

Company Registration No. 09392629 (England and Wales)

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	David Adam Christine Johnson Karyn Lamont George Locke Myriam Madden Barry Widdows	(Appointed 1 February 2026)
Company number	09392629	
Registered office	C/O Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP 1-6 Lombard Street London England EC3V 9AA	
Statutory auditor	Grant Thornton UK LLP 8 Finsbury Circus London EC2M 7EA	
Bankers	Barclays Bank PL 1-4 Clyde Place Lane Glasgow G5 8DP	
Consulting actuaries and investment advisors	Barnett Waddingham LLP 2 London Wall Place 123 London Wall London EC2Y 5AU	
Solicitors	Shepherd & Wedderburn LLP 9 Haymarket Square Edinburgh EH3 8FY	

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

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THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Introduction

I am pleased to present my first statement as Chair of Golden Charter Trust Limited. My predecessor Gareth Howlett retired at the end of the financial year. On behalf of the Board, the Executive team and our stakeholders, we thank Gareth for his sound leadership over the past decade. We also appreciate Clare Brady's contributions following her retirement at the end of the calendar year and we welcome Karyn Lamont to the Board who was appointed as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Drawing on the expertise of the Board and Executive team, my priorities are to preserve continuity while building on the core strengths of The Golden Charter Trust ("the Trust").

Background

The Golden Charter Trust Limited ("Trust Limited") was incorporated in 2015 to hold the investments and to carry out the investment activity of the Trust. The Trust is the sole shareholder of Trust Limited. The Board of Directors of Trust Limited comprises the serving Trustees of the Trust at any point in time.

The Strategic Report on pages 4 to 8 provides information about Trust Limited only, in compliance with statutory accounting requirements. However, an understanding of the purposes and financial position of the Trust is essential to appreciating Trust Limited's activities and a summary of the Trust's Consolidated Statement of Net Assets follows on page 2.

The purposes of the Trust are to ingather, hold, invest and administer the Trust funds. The Trust makes payments in accordance with a prescribed list of permitted payments set out in FCA regulation. The most significant payments are to the funeral plan provider, Golden Charter Limited. Payments are made for such sums as are necessary to enable the Trust to meet the invoice costs of the funeral services provider in order that plan holders receive the funerals for which they have paid, and for the withdrawal of surplus as permitted by the FCA. The Trust and Trust Limited are independent of Golden Charter Limited. The assets of the Trust and Trust Limited are entirely separate from the assets of the plan provider, Golden Charter Limited. More information can be found at www.goldenchartertrust.co.uk.

Regulation

The FCA commenced regulation of the funeral plan market on 29 July 2022. The plan provider is directly regulated by the FCA. The Golden Charter Trust and Trust Limited are not themselves subject to direct FCA regulation. However, the Trust Deed between Golden Charter Limited and the Trust recognises the FCA rules for trusts used by funeral plan providers.

The FCA rules set out a list of permitted payments from funeral plan trusts, including the payment of surplus to the funeral plan provider. The payment of surplus is subject to separate rules on the solvency level of the Trust, as determined by the Solvency Assessment Report, and must be approved by the independent Actuary appointed by the plan provider.

Golden Charter Limited takes sole responsibility for commissioning an independent actuarial report which estimates the ratio between the Trust's assets and the costs of the funerals underwritten by it. The latest Solvency Assessment Report is available on the website of Golden Charter Limited.

Any request for payment of surplus must not, in the reasonable opinion of the Trustees, be in breach of any other legal or regulatory obligation applicable to the Trust or the Trustees.

Net assets

The Board considers that the consolidated funds of the Trust and Trust Limited together provide a user of these accounts with useful additional information over and above the audited statutory accounts. The option to consolidate the position of the two entities is not available under UK accounting standards as the Trust's ownership of Trust Limited is classified as an investment portfolio rather than a business. The Board has therefore presented a proforma consolidated statement of net assets below.

The value of the Trust funds held on behalf of beneficiaries was £1.265 billion in the financial year ended 31 March 2026 (£1.209 billion at 31 March 2025 - as restated).

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Unaudited consolidated statement of net assets As at 31 March 2026

	As at 31 March 2026	As at 31 March 2025 as restated
	£000	£000
Investments		
Managed investments	1,270,404	1,208,098
Current assets		
Cash at bank	10,207	20,268
Financial assets at fair value under 1 year	439	675
Financial assets at fair value over 1 year	7,808	8,464
Other debtors	3,606	3,292
	<u>22,060</u>	<u>32,699</u>
Current liabilities		
Funeral plan maturities	(11,352)	(13,574)
Other creditors and provisions	(1,186)	(1,511)
	<u>(12,538)</u>	<u>(15,085)</u>
Net current assets	9,522	17,614
Taxation		
Deferred taxation	(14,850)	(16,253)
Net assets	<u>1,265,076</u>	<u>1,209,459</u>

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Outlook

Our policy of diversifying across several asset classes and managers has been in place for some time and has been effective in mitigating the impact of volatile markets on the value of our investment portfolio. It remains to be seen if the economic consequences of the geopolitical volatility in the Middle East will be prolonged or short-lived, and the consequent effects on the assets.

Going concern

The assessment of the going concern position of Trust Limited is given below. This is followed by the assessment of the going concern position of the Trust.

Trust Limited has analysed a number of sensitivities in its stress testing of its investment portfolio and cashflow projections which demonstrate that Trust Limited will be able to realise the cash required to meet its ongoing financial liabilities and commitments in an orderly and timely manner given the holding size, grading and liquidity of the funds in its investment portfolio. In the Directors' view, Trust Limited does not have any issues in relation to going concern.

The investment portfolio of the Trust is held by Trust Limited and the Trust owns 100% of the shares in Trust Limited. The liability for maturing funeral plans is capped at the value of funds held by the Trust on behalf of beneficiaries. The Trustees are satisfied that the Trust has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future and are of the view that the Trust does not have any material areas of uncertainty in relation to going concern.

Myriam Madden

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Myriam Madden

Chair

Date: 30/6/2026
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THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Directors present the strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Background

The principal activity of Trust Limited is to invest the funds received into the Trust from the sale of funeral plans by Golden Charter Limited.

The Golden Charter Trust Limited ("Trust Limited") was incorporated on 16 January 2015. The 100% shareholder of Trust Limited is The Golden Charter Trust ("the Trust").

In compliance with accounting standards, our Strategic Report and the accompanying financial statements relate to Trust Limited only, whereas additional information on the combined position of the Trust and Trust Limited is given in the Chair's Statement.

Governance

Trust Limited is managed by a Board of Directors composed of experienced individuals from a wide range of business backgrounds. The Board is responsible for all executive decisions. The Board meets on a quarterly basis and on other dates as required.

Certain matters are delegated to various committees, namely the Investment Strategy Group, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, which make recommendations to the Board.

Trust Limited has an Executive team which has responsibility for managing its financial and administrative affairs.

Key risks and uncertainties

Trust Limited has a robust risk and control framework for the identification and mitigation of risk. The Board considers strategic risks at least twice a year and delegates responsibility for its risk management systems, framework and policies to the Audit and Risk Committee which reports regularly to the Board.

The Board reviewed the key controls in place to manage these risks and has determined that they were in operation and effective at the reporting date.

The key risks and their potential impact on Trust Limited are as follows:

- Global economic conditions – significant deterioration of global economic conditions over the longer term adversely affect investment returns.
- Investment performance - investment strategy fails to deliver expected investment returns over the longer term, reducing the value of the Trust's investment in Trust Limited and adversely affecting the Trust's funding level.
- Liquidity - inability to realise value from investments due to restrictions, liquidity or market conditions. Trust Limited is unable to provide the Trust with cash required to meet the cost of maturing funeral plans.
- Loss of key personnel - unexpected resignation or departure of a Director or key employee impacts on the performance of management functions.
- Business or cyber disruption - failure of key systems and controls impact on operational capability.
- Regulatory environment - statutory changes to legal or regulatory frameworks require a fundamental change to the business model.

FRS102 requires the disclosure of information in relation to certain investment risks and explanations of credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk are provided in note 18 to the financial statements.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Investment review

Principal investment objective

The principal investment objective of Trust Limited is to invest the assets of the Trust Fund in such a way as to maximise the likelihood that the returns on the assets (net of tax and costs), will be sufficient to meet the anticipated invoice costs of all pre-paid funeral plans for which funds are held in the Trust. In an effort to achieve this, the Directors' objective is to set a long-term investment strategy that aims to provide increases of CPI on all funeral plans, pay the operating expenses and taxes of the Trust and Trust Limited, and maintain a robust funding level after the withdrawal of available surplus.

The Directors' also seek to limit the volatility of the funding position at any given time and this is taken into account when considering the required returns.

Investment strategy

The Board determines its investment strategy based on the recommendations of the Investment Strategy Group ("the ISG") and after taking advice from its investment advisers. It has put in place a diversified asset allocation which at the reporting date comprised mandates with nine investment managers to take advantage of investment expertise in different areas. The current target allocation is to hold 50% of assets in index-linked gilts, with the other 50% divided between global equities, multi-asset funds, commercial property, infrastructure assets, corporate debt, securitised credit and cash. The asset allocation strategy is designed to ensure that the assets are diversified and of appropriate investment quality.

Over the year, the Directors made the decision to de-risk the investment strategy as market conditions changed. To achieve this, target allocation to the L&G Index-Linked Gilt portfolio was increased to 50% (previously 40%). As part of the de-risking, the decision was made to fully disinvest from the L&G passive equity holdings and reduce the exposure to the Ruffer Absolute Return Fund to 2.5% (decreased from 7.5%).

Trust Limited has investment management agreements in place with the investment managers that set out guidelines for the underlying investments held by the funds. The ISG on behalf of the Board, with the support of its investment advisers, carry out due diligence in advance of appointment of each of the investment managers and on the operation and governance of each of the funds or mandates, and agree appropriate controls. The ISG have meetings with each of the investment managers as necessary, usually on an annual basis.

Trust Limited has adopted an Environmental, Social, and Governance ("ESG") policy of oversight. The ISG, on behalf of the Board, has responsibility to ensure that the investment managers' policies are appropriate to the specific assets they manage. This is achieved by requiring the investment managers to address the issue specifically during the annual review meeting with the ISG.

Investment portfolio

Protection assets are held to closely match the change in existing plan values and as a contractual inflation linkage. Growth assets aim to provide additional investment return over and above inflation in the long term, without any direct link to inflation in the short term. Real assets are also expected to provide investment outperformance, but with a strong link to inflation and so performance is expected to be positive in real terms.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

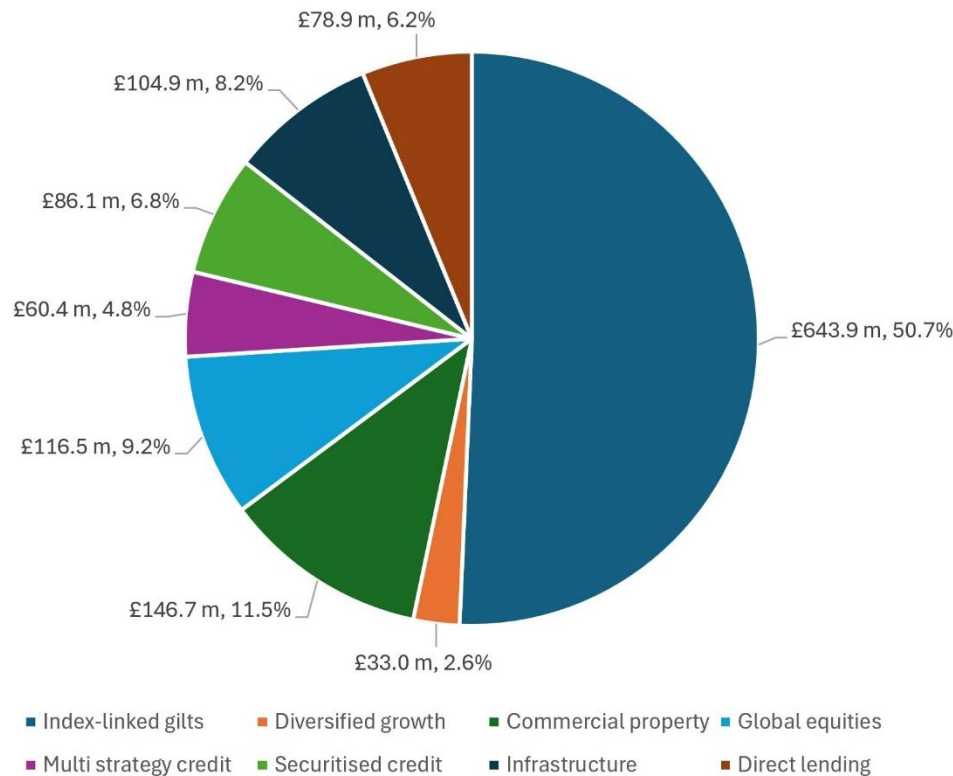
Investment portfolio (continued)

At 31 March 2026, Trust Limited’s investment portfolio comprised the following investments:

Type of investment	Asset class	Investment value	Percentage of portfolio
Protection	Index-Linked gilts	£643.9m	50.7%
Growth	Global equity	£116.5m	9.2%
	Diversified growth (absolute return)	£33.0m	2.6%
	Muti strategy credit	£60.4m	4.8%
	Securitised credit	£86.1m	6.8%
	Direct lending	£78.9m	6.2%
Real	Commercial property	£146.7m	11.5%
	Infrastructure	£104.9m	8.2%
Total		£1,270.4m	

The allocation by asset class at 31 March 2026 is shown in the chart below.

Investments at fair value by asset class



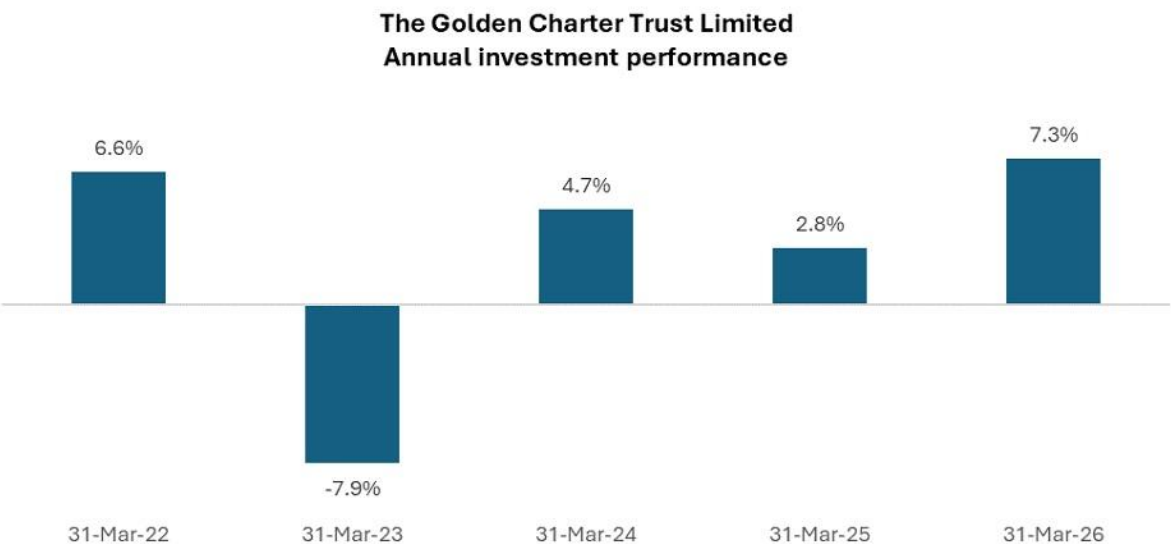
THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Investment performance

The performance of the investment managers is measured against specific benchmarks and monitored by the ISG and our investment advisers. Each month our investment advisers provide the ISG with a statement of the overall performance of the investment portfolio and of the individual underlying managers. A full report is provided each quarter which is used by the Board in their review of investment performance.

Over the year to 31 March 2026, gross return on the portfolio (before tax and expenses) was 7.3% with circa £31 million received in cash distributions from the invested assets to assist with cashflow. Over the five-year period from 2020, the average return on the Trust's investment portfolio was 2.7% and over the ten-year period from 2015, it was 4.5%.



The 12 month period to 31 March 2026 commenced with market focus shifting towards heightened economic and geopolitical uncertainty as US tariffs caused upset in global markets. The Bank of England, European Central Bank and Federal Reserve cut rates through 2025, pausing this cycle in 2026 amidst renewed geopolitical tensions surrounding the conflict in the Middle East towards the end of the financial year.

Despite ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, overall portfolio performance was positive over the year, driven by strong performance from the growth assets and real assets held by the Trust. The portfolio of index-linked gilts also performed positively due to increasing implied inflation causing the value of the portfolio to increase. The Trust's credit assets contributed to the positive performance as credit spreads continued to tighten over the period, reaching historic lows. The growth portfolio's strong performance was driven by equity market rallies over the course of 2025, resulting from AI-linked stocks. The diversified growth holding over the year did not perform as strongly compared to the equity performance, given their more defensive positioning. However, this holding provided diversification benefits during periods of market turmoil. The real asset portfolio performed positively over the year, linked to improved interest rate outlooks following the rate cuts in major economies.

Investment governance

The Board sets out guidelines within which the ISG implements investment policy and has a schedule of matters reserved exclusively for resolution by the Board.

The ISG takes advice from Barnett Waddingham LLP, the appointed investment advisers to Trust Limited, in performing its strategic investment function. The investment advisers liaise with the various appointed investment managers who perform the day-to-day management of their funds within their agreed mandate.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Investment governance (continued)

The likelihood and impact of risks to the investment portfolio are considered by the ISG at its quarterly meetings and any agreed actions and additional control measures are taken to the Board for approval. Alongside this our investment advisers are regularly instructed to perform and report on the results of stress testing scenarios.

Over the year, the ongoing appropriateness of the investment strategy is reviewed both at a portfolio and individual mandate level and required changes are made to the strategy and portfolio to respond to emerging or developing risks. The ISG continue to work to ensure the portfolio is positioned to meet its objectives and to be resilient to risks and volatility in so far as is possible now and into the future.

Financial review

The net assets of Trust Limited at the year-end were £975.0m (2025: £894.3m as restated).

The Board expects that our net assets in Trust Limited will change (i) in line with forecasts for net cash movements for funeral plan activity, (ii) from prudent management of our investment portfolio and (iii) after deduction of operating expenses and taxation.

As explained at the beginning of the Strategic Report and in the Chair's Statement, Trust Limited is wholly owned by the Trust. The Trust's net assets at 31 March 2026 amounted to £1.265bn (2025: £1.209bn as restated).

The difference between the funds held by the Trust on behalf of beneficiaries and the net assets of Trust Limited is due primarily to the intercompany loan of £301.5m (2025: £325.7m) from the Trust to Trust Limited, which is shown as a current liability in note 12. This loan represents the net funds transferred from the Trust to Trust Limited for investment in the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2026.

At the year end, Trust Limited held £10.2m in cash (2025: £17.2m). Working capital is held to meet the financial obligations of Trust Limited, including the net repayment of the loan from the Trust. £24.2m was repaid to the Trust in the year.

Net profit for the year after taxation was £80.6m (2025: profit of £27.2m). The fair value net gains in the year were £87.6m (2025: £33.4m).

Unrealised gains/(losses) on the value of investments together with the realised gains/(losses) on disposal of investments are reported as part of the overall net gains/(losses) on investments at fair value through profit or loss in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Other realised gains from investments, such as dividends and other income from our managed funds and interest from our core investment holding of UK government issued index linked gilts, were primarily received in cash in the year.

The tax charge in respect of FY26 is £7.6m (FY25: £2.8m restated). This includes £9.0m of corporation tax in relation to FY26 of which £8.4m was paid to HMRC during the year. The accounts include a provision for corporation tax payable of £0.6m (2025: £1.2m) and a provision for deferred tax of £14.9m (2025: £16.3m as restated).

During the year, a reassessment of the deferred tax provision was performed, resulting in a restatement of the prior year's closing net assets. Further details are outlined at note 22.

This report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf.

Myriam Madden

Myriam Madden

Chair

Date: 30/6/2026

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Principal activities

The entire share capital of Trust Limited is owned by the Trust. Trust Limited is a limited company registered in England & Wales under company number 09392629.

The Trust exists for both the Planholders who have purchased funeral plans from the plan provider, Golden Charter Limited, and for the Funeral Directors who have undertaken to carry out the funeral services in accordance with the plan terms and conditions. The Trust's and the Trust Limited's assets are entirely separate from and independent of Golden Charter Limited.

Results and dividends

The results for the year are set out on page 15 and the financial position at the reporting date on page 16.

No ordinary dividends were paid (2025: £Nil). The Directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend.

Directors

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

David Adam	
Clare Brady	(Resigned 31 December 2025)
Christine Johnson	
Gareth Howlett	(Resigned 31 March 2026)
Karyn Lamont	(Appointed 1 February 2026)
George Locke	
Myriam Madden	
Barry Widdows	

Directors' indemnification and insurance

Articles 66 and 67 of Trust Limited's Articles of Association provide that, insofar as permitted by law, every Director shall be indemnified by Trust Limited against all costs, charges, expenses, losses or liabilities incurred in the execution and discharge of the Directors' duties, powers or office.

Trust Limited has arranged appropriate insurance cover in respect of legal action against its Directors.

Auditor

The auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Statement of disclosure to auditor

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

On behalf of the Board

Myriam Madden
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Myriam Madden
Chair

Date: 30/6/2026
.....

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The Directors are responsible for preparing the strategic report, Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law including FRS 102 (The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland)). Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; and
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Golden Charter Trust Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2026, which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We are responsible for concluding on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks associated with the company's business model including effects arising from macro-economic uncertainties such as the inflationary environment and interest rates, we assessed and challenged the reasonableness of estimates made by the directors and the related disclosures and analysed how those risks might affect the company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

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

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

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

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matter on which we are required to report under the Companies Act 2006

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 11, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to Trust Limited and its industry through our general commercial and sector knowledge, as well as discussions with management. Based on this, we identified the following laws and regulations as the most significant: FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Companies Act 2006 and the Funeral Planning Authority Rules and Code of Practice. We have enquired with management and the audit committee as to any instances of non-compliance with any of the applicable laws and regulations or whether they had any knowledge of actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- These audit procedures were designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free from fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error and detecting irregularities that result from fraud is inherently more difficult than detecting those that result from error, as fraud may involve collusion, deliberate concealment, forgery or intentional misrepresentations. Also, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it;
- We have assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud, by performing procedures that included:
 - Identifying and testing journal entries, with particular focus on large and unusual entries that the engagement team considered to present a higher risk of fraud.
 - Evaluating compliance with relevant laws and regulations as part of our procedures over the related financial statement line items.
- We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Marcus Swales

Marcus Swales
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP
Statutory Auditor, Chartered Accountants
London

30/6/2026
Date:

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		2026	2025
	Notes	£000	as restated £000
Fair value and other gains on investments	9	87,624	33,407
Fair value (loss)/gain on financial assets	11	(456)	58
Operating income/(expense)		1,035	(3,644)
Operating profit	4	88,203	29,821
Interest receivable and similar income	3	81	145
Profit before taxation		88,284	29,966
Tax on profit	8	(7,635)	(2,794)
Profit for the financial year		80,649	27,172

The statement of comprehensive income has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

		2026		2025	
	Notes	£000	£000	as restated £000	£000
Fixed assets					
Investments	9		1,270,404		1,208,098
Current assets					
Debtors receivable after more than one year	10	7,808		8,464	
Debtors receivable within one year	10	4,045		3,967	
Cash at bank and in hand		10,205		17,225	
			22,058		29,656
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(302,637)		(327,175)	
Net current liabilities			(280,579)		(297,519)
Total assets less current liabilities			989,825		910,579
Provisions for liabilities					
Deferred tax liability	13	(14,850)		(16,253)	
			(14,850)		(16,253)
Net assets			974,975		894,326
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	15		250		250
Share premium account	17		657,136		657,136
Profit and loss reserves	17		317,589		236,940
Total equity			974,975		894,326

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 30/6/2026 and are signed on its behalf by:

Myriam Madden

 Myriam Madden
 Chair

Company Registration No. 09392629

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Share capital £000	Share premium account £000	Profit and loss reserves £000	Total £000
As restated for the period ended 31 March 2025:					
Balance at 1 April 2024 (as previously stated):		250	657,136	213,956	871,342
Effect of prior period adjustment	22	-	-	(4,188)	(4,188)
Balance at 1 April 2024 (restated)		250	657,136	209,768	867,154
Year ended 31 March 2025:					
Profit and total comprehensive income - as restated for the year		-	-	27,172	27,172
Balance at 31 March 2025		250	657,136	236,940	894,326
Year ended 31 March 2026:					
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	80,649	80,649
Balance at 31 March 2026		250	657,136	317,589	974,975

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026		2025	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash receipts from investment income		30,984		34,927
Cash paid for operating expenses		(1,104)		(1,550)
Corporation tax paid		(9,555)		(2,264)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		20,325		31,113
Investing activities				
Purchase of investments held at fair value	(212,216)		(225,643)	
Proceeds from sale of investments held at fair value	209,003		211,031	
Interest received	81		145	
Net cash used in investing activities		(3,132)		(14,467)
Financing activities				
Funds transferred to Trust	(145,066)		(38,794)	
Funds transferred from Trust	120,853		15,818	
Net cash used in financing activities		(24,213)		(22,976)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(7,020)		(6,330)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		17,225		23,555
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		10,205		17,225

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Golden Charter Trust Limited ("Trust Limited") is a private company limited by shares incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is C/O Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP, 1-6 Lombard Street, London, England, EC3V 9AA.

The Trust Limited's principal activities and nature of its operations are disclosed in the Directors' Report.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of Trust Limited. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £000.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

Trust Limited has analysed a number of sensitivities in its stress testing of its investment portfolio and cashflow projections, which demonstrate that Trust Limited will be able to realise the cash required to meet its ongoing financial liabilities and commitments in an orderly and timely manner given the holding size, grading and liquidity of the investments in its portfolio.

In view of the above, the Directors confirm they are satisfied that Trust Limited has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future and are firmly of the view that Trust Limited does not have any issues in relation to going concern.

1.3 Investments

Trust Limited holds long-term investments with a view to generating a net return for the purposes of meeting its purpose and objectives. Trust Limited considers its investment holdings to be basic financial assets in accordance with the definition set out in FRS 102 section 11.

Unrealised gains and losses comprise changes in the fair value of investments in the year. Realised gains and losses represent income receipts and difference between the carrying value of investments and the disposal amount.

Investments are categorised as an investment portfolio and the assets and liabilities are recognised in the financial statements at fair value through profit or loss. Net gains on investments at fair value through profit or loss in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments and all income from investments. Investment asset prices are quoted at bid price, where available, or based on a single price (e.g. closing single price, dealing price or most recent transaction price). Investment liabilities are priced at offer where available or possible.

In the case of investments in private equity funds, this is based on the net asset value of those funds ascertained from periodic valuations provided by the managers of the funds and recorded up to the measurement date. Such valuations are necessarily dependent upon the reasonableness of the valuations by the fund managers of the underlying investments. When quoted or other unit prices are not available, the Directors adopt valuation techniques appropriate to the class of investment.

Investments in liquidity funds held by investment managers are held as part of an investment portfolio to create a mix of interest rate and liquidity exposures and are not held for operations.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Capital commitments

Trust Limited has entered into subscription agreements with fund managers which might require future cash outflows. These commitments are disclosed in note 19 and are not considered to meet the definition of a liability requiring recognition on the Statement of Financial Position.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than two days. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. Cash held in bank accounts and in short-term money market funds that are held for operations is considered to be cash and cash equivalents.

1.6 Financial instruments

Trust Limited enters into both basic and non-basic financial instruments that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities. Financial instruments are recognised when Trust Limited becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to do so and there is an intention to settle or realise the asset and liability on a net basis or simultaneously.

Financial instruments are measured at their initial outlay and subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss at each reporting date. The present value of non-basic financial assets are determined by discounting the estimated future cash inflows using yields from high-quality corporate bonds that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the financial asset.

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when Trust Limited transfers control of the financial asset, or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership, to another entity.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the amount due after deducting any provision for impairment. It is expected that current debtors will be settled within one year. Debtors are classified as non-current where repayment is due over one year or the Directors view the debtor as a continuing receivable.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the company has a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event and it is probable that a financial outflow will be required to settle the obligation. Initial measurement is at transaction price. It is expected that short term creditors will be settled within one year.

1.7 Equity instruments

Equity instruments issued by Trust Limited are recorded at the proceeds received, net of transaction costs. Dividends payable on equity instruments are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of Trust Limited.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax. Current tax assets are recognised when tax paid exceeds the tax payable. Current and deferred tax is charged or credited to profit or loss, except when it relates to items charged or credited to other comprehensive income or equity.

Current tax assets and liabilities and deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset, if and only if, there is a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and the entity intends either to settle on the net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Current tax is based on taxable profit for the year. Current tax measured using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled based on tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date. Deferred tax liabilities are recognised in respect of all timing differences that exist at the reporting date. Timing differences are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income that arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in different periods from their recognition in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered by the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

1.9 Retirement benefits

For defined contribution schemes the amount charged to profit or loss is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

1.10 Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency are initially recorded at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of the transaction, or, if the asset or liability is measured at fair value, the rate when that fair value was determined. All translation differences on monetary assets are recognised through profit or loss within operating profit.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the Trust's accounting policies. Accounting policies over which judgement has been exercised are included in note 1 of the accounts.

Investments as financial assets

Trust Limited holds investments for the long-term with a view to generating a total return in the form of increases in fair value, and interest and dividends. Trust Limited considers its investment holdings to be financial assets in accordance with the definition set out in FRS 102.

Fair value of investments

The managed investments of Trust Limited are valued at fair value. Where a market-based independent measure of value is not available, other methods have been employed to establish a fair value, which may include estimates (note 18). This fair value information is provided by the investment manager engaged by Trust Limited. Trust Limited has no input to, or influence over, the valuation methodologies applied by the investment manager. Trust Limited, in conjunction with its investment advisers, review the valuation for reasonableness.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

3 Other revenue

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Interest income	81	145

4 Operating profit

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Operating profit for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Payments to Golden Charter Limited	-	25
Foreign exchange (gain)/loss	(2,712)	1,832

An arrangement was in place for the provision of accounting and other administrative services by Golden Charter Limited to the Trust and Trust Limited. The arrangement ceased on 30 September 2024. During the year, a fee of £Nil (2025: £25,000) was paid in relation to these services.

5 Auditor's remuneration

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Fees payable to the company's auditor and associates:		
For audit services		
Audit of the financial statements of the company	144	164
For other services		
Taxation compliance services	52	64
Other taxation services	22	17
All other non-audit services	7	6
	81	87

6 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including Directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Directors, management and administration	12	14

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

6 Employees

(Continued)

The aggregate remuneration of employees and Directors comprised:

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Wages and salaries	833	796
Social security costs	105	89
Pension costs	22	25
	<u>960</u>	<u>910</u>

7 Directors' remuneration

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Remuneration for qualifying services	<u>438</u>	<u>394</u>

Remuneration disclosed above include the following amounts paid to the highest paid Director:

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Remuneration for qualifying services	<u>83</u>	<u>65</u>

No retirement benefits were paid to the Directors (2025: Nil).

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

8 Taxation

	2026	2025 as restated
	£000	£000
Current tax		
UK corporation tax on profits for the current period	9,041	1,568
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	(3)	(736)
Total current tax	9,038	832
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	(1,944)	1,962
Adjustment in respect of prior periods	541	-
Total deferred tax	(1,403)	1,962
Total tax charge	7,635	2,794

The actual charge for the year can be reconciled to the expected charge for the year based on the profit or loss and the standard rate of tax as follows:

	2026	2025 as restated
	£000	£000
Profit before taxation	88,284	29,966
Expected tax charge based on the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25.00% (2025: 25.00%)	22,071	7,491
Tax effect of expenses that are not deductible in determining taxable profit	(10,726)	2,234
Tax effect of income not taxable in determining taxable profit	(10,918)	(7,267)
Adjustments in respect of prior years	(3)	-
Deferred tax adjustments in respect of prior years	541	(736)
Adjustments to brought forward values	(1,816)	(1,259)
Chargeable gains	9,321	3,614
Exempt ABGH distributions	(835)	(1,283)
Taxation charge for the year	7,635	2,794

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

9 Investments at fair value through profit and loss

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Opening balance	1,208,098	1,194,483
Additions	214,928	223,838
Disposals	(200,229)	(210,988)
Net gains on investments at fair value	47,607	765
Closing balance	1,270,404	1,208,098
Index-linked gilts	583,376	387,746
Liquidity funds	60,506	77,581
Collective investment schemes	643,882	465,327
	626,522	742,771
	1,270,404	1,208,098

Fair value and other gains on investments included within the statement of comprehensive income include the above £47.6m (2025: £0.8m) of gains in respect of fair value movements.

The category of collective investment schemes includes £183.7m (2025: £177.5m) of private market investments.

Trust Limited's commitment to future investments in collective investment schemes is given in note 19.

10 Debtors

	Notes	2026 £000	2025 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:			
Other debtors		67	74
Financial asset at fair value	11	439	675
Prepayments and accrued income		3,539	3,218
		4,045	3,967
Amounts falling due after more than one year:			
Financial asset at fair value	11	7,808	8,464
		7,808	8,464
Total debtors		11,853	12,431

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

11 Financial asset

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Receivable in more than one year	7,808	8,464
Receivable within one year	439	675
	<u>8,247</u>	<u>9,139</u>

Trust Limited outlaid funds in prior years to secure future funeral business for Funeral Directors on behalf of the Trust. Trust Limited expects to recover the funds in future periods and this expectation of future income has been recognised as a non-basic financial asset and accounted for in accordance with the accounting policy set out at note 1 above. Movement in the year is in respect of inflows of £436k (2025: £441k) as well as a reduction in fair value of £456k (2025: £58k increase in fair value). The fair value of the financial asset requires reference to market rates and consideration of commercial factors. Outlays under this arrangement ceased in March 2022.

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £000	2025 £000
Amounts owed to group undertakings	301,457	325,670
Corporation tax	638	1,155
Other creditors and accruals	542	350
	<u>302,637</u>	<u>327,175</u>

Amounts owed to group undertakings is in respect of a loan from the Trust, which is unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

13 Deferred taxation

The following are the major deferred tax liabilities and assets recognised by the company and movements thereon:

	Liabilities 2026 £000	Liabilities 2025 as restated £000
Balances:		
Accelerated capital allowances	<u>14,850</u>	<u>16,253</u>

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

13	Deferred taxation	(Continued)
		2026
	Movements in the year:	£000
	Liability at 1 April 2025 - as restated	16,253
	Credit to statement of comprehensive income	(1,944)
	Adjustments in respect of prior periods	541
	Liability at 31 March 2026	14,850

No deferred tax assets have been recognised in respect of carried forward tax reliefs, due to uncertainty over the timing and availability of sufficient future taxable profits against which these reliefs can be utilised.

14	Retirement benefit schemes	2026	2025
		£000	£000
	Defined contribution schemes		
	Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	22	25

Trust Limited operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

Contributions totalling £4.3k (2025: £Nil) were payable to the fund at the reporting date and included in creditors due within one year.

15	Share capital	2026	2025	2026	2025
		Number	Number	£000	£000
	Ordinary share capital				
	Issued and fully paid				
	Ordinary shares of 1p each	25,001,000	25,001,000	250	250

There is a single class of Ordinary shares. There are no restrictions on dividends and the repayment of capital.

16 Capital

Trust Limited's capital management objectives are to ensure that it will be able to continue as a going concern and to achieve the objectives set out in the Investment Report.

The Board reviews and monitors the structure of Trust Limited's capital on an ongoing basis. Trust Limited is not required to comply with any externally imposed capital requirements and Trust Limited's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital are unchanged from the prior year.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

17 Profit and loss reserves

Profit and loss reserves

Profit and loss reserves represent accumulated comprehensive income for the year and prior periods.

Share premium

Share premium of £657,136k (2025: £657,136k) represents premiums received on issue of Ordinary share capital, net of any transaction costs associated with the issuing of shares.

18 Investment risk

Trust Limited is exposed to investment risks when following the investment strategy set out in the Investment Report. The Directors consider investment risks taking into account Trust Limited's strategic investment objectives, including sensitivity to downside risk. Investment strategy and risk measures are agreed on the advice of our investment advisors, taking into account the benefits of diversification and the suitability of the managers. The strategy is implemented through investment management agreements in place with Trust Limited's investment managers, and monitored by the Directors through regular reviews of the investment portfolio.

The day-to-day management of the funds is the responsibility of the investment managers, including the direct management of credit and market risks. The investment managers may delegate that responsibility to other providers. The Directors actively monitor and review the investment managers through regular meetings and oversight.

Further information on the Directors' approach to risk management, credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk is set out below. The approach to risk management is unchanged from the prior financial year.

FRS102 requires the disclosure of information in relation to certain investment risks as follows:

Credit risk – one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

Market risk – comprises the following three types of risk:

- *Interest rate risk* - The risk that the fair value or future cashflows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates;
- *Currency risk* - The risk that the fair value or future cashflows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates; and
- *Other price risk* - The risk that the fair value or future cashflows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those due to interest rates or currency).

Liquidity risk - The inability to sell assets in a timely manner without adversely affecting the value.

Credit risk

Trust Limited is subject to credit risk due to its investment in pooled investment vehicles, directly held index linked UK government bonds (index linked gilts), direct lending fund as well as cash balances.

Trust Limited mitigates the credit risk arising on the index linked bonds by investing in UK government bonds which are deemed to be very low credit risk.

Trust Limited has indirect exposure to credit risks from the underlying investments held by the pooled investment vehicles. This is actively managed on an ongoing basis by the asset managers who are responsible for actively monitoring the credit allocations.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

18 Investment risk (Continued)

Credit risk (continued)
Direct credit risk arising from pooled investment vehicles is mitigated by the underlying assets of the pooled arrangements being ring-fenced from the pooled manager, the regulatory environments in which the pooled managers operate and the ongoing due diligence of the pooled manager.

The cash fund is actively managed with counterparty risk spread across various counterparties.

Market risk: interest rates
Trust Limited is exposed to interest rate risk as interest rates are a component of the discount rate used to value some of Trust Limited's assets (particularly index linked gilts). If interest rate expectations increase, the value of Trust Limited's index linked gilts will fall as they are valued with reference to real gilt yields (where gilt yields broadly reflect interest rate expectations). At the financial year-end these assets were managed by Legal and General Asset Managers to a specific benchmark as set by the Directors, having taken advice from their investment advisors. An increase/decrease of 50 basis points in the Bank of England real gilt yield at the year-end would have approximately decreased/increased the Net Asset Value and profit before tax by approximately £26m (2025: £28m).

Market risk: currency
Trust Limited is also exposed to currency risk because some of its investments are held in overseas markets. For example, Trust Limited invests indirectly in overseas equities, bonds, property and infrastructure through pooled investment vehicles.

The Directors review the overall level of currency exposure annually. The Trust's primary exposure to unhedged overseas currency is from the holdings in infrastructure, with the table below setting out the overall exposure to overseas currencies:

Currency	Invested asset exposure (%)
Great British Pound (GBP)	92
Overseas currencies	8

A 5% decline or rise of sterling against foreign currency denominated (i.e. non-sterling) assets would have broadly increased/decreased the Net Asset Value and profit before tax by approximately £5m (2025: £8m).

Market risk: other price
Other price risk arises principally in relation to Trust Limited's return seeking portfolio which includes equities held in pooled vehicles, private equity, credit, property, infrastructure, direct loans and diversified growth funds.

Trust Limited manages this exposure by investing in pooled funds that invest in a diverse portfolio of instruments across various markets. Each investment manager is expected to manage broadly diversified portfolios and to spread assets across a number of individual shares and securities.

Liquidity risk
Liquidity risk is the risk that Trust Limited wishes to sell the assets but is unable to do so (or not at fair value) in the required timescale.

The Board considers the liquidity of the assets when setting the overall strategy and the majority of assets held are highly liquid and held in daily traded funds.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

18 Investment risk

(Continued)

Liquidity risk (continued)

Liquidity risk primarily exists in the property fund holdings which represent c.12% of the portfolio, the infrastructure funds which represent c.8% and the direct lending holdings which represent c.6% at the year end.

The property funds are not traded on liquid markets, although the funds do offer periodic liquidity. The infrastructure holdings and the direct lending holdings are held via closed ended funds that do not offer direct liquidity.

The arrangements in respect of the loan from the Trust are included at note 12.

Fair Value hierarchy

The fair value of the managed investments has been estimated using the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1:

The unadjusted quoted price in an active market for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2:

Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable (i.e. developed using market data) for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3:

Inputs are unobservable (i.e. for which market data is unavailable) for the asset or liability.

Trust Limited's managed investments have been fair valued using the above hierarchy levels as follows:

Asset Classes	31 March 2026 £000	31 March 2025 £000
Level 1: Index Linked Gilts	583,376	387,746
Level 2: Collective Investment Schemes	334,805	456,704
Level 2: Short Term Liquidity Funds*	60,506	77,581
Level 3: Collective Investment Schemes	291,717	286,067
Total	1,270,404	1,208,098

*The liquidity funds are held as part of the index-linked gilt mandate.

Over the year, the Directors made the decision to de-risk the investment strategy as market conditions changed. To achieve this, 10% of the target allocation was reallocated from Level 2 assets into the Level 1 Index Linked Gilts portfolio.

19 Capital commitments

Trust Limited is committed to future investment in collective investment schemes to an amount of £63.9m (2025: £73.0m). The commitment to Partners Group funds makes up £52.3m, with the majority to be called by the manager over the next 5 years. The Barings fund has called on £78.4m of its £90.0m commitment, with the remaining £11.6m able to be called by manager by the end of 2026.

THE GOLDEN CHARTER TRUST LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

20 Related party transactions

During the year Trust Limited paid amounts totalling £0.2m (2025: £0.2m) on behalf of the Trust.

Trust Limited owed £301.5m (2025: £325.7m) to the Trust at the year end, as shown in note 12, which represents monies provided to Trust Limited for investment on behalf of the Trust.

Key management personnel are considered to be those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Trust Limited, including the Directors. Total remuneration including employers' national insurance contributions in respect of these individuals was £0.6m (2025: £0.6m).

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 April 2025 £000	Cash flows £000	31 March 2026 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	17,225	(7,020)	10,205
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

22 Prior period adjustment

The Directors have restated the company's comparative reporting period to reflect a correction to the company's deferred tax liability in response to a reassessment performed over the tax base cost associated with certain of the company's investments. The restatement relates to the correction of the base cost of transactions that occurred in the ended 31 March 2024. The impact on the financial statement line items affected is outlined below.

Changes to the statement of financial position

	As previously reported £000	Adjustment £000	As restated at 31 Mar 2025 £000
Provisions for liabilities			
Deferred tax	(12,071)	(4,182)	(16,253)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Capital and reserves			
Profit and loss reserves	241,122	(4,182)	236,940
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Changes to the income statement

	As previously reported £000	Adjustment £000	As restated £000
Year ended 31 March 2025			
Taxation	(2,800)	6	(2,794)
Profit for the financial period	<u>27,166</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>27,172</u>