REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021 FOR

SOFA (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

TRUSTEES

Mrs V Brooke (Trustee) B D Granger (Chairperson) F Hassoun (Trustee)
Mrs E C Lowe (Vice-Chair)
Mrs J Marriott (Trustee) B J Tetley (Trustee)

W E Webster (Trustee) - resigned 3 November 2020

COMPANY SECRETARY

J S F Pacheco

REGISTERED OFFICE

Towles Building 31 Clarence Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 1DY

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

02587766 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1002980

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

TCP (GB) Group Ltd 10 The Triangle NG2 Business Park Nottingham Nottinghamshire NG2 1AE

STAFF

Tony Warren - Warehouse/Vehicle Manager/Joint Acting CEO Julio Pacheco - Administration Manager/Joint Acting CEO

Stewart Turner - Portable Appliance Tester Linda Urquhart - Finance Administrator Salim Nagdi - Administration Assistant David Hannington - Warehouse/Van Assistant Kerry Wood-May - Cleaner

Christopher Peaty - Van/Warehouse Assistant

BANKERS

The Co-operative Bank PLC, Business Customer Service Centre, PO Box 250, Delf House, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The provision of services by the charity during this financial year has been severely impacted upon by the Covid 19 Emergency.

Sofa was closed on the 24th March 2020 as required by the government at the commencement of the first national lockdown. All non-essential businesses were ordered to close, and everyone instructed to stay at home. Sofa did respond to initial emergency requests from a local authority to supply furniture desperately needed to provide accommodation for homeless individuals, but all our normal sales, collections and contract work were suspended. Our volunteers were required to stay at home and all of our employees were entered into the furlough scheme with the exception of our Finance Administrator who worked from home.

Sofa reopened on the 15th June with a reduced staff group and without any volunteers. Extensive work had been undertaken to meet the Covid Secure prerequisites including the required assessments and policies, extensive signage and the introduction of isolating flow systems in the building. Early sales were as positive as we could have expected and there was a significant demand for our collection service. Our contract deliveries to Leicestershire County recommenced but we were unable to deliver to Leicester City due to the special measures introduced for the City. By July our remaining staff became part of the flexible hours furlough scheme and a small number of volunteers returned.

In October we introduced a new online shopping portal to respond to the increasing interest in internet sales that many retail outlets had experienced due to the pandemic. We were also able to increase our reuse opportunities at this time as new volunteer came forward with expertise in the renovation of bicycles which were in high demand following the increase in use for exercise.

Unfortunately, the second national lockdown commenced on the 5th November and Sofa again closed. During the closure we were able to operate a limited click and collect service via our internet sales outlet and a supplied a limited number of emergency items to our local authority contacts. Sofa reopened on the 2nd December after the lifting of the second lockdown and we had a short period of operation until we closed for Christmas on the 18th December. Sofa was unable to reopen after Christmas as the third national lockdown was in force although we continued with click and collect sales and local authority deliveries. The lockdown was still in force at the end of the financial year although we looked forward to reopening on the 12th April 2021.

As one would expect this exceptional year had a significant effect on our financial situation and we ended the year with expenditure exceeding income by £38,376, with total funds carried forward of £144,206. Our financial situation was helped significantly by the government's furlough scheme and small grants for businesses although we were unable to access any funds for our role as a charity.

The Trustees would like to give our profound thanks to our small staff team who remained fully committed throughout the year. They ensured the continuation of the work of the charity by maintaining the security of the building throughout the year and responding flexibly to the changing demands of the pandemic in order to maximise the services we were able to provide.

As the year ended it was extraordinarily difficult to predict what will happen in the 2021/22 financial year due to the ongoing effects of the current emergency.

Signed by:

B D Granger - Chairperson

Bran O Granes

27 October 2021

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The charitable objectives for which the company is established are stated in the Appendix to the Articles of Association. The objects continued to be to relieve, either generally or individually, person's resident in Leicestershire and contiguous area (Area of Benefit) who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress arising therefrom by:

- 1. The provision of furniture and other household accessories calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons; and
- 2. The provision of vocational training, support and work experience for unemployed persons who volunteer at SOFA.

Increasingly important for the charity is our environmental role in diverting items from landfill and ensuring their reuse.

To meet the charitable objectives the company operates a furniture reuse service targeted to clients on low income. The company also offers training, support and work experience to volunteers of SOFA. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our objectives and planned future activities.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Staff

Sofa's paid employees are the foundation of our day to day operation and they have given many hours extra to the charity as well as contributing the highest level of commitment.

Volunteers

Over the year we worked with 36 volunteers. We began with 8 existing volunteers and haven't recruited any other due to the pandemic and taking into account H & S. We ended the year with 8 active volunteers.

Referred Customers and Referral Agencies

A total of 1,679 individual orders of furniture and appliances were sold to people who had been referred to us as being in genuine need of reduced-price furniture. This represents 41% decrease compared to last year's figures with a total of 3,852 individual items.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Although anyone can shop with us one of our key charitable aims is to relieve poverty by supplying individuals and households in need with furniture, white goods and other household items at affordable prices. We operate a scheme that enables agencies to assess those they consider to be in need and then to refer them to SOFA where they can then buy from us at a discount, currently 30%, valid for 12 months.

Through this referral process we continue to support a wide range of individuals and families in need who are in contact with statutory and voluntary resources including homeless households, people being resettled from hostels, hospitals and prisons, refugeesand new migrants, people fleeing domestic violence and other vulnerable people.

We receive customer referrals from a number of key local agencies, most notably Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing and The Bridge Project, a charity that offers support and advice to homeless and vulnerably housed people in Charnwood. Other agencies which refer regularly include Children and Young People's Services, Social Care and Health, Charnwood Independent Youth Action, Health Visitors, Housing Associations, Human Rights and Equalities Charnwood, Citizen's Advice, Enquire and Sure Start.

Sales to the General Public

A total of 769 items of furniture and appliances were sold to the general public at sensible prices, with income from these sales being used to further our charitable aims. This was a decrease of 605 sales compared with previous year. The sale of goods to the general public is now essential income to ensure the future of SOFA and is of course furthering reuse by which we can reduce the impact of climate change.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (Continued)

Donations and Diversion from Landfill

We gratefully received help from 690 households and collected 2,380 reusable items during this year and further 560 reusable items were donated at our door. This year we diverted 58 tones of furniture and electrical appliances from landfill representing a total decrease of 57% from the previous year, due to closures over the pandemic period but is still a significant help to the targets set for Leicestershire County Council and a considerable boost to the environment.

Improvements to Service, Operational Systems and Partnerships

During the course of the year we:

- * Made improvements including health & safety measures to all showrooms
- * Set up an ecommerce website to further help people with essential items
- * Provided facility for employees to work from home
- * Applied for grants to further sustain our services

Organisations that have supported SOFA

Our thanks go to the following agencies, organisations and individuals that have supported our work during the course of the year:

- * Leicestershire County Council Waste Management
- Leicester City Council
- * Charnwood Borough Council Environmental Services
- Leicestershire & Rutland Reuse Network
- Voluntary Action Leicestershire
- * Cuttlefish

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year shows a deficit of £38,376 (2020: deficit of £17,947).

Total Incoming Resources in the year decreased to £173,556 (2020: £252,801), primarily due to a decrease in agency sales. But this income includes grant monies from the Rates Grant and the Job Retention Scheme of £63,351 leaving just £110,205 (2020: £252,801) from charitable activities. This reflects the issues during Covid 19 when the premises were closed and the staff furloughed.

The Balance Sheet shows that SOFA has total unrestricted funds of £144,206 of which £50,000 is designated for asset improvement.

Relationships and Principal Funding Sources

Our principle funding source remains the sale of household items directly to the public and to statutory bodies such as Leicestershire County Council, and Leicester City Council via the Leicestershire & Rutland Reuse Network as well as Charnwood District Council. The charity works in partnership with a range of local organisations many of which are referral agents to us for individuals in need. SOFA is also a member of FRN which is the national support organisation for reuse charities.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW - (Continued)

Investment policy and objectives

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, SOFA (as a charity) has the power to invest in any way the Trustees see fit. However, the Trustees of SOFA have decided not to commit funds for long term investment, and therefore the charity has no investments of this kind.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have considered the requirement for free reserves (which are those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible assets or designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed).

The Trustees have reviewed their policy but continue to consider that it is necessary to hold reserves at a level that will ensure that the operational charitable objectives can continue to be met at a time that there is much fluidity in the economic situation. Trustees still consider that our short term lease agreement and potential operating difficulties result in a need for a maintained substantial level of reserves. For example SOFA continues to hold £20,000 in reserve to cover the expected cost of lift replacement which would be necessary to ensure effective goods access to two of the three floors in our warehouse. A further £25,000 is being held for replacement of one of our vans should repair costs be uneconomic. The balance of reserves against total resources expended gives just under seven months operating costs, which is a slightly more than the Charity Commission recommendation of holding a minimum of six months operating costs.

The Trustees will reassess the reserves policy on an annual basis.

FUTURE PLANS

In the coming year we aim to:

- * Safeguard staff, volunteers and the public by maintaining Covid secure principals
- * Undertake a review of all policies and procedures
- * Explore ways of increasing the type of donations suitable for reuse
- * Look to work collaboratively with other local charities
- * Search for additional income streams to ensure the project's sustainability

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company was originally established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and governance under its Articles of Association. Revised and updated Articles of Association were adopted by special resolution of the company on 23rd January 2013. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Board of Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Board of Trustees are elected annually at the AGM by the existing members of SOFA. All members are able to nominate one trustee to the board.

The Trustees acknowledge that the recruitment, selection and subsequent induction of new Trustees is an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of SOFA. Recruitment of Trustees will be focused on those with the right skills and experience from a wide range of ages and experience and social and economic backgrounds.

Organisational structure

The Board of Trustees is elected annually by members of SOFA at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations can be put forward by any member for appointment to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees act as directors of SOFA. Our joint Chief Executive Officers are responsible for the day-to-day organisation and delivery of services.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are provided with sufficient information to ensure that they understand the charitable purposes of SOFA, the current financial position and the key current issues. New Trustees will be given the governing document, most recent accounts and recent minutes of Trustee meetings. Resources will be made available to meet training needs of Trustees.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees actively review the major risks that the charity faces and formulate a reserves policy that would enable the charity to have sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions.

The charity prepares an annual budget and strategic plan. Performance against budget is monitored by regular management reporting. A system of internal financial control is in place to govern day-to-day financial transactions.

The charity has in place appropriate policies of insurance to manage insurable risks.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 27 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

B D Granger - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOFA (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02587766)

I report to the charity's trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

TCP (GB) Group Ltd 10 The Triangle NG2 Business Park Nottingham

Nottinghamshire NG2 1AE

Date: 27 October 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	31/03/21 Unrestricted funds £	31/03/20 Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes	~	
Charitable activities			
Sale of furniture and electrical goods		105,810	239,270
Miscellaneous Income		4,395	13,531
Grants and other income		63,351	********** *
Investment income		-	No.
	r de la companya de l		0.50.001
Total		173,556	252,801
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Sale of furniture and electrical goods		149,950	206,088
Support costs		55,128 2,643	58,007 2,336
Depreciation Governance costs		4,211	4,317
			Approximate to a section of the section of
			050 540
Total		211,932	270,748

NET (EXPENDITURE)		(38,376)	(17,947)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		182,582	200,529
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		144,206	182,582

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2021

		31/03/21 Unrestricted funds	31/03/20 Total funds
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	5	9,150	11,793
CURRENT ASSETS Stocks Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	6 7	17,257 45,787 83,323	25,142 69,414 114,592
		146,367	209,148
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	8	(11,311)	(38,359)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		135,056	170,789
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILIT	TIES	144,206	178,988
NET ASSETS		144,206	182,582
FUNDS Unrestricted funds	10	144,206	182,582
TOTAL FUNDS		144,206	182,582

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 37 October 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

B D Granger -Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of donations and grants and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
- Investment income is included when receivable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising purposes.

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the professional fees and other costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly. The resources expended in the operation of the Charity's central services system and central office which cannot be directly allocated are apportioned between the expenditure categories on the basis of the estimated amount of staff time involved in each activity.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, at varying rates:

Asset	%	Basis
Fixtures and equipment	20	Straight line
Motor vehicles	25	Reducing balance

All fixed assets costing £500 and over are capitalised and initially recorded at cost.

Donated assets are brought in at their second hand market value at the date of receipt.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Board of Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Leasing commitments

All leases are regarded as operating leases and payments made under them are expended in the Statement of Financial Activities over the term of the lease

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net expenditure is stated after charging:

		31/03/21 31/03/20
		$oldsymbol{\mathfrak{t}}$
Depreciation - owned assets		2,643 2,336
Other operating leases – property rent		32,487 31,183
r		

Other operating leases is in respect of rent for the land and buildings.

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

	Trustees' expenses		31/03/21 £	31/03/20 £
4.	STAFF COSTS		31/03/21	31/03/20
	Wages and salaries Social security costs Other pension costs		£ 97,497 1,391 2,148	£ 95,613 2,265
			<u>101,036</u>	100,018
	The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows: Number of staff		31/03/21	31/03/20

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
		Fixtures and equipment	Motor vehicles	Totals £
	COST	£	£	L
	At 1 April 2020	26,946	32,245	59,191
	Additions	·	and the state of t	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	Disposals			
	At 31 March 2021	26,946	32,245	59,191
	DEPRECIATION			45.000
	At 1 April 2020 Charge for year	23,011 1,072	24,387 1,571	47,398 2,643
	Eliminated on disposal			May O'T O
	At 31 March 2021	24,083	25,958	50,041
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 March 2021	2,863	6,287	9,150
	At 31 March 2020	3,935	<u>7,858</u>	11,793
6.	STOCKS			
			31/03/21	31/03/20
	Stocks		£ 17,257	£ 25,142
7.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
			31/03/21	31/03/20
	Trade debtors		£	£
	Prepayments and accrued income		23,835 16,199	49,074 20,340
	Other debtors		5,753	20,5 10
				200000000000000000000000000000000000000
			45,787	69,414
8.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
			31/03/21	31/03/20
	A Compared to the second of th		£	£
	Trade creditors Social security and other taxes		7,142	24,361
	VAT		1,659 550	1,307 8,174
	Pension liability	1.	320	314
	Accrued expenses		1,640	4,203
			<u>11,311</u>	38,359
9.	LEASING AGREEMENTS			
	Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due a	s follows:		
			31/03/21	31/03/20
	YY'AL		£	£
	Within one year		8,487	8,043

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/20 £	let movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/03/21 £
Unrestricted funds General Fund Asset Improvement Fund Tangible Fixed Assets Fund	132,582 50,000	(38,376)		94,206 50,000
	182,582		<u></u>	144,206
TOTAL FUNDS	182,582	(38,376)		144,206

The asset improvement fund is a designated fund established by the charity to fund improvements to the charity's delivery fleet, lift maintenance and updating IT equipment to ensure that the technology within the charity reflects current practice in the workplace.

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.