

UHI | PERTH

Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Contents

Key Management Personnel and Professional Advisers

Key Management personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the Senior Management Team and were represented by the following in the year ended 31 July 2023:

Name	Position
Dr Margaret Cook	Principal & Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
Lorenz Cairns	Depute Principal
Veronica Lynch	Vice Principal – External Engagement
Catherine Etri	Vice Principal – Academic
Iain Wishart	Vice Principal – Operations
External Auditor	Deloitte LLP 110 Queen Street Glasgow G1 3BX
Internal Auditor	Henderson Loggie The Vision Building 20 Greenmarket Dundee DD1 4QB
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland 12 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 5RB Bank of Scotland 10-16 King Edward Street Perth
Solicitors	Thorntons Solicitors 17-21 George Street Perth PH1 5JY

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Performance report

Performance Overview

The Performance Report provides an overview of UHI Perth's performance in the academic year to 31 July 2023 covering:

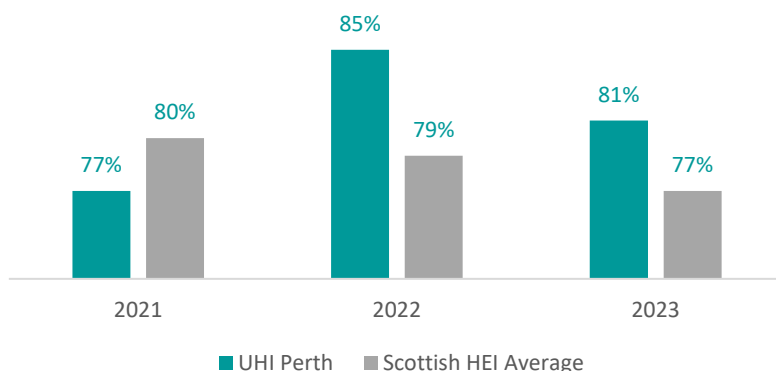
- The Principal's Performance Statement,
- a statement of the purposes and activities of the College,
- the key issues and risks that could affect the College in delivering its strategic plan, and
- a performance analysis, financial review for the year, key risks affecting the College and social matters.

Principal's Performance Statement

Academic Year 2022/23

Although 22/23 provided many successes it was a very challenging year from a financial perspective. Economic conditions and political decisions had a significant impact on our financial performance. However, despite the challenges, staff and students demonstrated dedication, resilience, commitment, and innovation and a big thank you to everyone for continuing to make UHI Perth a success.

National Student Survey Results (Overall Satisfaction)



The National Student Survey (chart on left) showed that UHI Perth scored above 80% for overall student satisfaction and continues to be well ahead of the Scottish higher education average.

Our Schools College Partnership enrolments increased by over 15% to 598 enrolments.

Other non-financial highlights included:

- We were involved with The Employability Challenge fund which focused on reskilling and upskilling. This has been particularly helpful for applicants post pandemic.
- Development of a Neurodiverse Group which supported students facing communication, social, sensory, organisational, and learning challenges.
- Our commercial gym won the "Best Health and Fitness Business in Perthshire" and are now entered in the Scottish finals.

Performance report

Performance Overview

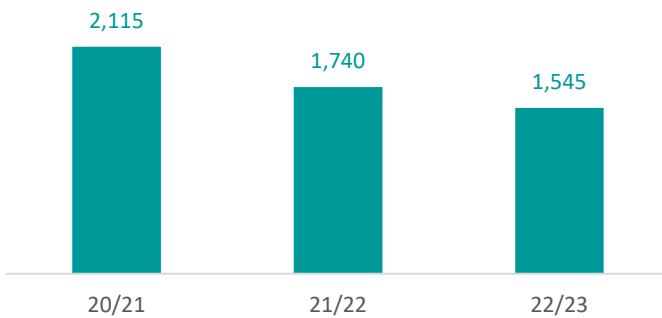
- Shortlisted for two College Development Network Awards, one of which is a project “Inspiring Sustainable Action”.

22/23 Financial Performance

The Adjusted Operating Position (AOP) for the College was a loss of £1.7m. Our aviation business, AST, made a profit in 22/23 resulting in a Group AOP loss of £1.6m.

UHI Perth College had budgeted for a breakeven AOP in 22/23. The key variances against the budget were:

HE FTE's (UGT & PGT)

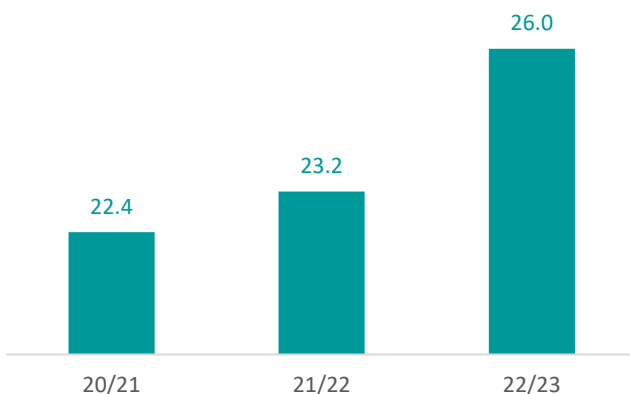


1. Falling HE FTE numbers. Our budget aligned with the funded target of 1,877 undergraduate FTE's but our actual undergraduate FTEs were 1,502 (plus 43 postgraduate). This resulted in an income shortfall of over £2m versus budget. However, £1.2m of prior year ESIF funds were approved and released which offset some of the FTE income shortfall.

We had assumed that the fall in HE FTEs in 21/22 was a one-off instance and had expected to recover in 22/23. However, our numbers dropped even further in 22/23. The key driver for the reduction in FTE numbers is that other universities have lowered their entrance levels.

2. We used the Scottish Government recommendation for public sector pay increases in our budget. However, the sector offer on national bargaining at the end of the year was almost double the Scottish Government recommendation. We have accrued the sector offer in our accounts.
3. UHI Perth started our restructuring (see below) before the end of the academic year and have accrued for unbudgeted voluntary severance payments.

FE Credits (thousands)



Although UHI Perth have seen a reduction in HE FTE's our FE Credit numbers remain strong. However, these will be impacted by a funding cap point of view from 22/23 (see Financial Outlook below).

22/23 FE Credits also now include Foundation Apprenticeship credits which were previously received separately.

Performance report

Performance Overview

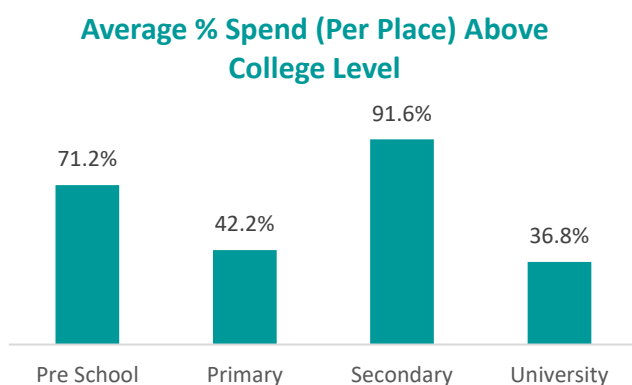
Financial Outlook

Even before recent funding announcements, College sector funding has been poor when compared with other public sector education providers. Colleges Scotland published information highlighting the underfunding in the sector including:

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) information document produced for the Education and Young People Committee ahead of its evidence session in October 2022 set out the following information:

- *Funding per full time equivalent student in 2022/23 for university - £7,558.*
- *Funding per full time equivalent student in 2022/23 for colleges - £5,054.*

Additionally, the parliamentary answer (S6W-01165 published July 2021) shows the stark differences in the baseline amounts invested in college students, and the real disparities across our educational settings.



The differences noted by Colleges Scotland are shown in the chart on the left. This shows how much more was spent per student versus the funding available to colleges i.e. 91.6% more was spent on each Secondary student versus each College student.

In our 21/22 accounts we noted significant risks to the financial sustainability of UHI Perth in future years.

These risks included:

- HE student numbers.
- A “flat cash” funding outlook.
- National Bargaining outcomes.
- Job Evaluation.
- Inflation and especially the cost of energy.

Most of these risks materialised in 22/23. While it was hoped, by everyone in the sector, that the “flat cash” position would not happen it became clear from the SFC indicative funding paper in

Performance report

Performance Overview

2023 that flat cash would actually be a reality. This was introduced at a time when inflation levels were at their highest for many years. The impact of most of the risks above materialising is reflected in the AOP loss detailed above.

Action was taken before the end of 22/23 with the introduction of a Voluntary Severance (VS) scheme. There were also positions prior to the VS scheme which were not backfilled. Additionally, the reduction in our HE FTEs has resulted in a reduction in the number of fixed term staff that are required. Our restructuring has continued throughout 23/24, with significant staff involvement, across a number of potential opportunities. We plan to have all changes in place by 31st July 2025.

- At this point in time, while our HE FTE levels have improved, they have not returned to pre-Covid levels as we had hoped. This will impact on the future course provision and structure of UHI Perth.
- Will “flat cash” be flat cash as noted by the SFC or will there be cuts to funding? An important point to note is that credits in 23/24 were cut to 90% of the funded level in 22/23. For UHI Perth this is 22,500 credits. As noted above UHI Perth could deliver significantly more credits but without funding this would have a negative impact on our financial sustainability.
- National Bargaining was agreed at the following levels for both Academic and Professional Services staff:
 - 1 Sept 2022 – £2,000
 - 1 Sept 2023 - £1,500
 - 1 Sept 2024 - £1,500
- Additionally, Academic staff will also receive an increase of 4.1% from 1 Sept 2025. With no additional funding and wages continuing to increase this will place significant and continued pressure on financial sustainability. There is currently no agreement for the pay award for Professional Services staff for 1 Sept 2025.
- Although inflation has fallen it is still high relative to prior years.

Part of our reorganisation will also involve looking at profitable income opportunities. International markets are an area where we believe we can leverage significant profitable income in future years. We have plans to expand the number of countries we are involved with, and we are also looking at different delivery models.

Performance report

Performance Overview

Strategy

In 22/23 we introduced our new strategy. Our strategy had significant staff involvement, and the output included:

Our vision is to empower our learners to achieve their full potential through a transformational student experience.

Our strategy was developed over four pillars:

1. College Growth and Ambition
2. Excellence in Learning and the Learner Experience
3. Partnerships and Collaboration
4. Sustainability

And supported by six values:

1. Student Centred
2. Innovative
3. Ambitious
4. Respectful
5. Inclusive
6. Collaborative

We understood that our strategy needed to be dynamic. However, we are having to revisit our strategy after just one year as we are developing proposals to restructure the organisation given the financial pressures that the organisation is facing.

Our strategic aims will continue to drive forward the Highlands and Islands Regional Outcome Agreement as well as ensuring full participation in Perth & Kinross Single Outcome Agreement Measures and Community Planning priorities.

The college continues to work in partnerships with relevant local and regional stakeholders, including Gleneagles Hotel, to ensure the provision of high-quality curricula and sector engagement within the Regional Skills Assessment area of Tayside, but also shares common overall goals with the Regional Skills Assessment of the Highlands and Islands.

Performance report

Performance Overview

Areas of commonality between the Highlands and Islands Regional Outcome Agreement and the UHI Perth strategy:

- The need to increase the quantity and quality of local jobs.
- To create a culture of employer investment.
- To meet the skills needs of employers, including a need for workplace progression routes and pathways.
- A need for flexible skills provision.

The Tay Cities Deal incorporating Dundee, Angus, Perth and Kinross and North Fife, is taking forward regional investments to focus on inclusion, innovation and connectedness ensuring delivery of a smarter and fairer region. Within the Tay Cities Deal, the college is working on key projects in engineering, aviation, hospitality, creative industries, and digital resilience.

Regional Context of Our Strategy:

UHI Perth is one of the largest partners in the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

UHI is an integrated university encompassing both further and higher education and part of a new breed of tertiary institutions, the only one in Scotland and one of only a few in Europe.

A diverse and flexible partnership serving their communities and connected to their needs offering flexible and supported learning from access level to PhD.

UHI have 31,000 students at the heart of the partnership and routinely exceeds student activity targets and surpasses many sector benchmarks of performance.

Specific to our Digital Strategy we are focused on digital transformation and striving to improve the digital capability of all our staff. We have a target a target to improve digital skills of all staff/learners by 10% from a baseline. We will measure this through:

- Progressions through a digital competence framework for each job role.
- Closure of gaps identified from a digital JISC competence tool by staff and students.

Innovation hubs will be created to support staff and students in achieving the above.

From a hardware point of view, academic and professional service staff create an annual plan to ensure that staff and students have the hardware required to allow them to be successful.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an area that has grown quickly in the sector and is continuing to move quickly. We are actively looking at this and will expand our current AI plan within our Digital Strategy.

Performance report

Performance Overview

Summary

In summary 2022/23 delivered some excellent non-financial achievements despite a financially challenging landscape. Our AOP loss in 22/23 was due to a culmination of significant events. It is clear that the events that materialised in 22/23 will continue for a number of years, so UHI Perth is taking action to ensure our financial sustainability. While we carry out our reorganisation, we will ensure we do so in a way that still allows us to deliver an excellent student experience.

The delay in completing and filing the report and audited financial statements is due to staff resourcing shortages at Deloitte which prevented the final work being completed until very recently. UHI, as our RSB, have been fully involved in discussion with Deloitte in respect of the significant delays in this work being carried out. We are currently on plan to complete the 23/24 audit in line with the normalised audit plan.

The members present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Dr Margaret Cook

Principal & Chief Executive

Performance report

Performance Overview

Purposes and Activities

Legal Status

The Board of Management was established under the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 for the purposes of managing and conducting Perth College.

The Office for National Statistics reclassified colleges as part of Central Government for National Accounts purposes since 1 April 2014.

The College is correctly registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (“OSCR”) for charity status and is recognised by HM Revenue & Customs as a charity for tax purposes.

The College is one of the 10 Academic Partners within the University of the Highlands and Islands (“UHI”) and forms part of the UHI FE Regional Strategic Body for reporting purposes to Scottish Funding Council (“SFC”).

UHI Perth is one of the largest partners in the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

UHI is an integrated university encompassing both further and higher education and part of a new breed of tertiary institutions, the only one in Scotland and one of only a few in Europe.

A diverse and flexible partnership serving their communities and connected to their needs offering flexible and supported learning from access level to PhD.

UHI has 31,000 students at the heart of the partnership and routinely exceeds student activity targets and surpasses many sector benchmarks of performance.

UHI Perth deliver courses at its main campus in Perth and in secondary schools across Perth and Kinross. We support work-based learning across a wide area, as well as collaborating with UHI in the ongoing development of its use of digital technology, providing access to expertise and curricula across Perth and Kinross, the Highlands and Islands and to our national and international partnerships.

The City of Perth is located within 50 miles of 90% of Scotland’s population, in the local authority of Perth and Kinross. The population of Perth and Kinross in 2021 was 151,900, a 0.1% increase from 2016. Unemployment rates are at 3.4% and its five year business survival rate is higher than the Scottish average. The 2021 Annual Participation Measure showed that 93.6% of 16–19-year-olds were in education, employment or training and personal development. UHI Perth is proud to serve the needs of its local area, as well as the wider Highlands and Islands Region and beyond.

UHI Perth provides a broad curriculum base with access to study at SCQF levels 2 to 12 in areas of local, regional, and national need in subjects grouped into five sector areas:

- Business, Management, Computing and Leisure,
- Creative and Cultural Industries,
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths,
- Applied Life Sciences, and
- Centre for Mountain Studies

Performance report

Performance Overview

UHI Perth also delivers a range of Modern Apprenticeship programmes supported by Skills Development Scotland (SDS), industry bodies and a range of commercial Vocational Qualifications (VQ).

School-college partnership provision is linked to relevant vocational pathways, and includes Foundation Apprenticeships in Business, Creative and Digital Media, Early Years, Engineering and Health Care.

The Principal and Chief Executive, Depute Principal and three Vice Principals make up the Senior Management Team. They are supported by Sector Development Directors and Heads of Department in the Perth Leadership Group.

Our Vision

Our vision is to empower our learners to achieve their full potential through a transformational student experience.

Our Values

To realise our vision we focus on our four pillars:

1. College Growth and Ambition
2. Excellence in Learning and the Learner Experience
3. Partnerships and Collaboration
4. Sustainability

and six core values

1. Student Centred
2. Innovative
3. Ambitious
4. Respectful
5. Inclusive
6. Collaborative

Key priorities

Our strategic aims drive forward the Highlands and Islands Regional Outcome Agreement as well as ensuring full participation in Perth & Kinross Single Outcome Agreement Measures and Community Planning priorities.

The college works in partnership with relevant local and regional stakeholders to ensure the provision of high-quality curricula and sector engagement within the Regional Skills Assessment area of Tayside, but also shares common overall goals with the Regional Skills Assessment of the Highlands and Islands.

Performance report

Performance Overview

Key Risks & Uncertainties

The Board of Management has responsibility for overseeing that the College identifies, mitigates and monitors strategic risk. The Audit Committee has delegated authority from the Board of Management to manage this process on their behalf.

The College operates a Strategic Risk Register which identifies the most significant risks to the College and also includes “common risks” as set out by the Executive Office of UHI. The Vice Principal of Operations is responsible for developing and managing the College Strategic Risk Register while the Senior Management Team (SMT) are responsible for ensuring that appropriate risk mitigation actions are implemented to address significant risks to the College’s operations and strategic objectives.

The Audit Committee receives an updated Strategic Risk Register on a quarterly basis. While many areas of risk are reviewed, the central focus for UHI Perth and across the sector are the current, heightened, risks to financial sustainability.

Many significant events including Brexit, the cost of COVID-19 and war in a part of Europe are starting to have a significant impact on the economy and College sector. The most recent Financial Forecast Return submitted to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) highlighted the following risks:

1. **SFC Funding:** At the time of writing, it has been proposed that no additional funding will be available in the sector for the foreseeable future, referred to as “flat cash”. This is a significant risk to the financial sustainability of the college as it could be difficult to cover increases in staff costs and non-staff costs in the future. Risks that could affect cost increases are set out below.
2. **Student Numbers:** Post Brexit and COVID-19, the College has been impacted by falling Higher Education student numbers. We believe that this is due to universities changing their entry requirements which has increased their student numbers. This is a significant risk to the funding entitlement of the College now and in the future.
3. **Inflation:** While inflation has been stable and low for a number of years, there has now been a significant increase in inflation. This will impact our non-staff costs, especially energy costs. Significant increases in prices will result in demands for salary increases to meet inflationary pressure which will have a significant increase in our staff costs.
4. **Job Evaluation:** For several years there has been an exercise to review salary levels paid across the sector, all the way back to 2017. Funds have been made available by the SFC but any outcome in excess of the funds made available by the SFC will need to be met by the colleges. The resolution to the process remains outstanding at the time of writing with no indication of when it might be resolved.

Performance report

Performance Overview

Key responses that are being taken by the College to mitigate the threat to financial sustainability include:

1. UHI 2024. Seven major initiatives have been initiated by the Executive Office of UHI. As noted above the current risks are not unique to UHI Perth and threaten the sector. UHI Perth are fully committed to and involved in these initiatives to manage the risks posed to our financial sustainability.
2. Board of Management Review: In addition to UHI 2024, UHI Perth's Board of Management will be carrying out a detailed review of the College so that actions can be taken, as required, to ensure the financial sustainability of the College.

Enterprise Risk Management

In 2021/22 the UHI Perth started transitioning away from our traditional Strategic Risk Management process to a framework of Enterprise Risk Management. Our new process will merge the latest risk management frameworks outlined by the Committee of Sponsoring Organisations (COSO) and ISO30001. Our new ERM framework is now live, and the previous risk management framework has been discontinued.

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

Non-Financial Performance

Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Measure	2022/23	2021/22		Percentage change
HE Recruitment FTEs	1,502.1	1,696.8	↓	(11%)
FE Recruitment Credits	26,047	23,205	↑	12%
NSS Overall Satisfaction	81%	85%	↓	(5%)
SSES Overall Satisfaction	96%	90%	↑	7%
Positive Destinations - FE	84%	79%	↑	6%
Staff turnover	16%	19%	↓	(16%)
Staff absences days per head	5.9	8.9	↓	(34%)
Staff CPD days per employee	6.12	4.73	↑	29%
Percentage of permanent teaching staff with Teaching Qualification in Further Education (TQFE)	68%	56%	↑	21%
Number of staff delivering papers to conferences	5	4	↑	25%
Number of staff publications	3	3	-	0%

As discussed in the Principal's report and in the Student Numbers section below HE Recruitment FTEs are down. This is considered to be due to the changes in university recruitment.

FE Recruitment credits increased in 2022-23 as had been expected.

Our sickness data has reduced when compared to the previous year, but this is seen across the sector as staff now find it easier to work from home as opposed to taking time off sick, this does mean that presentism may become an issue, but this is being monitored within 23/24.

The increase in staff with TQFE is due to the ongoing focus on providing TQFE to teaching staff.

Student Numbers

In a highly challenging recruitment environment, Perth College has seen an increase in FE credits and has reduction in HE Undergraduate FTE's. As set out in our key risks & uncertainties the reduction in HE numbers is considered to be due to universities changing their entry requirements which has increased their student numbers and impacted on college numbers.

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

Perth College achieved over 100% of its FE Credits, 80% of its HE Undergraduate FTE's and 82% of its Postgraduate FTE's. The credits are set out in more detail below:

	Year ended 31 July 2023			Year ended 31 July 2022		
	Actual	Target	Variance	Actual	Target	Variance
Core FE Credits	25,966	25,000	966	23,205	23,114	91
Undergraduate HE FTE's	1,502.1	1,877	(374.9)	1,696.8	2,046	(349.2)
Postgraduate FTE's	43.0	52.6	(9.6)	43.2	60.9	(17.7)

Financial Performance

Financial Results

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 2019 ("SORP"): 'Accounting for Further and Higher Education'; the Financial Reporting Standards FRS 102 and the 2022/23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FRm) and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.

They conform to the 2022/23 Accounts Direction for Scotland's Colleges ("the 2022/23 Accounts Direction") and other guidance issued by the SFC.

Perth College has achieved an operating deficit of £3.4m (2021/22 deficit of £2.3m) for the year ended 31 July 2023.

	Year ended 31 July 2023	Restated Year ended 31 July 2022
	£'000	£'000
Operating deficit	(3,427)	(2,329)
Variance from prior year	(1,098)	(683)
Adjusted operating position	(1,582)	310
Variance from prior year	(1,892)	(687)

UHI Perth prepared budgets for the year ended 31 July 2023 suggesting that financial performance would fall behind prior year but achieve a breakeven AOP position with additional savings. Whilst we have been able to achieve some of these savings, the reduction in HE FTE against both budget and prior year along with higher inflation, meant that UHI has seen an AOP deficit of £1.6m.

The College recognises the risks posed by an increasing cost base, particularly staff costs, against changing demand and reduced central funding in real terms.

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

The current operating and funding model in place across the UHI partnership places a material risk on financial sustainability. The complexities of delivery across the region and accounting for this create a sizeable challenge in terms of efficient delivery and management.

Following their reclassification as central government bodies from 1 April 2014, colleges are also required to comply with Central Government budgeting rules. In addressing the impact of these budgeting rules, Scottish Government and SFC committed to providing the cash budget previously earmarked for depreciation for use on specified priorities.

Cash Budget for Priorities

Colleges have now each been given a fixed cash budget for priorities which must be spent on agreed government priorities. The College's spend of its cash budget for priorities, and the impact on the operating position for the academic year, is set out in the tables below.

	2022/23	2021/22
	£'000	£'000
Table of cash budget for priorities spend		
Revenue Priorities		
2015-16 pay award	117	117
Estates capital development	303	308
Total impact on operating position	420	425
Capital Priorities		
Unfunded pension payments	109	104
Total Capital	109	104
Total cash budget for priorities spend	529	529

The Statement of Comprehensive Income ("SOCl") presents the financial performance during the accounting period in accordance with the SORP.

The Adjusted Operating Position ("AOP") is intended to reflect the underlying operating performance after allowing for material one-off or distorting items required by the SORP or other items out with the control of the institution.

The AOP is therefore designed to smooth any volatility in reported results arising from FRS 102 and also to recognise that some of the reported costs do not have an immediate cash impact on the institution.

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

Adjusted operating Position

The adjusted operating position of Perth College, as set out below, has decreased from a surplus of £0.3m to a deficit of £1.6m. The reasons for this are discussed in more detail in the Financial Performance.

	2022/23 £000	Restated 2021/22 £000
Adjusted Operating Position		
(Deficit) before other gains and losses	(3,169)	(2,292)
Add Back:		
Depreciation - net of deferred capital grant release (Note 1)	1,321	1,188
Pension adjustment – Net Service Cost (Note 2)	513	1,416
Pension adjustment – Net Interest Cost (Note 3)	(138)	102
Deduct:		
CBP allocated to loan repayments and other capital items (Note 4)	(109)	(104)
Adjusted Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	(1,582)	310

Note 1: Depreciation does not have an immediate cash impact on the institution, and, in any case, capital expenditure will largely be funded by government or ALF grants, so the charge is taken out.

Note 2: The adjustments to the pensions charge represent the net service cost (i.e. the present value of projected benefits resulting from employee service in the current year less cash contributions paid).

Note 3: The net interest cost is the interest accumulated on the pension liability and this is offset against the current year's interest earned on pension assets.

Note 4: Cash Budget for Priorities is included in income, but the loan repayment is not reflected in the costs therefore this amount is adjusted. Loan repayments should only be adjusted where CBP has been used to fund them.

Financial Ratios

Our goal is to optimise financial stability through innovative and careful management. Every effort will be made to maximise the efficient and effective use of funds to support the academic aims and objectives of the College within the constraints of central government accounting rules. Scottish Government budgeting and accounting requirements require the College to at least break even on both an operational and resource basis in each fiscal year and to minimise cash balances.

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

The following table gives a summary of key financial and other operating ratios:

	2022/23	2021/22
Operating (Deficit) as % of Total Income	(12.1%)	(8.51%)
Non SFC Income as % of Total Income	34.68%	35.46%
Current Assets: Current Liabilities	0.89	1.13
Staff Costs as a % of Total Income	79.78%	80.21%
Ratio of days cash to total expenditure	29.0 days	44.6 days
Trade creditor days	27 days	33 days

Most ratios above have declined in line with expectations due to flat cash funding and the increasing cost base.

The improvement in staff costs as a percentage of income is due to a significant reduction in the charge associated with the LGPS defined benefit pension scheme which has reduced from £1.5m to £0.4m, there has been a deterioration in the underlying staff costs percentage.

Cash Flows and Liquidity

Days cash has decreased from 44.6 days to 29 days. This is due to the operating deficit which has resulted in a cash loss for the college as expected.

UHI Perth maintained a positive cash flow during the year but the current assets to current liabilities ratio has decreased from 1.13 to 0.89. This is due to the increase in creditors of which the increase comes from the increase in accrued charges which relates to the amounts accrued for the September 22 Pay award which is not yet agreed and for severance costs agreed at year end but not yet paid.

Payment Performance

The College has a policy of paying its suppliers within 30 days of invoice unless other separate terms are in place, and excluding invoices held in dispute. Where possible, and in line with Scottish Government guidance, invoices are paid in the next available payment run following posting to the finance system. Creditor days (trade creditors divided by other operating expenditure) 27 days (2021/22: 33 days).

The reduction in trade creditor days is due to the impact of the policy of paying suppliers as early as possible.

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

Payment performance is shown in the below table:

	2022-23		2021-22		Variance	
	% by value	% by numbers	% by value	% by numbers	% by value	% by numbers
Less than 30	63%	68%	67%	71%	(4%)	(3%)
30-60	27%	26%	22%	18%	5%	8%
60-120	7%	4%	8%	6%	(1%)	(2%)
More than 120	2%	2%	3%	4%	(1%)	(2%)

There has been a slight decrease in invoices paid within 30 days although this data includes all payments made during the year and includes invoices in dispute, those not provided in line with finance requirements and invoices not due within 30 days (such as business rates).

No interest was paid under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

Treasury Policies and Objectives

The College has a separate treasury management policy in place and defines treasury management as the management of the organisation's cash flows, its banking and investment transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

Estates Strategy

In line with the UHI Strategic Plan 2022-27 the College is developing a number of key objectives to achieve going forward. This involves:

1. Develop the vision for the UHI Perth Estate to include a viable masterplan over the next 10-25 year period, building on the work undertaken through external consultations and PKC partnership.
2. Produce a report outlining the physical space requirements for classrooms, specialist facilities and common shared space aligned to UHI Perth current student numbers. Provide a comparison to current available space highlighting surplus or deficit in space available across each category with recommendations for improving utilisation.
3. Produce a gap analysis report of where UHI Perth estate supports/ limits digital access for students and staff with recommendations on where investments require to be made with associated cost projections.
4. Identify elements of estate that are not fit for purpose or surplus to requirements which may leverage capital value to support broader estate masterplan viability.
5. Utilise energy usage data by building, identify approaches to reduce usage of energy, identify alternative sources of energy generation and where these could be deployed together with recommendations on investments required and funding sources available to reduce the investment cost to implement these renewable sources.

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6. Produce a report identifying no cost/ low cost approaches to engaging staff and students in improving UHI Perth energy efficiencies while reducing carbon emissions overall. Develop a campaign to engage all key stakeholders. Include timelines and targets.
7. Produce a report outlining the demand for student accommodation including a gap analysis with recommendations on alternative approaches for consideration. Collaborative partnerships and alternative finance options should be developed for consideration.
8. Undertake a review with the engagement of students to identify improvements to campus space and service provision for students and staff including catering, social interaction, health and wellbeing, business engagement, enterprise and innovation. Recommendations for consideration with resource requirements, prioritization and proposed timelines should be developed.

Work already undertaken includes:

- Establish room utilisation and, through the use of new systems, to monitor that utilisation regularly.
- Established historic utilities usage trends with a view to establishing more detailed analysis going forward.
- Facilities surveys issued to all departments to record current use, perceived condition and any future requirements.

The College also confirms compliance with the Scottish Government sustainability reporting in line with the requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 which sets out the required content for the report to Scottish Government.

The College has reported every year since the 2015 Schedule became active, including the initial voluntary year in 2015/16. Perth College UHI is also an active participant in the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC).

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

One of the College's Strategic priorities within its Regional Outcome Agreement is to deliver against the SFC National Performance Measures reduction in our gross carbon footprint.

UHI Perth continues to work towards carbon reduction and the carbon emissions figures are 1,646 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ("tCO₂e") from 1,864 tCO₂e in 2015/16.

ICT Strategy

The ICT Department are focusing on themes to support the implementation of the ICT Digital Transformation Strategy to take the college and our stakeholders through a journey of digital confidence and competence that inspires and stimulates future thinking and innovation.

The themes are:

- Culture
- Service

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- Sustainability
- Communication and Collaboration

Culture

By adopting a continual service improvement register the College is embracing an opportunity to map out where we are, where we want to be, how we will get there and prioritise our improvement activities and their impact.

By developing the 5-year ICT investment plan we ensure that we offer equality of access, allowing our staff and students to thrive in a digitally enabled environment.

Service

We have implemented the JISC Benchmark (Elevation) Tool to map Perth College ICT against the sector.

A program of works has begun to ensure that ICT services and facilities are designed to support our stakeholders by ensuring they are accessible, secure, and sustainable.

An infrastructure review has been undertaken and a new teaching room standard has been agreed with internal stakeholders for the duration of the ICT Strategy 2022 – 2025 that will allow our academics to dynamically deliver the curriculum in high quality, flexible and innovative environments.

Sustainability

Through effective collaboration throughout the procurement cycle our suppliers are all committed to delivering benefits through improved value for money, improved goods, and services.

A tripartite upcycling project has been established with Perth and Kinross Council, Academic Departments and the WEEE Centre to increase digital accessibility and skills to disadvantaged members of our community.

Communication and Collaboration

A key focus for the forthcoming year is the facilitation of digital solutions to enhance collaboration and communications that will allow our staff to work smarter using innovative flexible, secure, and accessible platforms, this is being achieved by embracing best of breed cloud systems, and scalable opportunities for shared ICT Services.

Equality & Diversity

Equality and Diversity Vision

At Perth College UHI we have a passion for achieving more, a passion to become the most inclusive college in Scotland.

Perth College UHI is currently working towards meeting the following general duties:

- Eliminating discrimination and other unlawful conduct

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- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

Perth College's organisational equality outcomes 2021-2025 are:

- More learners than before are disclosing they are Care Experienced. These learners tend to have additional barriers which negatively impact attainment scores compared to their peers. We will work with the learners and other agencies to deliver interventions and support to narrow the attainment gap.
- There is an increase in learners disclosing mental ill health. These learners tend to have additional barriers impacting their attainment score compared to their peers. We will work with the learners and other agencies to deliver interventions and support to narrow the attainment gap.
- We recognise that there are gender imbalances across some areas of our curriculum, we will take active steps to promote accessibility of these programmes and challenge gender stereotyping.
- We are committed to being an anti-racist organisation and will seek to eliminate racism in all of its forms throughout all parts of the College.
- The College has a declining proportion of staff disclosing a disability in comparison with the local population. We will look to ensure that our policies, processes and practices are supportive of recruiting and retaining disabled staff. We will focus on hidden disabilities and wellbeing at work.

We have now started a mapping process against the new National Equality Outcomes and will look to incorporate relevant outcomes in future years.

Equality Reporting

We continue on our journey of ensuring the student and staff experience at the College is excellent. We continue to mainstream equality and diversity into all aspects of our operations and in doing so provide a learning and working environment which is founded on key principles of fairness, opportunities and respect for everyone.

Central to mainstreaming has been the gathering and consideration of further relevant data. This has involved assessing existing available evidence and also considering what other evidence may be available to help us make progress in further meeting the general equality duties.

Reporting on this work continues to demonstrate to our staff, students and other stakeholders that we are taking steps to further mainstream equality across the organisation and the progress that has been made.

Perth College has complied with its numerous statutory reporting requirements for the year ended 31 July 2023.

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Perth College published its Mainstreaming Equality, Equality Outcomes and Workforce and Student Profiles 2023 in March 2023 (available on our website).

This report shows the College's progress in mainstreaming equality and diversity into all that we do, our progress against our equality outcomes, and our staff and student profiles. It also evidences our gender pay gap and other actions we have taken over the last year.

Non-Financial Issues

Reputation

The College has a good reputation locally, nationally and internationally. Maintaining a quality brand is essential for the College's success in attracting students and developing and maintaining external relationships.

The College has invested significantly in developing its reputation nationally with a particular focus on influencing policy and internationally by delivering quality programmes and by broadening the reach and strength of international partnerships.

Stakeholder Relationships

In line with other colleges and universities, the College has many stakeholders.

The College actively engages with Scottish Government ministers, senior civil servants and the SFC both independently and through Colleges Scotland to update progress on delivery against key national priorities as well as influencing future policy. This would include within policy areas of Skills Alignment Strategy, the Learner Journey Review and Developing the Young Workforce.

In order to ensure our curriculum continues to meet current and future regional and national industry needs, continued engagement with Skills Development Scotland and industry bodies across our curriculum teams and directly into businesses. The College's Foundation, Modern and Graduate apprenticeship delivery relies on these strong industry relationships to ensure skills demands are met and delivery compliance is achieved. The College had strong performance in these areas during the year ended 31 July 2023.

The College's relationship with Perth and Kinross Council and its other Tay Cities regional partners through the Tay Cities Deal HE/ FE Forum and the Tay Cities Skills Board, Perth Development Board, Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership and the Strategic Education Group has been crucial to ensuring the College continues to be well regarded for its influence in economic and social transformation.

This includes the role the College plays in ensuring there are suitable progression routes for all learners from the Senior Phase pathways through to vocational, degree and postgraduate provision.

The College's role as one of the largest partners within UHI ensures that influence impacts the full Highland's region with the range of networked provision delivered by the College or hosted in Perth campus.

In partnership with our staff, trade unions and HISA, a greater focus on the student experience remains a high priority to the College. We are committed to investing in the Student Experience

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which is now a core part of our forward strategy, and we are delighted to see the focus has begun and continues to show results.

Additional areas of focus are:

- a greater variety of student support and social groups.
- Use of digital accessibility funding to improve the digital experience for our students
- An ICT strategy that supports the aspiration to be a student-centred, digitally enabled college.

Alongside this, continued discussions have taken place with Trade Unions to ensure the health and safety and wellbeing of all staff groups. This included those staff working from home as well as those staff undertaking essential on campus services to students. Discussions with Trade Unions in relation to non-filling of vacancies or realigning roles where vacancies arise, as well as the identification of areas for savings within the College's 2023/24 budget.

Human Rights

The College as part of the University of the Highlands and Islands partnership has published a Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy Statement as required by the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This statement is reviewed annually and the actions from it implemented in all purchasing activity by requiring all new suppliers to confirm that they have "effective procedures in place to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015" before any transaction can take place.

Details of our requirements have been incorporated into the College's Standard Terms and Conditions upon which all purchase orders and local contracts are based. These requirements are also included in the many frameworks we utilise, awarded by centres of expertise such as Advance Procurement for Universities and Colleges ("APUC"), Scottish Procurement and Crown Commercial Service ("CCS").

Where modern slavery, human rights or workforce matters are identified as a potential risk in contracting for goods and services, relevant and proportionate requirements are included within our specification of requirements and appropriately probing questions are asked of bidders to demonstrate compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies such as International Labour Organisation standards.

As a Scottish Living Wage Foundation accredited employer we also endeavour that all on-site contractors are paid at least the Real Living Wage, as set annually by the Living Wage Foundation. This has also applied to our catering contract.

There have been no complaints of any breaches of human rights within our supply chain.

Anti-Corruption and Bribery Matters

For regulated procurement, all suppliers are required to confirm that they are "in full compliance with and support the Bribery Act 2010" before any transaction can take place. Details of our anti-corruption requirements are stated in the College's Standard Terms and Conditions upon which all purchase orders and local contracts are based.

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These requirements are also included in the many frameworks we utilise, awarded by centres of expertise such as Advance Procurement for Universities and Colleges (“APUC”), Scottish Procurement and Crown Commercial Service (“CCS”).

The College has a Fraud Prevention Policy and Response Plan which is included in our review plan and clearly details the requirements for staff members to adhere to as well as advising on how to report suspected breaches.

Perth College also participates in the National Fraud Initiative and has recently submitted datasets for the 2022/23 Exercise. Results of this exercise will be available and reviewed according to the prescribed timetable.

Our procurement and financial transaction processes ensure a clear separation of duties between requestors, budget approvers and payees to mitigate against potential risk or fraudulent activity. These processes are being continually reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose and achieving their aims.

We acknowledge the weaknesses arising from our use of the purchase order system and have already implemented improvements to the process. In spite of these weaknesses the finance processes still require approval limits and segregation of duties which mitigate the risks as described above. We are currently implementing further changes to our purchase order process

There have been no complaints of any breaches of corruption or bribery within our supply chain.

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

The members who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the College's auditor is unaware; and each member has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the College's auditor is aware of the information.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Management on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Margaret Cook
Principal & Chief Executive

Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

The Accountability Report has three sections and is signed by the Chair and the Principal:

1. The Remuneration and Staff report,
2. The Corporate Governance report, and
3. The Parliamentary Accountability report

Remuneration and Staff Report

Introduction

The College is required to prepare and publish within its financial statements an annual Remuneration Report under the 2022/23 Government Financial Reporting Model (FReM) issued by HM Treasury.

The report sets out the remuneration and accrued pension benefits of the Senior Management Team members of the College. Other than the Principal, no other member of the Board is remunerated.

Information on the number of College employees (including Senior Management Team members) whose total actual remuneration was £60,000 or more is set out in Note 7 of the financial statements. The information is disclosed in salary bandings of £10,000 above £60,000. The following report has been prepared in accordance with the aforementioned Regulations.

All information disclosed in the tables in this report has been audited by the College's external auditor and all other sections of the Remuneration Report are reviewed to ensure they are consistent with the financial statements.

Remuneration arrangements (This information has been subject to audit)

Senior Management Team

The Remuneration Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Management on the service arrangements and remuneration of the Principal and determines the service arrangements and remuneration of the other senior post holders.

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Remuneration & Staff Report

Remuneration of the Senior Management Team is as set out in Note 8 to the financial statements. In addition, the following table provides details of the remuneration and pension interests of senior management.

Name	Role	12 months ended 31 July 2023		
		Salary £000	Pension Benefit £000	Total £000
Margaret Cook ¹	Principal	116-120	0-5	116-120
Lorenz Cairns ¹	Depute Principal	86-90	0-5	86-90
Catherine Etri ²	Vice Principal – Academic	76-80	131-135	206-210
Veronica Lynch	Vice Principal – External Engagement	86-90	56-60	146-150
Iain Wishart	Vice Principal - Operations	76-80	31-35	111-115
		12 months ended 31 July 2022		
Margaret Cook	Principal	116-120	31-35	151-155
Lorenz Cairns	Deputy	86-90	21-25	106-110
Catherine Etri ³	Associate Principal	56-60	-	56-60
Veronica Lynch	VP External engagement	86-90	51-55	136-140
Iain Wishart	Director of Finance	71-75	21-25	96-100

Senior Management Team members listed above are enrolled in either the STSS or LGPS pension schemes. These are both defined benefit schemes.

The pension benefits set out in the table above reflect the change in the real value of pension for each individual (less contributions paid by the individual). These pension benefits include additional pension accrued within the year, and any changes to the value of pension earned in all previous years as a result of salary increases.

The pension amounts in the table above do not represent the pension contributions paid for the staff listed. The actual amount of pension contribution paid for senior post holders is shown in Note 8 of these financial statements.

¹ Margaret Cook and Lorenz Cairns have a decrease in the real value of pension due to the actual increase being lower than the inflation rate used by SPPA for the calculation. The negative benefit is not shown in the table above.

² Catherine Etri increased from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE during the year which resulted in higher pension benefit figure because of the reduction in her CETV in a final salary scheme.

³ Catherine Etri has a decrease in the real value of pension due to the actual increase being lower than the inflation rate used by SPPA for the calculation. The negative benefit is not shown in the table above.

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Compensation for loss of office (This information has been subject to audit)

Ten employees left under a voluntary severance scheme during the year and one left on a departure agreed with SFC. In total they received compensation payments of £313,000. No employees left under compulsory redundancy terms.

The table below summarises the exit packages by cost band.

Exit package cost band	Number of voluntary redundancies	Number of other departures agreed (including any compulsory redundancies)	Total number of exit packages by cost band
<£10,000	1	-	1
£10,000 to £25,000	4	1	5
£25,000 to £50,000	4	-	4
£50,000 to £100,000	1	-	1
Total number of exit packages	10	1	11
Total cost (£'000)	299	14	313

Pay Multiples

The College is required by the FrEM to disclose the relationships between the remuneration of the highest paid official and the 25th, 50th and 75th percentile of remuneration of their workforce. The below figures are for the college only and not AST.

The figures below are actual amounts paid and therefore do not include the September 22 pay award which has not yet been agreed.

	% change	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Mid-Point of Banded Remuneration of Highest Paid Official	0.0%	117,500	117,500
25th percentile pay ratio	4.1%	25,462	24,462
25th percentile pay multiple		4.61	4.8
50th percentile pay ratio	1.9%	39,264	38,526
50th percentile pay multiple		2.99	3.1
75th percentile pay ratio	0.0%	43,357	43,357
75th percentile pay multiple		2.7	2.7

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Remuneration & Staff Report

Accrued pension benefits

Pension benefits for Employees are provided through the Scottish Teacher's Superannuation Scheme (STSS), a defined benefit scheme, which is externally funded and contracted out of State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), Tayside Pension Fund.

Prior to 1 April 2015 both STSS and LGPS were final salary pension schemes. This meant that pension benefits were based on the final year's pay and the number of years that the person had been a member of the scheme. From 1 April 2015 both pension schemes became Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) schemes.

A CARE scheme means that pension benefits are now built up using an accrual rate of 1/57th of annual pensionable pay for STSS and 1/49th of annual pensionable pay for LGPS. Benefits built up prior to April 2015 will be protected and continue to be calculated on final pensionable pay.

The scheme's normal retirement age is now linked to the members own State Pension Age.

Contribution rates are set annually for all employees and are based on salary bandings. There is no automatic entitlement to a lump sum. Members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limit set by the Finance Act 2004.

Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time.

The value of the accrued pension benefits has been calculated on the basis of the age at which the person will first become entitled to receive a pension on retirement without reduction on account of its payment at that age; without exercising any option to commute pension entitlement into a lump sum; and without any adjustment for the effects of future inflation. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the person has accrued within the relevant scheme and may not be reflective of their total Local Government service or current appointment.

In considering the accrued pension benefits figures the following contextual information should be considered:

- i. figures for pension and lump sum are illustrative only in light of the assumptions set out above and do not necessarily reflect the actual benefits that any individual may receive upon retirement.
- ii. accrued benefits figures are reflective of the pension contributions that both the employer and the scheme member have made over a period of time.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

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Remuneration & Staff Report

Senior Management Team Pension (This information has been subject to audit)

Pension benefits are provided to Senior Management Team on the same basis as all other staff. The accrued pension benefits for Senior Management Team members are set out in the table below, together with the pension contributions made by the College:

Name	At 31 July 2023		1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023		At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022	Real increase in CETV
	Accrued pension at pension age	Accrued lump sum at pension age	Real increase in pension	Real increase in lump sum	CETV	Restated CETV*	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Margaret Cook	21-25	0-5	0-2.5	0-2.5	370	363	7
Lorenz Cairns	41-45	96-100	0-2.5	0-2.5	1,002	1,035	-
Catherine Etri ⁴	41-45	91-95	5.1-7.5	15.1-17.5	931	780	151
Veronica Lynch	31-35	31-35	2.6-5.0	0-2.5	566	510	56
Iain Wishart	0-5	0-5	0-2.5	0-2.5	75	44	31

* The 31 July 2022 CETV values for M Cook, L Cairns and C Etri have been updated to reflect the inclusion of the CARE element of the pension scheme transfer value.

Gender Split for Perth College Board of Management and Senior Management Team

The table below sets out the gender split of the Board of Management of Perth College based on all members who sat on the board during the year ended 31 July 2023.

Margaret Cook (Principal of UHI Perth) is the only member of the Senior Management Team who also sits on the Board and is included in the Gender Split of both the Senior Management Team and Staff Board Members.

Non-Executive Board Members are comprised of Independent and Student members.

Board of Management				Senior Management Team	
Non-Executive Board Members		Staff Board Members		Male	Female
Male	Female	Male	Female		
47%	53%	67%	33%	40%	60%

Staff Numbers and Costs (This information has been subject to audit)

⁴ Catherine Etri increased from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE during the year which resulted in a higher pension benefit figure because of the impact on CETV in a final salary scheme.

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The table below sets out for UHI Perth. The below figures do not include staff costs for the subsidiary, Air Service Training (Engineering) Limited which has 32 FTE on permanent contracts and 1 FTE on temporary contracts. A full breakdown of staff numbers is set out in Note 6 of these accounts.

	Year ended 31 July 2023			Year ended
	Permanent Staff	Other staff	Total	31 July 2022
Wages & Salaries (£'000)	15,454	687	16,141	14,769
Social Security Costs (£'000)	1,574	70	1,644	1,501
Other Pension Costs (£'000)	3,466	148	3,614	4,450
Total staff costs (£'000)	20,494	905	21,399	20,720
Average number of FTE	339	15	354	363

Based on headcount, the College employed 305 females (60%) and 203 males (40%) as at 31 July 2023.

Sickness Absence Rates

The following table provides the total sick days lost, average sick days per head and percentage of working time lost for the years ended 31 July 2023 and 2022:

	Year ended 31 July 2023				Year ended 31 July 2022			
	Total sick days	Average sick days per head	% working time lost	Total sick days	Average sick days per head	% working time lost		
Total	2,193	5.9	2.3%	3,220	8.9	3.42%		

Our sickness data has reduced when compared to the previous year, but this is seen across the sector as staff now find it easier to work from home as opposed to taking time off sick. This does mean that presentism may become an issue, but this is being monitored within 23/24.

Policies in relation to disabled persons

The College Equality and Diversity Policy sets the principles and values of equality and diversity for the College. These are implemented through the College's Equality Outcomes and associated action plan which are aligned to the College Regional Outcome Agreement as well as the policies and procedures that guide the way in which people behave. Progress against the Equality Outcomes is reported on the Perth College website:

<https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/policies-regulations-and-guidelines/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

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The policy is also implemented through a number of policies and procedures that concern the experience of staff and students. This includes:

- Mainstreaming Equality, Equality Outcomes, and Workforce and Students Profile 2023

We also started the process of completing a disability review which is due to be completed within 2023/24.

The College also carried out an internal assessment of our Disability Pay Gap and the College engaged with the Disability Confident Scheme and became a Disability Confident Committed employer. This meant that we have reviewed and made changes to our processes and taken action to improve how we recruit, retain and develop disabled people. During this year we have also piloted and implemented a reasonable adjustment passport with associated training which gives staff more control and visibility of the adjustments that they need to support them in their roles.

Recruitment and Selection

Perth College strives to be an excellent employer by adopting a principle of diversity and inclusivity in order to attract the highest calibre of staff in pursuance of Perth College's overall Vision and Values.

This principle includes a positive approach towards disability and ensuring that people with disabilities receive the necessary support through the recruitment and selection process. This includes the provision of any additional support required by candidates to ensure fair and equal participation throughout the process.

Applicants are also asked during the recruitment process if they require Perth College to make any reasonable adjustments to support them in the recruitment process giving due regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities.

Perth College also commits to ensuring that vacancies are advertised in a wide variety of digital and other outlets and are worded in such a way as to attract candidates from as wide a cross section of society as possible. Both of these actions continue to support our status as a Disability Confident Committed employer.

Professional Development

All employees are encouraged to participate in development activity to develop their qualifications and skills.

Employees are also expected to participate in the Colleges Professional Review Scheme and undertake any staff development and training necessary for the full performance of their duties. The College also provides financial support for a number of employees to undertake qualifications relevant to their roles.

Perth College continues to aim to meet the requirement to ensure a minimum entitlement of six days (pro rata) continuing professional development (CPD) to all employees. This is to be provided in manner which is meaningful to all staff and ensures CPD adds value to the individual, team and UHI Perth.

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Redeployment and Occupational Health

Perth College is committed to ensuring that if employees become disabled during their employment with the College that we look at redeployment and training opportunities to retain their services within the College.

Employees make regular use of the Occupational Health service provided by Perth College UHI through management referrals to allow Perth College, and employees, to make informed decisions about any reasonable adjustments that Perth College may be able to support and where appropriate and requested by the employee we have engaged our Occupational Health Service to support members of staff to leave through ill-health retirement.

Perth College UHI has also worked with Access to Work to ensure adaptive equipment and training are provided to support employees who have a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010. This scheme is actively utilised to support staff to remain at work.

Perth College UHI also has a contract with a local Counselling Service which offers staff the confidential opportunity to access up to six free counselling sessions in a 12 month period. If required, additional counselling sessions are then agreed by the College

Other employee matters

Equal Pay

The College reaffirms the principle that all members of staff receive equal pay for the same or broadly similar work, for work rated as equivalent and for work of equal value.

The College will ensure that all pay practice applies equally to all staff and is best practice. The College will communicate pay practice to help members of staff develop understanding of how pay is determined; undertake equal pay audits in accordance with any legal obligations; provide guidance and support to managers where they make decisions on pay and benefits for staff; and work within the National Bargaining Framework for colleges in Scotland including implementation of any agreed job evaluation scheme.

The work of the National Job Evaluation Scheme for Support Staff within Colleges is still underway, and no outcomes have yet been published. Until decisions and outcomes are known, the College continues to use its internal job evaluation scheme.

Work Life Balance

The College recognises that members of staff have priorities outside of their employment and that it is important for the wellbeing of all staff that there is balance between work and home life. The College also recognises that members of staff will have differing requirements at different points in their working life and the range of Family Friendly/Flexible Working Policies and Procedures aims to ensure that an appropriate balance between work and home life can be achieved throughout a member of staff's employment at the College.

The College continued to utilise a hybrid working model for the 22/23 academic year. This remains in place and is under review with a view to adopting a longer-term policy. There are also staff who have agreed flexible working arrangements in place and the College has allowed formal

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flexible working requests from day one of employment and also allowed staff to submit two requests during the year which exceeds statutory requirements.

Where staff work from home they are required to undertake Home Working Assessment and Display Screen Assessments to ensure that the home working is undertaken in a safe environment.

Conduct

The College promotes and lives up to the principals within its Equality and Diversity Policy of: Treating people with respect; Encouraging, maintaining and promoting good relations; Applying policies, procedures and processes fairly and with due regard to every individual; Welcoming the differences between each person and value the contribution that they make to the cultural and social wellbeing of the College's working and learning environment.

Exit

Members of staff will be treated fairly in circumstances where there is a reduction in the need for certain types of roles which saw the College implement a voluntary severance scheme during 2022/23 and in the application of disciplinary procedures where dismissal may be an outcome. The College also saw a small number of staff leave through ill-health retirement.

Health and Safety

The Board of Management of Perth College attaches the greatest importance to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of staff, students, visitors and others who use the premises, and regards the promotion of health and safety measures as a mutual obligation for management and employees at all levels.

It is the commitment of the College to act within the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and subsequent legislation, and to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of all staff, students, visitors and others who may be affected by our undertakings is safeguarded, so far as it reasonably practicable.

To meet these criteria, the College will:

- Regard legal compliance as the lowest acceptable standard of management with regard to health and safety,
- Identify hazards, assess risks and manage those risks,
- Provide appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision,
- Provide and maintain equipment and a working environment that are, so far as is reasonably practicable, without risks to health and safety,
- Consult with employee representatives on health and safety matters, and
- Provide adequate funding and resources to meet policy needs.

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In order to effectively manage Health and Safety, the College Board of Management devolves policies and procedures through the Principal and Chief Executive to the Senior Management Team, to the Directors and Managers of Curriculum and Professional Services Managers, and their staff, all of whom are responsible for managing Health and Safety.

The College requires that all staff, students and visitors co-operated in regarding safe working as a prime objective, by working within established procedures.

Overall responsibility for the practical implementation of this Policy lies with the College Principal and Chief Executive.

Whilst the Health Working Lives standard is no longer continued by Public Health Scotland the College continues to maintain the standard it achieved when it was awarded the Gold Award standard for Healthy Working Lives, evidencing our commitment to our staff.

The College's duty to consult on Health and Safety matters with trade unions and staff is structured through a Health and Safety Committee. The Committee meetings are scheduled four times over the curriculum year. These meetings are chaired by the Head of HR & Organisational Development and made up of the College Management, representatives of each recognised union and staff representatives.

Four sub-groups of this committee were in place for the period ending 31 July 2023, these being Covid-19 response group, Health and Wellbeing for Staff, Stress Management, Policies and Procedure Review Group. The Covid-19 response group was paused at the end of this period due to the normalisation of Covid-19 into daily lives and practices but will be reinstated if needed.

Typical Health and Safety performance topics being discussed would include accident trends, training compliance, inspection reports and issues raised over the period covered.

The Health, Safety and Welfare Advisor ensures there are regular departmental audits with associated actions plans and summaries of these are brought for review to the Health and Safety Committee. There were 23 areas audited during 2023/24.

Our priority is, and continues to be, to provide and maintain a safe work environment. We have provided training to increase the number of competent risk assessors, given direction and support for undertaking or refreshing our mandatory related online training and provided some of our management with accredited Health and Safety qualifications.

During 2023/24 the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Adviser conducted 49 in-house face-to-face training with a variety of employee groups. 6 members of the College Management Team have successfully completed the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Managing Safety, and 2 others are completing this programme, with 1 member of the Senior Management Team having completed the IOSH Leading Safely. We have trained an additional 13 General Risk Assessors, 9 Hazardous Substances Assessors (COSHH), 2 Manual Handling Assessors as well as providing specific training to certain groups where a need has been identified. 11 employees attended Manual Handling training, 9 Working at Height, 25 for Lone Working, 17 of which also received training in how to calm people down and avoid violence and aggression. 25 members of our Estates team also attended COSHH (Hazardous Substance) Awareness training.

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An additional 57 employees have completed the Scottish Mental Health First Aid training which teaches people how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing a mental health issue. This gives us a current total of 116 employee trained. First Aid Training and requalification has again continued via external providers, and we have recruited an additional 10 First Aiders to boost our capabilities in ensuring speedy and consistent incident response.

Trade Unions

The College recognises two Trade Unions, EIS-FELA and UNISON. The relationships with each are governed by the appropriate Recognition and Procedure Agreements augmented with regular informal discussions with senior staff including the Head of HR & Organisational Development.

We are an active member of the Employer's Association to support National Bargaining dialogue, discussion and agreement. All of this highlights our commitment to partnership working and a no surprises relationship based on openness and transparency from management and the recognised Trade Unions.

Trade union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full time equivalent employee number
	7

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	7
51-99%	0
100%	0

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time:	27,346
Total pay bill:	26,673,000
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time:	0.1%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours:	4.5%
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Accountability Report

Remuneration & Staff Report

Employment Issues

Perth College has published its commitment to equal pay within these financial statements which reaffirms the principle that all members of staff receive equal pay for the same or broadly similar work, for work rated as equivalent and for work of equal value. To achieve this, Perth College commits to:

- Ensure that all pay practice applies equally to all staff and is best practice,
- Communicate pay practice to help members of staff develop understanding of how pay is determined,
- Undertake equal pay audits in accordance with any legal obligations,
- Provide guidance and support to managers where they make decisions on pay and benefits for staff, and
- Work within the National Bargaining Framework for colleges in Scotland including implementation of any agreed job evaluation scheme.

Perth College also has a commitment to equality and diversity as demonstrated in the principles adopted by it which are:

- Treating people with respect,
- Encouraging, maintaining and promoting good relations,
- Applying policies, procedures and processes fairly and with due regard to every individual,
- Welcoming the differences between each person and value the contribution that they make to the cultural and social wellbeing of the College's working and learning environment, and
- Perth College also has an Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee which monitors progress on equality matters and is a forum for consultation about matters which affect staff and students.

The majority of the Perth College's staff are female (60%) with men representing 40% of the workforce.

The College has a Professional Review process which includes a Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) element to support the development of both Academic and Professional services staff, and an allocated CPD budget to support other professional development activities.

For Academic staff, the College continues to encourage staff to join the General Teaching Council for Scotland registration for lecturing staff where this is possible and have highlighted to staff their new registration category of Provisional Conditional Registration. All forms of GTCS registration requires professional dialogue discussions between staff members and their line managers to be undertaken in a coaching style and managers of academic staff who had not previously undertaken this training were given this opportunity.

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The College has a robust framework of policies and procedures which support the employment lifecycle. These include recruitment, induction, to be family friendly, encourage flexible working, discipline and grievance issues, promote health and wellbeing, absence, capability and exit.

Overview

The purpose of the Corporate Governance report is to explain the composition and organisation of the institution's governance structures and how they support the achievement of institutional objectives.

- The Corporate Governance report includes:
- a Directors' Report
- a Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Board of Management
- a Governance Statement

Directors Report

The Board of Management

The members who served on the Board of Management during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements were as follows:

Name	Date of Appointment/ (resignation)	Status	Committees Served from 01 Aug 2022
Brian Crichton	15 June 2016 Appointed as Chair 20 August 2018 Resigned 30 September 2022	Independent Member	Chairs (chair), Finance & Resources, Remuneration
Graham Watson	7 August 2020 Appointed Interim Chair 01 October 2022 Appointed Chair 12 April 2023	Independent Member	Air Service Training (chair), Audit (until 1 October 2022), Chairs, Remuneration
Dr Margaret Cook	1 August 2017	Principal and Chief Executive	Learner Experience (chair), Air Service Training, Chairs, Strategic Development, Finance & Resources
Michael Buchanan	3 January 2022 Resigned 6 June 2024	Independent Member	Finance & Resources, Strategic Development
Andrew Comrie	24 September 2018 Resigned 14 December 2023	Independent Member	Finance & Resources, Strategic Development (chair), Chairs, Remuneration

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Name	Date of Appointment/ (resignation)	Status	Committees Served from 01 Aug 2022
Heather Cormack	7 August 2020 Resigned 31 July 2023	Independent Member	Finance & Resources, Strategic Development
Jim Crooks	15 June 2016 Resigned 6 June 2024	Independent Member	Audit (chair), Chairs, Remuneration (chair)
Sheena Devlin	14 January 2019 Resigned 13 January 2023	Independent Member	Learner Experience, Strategic Development
Jenny Hamilton	3 January 2022	Independent Member	Learner Experience, Strategic Development
Jenni Harrison	12 April 2023	Independent Member	Air Service Training, Finance & Resources
Katrina Hodgson	20 August 2019 Resigned 19 August 2023	Independent Member	Air Service Training, Finance & Resources (Chair), Chairs, Remuneration
Fiona Martin	7 August 2020 Resigned 22 February 2022	Independent Member	Audit, Learner Experience
Debbie McIlwraith Cameron	3 January 2022	Independent Member	Audit
Derek Waugh	1 September 2022	Independent Member	Audit, Strategic Development
Alistair Wylie	12 April 2023	Independent Member	Audit, Learner Experience
John Dare	14 June 2018 Resigned 28 March 2024	Staff Member	Finance & Resources, Strategic Development
Patrick O'Donnell	10 November 2020	Staff Member	Learner Experience, Audit
Todor Pavlov-Kennedy	1 July 2021 Resigned 30 June 2023	Student Member	Finance & Resources, Learner Experience, Strategic Development
Liam Fowley	1 July 2022 Resigned 30 June 2023	Student Member	Audit, Learner Experience
Fiona Smith	1 July 2023 Resigned 30 June 2024	Student Member	Audit, Learner Experience
Rebecca Bond	1 July 2023 Resigned 30 June 2024		Finance & Resources, Strategic Development
Elaine Piggot	10 October 2023	Independent Member	Strategic development, Learner experience
Mary Fraser	1 March 2024	Independent Member	Finance & resources
Chris Lusk	1 March 2024	Independent Member	Learner Experience
Ian Robotham	1 March 2024	Independent Member	Audit, Air Service Training
Ronnie Dewar	28 March 2024	Trade Union Member	Learner Experience

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Name	Date of Appointment/ (resignation)	Status	Committees Served from 01 Aug 2022
Winston Flynn	28 March 2024	Trade Union Member	Strategic Development
Xander McDade	1 July 2024	Student Member	Finance & Resources, Learner Experience Strategic Development
Andi Garrity	1 July 2024	Student Member	Audit, Strategic Development

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Governance Report

Board Member – Committee Attendance

Name	Board	AST	Audit	Chairs	F&R	Learner Exp.	Strat Dev
Brian Crichton	1/1			1/1			
Graham Watson	6/6	4/4		4/4	1/1		
Michael Buchanan	5/6				4/4		4/4
Andrew Comrie	6/6			3/4	4/4		4/4
Heather Cormack	3/6				3/4		3/4
Jim Crooks	6/6		4/4	4/4			
Sheena Devlin	3/4					2/2	2/2
Jenny Hamilton	4/6					2/4	4/4
Jenni Harrison	1/1	1/1					1/1
Katrina Hodgson	6/6	4/4		4/4	4/4		
Fiona Martin	5/5		2/2			2/3	
Debbie McIlwraith-Cameron	2/6		2/4				
Derek Waugh	5/6		4/4				4/4
Alistair Wylie	1/1		1/1			0/1	
John Dare	5/6				2/5		3/4
Patrick O'Donnell	5/6		2/4			4/4	
Todor Pavlov-Kennedy	4/6				4/5	2/4	3/4
Liam Fowley	6/6		1/4			2/4	
Margaret Cook	6/6	4/4		4/4	5/5	4/4	4/4

It is the Board of Management's responsibility to bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct. The Board of Management complies with the internal control guidance published by the Turnbull Committee and the good practice in the Guide for Board Members in the College Sector 2015 issued by Scotland's Colleges.

The Board of Management is provided with regular information on the overall financial performance of the College together with other information such as performance against funding targets, proposed capital expenditure, quality matters and personnel-related matters such as health and safety and environmental issues. The Board of Management meets at least four times a year.

Full minutes of all Board and Board sub-Committee meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Board, are available on the College website or from the Clerk to the Board at:

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Perth College UHI
Crieff Road
Perth PH1 2NX

Register of Members Interest

The Clerk to the Board maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the Board members and Senior Management Team. The Register is available for inspection at the above address or on the College website:

<https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/college-management-structure/meet-the-board/register-of-interests/>

All Board members are able to take independent professional advice in furtherance of their duties at the College's expense and have access to an independent Clerk, who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that all applicable procedures and regulations are complied with. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the Clerk are matters for the Board as a whole.

Formal agendas, papers and reports are supplied to Board members in a timely manner, prior to meetings. Briefings are also provided on an ad hoc basis.

The Board of Management has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Board of Management considers that each of its non-executive members is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of independent judgment.

Board members are required to self-evaluate collectively as Board and as individually as Board members. The self-evaluation process includes consideration of the performance of the Chair and individual Committee Chairs and of the collective effectiveness of the Board of Management, and individual reflection on their adherence to the Nine Principles of Public Life.

There is a clear division of responsibility in that the roles of the Chair and Principal are separate.

Information Management

There were no significant data breaches during the year.

Appointments to the Board of Management

From 1 August 2014, the authority for appointments to the Board of Management of Perth College resides with the University of the Highlands and Islands and must be made in accordance with Ministerial Guidance on Board Appointments.

The Board of Management ensures that a process is in place to provide appropriate induction training to new Board of Management members and new Board members are expected to undertake induction training.

Members of the Board of Management are appointed for an initial term of office not exceeding four years and may be reappointed.

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Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Board of Management

The Board of Management are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

In accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 the Board of Management is responsible for the administration and management of the College's affairs, including ensuring an effective system of internal control, and is required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

The Board of Management is responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are maintained which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the College and enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education Institutions, the relevant Government Financial Reporting Model (FReM) and other relevant accounting standards.

In addition, within the terms and conditions of a Financial Memorandum agreed between the SFC and the College's Board of Management, the Board, through its Chief Executive, the Principal, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the College's state of affairs and of the surplus or deficit and cash flows for that year.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Management is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the College will continue in operation. The Board of Management is satisfied that it has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and for this reason the going concern basis continues to be adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

The Board of Management has taken reasonable steps to:

- ensure that funds from the SFC, including those derived through the Regional Strategic Board, are used only for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with the Financial Memorandum with the Funding Council and any other conditions which the Funding Council may from time to time prescribe,
- ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources,
- safeguard the assets of the College and prevent and detect fraud, and
- secure the economical, efficient and effective management of the College's resources and expenditure.

The key elements of the College's system of internal financial control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

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- clear definitions of the responsibilities of, and the authority delegated to, heads of academic and administrative areas,
- a comprehensive medium and short-term planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets,
- regular reviews of key performance indicators and business risks and quarterly reviews of financial results involving variance reporting and updates of forecast outturns,
- clearly defined and formalised requirements for approval and control of expenditure, with investment decisions involving capital or revenue expenditure being subject to formal detailed appraisal and review according to approval levels set by the Board of Management,
- Financial Regulations, detailing financial controls and procedures, approved by the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee. In line with future improvements these need to be reviewed, and
- a professional Internal Audit team whose annual programme is approved by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the Board of Management, and whose head provides the Board of Management with a report on internal audit activity within the College and an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of internal control, including internal financial control.

Any system of internal financial control can, however, only provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

Approved by order of the member of the Board of Management on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Graham Watson
Chair

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Governance Statement

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

Perth College complies with all the principles of the 2016 Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2023.

From 1 August 2014, Perth College was assigned to the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) as its Regional Strategic Body (RSB) and the provisions of the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013 commenced for the College. As an assigned college, the Board is accountable to the RSB.

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance. This summary describes the manner in which the College has applied the main principles of the 2016 Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges. Its purpose is to help the reader of the financial statements understand how the principles have been applied.

The Board conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has formally constituted terms of reference, which are reviewed on a regular basis.

The committees are:

Audit Committee
Chairs Committee
Remuneration Committee
Finance & Resources Committee
Learner Experience Committee
Strategic Development Committee

In addition, the Board of Management holds development planning days and training evenings during the course of the year for the purposes of training, self-evaluation and development. The Board is supported by an Independent Clerk.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises at least four non-executive members of the Board of Management (excluding the Principal and Chair). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Board of Management.

The Audit Committee meets four times a year and provides a forum for reporting by the College's external and internal auditors, who have access to the Committee for independent discussion, without the presence of College Management.

The Audit Committee advises the College on the appointment of the internal auditor and the auditor's remuneration. The Audit Committee establishes the College's risk tolerance and monitors risk.

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The College's internal auditor monitors the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input. They report their findings to management and the Audit Committee.

Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and the internal auditor undertakes periodic follow-up reviews which are reported to the Audit Committee to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

The Audit Committee considers detailed reports together with recommendations for the improvement of the College's systems of internal control and management's responses and implementation plans. It also receives and considers reports from the SFC and Audit Scotland as they affect the College's business and monitors adherence to the regulatory requirements.

Finance and Resources Committee (“the Finance Committee”)

The Finance Committee comprises four non-executive members of the Board of Management and the Principal. The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Board of Management.

The Finance Committee meets at least four times a year and, among other matters, recommends to the Board of Management the College's annual revenue and capital budgets and monitors performance in relation to approved budgets.

The Finance Committee monitors the College's financial and business perspectives. It approves all key financial decisions, approves the annual budget, considers the financial statements and recommends for approval, oversees the system of financial control and delegated authority. It also considers any other matters relevant to the financial duties of the Board including estates strategy.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee comprises of the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Chair of each of the Standing Committees. The committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Principal and Senior Management Team. The details of the remuneration of senior post-holders for the year ended 31 July 2023 are set out in Note 8 of these Financial Statements.

Corporate Strategy

The Board of Management is responsible for the overall strategic development of the College and is the guardian of its vision and values. Strategic development takes place annually with the Board of Management and College Senior Management Team at a full day to consider strategic direction and challenges. This is supported by horizon scanning and futures work and has led to the development of strategic plans underpinned by operational plans. Progress against the agreed strategic priorities in the plan is monitored through a balanced scorecard approach by the appropriate Board committees on a regular basis.

Scope of Responsibility

The Board of Management is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than

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eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board of Management has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Chief Executive Officer, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets of Perth College including those derived from the Regional Strategic Body. The Principal is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Management any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Perth College for the year ended 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The College's Board of Management is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Senior Management Team monitors key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms embedded within the operational units and reinforced by risk awareness in operational planning.

The Senior Management Team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from Internal Audit and Health, Safety and Environmental monitoring functions that include recommendations for improvement. Internal Audit concentrates on areas of key activities determined by a risk analysis and in accordance with the annual internal audit plan approved and amended by the Audit Committee.

The internal auditor has direct access to the Chair of the Audit Committee and issues an annual report with an opinion of the adequacy, reliability and effectiveness of the College's internal control system.

The Audit Committee considers risk at each Committee Meeting and receives a copy of the College Strategic Risk Register which is updated quarterly by the College Senior Management Team.

The Board of Management receive reports thereon from the Audit Committee, the emphasis being on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception.

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The Board of Management is of a view that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place throughout the year ended 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Audit Committee and accords with the Turnbull guidance on internal control, as applicable to the further education sector.

The Risk and Control Framework

The system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including the segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget, which is reviewed and agreed by the Board of Management,
- Regular reviews by the Board of Management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts,
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance,
- Clearly defined capital investment control guidelines, and
- The adoption of formal project management disciplines, where appropriate.

Perth College appoints an Internal Audit Service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the SFC's mandatory requirements.

The work of the Internal Audit Service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and internal audit plans are based on this analysis.

The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Board of Management on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

The Internal Auditor provides the Audit Committee with a report on internal audit activity within the College. These reports include the Internal Auditor's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management, controls and governance processes.

The internal auditor has direct access to the Chair of the Audit Committee and issues an annual report with an opinion of the adequacy, reliability and effectiveness of the College's internal control system.

UHI Perth's Internal Auditors gave the following opinion in their Annual Report to the Board of Management and Principal on the Provision of Internal Audit services for 2022-23 (the Internal Audit Report):

“In our opinion, the College has adequate and effective arrangements for risk management, control and governance. Proper arrangements are in place to promote and secure Value for Money. This opinion has been arrived at taking into consideration the work we have undertaken during 2022/23, and in the prior years since our appointment”

The follow up issues referred to in the Internal Audit opinion are discussed in more details under Significant control issues and weaknesses below.

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Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. Her review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- The work of the internal auditor.
- The work of the executive managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- The comments made by the College's external auditor in their management letters and other reports.

The Board of Management has been advised on the implications of the review of the effectiveness of internal control by the Audit Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditor.

The Senior Management Team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments.

The Senior Management Team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit, which include recommendations for improvement. The Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control.

The Audit Committee considers risk at each Committee meeting and receives a copy of the College Strategic Risk Register which is updated quarterly by the College Senior Management Team. The Board of Management receives reports thereon from the Audit Committee, the emphasis being on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception.

At its 7 December 2023 meeting, the Audit Committee carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2023 by considering documentation from the Senior Management Team and the internal auditor and taking account of events since 31 July 2022. A further review will be performed by the Board of Management on 14 December 2023.

Significant Control Issues/Weaknesses

In the year ending 31 July 2023 no significant control weaknesses were identified. A further four weaknesses had already been identified in 2020/21 and 2021/22 which still require actions beyond 31 July 2023. These weaknesses are identified in the table below and will be monitored in an action plan reported through the Audit Committee.

Area	Issue	Action
Asset Management	There is no complete asset register in place	There are separate fixed asset and IT registers. Work is ongoing to update the registers. This is now expected to be completed by July 2024.
Asset management	No comprehensive guidance in place to support the asset management process	This work is ongoing and is expected to be completed by July 2024

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Area	Issue	Action
Asset management	No regular asset verification in place	Work remains ongoing to implement these procedures and is expected to be completed by July 2024
Staff Skills Profile, Staff Productivity and Performance	The HR system, CIPHR is no longer fit for purpose which has resulted in an increase in manual processes.	The tender process for a replacement of CIPHR has been commenced across the college sector, this is expected to be implemented by July 2024.

Going Concern

The financial sustainability challenges are set out in the Principal's report above. There has been no communication from the Scottish Government that the College will be wound up and on that basis UHI Perth is considered a going concern. However, given the financial challenges of the organisation and forecast deficits for the financial years 2023/24 and beyond the Board sought additional assurances from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) that financial support would be made available if required. In response, the SFC sent UHI Perth a letter of comfort in March 2024 confirming that they will continue to work with the sector and individual colleges and regions to help manage cash flow issues for the period of 12 months from the date of approval of our balance sheet. The Board of Management therefore confirms that they consider the College to be a going concern over the period of 12 months from the date of signing the accounts as described in the Colleges Scotland Corporate Governance Code June 2022 (section 5.1.3) and that the financial statements have been prepared on this basis as set out in Note 1 of these financial statements.

Parliamentary Accountability Report

We have no matters to report.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Management on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Graham Watson
Chair

Dr Margaret Cook
Principal and Chief Executive

Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements in the annual report and accounts of Perth College and its group for the year ended 31 July 2023 under the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Consolidated and College Statement of Comprehensive Income, Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves, Consolidated and College Balance Sheet, and the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and 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 accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the college and its group as at 31 July 2023 and of its deficit 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 Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Funding Council, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 14 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Auditor General for Scotland. 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 were appointed by the Auditor General on 18 May 2022. Our period of appointment is five years, covering 2022/23 to 2026/27. We are independent of the college and its group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the college. 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 basis of accounting

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

Based on the work 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 ability of the college and its group to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Management of Perth College, the Auditor General for Scotland, and the Scottish Parliament (continued)

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

Risks of material misstatement

We report in our Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that we identified and our judgements thereon.

Responsibilities of the Board of Management for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Board of Management's Responsibilities, the Board of Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Board of Management determines 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 Board of Management is responsible for assessing the ability of the college and its group to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the operations of the college and its group.

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 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. Procedures include:

- using our understanding of the college sector to identify that the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 are significant in the context of the College,
- inquiring of the College Principal as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the College,
- inquiring of the College Principal concerning the college's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework,
- discussions among our team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, and

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Management of Perth College, the Auditor General for Scotland, and the Scottish Parliament (continued)

- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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

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

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

Reporting on regularity of expenditure and income

Opinion on regularity

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

Responsibilities for regularity

The Board of Management is responsible for ensuring the regularity of expenditure and income. In addition to our responsibilities in respect of irregularities explained in the audit of the financial statements section of our report, we are responsible for expressing an opinion on the regularity of expenditure and income in accordance with the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

Reporting on other requirements

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

We have audited the parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report described as audited list the audited parts if not clearly identified in the accounts. In our opinion, the audited parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report have been properly prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Funding Council.

Other information

The Board of Management is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the Performance Report and the Accountability Report excluding the audited parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report.

Our responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or 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,

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Management of Perth College, the Auditor General for Scotland, and the Scottish Parliament (continued)

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.

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

Opinions prescribed by the Auditor General for Scotland on the Performance Report and Governance Statement

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

- the information given in the Performance Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Funding Council; and
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and directions made thereunder by the Scottish Funding Council.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Auditor General for Scotland to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

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

Use of our report

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

Independent auditor's report to the Board of Management of Perth College, the Auditor General for Scotland, and the Scottish Parliament (continued)

Pat Kenny, CPFA (for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP)

110 Queen Street

Glasgow

G1 3BX

United Kingdom

27 September 2024

Pat Kenny, CPFA (for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP) is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Perth College
Consolidated and College Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended
31 July 2023

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2023		Restated Year ended 31 July 2022	
		Group £000	College £000	Group £000	College £000
Income					
Funding council grants	2	18,431	18,431	17,664	17,664
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	5,384	3,640	5,977	4,201
Other grants and contracts	4	500	500	206	206
Other income	5	3,942	4,019	3,524	3,635
Total Income		28,257	26,590	27,371	25,706
Expenditure					
Staff costs	6	22,546	21,399	21,953	20,720
Other operating expenses	9	7,257	6,949	6,255	6,000
Depreciation	13	1,621	1,579	1,454	1,424
Interest and other finance costs	10	2	-	1	-
Total Expenditure		31,426	29,927	29,663	28,144
(Deficit) before other gains & losses		(3,169)	(3,337)	(2,292)	(2,438)
Taxation	11	39	-	37	-
Fixed asset impairment	30	219	219	-	-
(Deficit) for the year	12	(3,427)	(3,556)	(2,329)	(2,438)
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of land and buildings and Assets held for resale	30	6,665	6,665	4,509	4,509
Actuarial (loss)/gain in respect of pension schemes	21-22	(4,037)	(4,037)	11,932	11,932
Total Comprehensive Income / (Expenditure) for the year		(799)	(928)	14,112	14,003

The Statement of Comprehensive Income is in respect of continuing activities.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income is prepared under the FE/HE SORP. Colleges are also subject to Central Government accounting rules, but the FE/HE SORP does not permit colleges to include Government non-cash allocations for depreciation in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Note 29 provides details of the adjusted operating position on a central government accounting basis and presents the underlying deficit for the year.

Perth College
Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves for the year ended
31 July 2023

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Restated year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group £000	College £000	Group £000	College £000
Income & Expenditure Reserve				
Balance at 1 August	15,769	15,468	5,501	5,309
(Deficit) from the income and expenditure account	(3,427)	(3,556)	(2,329)	(2,439)
Actuarial (loss)/gain in respect of pension schemes	(4,037)	(4,037)	11,932	11,932
Transfers from revaluation reserve	883	883	665	665
Balance at 31 July	9,188	8,758	15,769	15,468
Revaluation Reserve				
Balance at 1 August	27,589	27,589	23,745	23,745
Revaluation	5,239	5,239	1,897	1,897
Write back of depreciation on revaluation	1,426	1,426	2,612	2,612
Transfer from Income & Expenditure reserve	(883)	(883)	(665)	(665)
Balance at 31 July	33,371	33,371	27,589	27,589

Perth College
Consolidated and College Balance Sheets as at 31 July 2023

	Notes	31 July 2023		Restated 31 July 2022	
		Group £000	College £000	Group £000	College £000
Non-current assets					
Tangible fixed assets	13	48,890	48,710	43,837	43,633
Pension asset	19	-	-	3,552	3,552
Investments	14	-	20	-	20
Total non-current assets		48,890	48,730	47,389	47,205
Current assets					
Stock		7	-	6	-
Trade and other receivables	15	3,640	3,108	3,052	2,531
Cash and cash equivalents	16	2,499	2,129	3,625	3,439
Total Current assets		6,146	5,237	6,683	5,970
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	17	(6,909)	(6,270)	(5,897)	(5,301)
Net Current (Liabilities)/assets		(763)	(1,033)	786	669
Total assets plus current assets / (liabilities)		48,127	47,697	48,175	47,874
Creditors – amounts falling after more than one year	18	(4,692)	(4,692)	(4,817)	(4,817)
Provisions					
Pension provision	19	(876)	(876)	-	-
Total net assets		42,559	42,129	43,358	43,057
Unrestricted reserves					
Income & Expenditure reserve	31	10,064	9,634	12,217	11,916
Pension reserve	33	(876)	(876)	3,552	3,552
Revaluation reserve	30	33,371	33,371	27,589	27,589
Total reserves		42,559	42,129	43,358	43,057

The financial statements on pages 53 to 83 were approved by the Board of Management on 26 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Graham Watson
Chair

Dr Margaret Cook
Principal and Chief Executive

Perth College
Consolidated Cashflow as at 31 July 2023

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2023 £000	Year ended 31 July 2022 £000
Group cash flow from operating activities			
(Deficit) for the year		(3,427)	(2,329)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	13	1,621	1,454
Impairment of fixed asset	15	219	-
Deferred capital grants released to income	2	(300)	(266)
(Increase) / Decrease in stocks		(1)	(3)
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	15	(588)	(655)
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	17-18	978	(84)
(Decrease)/ Increase in provisions		-	-
Pension costs less contribution payable	21-22	391	1,532
Taxation		39	37
Gain on sale of fixed assets included in SOCI		-	(1)
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Interest receivable	5	-	-
Interest payable	10	2	1
Taxation paid	11	(39)	(37)
Net cash flow from operating activities		(1,105)	(351)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Deferred capital grant	20	209	320
Payments made to acquire fixed assets	13	(228)	(147)
Sale of fixed assets		-	-
		(19)	173
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest received	5	-	-
Interest paid	10	(2)	(1)
Amounts borrowed		-	-
Repayments of amounts borrowed	18	-	-
Net cash outflows from investing and financing activities		(2)	(1)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year	16	(1,126)	(179)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		3,625	3,803
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		2,499	3,625

1. Statement of Accounting Policies and estimation techniques

Legal status

The Board of Management of Perth College was established under the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 for the purposes of managing and conducting Perth College.

The Office for National Statistics reclassified colleges as part of Central Government for National Accounts purposes since 1 April 2014 and as such it is a public benefit entity.

The College is correctly registered in Scotland with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (“OSCR”) for charity status and is recognised by HM Revenue & Customs as a charity for tax purposes.

The registered office is UHI Perth, Crieff Road, Perth PH1 2NX

Basis of preparation

In accordance with the 22/23 FReM, the College has prepared its financial statements on a going concern basis as we have not been informed by the Scottish Government through the Scottish Funding Council of the intention for dissolution without transfer of services or function to another entity of the Higher and Further Education provision within Perth and Kinross.

The uncertainty as to the future impact on the financial performance and cashflows of the College, as a result of inflation and economic environment, has been considered as part of the College’s adoption of the going concern basis in these financial statements and in developing a financially sustainable financial plan. These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Board of Management believe to be appropriate for the reasons outlined below.

The activities of Perth College are over 65% funded by the Scottish Government through the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to provide Higher and Further Education. The Board of Management and the SMT are responsible for ensuring that these funds are used to meet this purpose and the operations within the College to achieve this support ensuring financial sustainability for the College.

The College recorded a deficit of £3.3 million before other gains and losses during the financial year and total comprehensive expenditure of £0.9 million. The College reported an adjusted operating deficit of £1.6 million after accounting for technical pension adjustments of £0.4 million, net depreciation adjustments of £1.3 million and cash budget for priorities of £0.1 million. College cash decreased by £1.3 million during the year.

At 31 July 2023 the College held no borrowings. The College is reporting a net asset position in these financial statements of £42 million. This includes a pension liability of £0.876 million for the College’s share of the Tayside Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

The College has updated the financial forecast in line with time periods and assumptions provided by the Scottish Funding Council which included assuming Colleges taking relevant actions to balance their underlying positions each year. UHI Perth have separately modelled their expected position out through the end of 25/26 using a number of assumptions. The college believe it there is a high probability that, assuming the 22/23 and 23/24 national bargaining outcomes are paid, that the college will move into a cash deficit position sometime in 23/24. This has been reported

Perth College

Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

to UHI Executive Office and the Scottish Funding Council. College management have considered various scenarios in assessing on future financial performance and cashflows. A reorganisation plan has been developed to bring the college cash back to a surplus from 24/25 onwards and include:

- Full review of academic courses and delivery.
- Reviewing deliverable commercial opportunities.
- Full review of non-academic costs looking for areas that can be reduced from current levels without stopping the service.
- A full review of how we utilise our estate and modelling cost reduction opportunities.
- Reviewing continuous improvement opportunities. These opportunities may be longer term but should help UHI Perth be better prepared for funding challenges in the future.

There has been no confirmation from SFC on the status of the 22/23 funds retained by UHI for potential clawback. UHI Perth has not accounted for these funds being received either now in the future.

The Board of Management and the Finance Committee have had full sight of the financial forecasts as well as the underlying assumptions and scenarios. These forecast positions will remain fluid and will be regularly reviewed by the College.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, the Accounts Directions issued thereunder by the Scottish Funding Council, which requires compliance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 (the 2019 FE HE SORP), and the relevant Government Financial Reporting Model (FReM).

The statements have also been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland” (FRS102).

Perth College has taken advantage of the exemptions provided in Paragraph 1.12 of FRS 102 and Paragraph 3.3 of the 2019 FE HE SORP and has not included a separate statement of its own cash flows. These cash flows are included within the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, and the Perth College balance sheet discloses cash at both the current and preceding reporting dates.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention modified by the revaluation of fixed assets.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts include the financial statements of Perth College, and its subsidiary undertaking made up to 31 July 2023. Intra group sales and profits are eliminated fully on consolidation.

Non-current assets - Tangible fixed assets

Land and buildings

Land and buildings are measured using the revaluation model and assets are revalued to fair value. Where appropriate Depreciated Replacement Cost has been used as a measure of fair value for land and buildings otherwise Market Value will be used.

Perth College has a policy of ensuring a full revaluation takes place at least every five years with an interim valuation in year three of each five-year cycle such that the fair value is not materially different to the current value. An independent full revaluation of the Land and Buildings was undertaken as at 31 July 2023. The increase in valuation and write back of depreciation charged since the last valuation have been transferred to the revaluation reserve. Depreciation and impairment losses are subsequently charged on the revalued amount over the remaining life of the assets.

In accordance with the performance model (SORP17.8), where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants they are capitalised and depreciated as above. Government grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account and are released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Non-government grants are released to income when performance related conditions have been met. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any fixed asset may not be recoverable

Assets under construction

Assets under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value of architects' certificates and other direct costs incurred. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

Assets held for sale

Assets held for sale are accounted for at fair value less costs of disposal and disclosed separately within current assets. They are not depreciated.

Equipment

Equipment purchased as part of a capital building project is capitalised and depreciated over its useful economic life. Individual items of equipment purchased with values greater than £5,000 are capitalised at cost if deemed to have a minimum economic useful life of 3 years and not regarded as a repair to existing assets. Capitalised equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over its useful economic life as follows:

Motor vehicles and general equipment	Between 3 and 10 years
Computer equipment	Between 4 and 5 years

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific government grants it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy, with the related grant being credited to a

deferred capital grant account and released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the expected useful economic life of the related equipment.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to income in the period it is incurred, unless it increases the future benefits to the College, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

Leased assets

Rental costs in respect of operating leases are charged to expenditure at the cost incurred during the year. Leasing arrangements which transfer to the College substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership of an asset are treated as if the asset had been purchased outright. The assets are included in fixed assets and the capital elements of the leasing commitments are shown as obligations under finance leases. The lease rentals are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The capital element is applied to reduce the outstanding obligations, and the interest element is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in proportion to the reducing capital element outstanding. Assets held under finance leases are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term or the useful economic lives of equivalent owned assets. Assets held under hire purchase contracts, which have the characteristics of finance leases, are depreciated over their useful economic lives.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are carried at historical cost less any provision for a permanent diminution in their value.

Recognition of Income

Income from grants, contracts and other services rendered is included to the extent of the completion of the contract or service concerned. This is generally equivalent to the sum of the relevant expenditure incurred during the year and any related contributions towards overhead costs. Income from tuition fees is recognised in the period to which it relates. Income from donations is included to the extent of the relevant expenditure incurred during the year. Recurrent grants from the SFC are recognised in the period to which they relate.

Capital grants from SFC or other government bodies received in respect of the acquisition or construction of fixed assets are treated as deferred capital grants and amortised in line with depreciation over the life of the assets, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS102.

Grants from non-government sources are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the balance sheet and released to income as the conditions are met.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

The College participates in two multi-employer defined benefit pension schemes.

Teaching staff may join the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (STSS), which is administered by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA). Perth College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the STSS on a consistent and reasonable basis and therefore, as permitted by FRS102, applies multi-employer exemption and accounts for its participation in the STSS as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of periodic valuations and are recognised in the accounting periods in which they arise.

Professional Services staff may join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which is administered by Dundee City Council. The fund is a defined benefit scheme, providing benefits based on a career average revalued earnings (CARE) basis, which is contracted out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Fund.

The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing fair values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. Qualified actuarial valuations are obtained annually and are updated at each balance sheet date.

The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income.

In line with FRS102 where the calculation results in a net asset, recognition of the asset is limited to the extent to which UHI Perth is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme. UHI Perth has assessed the recoverability of the asset on this basis and determined that it was appropriate that the plan surplus at 31 July 2022 is recognised in line with the requirements of FRS 102. The asset recognised is £3.6m. The unfunded pension liability of £0.7 million at 31 July 2022 has been netted off against the asset. At 31 July 2022 there is a net defined benefit liability of ££876k.

Short term employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the College. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the College expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Stocks

Stocks are items held for resale and are stated at the lower of their cost or net realisable value. Where necessary provision is made for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Financial Liabilities and Equity

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the Group are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the Group has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the balance sheet at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

Foreign Currency Translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the exchange ruling at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling either at year end rates or, where there are related forward foreign exchange contracts, at contract rates. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the determination of income and expenditure for the year.

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The College is partially exempt in respect of Value Added Tax, so that it can only recover a minor element of VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature.

The College's subsidiary company, Air Service Training (Engineering) Limited is subject to corporation tax and VAT in the same way as any other commercial organisation. Air Service Training (Engineering) is part of the Perth College VAT group.

Tax relief is available on Air Service Training (Engineering) Limited's profits that are gift aided to the College.

Deferred Taxation

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date, where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred by the balance sheet date with certain limited exceptions.

Deferred tax is calculated on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the institution has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value using a pre-tax discount rate. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the statement of comprehensive income in the period it arises.

Revaluation reserve

Surpluses arising on the revaluation of the College's properties are transferred to the revaluation reserve. Additional depreciation charged on the revalued amount of these assets is transferred from revaluation reserve to the Income and Expenditure reserve together with any surplus or deficit on disposal.

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of certain Student Support Funds. These funds are excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and movements have been disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Where the College has more discretion in the manner in which specific funds are disbursed, and these funds do not meet the definition of agency funds, the income and expenditure relating to those funds are shown in the College's Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements no judgements are made other than making estimates. Management have made the following estimates:

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives considering residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are considered. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

Land & Buildings are subject a quinquennial valuation supplemented by an interim professional valuation in year three in line with the requirements of the FReM. Furthermore, an annual review of land & buildings is undertaken by estates with reference to the condition and ongoing use Land & Buildings.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2020 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

In line with FRS102 where the calculation results in a net asset, recognition of the asset is limited to the extent to which UHI Perth is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme. UHI Perth has assessed the recoverability of the asset on this basis and determined that it was appropriate that the plan surplus at 31 July 2022 is recognised in line with the requirements of FRS 102. The asset recognised is £3.6m. The unfunded pension liability of £0.7 million at 31 July 2022 has been netted off against the asset. At 31 July 2022 there is a net defined benefit liability of ££876k.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There are no Post Balance Sheet Events.

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
SFC FE recurrent grant (including fee waiver)	8,551	8,551	8,476	8,476
University of the Highlands and Islands recurrent grant	7,835	7,835	7,344	7,344
FE Childcare funds (note 30)	300	300	260	260
Release of government capital grants	300	300	266	266
Other SFC grants	785	785	736	736
Other University of the Highlands and Islands grants	660	660	582	582
	18,431	18,431	17,664	17,664

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

3. Tuition Fees and education contracts

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
UK Higher Education Students	2,674	2,674	2,944	2,944
UK Further Education Students	60	60	268	268
	2,734	2,734	3,212	3,212
Management of Skills Development Scotland Contract	906	906	989	989
Tuition fees of subsidiary	1,744	-	1,776	-
	5,384	3,640	5,977	4,201

4. Other grants and contracts

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Research Grants	219	219	187	187
Other grants and contracts	281	281	19	19
	500	500	206	206

5. Other income

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Residences and catering	1,040	1,040	815	815
Other income generating activities	1,520	1,520	1,591	1,605
Other income	1,382	1,459	1,118	1,215
	3,942	4,019	3,524	3,635

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

6. Staff costs

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Wages and Salaries	17,135	16,141	15,838	14,769
Social security costs	1,750	1,644	1,615	1,501
Other pension costs	3,661	3,614	4,500	4,450
Total staff costs	22,546	21,399	21,953	20,720

All severance costs were approved by the Senior Management Team

Total staff costs split as follows:

Teaching departments - teaching staff	11,904	11,904	11,119	11,119
Teaching departments - other staff	2,225	2,225	1,901	1,901
Teaching departments - AST staff	688	-	743	-
Teaching support services	1,794	1,335	1,693	1,203
Administration and central services	3,428	3,428	2,942	2,942
Premises	910	910	886	886
Other income generating activities	703	703	609	609
Other income	503	503	528	528
Charge in relation to defined benefit pension	391	391	1,532	1,532
	22,546	21,399	21,953	20,720

Analysed as:

Staff on indefinite contracts	21,152	20,114	18,754	17,550
Staff on temporary contracts	1,003	894	1,667	1,638
Charge in relation to defined benefit pension	391	391	1,532	1,532
Teaching support services	22,546	21,399	21,953	20,720

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

6. Staff Costs – continued

Staff Numbers

The average monthly number of persons (including senior post-holders) employed by the College during the year, expressed as full-time equivalents, was:

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
Teaching departments - teaching staff	170	170	185	185
Teaching departments - other staff	11	11	7	7
Teaching support services	19	19	21	21
Administration and central services	119	119	107	107
Premises	22	22	25	25
Subsidiary (AST) staff	23	-	29	-
Other	13	13	18	18
	377	354	392	363
Analysed as:				
Staff on indefinite contracts	360	339	360	332
Staff on temporary contracts	17	15	32	31
	377	354	392	363

7. Higher paid staff

Salary range £'000	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Number of senior post holders	Number of other staff	Number of senior post holders	Number of other staff
60-70	-	8	-	3
70-80	2	-	1	-
80-90	2	-	2	-
90-100	-	-	-	-
100-110	-	-	-	-
110-120	1	-	1	-
	5	8	4	3

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

8. Senior post holder emoluments

Senior post holders are defined as the principal (or chief executive) and holders of the other senior posts whom the board have selected for the purposes of the articles of government of the institution, relating to the appointment and promotion of staff who are appointed by the board of governors.

	Year ended 31 July 2023	
	Group £000	College £000
The number of senior post-holders including the principal was	5	5
Senior post-holder emoluments are made up as follows:		
Salaries	452	419
Pension Contributions	94	87
	546	506
The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Principal (who is also the highest paid senior post holder of		
Salary	120	119
Pension Contributions	28	27
	148	146

9. Other operating expenses

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group £000	College £000	Group £000	College £000
Teaching Departments	1,359	1,368	871	910
Teaching support services	718	688	684	684
Administration and central services	1,356	1,355	1,233	1,233
Premises costs	2,032	1,802	1,927	1,705
Other income generating activities	290	234	251	179
Residences and catering	1,078	1,078	908	908
Other income	124	124	121	121
Other expenses – childcare grant	300	300	260	260
	7,257	6,949	6,255	6,000

Other operating expenses include:

	£000	£000	£000	£000
Auditors' remuneration				
External audit	42	28	36	28
Internal Audit	21	21	24	24
Other services from external audit	-	-	2	-
Operating leases				
Hire of plant and machinery	54	54	42	42
Hire of other assets	114	-	114	-

10. Interest payable

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Repayable within 5 years, not by instalments	2	-	1	-
	2	-	1	-

11. Taxation

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Taxation of subsidiary	39	-	37	-
	39	-	37	-

12. (Deficit) on continuing operations for the year

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
College's (Deficit) for the year	(3,556)	(3,552)	(2,438)	(2,438)
Surplus generated by subsidiary undertaking	129	-	109	-
	(3,427)	(3,552)	(2,329)	(2,438)

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

13. Tangible Fixed Assets (Group)	Freehold Land & Buildings	Equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 August 2022	43,113	5,808	48,921
Additions	-	228	228
Disposals	-	-	-
Impairment	(219)	-	(219)
Revaluation	5,239	-	5,239
At 31 July 2023	48,133	6,036	54,169
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2022	-	5,084	5,084
Charge for the year	1,426	195	1,621
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation	(1,426)	-	(1,426)
At 31 July 2023	-	5,279	5,279
Net Book Value			
At 31 July 2023	48,133	757	48,890
At 31 July 2022	43,113	724	43,837
<p>A full revaluation of the Land & Buildings was undertaken as at 31 July 2023 in line with the requirements of the FreM to ensure that any material change in valuation of land & buildings is accounted for. This exercise resulted in an increase in net book value of £5.2m. One of the College buildings was found to be valued at £219k less than had previously been recognised through the revaluation reserve. This impairment has been recognised in the SOCI.</p> <p>Inherited Land and buildings with a net book value of £6M have been financed by exchequer funds. Should these assets be sold, the College may be liable, under the terms of the Financial Memorandum with the Scottish Funding Council to surrender the proceeds.</p>			

13. Tangible Fixed Assets (College)- continued			
	Freehold Land & Buildings	Equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 August 2022	43,113	5,011	48,124
Additions	-	210	210
Disposals	-	-	-
Impairment	(219)	-	(219)
Revaluation	5,239	-	5,239
At 31 July 2023	48,133	5,221	53,354
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2022	-	4,491	4,491
Charge for the year	1,426	153	1,579
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation	(1,426)	-	(1,426)
At 31 July 2023	-	4,644	4,644
Net Book Value			
At 31 July 2023	48,133	577	48,710
At 31 July 2022	43,113	520	43,633

14. Investments				
	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investment in subsidiary company	-	20	-	20
	-	20	-	20

The college owns 100% of the issued ordinary £1 shares of Air Service Training (Engineering) Limited, a company incorporated in Great Britain and registered in Scotland. The principal business activity of Air Service Training (Engineering) Limited is the provision of training and education in the field of aeronautical engineering.

In the year to 31st July 2023, the Company made a profit after taxation of £129,354 which resulted in a net asset position of £450,103 at 31 July 2023. No gift aid donation was made to UHI Perth by AST.

15. Trade and other receivables

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trade Debtors	909	453	406	242
Amounts owed by Subsidiary	-	57	-	21
Prepayments & accrued income	2,731	2,598	2,646	2,268
	3,640	3,108	3,052	2,531

16. Cash and cash equivalents

	At 31 July 2022	Cash Flows	At 31 July 2023
	£000	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	3,625	(1,126)	2,499
	3,625	(1,126)	2,499

17. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trade creditors	542	500	560	424
Other creditors	336	326	401	391
Obligations under finance leases	-	-	4	4
Other taxation and social security	487	380	478	391
Accrued charges	4,247	4,126	3,116	3,021
Deferred Income	865	507	929	661
Deferred income – capital grants	300	300	270	270
Unspent student support funds	131	131	139	139
	6,909	6,270	5,897	5,301

18. Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Deferred income - capital grants	4,692	4,692	4,813	4,813
Obligations under finance leases	-	-	4	4
	4,692	4,692	4,817	4,817

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

19. Pension Provision

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Restated Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 August	-	-	6,848	6,848
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss in Year	4,037	4,037	(11,932)	(11,932)
Transfer of pension scheme asset	(3,552)	(3,552)	3,552	3,552
Net pension Service Cost in Year	391	391	1,532	1,532
At 31 July	876	876	-	-

The provision is solely in relation to defined benefit obligations relating to the liabilities under the College's membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are given in note 21.

20. Deferred capital grants included within creditors ⁴	Government £000	Non-Government £000	Total £000
Balance at 1 August 2022			
Land & Buildings	4,301	273	4,574
Equipment	510	-	510
	4,811	273	5,084
Cash received			
Land & Buildings	-	-	-
Equipment	209	-	209
	209	-	209
Reclassified from deferred income			
Land & Buildings	-	-	-
Equipment	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Released to income & expenditure account			
Land & Buildings	(154)	-	(154)
Equipment	(146)	-	(146)
	(300)	-	(300)
At 31 July 2023	4,720	273	4,993
Land & Buildings	4,147	273	4,420
Equipment	573	-	573
	4,720	273	4,993

Government grants are all SFC funding received and used to acquire assets which have subsequently capitalised to the balance sheet. Non-Government grants are those from other funding sources and are deferred until they have been used to acquire the assets for which they were given.

21. Defined benefit obligations

	Year ended 31 July 2023	Year ended 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
Total pension cost for the year		
Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme: contributions paid	1,988	1,915
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	1,004	911
FRS102 charge	391	1,532
Total pension cost for year within staff costs	3,383	4,358

The College's employees belong to two principal post-employment benefit schemes: the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (STSS) and Tayside Superannuation Scheme, the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is managed by Dundee City Council. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit schemes.

Scottish Teachers Superannuation Scheme

(a) UHI Perth participates in the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme. The scheme is an unfunded statutory public service pension scheme with benefits underwritten by the UK Government. The scheme is financed by payments from employers and from those current employees who are members of the scheme and paying contributions at progressively higher marginal rates based on pensionable pay, as specified in the regulations. The rate of employer contributions is set with reference to a funding valuation undertaken by the scheme actuary. The last four-yearly valuation was undertaken as at 31 March 2016. This valuation informed an increase in the employer contribution rate from 17.2% to 23.0% of pensionable pay from September 2019 and an anticipated yield of 9.4% employees' contributions

(b) UHI Perth has no liability for other employers' obligations to the multi-employer scheme.

(c) As the scheme is unfunded there can be no deficit or surplus to distribute on the wind-up of the scheme or withdrawal from the scheme

(d i) The scheme is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme.

(ii) It is accepted that the scheme can be treated for accounting purposes as a defined contribution scheme in circumstances where the (name of body) is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme.

(iii) The employer contribution rate for the period from 1 April 2021 is 23% of pensionable pay. The employee rate applied is variable and is anticipated to provide a yield of 9.4% of pensionable pay.

(iv) While a valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2016, it is not possible to say what deficit or surplus may affect future contributions. Work on the valuation was suspended by the UK Government pending the decision from the Court of Appeal (McCloud (Judiciary scheme)/Sargeant (Firefighters' Scheme) cases) that held that the transitional protections provided as part of the 2015 reforms was unlawfully discriminated on the grounds of age. Following consultation and an announcement in February 2021 on proposals to remedy the discrimination, the UK Government confirmed that the cost control element of the 2016 valuations could be completed. The UK Government has also asked the Government Actuary to review whether, and to what extent, the cost control mechanism is meeting its original objectives. The 2020 actuarial valuations will take the report's findings into account. The interim report is complete (restricted) and is currently being finalised with a consultation. Alongside these announcements, the UK Government confirmed that current employer contribution rates would stay in force until 1 April 2024.

21. Defined benefit obligations - continued

(v) UHI Perth's level of participation in the scheme is 85.6% based on analysis of the payroll at the end of July 2023.

Local Government Pension Scheme (Tayside Superannuation Fund)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contributions made (including unfunded) for the year ended 31 July 2023 were £1,328k, of which employer's contributions totalled £1,004k and employees' contributions totalled £324k. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.7% for employers and range from 5.5% to 12% for employees, depending on salary.

Principal actuarial assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2021 updated to 31 July 2023 by a qualified independent actuary.

	As at 31 July 2023	Restated as at 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
Discount rate	5.15%	3.40%
Pension increases (CPI)	2.85%	2.80%
Salary increases	3.85%	3.80%
Inflation assumption (RPI)	3.20%	3.15%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%
Assumed life expectations from age 65 are	Years	Years
Retiring today		
Males	18.8	19.0
Females	21.6	22.3
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	20.2	20.4
Females	23.1	23.9
The Fair value of the College's estimated share of assets in the scheme at the balance sheet date	£'000	£'000
Equities	30,927	29,097
Gilts	910	1,045
Other bonds	5,177	5,466
Property	4,002	4,955
Cash	1,133	825
Alternatives	72	28
Total fair value of scheme assets	42,221	41,416
Actual return on Scheme assets	785	(1,242)

The return on the Fund for the year to 31 July 2023 is estimated to be 1.89% (31 July 2022 -2.92%)

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

21. Defined benefit obligations - continued	Year ended 31 July 2023	Restated Year ended 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
The amount included in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is as follows:		
Fair value of scheme assets	42,221	41,416
Present value of scheme liabilities	(30,718)	(37,133)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	(876)	(731)
Impact of asset ceiling	(11,503)	-
Net pensions (liability)/asset	(876)	3,552
Amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of the scheme are as follows:		
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	1,517	2,327
Finance charges	(138)	102
Admin expenses	16	14
Total	1,395	2,443
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income		
Return on Fund assets in excess of interest	(628)	(1,923)
Other actuarial gains/(losses) on assets	(253)	-
Change in financial assumptions	10,798	16,485
Change in demographic assumptions	796	-
Experience (loss) on defined benefit obligation	(3,247)	(2,630)
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	(11,503)	-
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(4,037)	11,932
Movement in net defined benefit/(liability) during the year		
Net defined benefit /(liability) in scheme at 1 August	3,552	(6,848)
Movement in year: -		
Current service cost	(1,517)	(2,322)
Past service cost	-	(5)
Employer contributions	1,004	911
Net interest on the defined liability	138	(102)
Administration expenses	(16)	(14)
Actuarial gain or (loss)	(4,037)	11,932
Net defined (liability)/asset	(876)	3,552
<p>In line with FRS102 where the calculation results in a net asset, recognition of the asset is limited to the extent to which UHI Perth is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme. UHI Perth has assessed the recoverability of the asset on this basis and determined that it was appropriate that the plan surplus at 31 July 2022 is recognised in line with the requirements of FRS 102. Therefore, the share of assets recognised is £3.6m. The unfunded pension liability of £0.7m was netted off against the asset.</p>		

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

21. Defined benefit obligations - continued	Year ended 31 July 2023	Restated Year ended 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	37,864	49,253
Current service cost	1,517	2,322
Interest cost	1,275	783
Change in financial assumptions	(10,798)	(16,485)
Change in demographic assumptions	(796)	-
Experience loss on defined benefit obligations	3,247	2,630
Estimated benefits paid net of transfers in	(930)	(840)
Past service Costs, including curtailments	-	5
Contributions by Scheme participants and other employers	324	300
Unfunded pension payments	(109)	(104)
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	31,594	37,864
Changes in fair value of Fund assets		
Fair value of Fund assets at start of period	41,416	42,405
Interest on assets	1,413	681
Return on assets less interest	(628)	(1,923)
Other Actuarial Gains/Losses	(253)	-
Administration expenses	(16)	(14)
Contributions by employer including unfunded	1,004	911
Contributions by Scheme participants and other employers	324	300
Estimated benefits paid plus unfunded net of transfers in	(1,039)	(944)
Fair value of Fund assets at end of period	42,221	41,416

22. Summary pension note

	Year ended 31 July 2023	Restated Year ended 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
The analysis of amounts charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (SOCl) is as follows		
Charged to staff costs		
Current service cost	(1,517)	(2,322)
Past service cost	-	(5)
Total charged to staff costs	(1,517)	(2,327)
Credit/charge for net return on pension scheme		
Interest income	1,413	681
Interest cost	(1,275)	(783)
Net interest charges	138	(102)
Credit/charge to other comprehensive income		
Return on assets	(628)	(1,923)
Other experience	(2,704)	(2,630)
Gains and losses arising on charges in financial assumptions	10,798	16,485
Changes in effect of asset ceiling	(11,503)	-
Actuarial (Loss)/gain	(4,037)	11,932
Total charge to the SOCl	(5,416)	9,503
Analysis of the movement in deficit during the year		
Surplus/(deficit) in scheme at the start of the year	3,552	(6,848)
Service costs	(1,517)	(2,327)
Employer contributions	1,004	911
Net interest costs	138	(102)
Administration expenses	(16)	(14)
Actuarial (loss)/gain	(4,037)	11,932
Surplus/(Deficit) in scheme at the end of the year	(876)	3,552

The actuaries considered the impact of new legal rulings impacting the liabilities in the fund. In relation to the new Goodwin judgement, the actuaries included a high-level assessment within their covering report but did not allow for the impact within the FRS102 report. Based on the most recent estimate, the employer's liabilities of the College would increase by approximately 0.1% as a result of the Goodwin judgement. The actuaries, and management do not consider this to be material for the financial statements.

23. Post balance sheet events

There are no post balance sheet events to report

24. Capital commitments

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	25	25	397	397
	25	25	397	397

25. Lease obligations

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 31 July the College had minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:				
Land and buildings				
Expiring within one year	110	-	110	-
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	-	-	110	-
Other				
Expiring within one year	27	27	15	15
Expiring within two and five years inclusive	17	17	7	7
	154	44	242	22

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

26. Related party transactions

Company	Member(s)	Position in organisation	Sales (£)	Purchases (£)
Colleges Scotland	Dr Margaret Cook	Director	35,941	4,929
APUC Limited	Dr Margaret Cook	Director	-	94,300
Perth & Kinross Council	Sheena Devlin	Executive Director	222,458	122,514
			<u>258,399</u>	<u>221,743</u>

Due to the nature of the College's operations and the composition of the Board of Management (being drawn from local public and private sector organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the Board of Management may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the board of governors or the Senior Management Team may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. Transactions during the year with organisations in which a member of the Board of Management may have a material interest are noted below:

The Perth College Development Trust 2004 (The Development Trust) was established to provide financial and other assistance for Perth College and its students. There are therefore transactions between the two entities. Perth College nominates Trustees to the board of the Trust and administers the Trust on a day-to-day basis.

Dr Margaret Cook and Graham Watson are Trustees of The Development Trust. On this basis, The Development Trust accounts should be consolidated with the accounts of Perth College. For the year ended 31 July 2023, The Development Trust had a net deficit of £137 and Net Assets of £56,116. Perth College have therefore decided not to consolidate the accounts on the basis of materiality.

27. Bursaries and other student support funds

					Year ended 31 July 2023	Year ended 31 July 2022
	Bursary	FE Hardship	EMA	Other	Total	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance brought forward	100	46	-	(7)	139	563
Allocation received in year	1,950	135	83	157	2,325	2,506
Expenditure	(1,843)	(114)	(83)	(147)	(2,187)	(2,167)
Repaid to SFC/UHI (Clawback)	(100)	(46)	-	-	(146)	(761)
Balance carried forward	(107)	(21)	-	(3)	(131)	141

Represented by:

Repayable to SFC/UHI as clawback	(107)	(21)	-	(3)	(131)	147
Other amounts	-	-	-	-	-	(6)

Bursary funds, Higher Education Hardship, Further Education Hardship and Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) are available solely for students, the college acts only as a paying agent. The income and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Income and Expenditure Account.

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

28. Childcare funds

	Year ended 31 July 2023	Year ended 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
Balance brought forward	110	241
Allocation received in year	300	370
Expenditure	(300)	(260)
Repaid to SFC/UHI (Clawback)	(110)	(241)
Balance carried forward	-	110
Represented by:		
Repayable to SFC/UHI as clawback	-	50
Retained by College for students	-	60

The income and related disbursements are included in the Income and Expenditure Account.

29. Government non-cash allocation for depreciation

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Surplus/(deficit) before other gains and losses (FE/HE SORP basis)	(3,169)	(3,337)	(2,292)	(2,438)
Add back: Non-cash allocation for depreciation	1,621	1,579	1,454	1,424
Deferred capital grant	(300)	(300)	(266)	(266)
Operating(deficit) on Central Government accounting basis	(1,848)	(2,058)	(1,104)	(1,280)

30. Revaluation reserve

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 August	27,589	27,589	23,745	23,745
Revaluation	5,239	5,239	1,897	1,897
Write back of depreciation on revaluation	1,426	1,426	2,612	2,612
Transfer to income and expenditure account	(883)	(883)	(665)	(665)
At 31 July	33,371	33,371	27,589	27,589

31. Income and Expenditure reserve

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Restated Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 August	12,217	11,916	12,349	12,158
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	(3,427)	(3,556)	(2,329)	(2,439)
Transfer from revaluation reserve	883	883	665	665
Transfer to income and expenditure account	391	391	1,532	1,532
At 31 July	10,064	9,634	12,217	11,916

32. Prior year adjustment

Consolidated and College Statement of Comprehensive Income	Note	Published Accounts Year ended 31 July 2022		Restated Year ended 31 July 2022	
		Group	College	Group	College
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		(2,329)	(2,438)	(2,329)	(2,438)
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of land and buildings and Assets held for resale	30	4,509	4,509	4,509	4,509
Actuarial gain/(loss) in respect of pension schemes	21-22	7,649	7,649	11,932	11,932
Total Comprehensive Income /(Expenditure) for the year		9,829	9,720	14,112	14,003
Prior year adjustment				4,283	4,283
				9,829	9,720
Pension asset	19	-	-	3,552	3,552
Pension provision	19	(731)	(731)	-	-
Pension reserve	33	(731)	(731)	3,552	3,552

The Pension provision for the Local Government Scheme Pension Liability was overstated by £731k as at 31 July 2022. The scheme had a surplus of £3.552m and the scheme surplus should have been recognised as an asset of this value under Section 28.22 of FRS102. This section of FRS102 applies, as the College is able to pay future contributions that are less than the current service costs of benefits accruing to active members in the scheme. The pension scheme is open to new members' and it is expected that the ability to pay reduced contributions will continue in perpetuity.

The prior year adjustment amends the balance sheet adding in the £3.552m pension asset and reducing the pension provision from £731k to £nil. The pension reserves are increased by £4.283m from £(731k) to £3.552m and in the SOCI the actuarial gain in respect of pension schemes increases from £7.649m to £11.932m.

Perth College
Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st July 2023

33. Pension reserve

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Restated Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group	College	Group	College
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 August	3,552	3,552	(6,848)	(6,848)
Actuarial (loss)/gain in respect of pension scheme	(4,037)	(4,037)	11,932	11,932
Pension service costs transfer to income and expenditure account	(391)	(391)	(1,532)	(1,532)
At 31 July	876	876	3,552	3,552

ACCOUNTS DIRECTION FOR SCOTLAND'S COLLEGES 2022/23

1. It is the Scottish Funding Council's direction that institutions comply with the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (SORP) in preparing their annual report and accounts.
2. Institutions must comply with the accounts direction in the preparation of their annual report and accounts in accordance with the Financial Memorandum with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) or the Regional Strategic Body (RSB) (for assigned colleges).
3. Incorporated colleges and Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board are also required to comply with the Government Financial Reporting Manual 2022-23 (FReM) where applicable. In cases where there is a conflict between the FReM and the SORP, the latter will take precedence.
4. Incorporated colleges and Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board must send two copies of their annual report and accounts to the Auditor General for Scotland by 31 December 2023.
5. The annual report and accounts should be signed by the chief executive officer / Executive Director and by the chair, or one other member of the governing body.
6. Incorporated colleges and Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board should reproduce this Direction as an appendix to the annual report and accounts.

Scottish Funding Council

20 July 2023