Unrestricted |       | Restricted |           | Total |           | Unrestricted |        | Restricted |           | Total |           |
|------------------------------------|------|--------------|-------|------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------------|--------|------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
|                                    |      | Funds        | 2025  | Funds      | 2025      | Funds | 2025      | Funds        | 2024   | Funds      | 2024      | Funds | 2024      |
|                                    |      |              | £     |            | £         |       | £         |              | £      |            | £         |       | £         |
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b> |      |              |       |            |           |       |           |              |        |            |           |       |           |
| Charitable activities              | 5    |              | 8,518 |            | 4,753,959 |       | 4,762,477 |              | 43,334 |            | 4,389,446 |       | 4,432,780 |
| Investments                        | 6    |              | 1,277 |            | -         |       | 1,277     |              | -      |            | -         |       | -         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                |      |              | 9,795 |            | 4,753,959 |       | 4,763,754 |              | 43,334 |            | 4,389,446 |       | 4,432,780 |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>             |      |              |       |            |           |       |           |              |        |            |           |       |           |
| Raising funds                      |      |              |       |            |           |       |           |              |        |            |           |       |           |
| Other trading activities           | 7    |              | 9,795 |            | 484,514   |       | 494,309   |              | 43,909 |            | 825,211   |       | 869,120   |
| Charitable activities              | 9    |              | -     |            | 4,383,821 |       | 4,383,821 |              | -      |            | 4,128,161 |       | 4,128,161 |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>           |      |              | 9,795 |            | 4,868,335 |       | 4,878,130 |              | 43,909 |            | 4,953,372 |       | 4,997,281 |
| <b>Net (expenditure)</b>           |      |              | -     |            | (114,376) |       | (114,376) |              | (575)  |            | (563,926) |       | (564,501) |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>       |      |              |       |            |           |       |           |              |        |            |           |       |           |
| Funds reconciliation               |      |              | -     |            | (114,376) |       | (114,376) |              | (575)  |            | (563,926) |       | (564,501) |
| Total Funds brought forward        | 16   |              | -     |            | 1,080,313 |       | 1,080,313 |              | 575    |            | 1,644,239 |       | 1,644,814 |
| <b>Total Funds carried forward</b> | 16   |              | -     |            | 965,937   |       | 965,937   |              | -      |            | 1,080,313 |       | 1,080,313 |

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

|                                       |             | <b>2025</b>      | <b>2024</b>      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                       | <b>Note</b> | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>         |
| <b>Current assets:</b>                |             |                  |                  |
| Debtors                               | <b>13</b>   | 199,361          | 340,455          |
| Cash at bank and in hand              | <b>19</b>   | 1,367,790        | 1,390,812        |
| <b>Total current assets</b>           |             | <b>1,567,147</b> | <b>1,731,267</b> |
| <b>Liabilities:</b>                   |             |                  |                  |
| Creditors falling due within one year | <b>14</b>   | (601,214)        | (650,954)        |
| <b>Net current assets</b>             |             | <b>965,937</b>   | <b>1,080,313</b> |
| <b>Net assets</b>                     |             | <b>965,937</b>   | <b>1,080,313</b> |
| <b>The funds of the charity:</b>      |             |                  |                  |
| Restricted income funds               | <b>16</b>   | 965,937          | 1,080,313        |
| Unrestricted funds                    | <b>16</b>   | -                | -                |
| <b>Total charity funds</b>            |             | <b>965,937</b>   | <b>1,080,313</b> |

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to the members of the company.

Approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:  
  
C66811D92AF24D7...  
**Name: Paul Boyle (Chair)**

Signed by:  
  
D3D7491FF2D244D...  
**Name: Roger Halliday (CEO)**

Company Registration No. SC677016

RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

|                                                    | Note | Total Funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total Funds<br>2024<br>£ |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Cash flows from operating activities:</i>       |      |                          |                          |
| Net cash (used in) by operating activities         | 18   | (24,299)                 | (383,940)                |
| <i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>       |      |                          |                          |
| Interest income                                    |      | 1,277                    | -                        |
| Net cash provided by investing activities          |      | 1,277                    | -                        |
| Change in cash and cash<br>equivalents in the year |      | (23,022)                 | (383,940)                |
| Cash and cash equivalents brought<br>forward       |      | 1,390,812                | 1,774,752                |
| Cash and cash equivalents carried<br>forward       | 19   | 1,367,790                | 1,390,812                |

## RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 1. Accounting Policies

##### (a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

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

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

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

The charitable company's functional currency is sterling. Amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### (b) Funds structure

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed, or through the terms of an appeal.

Endowment funds are permanent or expendable capital funds.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 16.

##### (c) Income recognition

Income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

## RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

##### (d) Expenditure recognition

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

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to note (e) below.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes expenditure on activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure is incurred.

##### (e) Allocation of support and governance costs

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

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on the number of individual grant awards made in recognition that the administrative costs of awarding, monitoring and assessing research grants, salary support grants and postgraduate scholarships are broadly equivalent. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 8.

##### (f) Debtors

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

##### (g) Cash at bank and in hand

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

##### (h) Creditors and provisions

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

## RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

##### (i) Taxation

The company is a charitable company within the meaning of Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied for charitable purposes only.

##### (j) Employee Benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

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

#### 2. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

##### Allocation of expenditure between activities

Support costs are allocated between charitable activities and governance based on the time spent by senior management on undertaking the charity's activities.

#### 3. Legal status of the charity

The charity is a registered Scottish charity.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

## RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

#### 4. Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

Roger Halliday is a trustee of the charity and is employed as the Chief Executive. He was the only trustee who received any remuneration in the year and this amounted to £140,530 (2024: £128,273).

All other trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind. There were no expenses paid to the trustees in the year (2024: £6 to one trustee).

During the year no trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity.

#### 5. Income from charitable activities

|                | 2025             | 2024             |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                | £                | £                |
| Grant Income   | 4,753,959        | 4,347,847        |
| Standard Sales | 8,518            | 84,933           |
|                | <u>4,762,477</u> | <u>4,432,780</u> |

#### 6. Investments

|               | 2025         | 2024 |
|---------------|--------------|------|
|               | £            | £    |
| Bank Interest | <u>1,277</u> | -    |
|               | <u>1,277</u> | -    |

#### 7. Raising funds – expenditure on other trading activities

|                           | Direct<br>Costs<br>£ | Support<br>Costs<br>£ | Total<br>2025<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Fundraising and Publicity | 419,401              | 37,454                | 456,855            |
| Commercial                | -                    | 37,454                | 37,454             |
|                           | <u>419,401</u>       | <u>74,908</u>         | <u>494,309</u>     |

## RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 7. Raising funds – expenditure on other trading activities (continued)

|                           | Direct<br>Costs<br>£ | Support<br>Costs<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Fundraising and Publicity | 807,972              | 30,574                | 838,546            |
| Commercial                | -                    | 30,574                | 30,574             |
|                           | 807,972              | 61,148                | 869,120            |

## 8. Allocation of governance and support costs

The breakdown of support costs and how these were allocated between governance and other support costs is shown in the table below:

| Cost type    | Total<br>allocated<br>2024<br>£ | Governance<br>related<br>£ | Other<br>support<br>costs<br>£ | Basis of apportionment  |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Staff costs  | 505,448                         | 455,202                    | 50,246                         | Staff time              |
| HQ costs     | 62,514                          | 8,470                      | 54,044                         | Staff time              |
| Premises     | 42,596                          | 5,771                      | 36,825                         | Software cost and usage |
| Agency costs | 125,125                         | 125,125                    | -                              | Staff time              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>735,683</b>                  | <b>594,568</b>             | <b>141,115</b>                 |                         |

| Cost type    | Total<br>allocated<br>2025<br>£ | Governance<br>related<br>£ | Other<br>support<br>costs<br>£ | Basis of apportionment  |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Staff costs  | 749,917                         | 693,530                    | 56,387                         | Staff time              |
| HQ costs     | 61,619                          | 9,241                      | 52,378                         | Staff time              |
| Premises     | 46,945                          | 7,041                      | 39,904                         | Software cost and usage |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>858,481</b>                  | <b>709,812</b>             | <b>148,669</b>                 |                         |

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****8. Allocation of governance and support costs (continued)**

| <b>Governance costs:</b>  | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>    |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                           | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Auditor's remuneration    | 7,500          | 5,415          |
| Legal fees                | 31,766         | 11,502         |
| Support costs (see above) | 709,812        | 594,568        |
|                           | <u>749,078</u> | <u>611,485</u> |

**9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

|                  | <b>Charitable Project</b> | <b>Total 2024</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
|                  | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>          |
| Staff Costs      | 1,228,704                 | 1,228,704         |
| Data             | 119,699                   | 119,699           |
| Digital          | 1,851,707                 | 1,851,707         |
| Commercial       | 207,700                   | 207,700           |
| HQ Costs         | 28,899                    | 28,899            |
| Governance costs | 550,337                   | 550,337           |
| Support costs    | 141,115                   | 141,115           |
|                  | <u>4,128,161</u>          | <u>4,128,161</u>  |

|                  | <b>Charitable Project</b> | <b>Total 2025</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
|                  | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>          |
| Staff Costs      | 1,435,467                 | 1,435,467         |
| Data             | 88,504                    | 88,504            |
| Digital          | 1,899,944                 | 1,899,944         |
| HQ Costs         | 105,986                   | 105,986           |
| ADR              | 31,081                    | 31,081            |
| Governance costs | 674,170                   | 674,170           |
| Support costs    | 148,669                   | 148,669           |
|                  | <u>4,383,821</u>          | <u>4,383,821</u>  |

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)**

|                           | <b>Support Costs</b> | <b>Governance</b> | <b>Total 2024</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                           | <b>£</b>             | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| Fundraising and Publicity | -                    | 30,574            | 30,574            |
| Commercial                | -                    | 30,574            | 30,574            |
| Charitable Project        | 141,115              | 550,337           | 691,452           |
|                           | <u>141,115</u>       | <u>611,485</u>    | <u>752,600</u>    |

|                           | <b>Support Costs</b> | <b>Governance</b> | <b>Total 2025</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                           | <b>£</b>             | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| Fundraising and Publicity | -                    | 37,454            | 37,454            |
| Commercial                | -                    | 37,454            | 37,454            |
| Charitable Project        | 148,669              | 674,170           | 822,839           |
|                           | <u>148,669</u>       | <u>749,078</u>    | <u>897,747</u>    |

**10. Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel**

|                                                           | <b>2025</b>      | <b>2024</b>      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                           | <b>£</b>         | <b>£</b>         |
| Salaries and wages                                        | 1,864,037        | 1,424,047        |
| Social security costs                                     | 207,822          | 154,239          |
| Employer contributions to defined benefit pension schemes | 293,275          | 207,794          |
| <b>Total staff costs and employee benefits</b>            | <u>2,365,134</u> | <u>1,786,080</u> |

|                                                                                                        | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                                                                        | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Key management personnel remuneration (including salary, national insurance and pension contributions) | <u>566,401</u> | <u>514,218</u> |

|                                                                                                  | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                  | <b>No.</b>  | <b>No.</b>  |
| The average weekly number of persons, by headcount, employed by the charity during the year was: | 35          | 29          |

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****10. Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel (continued)**

The number of key management personnel and other staff who received annual emoluments, including pension contributions and other benefits in kind, but excluding national insurance contributions, was:

|                     | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                     | <b>No.</b>  | <b>No.</b>  |
| £60,001 - £70,000   | 3           | -           |
| £70,001 - £80,000   | 2           | 3           |
| £80,001 - £90,000   | 3           | 2           |
| £90,001 - £100,000  | -           | 1           |
| £101,000 - £110,000 | 1           | -           |
| £120,001 - £130,000 | -           | 1           |

**11. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

|                                       | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                       | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| <b>This is stated after charging:</b> |             |             |
| Auditors remuneration:                |             |             |
| Audit fees                            | 7,500       | 5,415       |

**12. Government Grants**

|                     | <b>2025</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                     | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Scottish Government | 4,753,959   | 4,347,847   |
| Total               | 4,753,959   | 4,347,847   |

Income from government grants comprises:

Scottish Government – for the establishment and operations of the charity.

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****13. Debtors**

|                                | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>    |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Other debtors                  | 98,005         | 108,464        |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 15,356         | 205,482        |
| Trade debtors                  | 86,000         | 26,509         |
|                                | <u>199,361</u> | <u>340,455</u> |

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                    | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2024</b>    |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>       |
| Trade creditors                    | 299,698        | 538,111        |
| Other creditors and accruals       | 71,256         | 36,016         |
| Taxation and social security costs | 158,593        | 76,828         |
| Deferred Income (Note 15)          | 71,667         | -              |
|                                    | <u>601,214</u> | <u>650,954</u> |

**15. Deferred income**

|                                                             | <b>2025</b>   | <b>2024</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
|                                                             | <b>£</b>      | <b>£</b>    |
| Balance as at 1 April 2024                                  | -             | -           |
| Amount released to income earned from charitable activities | -             | -           |
| Amount deferred in year                                     | 71,667        | -           |
| Balance as at 31 March 2025                                 | <u>71,667</u> | <u>-</u>    |

Deferred income comprises invoices in advance for work for universities taking place in the year to 31st March 2026.

## RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 16. Analysis of charitable funds

| Analysis of<br>Fund movements   | As at 1 April<br>2023<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | As at 31<br>March 2024<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>       |                            |             |                  |                             |
| General funds                   | 575                        | 43,334      | (43,909)         | -                           |
| <b>Total unrestricted funds</b> | 575                        | 43,334      | (43,909)         | -                           |
| <b>Restricted fund</b>          |                            |             |                  |                             |
| Scottish Government             | 1,644,239                  | 4,389,446   | (4,953,372)      | 1,080,313                   |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>   | 1,644,239                  | 4,389,446   | (4,953,372)      | 1,080,313                   |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>              | 1,644,814                  | 4,432,780   | (4,997,281)      | 1,080,313                   |

| Analysis of<br>Fund movements   | As at 1<br>April 2024<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | As at 31<br>March<br>2025<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>       |                            |             |                  |                                |
| General funds                   | -                          | 9,795       | (9,795)          | -                              |
| <b>Total unrestricted funds</b> | -                          | 9,795       | (9,795)          | -                              |
| <b>Restricted fund</b>          |                            |             |                  |                                |
| Scottish Government             | 1,080,313                  | 4,753,959   | (4,868,335)      | 965,937                        |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>   | 1,080,313                  | 4,753,959   | (4,868,335)      | 965,937                        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>              | 1,080,313                  | 4,763,754   | (4,878,130)      | 965,937                        |

a) The unrestricted funds are available to be spent for any of the purposes of the charity.

b) Restricted funds comprise:

**Scottish Government** – funding for the establishment and operations of the charity.

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND****NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****17. Net assets over funds**

|                     | <b>Unrestricted<br/>Funds</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>Funds</b> | <b>Total<br/>2024</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|                     | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>              |
| Debtors             | 340,455                       | -                           | 340,455               |
| Cash                | 310,499                       | 1,080,313                   | 1,390,812             |
| Current liabilities | <u>(650,954)</u>              | <u>-</u>                    | <u>(650,954)</u>      |
|                     | <u>-</u>                      | <u>1,080,313</u>            | <u>1,080,313</u>      |

|                     | <b>Unrestricted<br/>Funds</b> | <b>Restricted<br/>Funds</b> | <b>Total<br/>2025</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|                     | <b>£</b>                      | <b>£</b>                    | <b>£</b>              |
| Debtors             | 199,357                       | -                           | 199,357               |
| Cash                | 401,853                       | 965,937                     | 1,367,790             |
| Current liabilities | <u>(601,210)</u>              | <u>-</u>                    | <u>(601,210)</u>      |
|                     | <u>-</u>                      | <u>965,937</u>              | <u>965,937</u>        |

**18. Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

|                                                                               | <b>2025</b>     | <b>2024</b>      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                                                                               | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>         |
| Net (expenditure) for the year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities) | (114,376)       | (564,501)        |
| Adjustments for:                                                              |                 |                  |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments                                | (1,277)         | -                |
| Decrease/(Increase) in debtors                                                | 141,098         | (129,789)        |
| (Decrease)/Increase in creditors                                              | <u>(49,744)</u> | <u>310,350</u>   |
| <b>Net cash (used in) operating activities</b>                                | <u>(24,299)</u> | <u>(383,940)</u> |

**RESEARCH DATA SCOTLAND**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

|                                 | 2025             | 2024             |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                 | £                | £                |
| Cash in hand                    | <u>1,367,790</u> | <u>1,390,812</u> |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | <u>1,367,790</u> | <u>1,390,812</u> |

## Reference and Administrative Information

### Governance and Administrative details

The legal and administrative information on page three forms part of this report. The organisation is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated as a registered Charity (SC051305) and registered Company (SC677016) on 8 October 2020. The organisation is governed by its Articles of Association created September 2021 and updated August 2022.

Its members are:

- The Scottish Ministers
- Public Health Scotland
- The University of Edinburgh
- The University of Glasgow
- The University of Dundee
- The University of Aberdeen

National Records for Scotland shall not be a member but shall have the right to be informed of and arrange for an individual to attend on its behalf at General Meetings and meetings of the Trustees.

### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Our current Trustees are detailed on page 37. The number of Trustees shall be not less than three and no more than ten. The Board of Trustees meets four times a year and supports RDS's directors in adopting the right long-term strategy and priorities, assesses company performance, monitors key risks and ensures resources are managed effectively. It is supported by two subcommittees dealing specifically with Finance, Audit & Risk and Remuneration and Nominations.

Roger Halliday, Chief Executive Officer of Research Data Scotland, serves as Company Secretary since date of incorporation.

|          |                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Trustees | Paul Boyle                      |
|          | Scott Heald                     |
|          | Martin Sinclair                 |
|          | Julie Fitzpatrick               |
|          | Jill Pell                       |
|          | Mark Parsons                    |
|          | Roger Halliday                  |
|          | Sapna Marwaha (joined Feb 2025) |

Details of our full board, and subcommittees - [Governance | Research Data Scotland](#)

|                         |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chief Executive</b>  | Roger Halliday                                                                                  |
| <b>Charity Number</b>   | SC051305                                                                                        |
| <b>Company Number</b>   | SC677016                                                                                        |
| <b>Auditor</b>          | Wbg (Audit) Ltd<br>168 Bath Street<br>Glasgow<br>G2 4TP                                         |
| <b>Bankers</b>          | Royal Bank of Scotland<br>Edinburgh Corstorphine<br>239 St John's Road<br>Edinburgh<br>EH12 7XA |
| <b>Solicitors</b>       | MacRoberts<br>10 George Street<br>Edinburgh<br>EH2 2PF                                          |
| <b>Principle Office</b> | Room 2.40, Edinburgh Futures Institute<br>1 Lauriston Place<br>Edinburgh<br>EH3 9EF             |
| <b>Online</b>           | <a href="http://www.researchdata.scot">www.researchdata.scot</a>                                |



**About Research Data Scotland**

Research Data Scotland is unlocking the power of public sector data.

We help researchers find and make use of health, social care and administrative data to improve the lives of people in Scotland. Working in partnership, we do this by safely and securely widening the range of data available, creating new data assets and providing a single point of contact for effective access to public sector data.

We are a not-for-profit charitable organisation created and funded by Scottish Government. We are a partnership between Scottish Government, leading universities and public bodies, such as Public Health Scotland (PHS) and National Records Scotland (NRS).

[www.researchdata.scot](http://www.researchdata.scot)  
[@RDS\\_Scotland](#)