# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

FIRM REFERENCE NUMBER: 213616

# **CREDIT UNION INFORMATION**

#### **Directors**

Mrs C Jamieson Chair
Mr I Turner Vice Chair
Mr A Ibe Secretary

Mr J Begg Ms S Watters Mr S Wood Ms J Carter

Mr M Gilligan (Co-opted to the board in April 2023)

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Frances McCann

### Registered office

13 Elmbank Street Glasgow G2 4PB

#### **Auditor**

Johnston Carmichael LLP 7 – 11 Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7PE

### **Solicitors**

Law at Work Kintyre House 205 West George Street Glasgow G2 2LW

Miller Samuel Hill Brown RWF House 5 Renfield House Glasgow G2 5EZ

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### **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

### **Principal activity**

The principal activity of the Credit Union continued to be that as defined in the Credit Unions Act 1979 with membership being open to anyone who lives or works in the West of Scotland (an area defined by the boundaries of the twelve unitary authorities: Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire) and the local authority areas of Dumfries & Galloway, Highlands, Perth & Kinross or Stirling.

#### Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Mrs C Jamieson (Chair)
Mr I Turner (Vice Chair)
Mr A Ibe (Secretary)
Mr J Begg
Mr B Douglas (resigned 24 October 2022)
Ms J King (resigned 25 August 2023)
Mr P Leonard (resigned 24 October 2022)
Ms S Watters
Mr S Wood
Mr M Gilligan (Co-opted to the board in April 2023)
Ms J Carter

#### Review of business and future developments

In the face of challenging economic conditions, Scotwest Credit Union has steadfastly upheld its commitment to cooperative financial principles, focusing on enhancing the financial well-being of our members. This year has been marked by persistently high inflation and a notable increase in interest rates, exacerbating the cost of living crisis for many of our members.

Despite these challenges, Scotwest has achieved remarkable growth, with our membership expanding by an impressive 9%, welcoming over 2,500 new members. Additionally, we've experienced a significant surge in demand for our loan and mortgage products. Conversely, the economic shift has led to a noticeable change in members' savings habits, resulting in a decrease in savings levels for the first time in several years.

The Board remains dedicated to maintaining a robust financial equilibrium, balancing income and expenditure while adhering to regulatory financial requirements and upholding our core purpose. Rooted in cooperative values, we are committed to broadening financial inclusion, promoting the financial stability of our members, and supporting our local communities.

We are poised to welcome the members of Perth & Kinross Credit Union and Stirling Credit Union into our Scotwest community. These mergers are a strategic step, not just in expanding our membership but in strengthening our service capabilities and solidifying our presence across Scotland and within the credit union sector.

#### Results and dividends

Savings have decreased by £5.2m (5.8%) this year, whilst loans have grown substantially, with the loan book finishing at £63m, £11.6m (22.6%) ahead of last year. This has resulted in over £3.6m in income from members' loans which is an increase of approx. 9.55% on last year. Operational expenditure is up £409k (12.3%), mostly attributable to bad debt costs and provisioning.

The above has resulted in a pre-dividend surplus of £670,669 (2022: £389,375) and a post dividend retained surplus of £441,398 (2022: £300,748).

The Board's approach to Dividend, whilst remaining cautious, has been to increase this throughout the year which has resulted in it doubling the amount of surplus disbursed to members.

# **DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### Financial risk management objectives and policies

Our key financial risk remains our ability to lend members money at levels and rates which provide an appropriate dividend return and maintains appropriate liquidity levels and capital reserves. Our objective is therefore to provide loans at reasonable rates to allow us to pay dividends appropriate in the current high interest rate environment.

The Credit Union utilises financial instruments, comprising cash, bonds, loans and various other items such as receivables and payables that arise directly from its operations. The main risks arising from the Credit Union's financial instruments relate to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. The directors review and agree policies for managing each of these risks, which are described and evaluated in more detail in notes 19 to 22.

#### Cost of living crisis

Having navigated through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Credit Union continues to adapt to an evolving economic landscape marked by new challenges and uncertainties. Over the past year, the economy has been influenced by several key factors:

- The ongoing geopolitical tensions, including the persistent impacts of the war in Ukraine
- The evolving consequences of Brexit on trade, labour, and regulatory frameworks
- The continued management of post-COVID debt amidst a shifting global economic outlook
- Developments in fiscal policy, responding to both domestic and international economic pressures
- The increasing effects of climate change on global food production and supply chains

Inflation surged throughout the year, and led to the Bank of England making efforts to reduce this by increasing the base rate. This increased by 3%; going from 2.25% Sep22 to 5.25% Sep23.

The response of the markets to these measures, along with the government's fiscal policy and budgetary measures has had a notable impact on various sectors, including financial services. The mortgage market has seen continued volatility and interest rates, for both loans and savings, have increased significantly across the year.

The cost of living therefore remains a critical issue, with the prices of food and energy continuing to rise. This situation poses significant challenges for many families and the credit union remains committed to closely monitoring these developments and adapting its services to effectively support members in these unpredictable times.

#### **Auditor**

A resolution to re-appoint Johnston Carmichael LLP as auditor will be put to the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

### Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Credit Union's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the Credit Union's auditor is aware of that information.

Ms C Jamieson

**Director and Chair** 

29 / 11 / 2023 Date: .....

Mr A Ibe

**Director and Secretary** 

29 / 11 / 2023

Date: .....

### **DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Credit Union law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Under Credit Union law the directors must not approve financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Credit Union and of the surplus or deficit of the Credit Union for that period. In preparing these financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting 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 Credit Union will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Credit Union's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Credit Union and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Credit Unions Act 1979. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Credit Union and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### TO THE MEMBERS OF SCOTWEST CREDIT UNION LIMITED

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Scotwest Credit Union Limited (the 'Credit Union') for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Capital and Reserves, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Credit Union's affairs as at 30 September 2023 and of its surplus 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 Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

#### **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 Credit Union in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Credit Union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

### Other information

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

# TO THE MEMBERS OF SCOTWEST CREDIT UNION LIMITED (CONTINUED)

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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Credit Union and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

#### Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

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.

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

### Extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

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

We assessed whether the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations by considering their experience, past performance and support available.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Credit Union, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) Credit Union Rulebook;
- the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Credit Union Sourcebook;
- Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014;
- Credit Unions Act 1979;
- The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order 2010;
- UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- UK Corporation taxes legislation.

# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

# TO THE MEMBERS OF SCOTWEST CREDIT UNION LIMITED (CONTINUED)

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

#### Extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)

We gained an understanding of how the Credit Union is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns, relevant correspondence with regulatory bodies, the Credit Union's breaches register and board meeting minutes.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Credit Union's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how management were remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how management oversee the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk. We identified a heightened fraud risk in relation to:

- Management override of controls
- Interest receivable on loans to members

The following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance for reference to breaches of laws and regulations or for any indication of any potential litigation and claims; and events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud;
- Reviewing the level of and reasoning behind the Credit Union's procurement of legal and professional services:
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of
  journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant
  transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing judgements made by management in their
  calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias;
- Performing data analytics testing to perform a full recalculation of interest on loans to members and to identify any potential anomalies;
- Completion of appropriate checklists and use of our experience to assess the Credit Union's compliance with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014; and
- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to supporting documentation.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the

# Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Credit Union's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 87 of the Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Credit Union's members 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 Credit Union and the Credit Union's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Johnston Carmichael LLP, Statutory Auditor

30 November 2023

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7-11 Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7PE

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income Loan interest receivable and similar income Dividends	3 5	4,471,258 (229,271)	3,665,132 (88,627)
Net interest income		4,241,987	3,576,505
Fees and commissions receivable Fees and commission payable	3	21,593 (11,200)	8,512 (10,640)
Net fees and commissions receivable/(payable)		10,393	(2,128)
Other income	3	99,225	109,689
Administrative expenses Depreciation Bad debts and provision movement	12	(2,772,279) (11,875) (941,968)	(2,519,382) (13,213) (784,768)
Surplus before taxation	4	625,483	366,703
Taxation	7	(184,085)	(65,955)
Total comprehensive income for the year		441,398	300,748

# **Continued operations**

The above results are derived from continuing operations. The notes on pages 11 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

# **BALANCE SHEET**

# AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

ASSETS	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash, cash equivalents and liquid deposits			
Cash in bank and liquid deposits	8	11,497,473	26,943,306
Investments in bonds	9	23,760,771	23,971,539
		35,258,244	50,914,845
Loans to members	10	62,983,681	51,352,158
Bad debt reserve	11	(3,050,065)	(2,341,623)
Tangible fixed assets	12	380,000	391,875
Other debtors	13	397,152	187,728
Total Assets		95,969,012	100,504,983
LIABILITIES			
Members' shares	14	84,443,814	89,674,198
Juvenile deposits	1-4	29,669	54,257
Other payables	15	638,902	361,299
		OE 112 205	00 000 754
		85,112,385 ————	90,089,754
RESERVES	40	40.070.007	40.004.000
General reserves	16	10,376,627	10,004,229
Appropriation account Non-distributable reserves	17	480,000	56,000 355,000
		10,856,627	10,415,229
		<del></del>	
Total liabilities and reserves		95,969,012	100,504,983

Ms C Jamieson

**Director and Chair** 

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Mr A Ibe

**Director and Secretary** 

The notes on pages 11 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CAPITAL AND RESERVES

# AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	General Reserve £	Appropriation Account £	Non- distributable Reserve £	Total £
At 1 October 2021 Surplus for the year Transfer	9,844,481 300,748 (141,000)	56,000 ———	270,000 - 85,000	10,114,481 300,748 -
At 30 September 2022	10,004,229	56,000	355,000	10,415,229
At 1 October 2022 Surplus for the year Transfer	10,004,229 441,398 (69,000)	56,000 (56,000)	355,000 - 125,000	10,415,229 441,398 -
At 30 September 2023	10,376,627		480,000	10,856,627

The appropriation account above of £56,000 at 30 September 2022 was used to fund a further final dividend to members formally approved by the Board post year end in October 2022.

The notes on pages 11 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Cash flows from operating activities	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year		441,398	300,748
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	12	11,875	13,213
Taxation	7	184,085	65,955
Dividends payable	5	229,271	88,627
Interest receivable		(836,490)	(550,579)
Amortisation on bonds	9	(70,317)	203,445
Impairment on loans to members	10, 11	941,969	784,768
		901,791	906,177
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		901,791	900,177
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		46,213	11,463
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		159,217	(42,354)
New Joans to members	10	(49,456,023)	(38,055,939)
Repayment of loans by members	10	37,590,973	35,296,294
Cash inflow from subscribed shares	14	55,198,978	53,136,404
Cash outflow from repayment of shares		(60,453,950)	(52,466,441)
Dividends paid		(229,271)	(88,627)
Corporation tax paid		(65,699)	(63,720)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(16,507,771)	(1,366,743)
Cash flows from investing activities		<del></del>	
Purchase of investments in corporate bonds	9	(12,493,081)	(14,211,256)
Sale and maturity of investments in corporate bonds	9	12,882,192	13,733,487
Interest received		672,827	215,057
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities		1,061,938	(262,712)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(15,445,833)	(1,629,455)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		26,943,306	28,572,761
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		11,497,473	26,943,306

The notes on pages 11 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### **General information**

The Credit Union is incorporated in the UK and domiciled in Scotland. The address of its registered office is 13 Elmbank Street, Glasgow, G2 4PB. It is defined as a public benefit entity and thus complies with all disclosure requirements relating to public benefit entities.

The Credit Union's activity during the year continued to be that as defined in the Credit Unions Act 1979, with membership being open to anyone who lives or works in the West of Scotland (an area defined by the boundaries of the twelve unitary council authorities: Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire) and the local authority areas of Dumfries & Galloway, Highlands, Perth & Kinross or Stirling

The Credit Union is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the Credit Union's functional currency. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £. The principal accounting policies are set out below.

### 1.2 Going concern

The directors prepare a business plan which sets out the Credit Union's strategic and prudential objectives and its forecasted key performance indicators. The plan takes account of the continued economic uncertainty as well as the challenging outlook for the cost of living and sets out in some detail short term tactical options as well as the longer term ongoing strategic development of the Credit Union. The main objective of the directors is for the Credit Union to maintain a healthy balance between savings and loans, whilst meeting its regulatory capital requirements and delivering the strategic objectives. The directors then develop a budget in support of the business plan and interrogate the assumptions made in the budget through stress testing on a worst-case basis scenario. The conclusion of the directors is that, even if the worst-case scenario assumed occurs in relation to the budget, the Credit Union will continue to generate a surplus and meet its capital requirements.

After making appropriate enquiries the directors of the Credit Union have reasonable expectation that the Credit Union will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and for at least twelve months from the date of these financial statements. For these reasons, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the Credit Union's financial statements.

In assessing the Credit Union's ability to continue as a going concern the directors have considered the impact of the cost of living crisis as described in the Directors' Report.

#### 1.3 Income

Loan interest receivable and similar income: Interest on both loans to members and cash and cash equivalents held on deposit with banks and other financial institutions is recognised using the effective interest method and is calculated and accrued on a daily basis.

Fees and commissions receivable: Income represents interest and fees received on the products provided by the Credit Union. Interest and fees are recognised as they fall due.

#### 1.4 Dividends

Dividends on members' shares are paid to members based on the actual deposits held with the Credit Union and are recognised in the financial statements when formally approved at board meetings of the Credit Union.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

#### 1.5 Bad and doubtful debts

Specific provisions are made for loans which are recognised to be bad or doubtful. Movements in bad debt provisions during the year are charged to the statement of comprehensive income.

Under FRS 102, the criteria for derecognising (writing-off) a loan is different from when the Credit Union would write off the loan for internal purposes. Under FRS 102, loans can be written off only when the Credit Union no longer has the legal right to enforce payment. Loans written off by the Credit Union which do not meet the criteria for derecognition under FRS 102 remain part of the gross loans to members balance in these financial statements and are fully provided for in the bad debt provision.

#### 1.6 Taxation

Current taxation is the expected tax payable for the year, using tax rates in force during the year. The Credit Union is not liable for corporation tax payable on its activities of making loans to members. Corporation tax is payable on investment income. As a result of the limited activities of the Credit Union from which profits are chargeable to corporation tax, it is unlikely that deferred tax will arise.

#### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### 1.8 Investment in corporate and government bonds

The Credit Union maintains a portfolio of listed corporate bonds which are held to maturity and are therefore measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, with maturities ranging from 0 – 60 months.

#### 1.9 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost or deemed cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Freehold land and buildings 2.5% straight line
Fixtures and fittings 5% - 50% straight line
Computers 33.33% straight line

#### 1.10 Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at fair value.

#### 1.11 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the fair value, then subsequently at effective interest amortised cost.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

### 1.12 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting date, the Credit Union reviews the carrying amounts of its non-financial assets, to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is decreased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years.

A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised as income immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

#### 1.13 Loans to members

Loans to members are financial assets with fixed to determinable payments and are not quoted in active markets. Loans are recognised when cash is advanced to members and measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### 1.14 Financial instruments

The Credit Union has entered into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Loans to members are a financial asset recognised when cash is advanced to members and measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate. Loans to members are derecognised when all rights to receive cash flow have expired, usually on repayment of all outstanding balances. Loans are assessed each balance sheet date, for objective evidence that any of its loans to members are impaired. The loans are assessed collectively in groups that share similar credit risk characteristics, because no loans are individually significant. In addition, if during the course of the year, there is objective evidence that any individual loan is impaired, a specific loss will be recognised. Any impairment losses are recognised in the revenue account, as the difference between the carrying value of the loan and the net present value of the expected cash flows.

Shares are redeemable and therefore are classed as financial liabilities. They are initially recognised at the amount of cash deposited and subsequently at amortised cost.

Other financial assets recognised when the Credit Union becomes entitled to funds from another party and are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Other financial liabilities are recognised when the Credit Union becomes liable for amounts due to another party and are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the balance sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when the Credit Union has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership, usually on the repayment of outstanding balances.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only once the liability has been extinguished through discharge, cancellation or expiry.

#### 1.15 Pension scheme

#### **Defined contribution scheme**

The Credit Union operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Credit Union pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Credit Union has no further payments obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the statement of comprehensive income when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Credit Union in independently administered funds.

#### 1.16 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met, and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

#### 1.17 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed. There are no finance leases in place as at the current year end.

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

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the Credit Union's accounting policies.

The directors are satisfied that accounting policies are appropriate and applied consistently. The key source of accounting estimation is the bad debt provision on impairment of loans to members (see notes 10 and 11).

The Credit Union reviews its loans to members portfolio regularly to assess impairment. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded, the Credit Union is required to exercise a degree of judgement. Impairment provisions are calculated using arrears experience and applying specific percentages on the arrears amounts in accordance with the guidance issued by the PRA and FCA. The Credit Union further looks at credit risk characteristics and expected cashflows and if deemed reasonable will provide further impairment provisions.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Income and other income		
	2023	2022
la como o	£	£
Income: Interest receivable on members' loans	3,634,818	3,317,998
Bond income	424,749	199,788
Bank interest	411,691	147,346
	4.474.050	0.005.400
	4,471,258	3,665,132
Other income:		
Fees and commissions receivable	21,593	8,512
Distribution from Lottery	99,225	94,669
Other income	-	15,020
	120,818	118,201
	4,592,076	3,783,333

Government grant income of £800,000 was received in the 2020/21 period and pertains to an amount received from Social Investment Scotland in relation to the Scottish Community Lenders Fund grant, provided to promote the availability of affordable credit and strengthen the balance sheet of affordable credit providers. During the year ended 30 September 2023 the Credit Union has utilised £574,996 (2022: £100,215) of the grant for specific projects to promote the availability of affordable credit.

### 4 Operating surplus

3

Operating surplus for the year is stated after charging:	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation Auditor's remuneration	11,875	13,213
<ul><li>Audit of the financial statements</li><li>Corporation tax compliance</li></ul>	26,500 2,250	23,000 2,250

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

5	Dividends		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Dividends paid on members' shares in the year	229,271	88,627
		<b>2023</b> %	<b>2022</b> %
	Average dividend rate Juvenile member dividend Ordinary member dividend Notice account dividend	0.2000 0.2000 0.2375	0.1000 0.1000 0.1000
6	Staff costs	2023	2022
	Wages and salaries Social security costs Pension costs	1,139,717 108,412 65,596	1,061,275 100,402 62,097
		1,313,725	1,223,774

Average staff numbers during the year were 40 (2022: 42).

No remuneration was paid to any of the directors during the year (2022: £nil).

The key management personnel are the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operating Officer, the Finance Manager, the Communications and Brand Manager and the Compliance and Risk Manager. Remuneration for key management personnel was £319,589 (2022: £297,138).

At the year-end pension contributions outstanding were £nil (2022: £nil).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

7	Taxation		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Taxation charged through the statement of comprehensive income was as follows:	L	£
	UK corporation tax	184,085	65,955

### Factors affecting tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is less than (2022: the same as) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25% which came into effect 30 March 2023 (2022: 19%). The differences are explained below.

	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus on ordinary activities before tax	679,330	366,703
Surplus on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25% (2022: 19%) Effects of:	169,832	69,674
Net revenue exempt from taxation Differences in tax rates	39,857 (25,604)	(3,719)
	679,330	65,955

The March 2020 Budget announced that a rate of 19% would continue to apply with effect from 1 April 2020 and this change was substantively enacted on 17 March 2020. In the Spring Budget 2021, the government announced that from 1 April 2023 the corporation tax rate will increase to 25% and this change was substantively enacted on 24 May 2021.

# 8 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Current accounts	1,388,717	8,257,068
Deposit accounts	10,108,756	18,686,238
	11,497,473	26,943,306

The Credit Union has calculated an amount of £480,000 (2022: £355,000) to cover the interest rate risk attached to the Credit Union's fixed interest mortgage portfolio as shown in note 17. The £480,000 (2022: £355,000) is included within the balance of cash at bank.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

9	Investments in corporate bonds	2023	2022
		£	£
	Balance forward	23,971,539	23,481,971
	Additions	12,493,081	14,211,256
	Disposals and maturities	(12,882,192)	(13,733,487)
	Accrued interest	108,026	215,244
	Amortisation	70,317	(203,445)
		23,760,771	23,971,539
	To control of the con		
	Investment in corporate bonds have remaining maturities as follows:		
	Accrued interest	108,026	215,244
	Within one year	12,495,655	12,727,119
	In more than one year	11,157,090	11,029,176
		23,760,771	23,971,539
	All of the above investments are in listed corporate bonds.		
10	Loans to members		
		2023	2022
		£	£
	Balance forward	51,352,158	48,953,126
	Advanced in year	49,456,023	38,055,93
	Repaid in year	(37,590,973)	(35,296,294)
	Written off in year	(233,527)	(360,613)
		62,983,681	51,352,158
	Loans due within one year	19,226,986	16,772,322
	Loans due after more than one year	43,756,695	34,579,836
		62,983,681	51,352,158

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

11	Bad debt reserve				
				2023 £	2022 £
	Opening provision Charge to statement of compre	ehensive income		2,341,623 708,442	1,917,468 424,155
				3,050,065	2,341,623
12	Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
	Cost or deemed cost At 1 October 2022 Disposal	475,000 -	257,042	139,113 - 	906,373 (35,218)
		475,000	257,042	139,113	871,155
	<b>Depreciation</b> At 1 October 2022 Charge for the year Disposal	83,125 11,875 -	257,042 - -	139,113 - -	479,280 11,875 
	As at 30 September 2023	95,000	257,042	139,113	479,280
	Carrying amount At 30 September 2022	391,875	-	-	391,875
	At 30 September 2023	380,000		<u>-</u>	380,000

The freehold land and buildings are held at deemed cost, which is their valuation when the Credit Union transitioned to FRS102 in 2014.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

13	Other debtors		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Prepayments and accrued income Loan to Other Credit Unions	297,152 100,000	187,728
		397,152 ———	187,728
14	Members' shares	2023	2022
		£	£
	Balance forward Received in year Withdrawn in year	89,674,198 55,198,978 (60,429,362)	89,004,235 53,136,404 (52,466,441)
		84,443,814	89,674,198
15	Other payables		
		2023 £	2022 £
	Trade creditors Accruals Other creditors Other tax and social security Corporation tax	180,030 164,362 85,455 25,225 183,830	60,230 160,589 52,074 22,707 65,699
		638,902	361,299

#### 16 General reserve

The general reserve includes the current and prior year retained surpluses and deficits.

# 17 Non-distributable reserves

The Credit Union has a portfolio of fixed rate mortgage loans in respect of which there exists an interest rate risk in the event of an increase in base rate or other rises in the cost of funding, which cannot be matched by an equivalent rise in interest income from this portfolio.

The Credit Union carried out a stress test to gauge the impact of a rise in the cost of funding and used this calculation to establish a part of the general reserve which is treated as non-distributable, and which reflects the resources set aside to mitigate the interest rate risk in the mortgage loan book.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 18 Commitments

The Credit Union's annual commitments for rental and non-cancellable IT costs commitment at 30 September 2023 were as set out below:

2023 were as set out below.	2023 £	2022 £
Commitments which expire: Within one year Between two and five years	231,970 1,080,153	65,404 8,417
	1,312,123	73,821

The significant increase above is due to the renewal of the Cussco contract to provide Scotwest with IT services. The amount above is subject to variation depending on future inflation.

#### 19 Financial risk management

The Credit Union manages its shares and loans so that it earns income from the margin between interest receivable and interest payable.

The main financial risks arising from the Credit Union's activities are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. The directors review and agree policies for managing each of these risks, which are summarised below.

Credit risk: Credit risk is the risk that a borrower will default on their contractual obligations relating to repayments to the Credit Union, resulting in financial loss to the Credit Union. In order to manage the risk, the directors approve the Credit Union's lending policy, and all changes to it. All loan applications are assessed with reference to the lending policy in force at the time. Subsequently loans are regularly reviewed for any factors that may indicate that the likelihood of repayment has changed. There is also the risk that the Credit Union's surplus cash held as deposits may be lost due to financial institution failure. The Credit Union mitigates this risk by holding deposits in a range of financial institutions and undertaking regular due diligence on the financial stability of these institutions. There is also the risk that the counterparties on the Credit Union's corporate bond investments will default on bond repayments. The Credit Union mitigates this risk by buying and holding corporate bond investments that are within a suitable risk profile monitored by the directors and carefully choosing counterparties making sure these are approved by the directors as acceptable counterparties.

**Liquidity risk:** The Credit Union's policy is to maintain sufficient funds in liquid form at all times to ensure that it can meet its liabilities as they fall due. The objective of the Credit Union's liquidity policy is to smooth the mismatches between maturing assets and liabilities and to provide a degree of protection against any unexpected developments that may arise.

**Market risk:** Market risk is generally comprised of interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk. The Credit Union conducts all its transactions in Sterling and does not deal in derivatives or commodity markets. Therefore, the Credit Union is not exposed to any form of currency risk and the other price risk associated with the Credit Union's investments in corporate bonds is considered insignificant. The Credit Union's main interest rate risk arises from differences between the interest rate exposures on the receivables and payables that form an integral part of the Credit Union's operations. The Credit Union considers rates of interest receivable when deciding on the dividend rate payable on shares. The Credit Union does not use interest rate options to hedge its own positions. A ring-fenced amount is held in reserves to cover the interest rate risk attached to the Credit Union's fixed interest mortgage portfolio.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 20 Credit risk disclosures

The Credit Union holds £11,497,473 (2022: £26,943,306) in bank account and deposits. In order to deal with the credit risk of banking institutions, the Credit Union spreads its bank accounts between a number of different UK financial institutions. At the year-end bank funds were held between 6 (2022: 6) different banks and building societies. The Credit Union believes the full amount is recoverable and no provision against the bank balance is required. The Credit Union holds £24,007,177 (2022: £23,971,539), which are listed corporate bonds with composite ratings ranging between AAA and A.

The Credit Union holds the following security against its loans to members:

	2023 £	2022 £
Attached shares	1,698,148	1,480,497
Property (at time loan was issued)	13,134,635	17,854,969
	14,832,783	19,335,466

The total amount of loans represents the Credit Union's maximum exposure to credit risk from lending to members. The following table provides information on the credit quality of loan repayments. The status 'past due' includes any loan where payments are in arrears. The amount included is the entire loan amount and not just the overdue amount. The amounts relating to individually impaired and written off for internal purposes are loans which the directors have written off but which under FRS 102 can only be provided for and are not derecognised.

Loans not impaired	2023 £	2022 £
Not past due Up to 3 months past due	51,442,387 8,192,421	44,078,882 4,798,207
	59,634,808	48,877,089
Loans which are impaired		
Between 3 months and 6 months due Between 6 months and 1 year past due Over 1 year past due Individually provided and written off for internal purposes	386,857 128,792 17,456 2,678,062	377,678 99,804 3,881 1,993,706
	3,211,167	2,475,069
	62,845,975	51,352,158

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

### 21 Liquidity risk disclosures

Excluding short-term other payables, as noted in the balance sheet, the Credit Union's financial liabilities and the members' shares, are repayable on demand.

#### 22 Interest rate risk disclosures

The following table shows the interest received during the year divided by the closing loan balance and the dividend paid during the year divided by the closing share balance.

	2023 Amount	2023 Average Interest rate	2022 Amount	2022 Average Interest rate
	£	%	£	%
Financial assets Loans to members	62,983,681	5.77%	51,352,158	6.81%
Financial liabilities Members' shares (including juvenile deposits)	84,473,483	0.21%	89,728,455	0.10%

#### 23 Related parties

All of the directors are members of the Credit Union and two directors (2022: four) and no members of key management personnel (2022: one) have taken out a loan on normal business terms. During the year no close family members of directors took out loans on normal business terms with the Credit Union (2022: none). The directors are offered identical lending and savings terms to all other members at Scotwest.

The Scotwest Lottery is a related party of the Credit Union as the Credit Union is the ultimate beneficiary. During the year the Credit Union received £99,225 (2022: £94,669) from The Scotwest Lottery. At the year-end £3,538 was outstanding (2022: £nil).

Cussco Limited is a related party of the Credit Union as the CEO and two directors of the Credit Union are directors of this company. Cussco Limited provides IT services and total charges to the Credit Union for the year were £213,300 (2022: £200,433). The outstanding balance as at the year-end is £65,025 (2022: £nil)

The remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in note 6.

#### 24 Contingent liabilities

Following the outcome of the Judicial review into FSA Policy Statement PS10/12: "the assessment and redress of Payment protection Insurance complaints", the Credit Union undertook a review of its processes for dealing with PPI. No significant issues were raised in this review and the Credit Union continues to review complaints in the normal way.

No provision has therefore been made in these accounts in respect of claims to any previous sales of PPI.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	1 October 2022 £	Cashflows £	30 September 2023 £
Current accounts	8,257,068	(6,868,351)	1,388,717
Deposit accounts	18,686,238	(8,577,483)	10,108,756
	26,943,306	(15,445,833)	11,497,473
Members' shares (including juvenile deposits)	(89,728,455)	5,254,972	(84,473,483)
			<del></del> -
	(62,785,149)	(10,190,861)	(72,976,010)

# **SCOTWEST CREDIT UNION**

# **DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

		2023		2022
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Interest received				
- Members' loans		3,634,818		3,317,998
<ul> <li>bond income</li> </ul>		424,749		199,788
<ul> <li>bank interest received</li> </ul>		411,691		147,346
Fee income		21,321		8,283
Insurance commission		272		229
Other income		99,225		109,689
Total income		4,592,076		3,783,333
Expenditure				
Governance costs	59,011		74,812	
Staff wages and salaries	1,313,725		1,223,774	
Other staff costs	22,787		23,620	
Property costs	61,654		71,132	
Insurance	306,687		283,136	
Information technology	390,060		382,188	
Communications	65,738		69,253	
Marketing	110,396		102,607	
Finance costs	164,400		119,012	
Regulation	3,994		(371)	
Depreciation	11,875		13,213	
Professional fees	70,021		31,047	
Audit fee	36,600		29,100	
Management fees	95,099		94,582	
Bad debts and provision movement	941,968		784,768	
Sundry expenses	72,107		15,490	
Total expenditure		(3,726,122)		(3,317,363)
Operating profit		865,954		465,970
Interest payable and similar expenses				
Dividend		(229,271)		(88,627)
Fees & commissions payable		(11,200)		(10,640)
Surplus before taxation		625,483		366,703
Taxation		(184,085)		(65,955)
Surplus after taxation		441,398		300,748
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