

2013 Next Group Pension Plan Annual report and financial statements

Registered number 12008136

Year ended 30 September 2025

Next Pension Trustees Limited – annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

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Next Pension Trustees Limited – annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

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Trustee Directors and Advisers

Principal Employer

Next Holdings Limited
Desford Road
Enderby
Leicester
LE19 4AT

Participating Employers

Next Retail Limited
Next Distribution Limited
Next Manufacturing Limited
Lipsy Limited

All the above are registered at:

Desford Road
Enderby, Leicester
LE19 4AT

Next Sourcing Limited
14th floor, Cityplaza One
1111 King's Road
Taikoo Shing
Hong Kong

Trustee

Next Pension Trustees Limited

Directors of the Trustee

The Law Debenture Pension Trust Corporation plc
A Wilson
J Stevenson
M Hemsworth (MND)
B Kilbane (MND)
L House

Secretary to the Trustee

H Woodall- Pagan (appointed 26 September 2025)

S Anderson (resigned 26 September 2025)

Pensions Operations Manager

C Hughes

Actuary

J Ampleford FIA Lane Clark and Peacock LLP

Auditor

KPMG LLP

Investment Managers

Legal & General Investment Management Limited

Annuity Providers

JUST Retirement Limited
Pensions Insurance Corporation

Investment Consultants

Lane Clark and Peacock LLP

Banker

Barclays Bank plc

Solicitor

Gowling WLG LLP

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

Administration Office

Next Pension Trustees Limited
Desford Road
Enderby
Leicester
LE19 4AT email: pensions@next.co.uk

L&G Master Trust
Legal and General
Ground Floor
Knox Court
10 Fitzalan Place
Cardiff CF24 0EB

Enquiries

Enquiries about the Next 2013 Plan generally, or about an individual's entitlement to benefit, should be addressed to the Pensions Operations Manager at the administration office (Next Pensions Trustees Limited, Desford Road, Enderby, Leicester LE19 4AT), where a copy of the Trust Deed and Rules can be obtained upon request.

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Annual report of the Trustee

The Trustee presents its annual report on the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan ('Next 2013 Plan'), together with the financial statements of the Next 2013 Plan for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Introduction

Constitution of the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan (Next 2013 Plan)

The Next 2013 Plan is constituted as a Trust. The Trustee of the Next 2013 Plan is Next Pension Trustees Limited.

The Trustee holds Next 2013 Plan funds in the Trust to apply them for the purpose of paying pensions and other benefits in accordance with the Trust Deed and Rules.

From January 2022, the Defined Contribution Section and Money Purchase Top-up Section were transferred to Legal and General Workplace Pensions Master Trust. The Next 2013 Plan now only has members in the Defined Benefit Section.

Management of the Next 2013 Plan

The directors of the Trustee comprise of Employer Nominated Directors and Member Nominated Directors (MNDs). M Hemsworth and B Kilbane are MNDs. An MND can be an active, deferred or pensioner member of the Next 2013 Plan or a current employee of Next. An MND can only be removed from office by the other directors but will automatically be removed if the MND becomes employed by a company which is deemed a competitor of the Next Principal Employer group of companies unless all Trustee directors and the Principal employer agree to them remaining. Next Holdings Limited can remove its appointees or the Chair at any time.

The Law Debenture Pension Trust Corporation plc, represented by James Rickards, is appointed as Chair.

During the year, the Trustee held 9 full Board meetings. All decisions are taken by simple majority. The Trustee has established three committees which review detailed issues within the Next 2013 Plan; a Benefits and Administration Committee, an Audit and Risk Committee, and a Buy Out Working Group. Each Committee reports into the full Board. The Trustee has delegated the day-to-day management and operation of the Next 2013 Plan's affairs to professional organisations as set out on page 3.

Next Pension Trustees Limited is the Trustee for both the Next Group Pension Plan and the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan.

Closure to future accrual

From 31 March 2024, the Plan was closed to future accrual, after which no further member related contributions were due or received. Contributions from the employer also ceased at the same date.

Closure of the Defined benefit Section

On 25 March 2024, the Trustee and the Company formally executed the deed to effect the closure of the Defined Benefit (DB) section of the Next 2013 Plan.

Insurance contract with Pension Insurance Corporation

The Trustee entered into an annuity policy with Pension Insurance Corporation (PIC) for approximately £510 million in January 2024. This was funded by a payment of £50 million cash and the remainder was an in specie transfer of assets. Consequently the Next 2013 Plan now has two annuity policies

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

GMP Equalisation

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgment involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgment concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) benefits. The issues determined by the judgment arise in relation to many other defined benefit pension schemes.

The Trustee is working with the Company and its respective advisers to assess the adjustments to benefits (if any) required. Calculations are currently taking place but the Trustee is not yet in a position to obtain a reliable estimate of any backdated payments and related interest that might be payable.

In addition, on 20 November 2020, the High Court handed down a second judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. This latest judgement confirms that Defined Benefit (DB) schemes which provide GMPs need to revisit and where necessary top up historic Cash Equivalent Transfer Values that were calculated based on unequalised benefits. Again, the issues determined by the judgement arise in relation to many other defined benefit pension schemes. The Trustee has appointed Gallagher (previously known as Buck Consultants Limited) to assist it with considering its next steps as the Next 2013 Plan has experienced significant historical transfers out which will be subject to adjustment as a result of this second ruling.

Transfers

The Trustee adopts a scheme specific cash equivalent transfer value routine in accordance with the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Transfer Values) Regulations 1996. Transfer values reflect the returns which might be expected from holding the Next 2013 Plan's assets. Discretionary increases are allowed for in Transfer Values of RPI up to a maximum of 3.5% pa on pensions accrued before 6 April 1997 in excess of the Guaranteed Minimum Pension and pensions accrued after 5 April 2005. Where members belong to historic sections of the Next 2013 Plan with guaranteed increases to pre-1997 excess pensions, the guaranteed level is allowed for. No other discretionary practices are allowed for. Transfer values are paid in full.

Recent developments

There were no significant developments in the financial year. In June 2023, the High Court handed down a decision in the Virgin Media Ltd versus NTL Pension Trustees II Ltd, which considered the implications of section 37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993, which required that the rules of a salary-related contracted-out pension scheme cannot be altered, in relation to post April 1997 service, unless the actuary confirmed that the scheme would continue to satisfy the statutory standards. The High Court found that, where the required actuarial confirmation was not supplied, the effect of section 37 was to render the relevant amendment to any contracted-out right automatically void. It also held that references in the legislation included both past and future service rights and that the requirement for actuarial confirmation applied to all amendments to the rules of a contracted-out scheme. This decision was appealed to the Court of Appeal and, in July 2024, the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the High Court. The case has the potential to cause significant issues in the pensions industry.

On 2 September 2025, the Government published [amendments](#) to the Pension Schemes Bill to allow the retrospective validation of amendments which may have otherwise been invalid, following the Court of Appeal's decision in relation to the Virgin Media case.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Capita Cyber Incident

In late March 2023, Capita Pension Solutions Limited ("Capita") experienced a cyber-incident, whereby, cyber criminals gained unauthorised access to some of Capita's servers and exfiltrated (stole) data from these servers.

On 18 May 2023, Capita notified the Trustee that personal data for some Next 2013 Plan members had been exfiltrated during this cyber incident. Further notifications and updates continue to be received from Capita. The incident affected a majority of pensioner members and some deferred members, as well as some individuals that are no longer members of the Next 2013 Plan. The Trustee has written to all affected members, as well as complying with other regulatory obligations in terms of notifying the relevant regulators of the incident, with whom Capita has also been in regular contact. The Trustee continues to liaise closely with Capita in respect of this incident and the remedial actions Capita has and continues to take.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Financial development of the Next 2013 Plan

The Financial Statements of the Next 2013 Plan for the year ended 30 September 2025, as set out on pages 24 to 37 have been prepared and audited in accordance with Sections 41(1) and (6) of the Pensions Act 1995. A summary of the Next 2013 Plan's Financial Statements is set out in the table below.

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Member related income	-	-	-	-	360
Member related payments	(19,009)	(1)	-	(19,010)	(17,578)
Net withdrawals from dealings with members	(19,009)	(1)	-	(19,010)	(17,218)
Net returns on investments	(51,853)	-	-	(51,853)	10,312
Net increase/(decrease) in fund	(70,861)	(1)	-	(70,862)	(6,906)
Net assets at start of year	587,821	1	-	587,822	594,728
Inter scheme recharge	-	-	-	-	-
Net assets at end of year	516,960	-	-	516,960	587,822

Defined Benefit Section

During the year, member related income amounted to £nil compared to £0.4m in the prior year. Member related payments increased to £19.0m compared to £17.6m in the prior year. The net returns on investments comprised an decrease in market value of investments of £68.0m (2024: £0.9m increase). The net assets of the Defined Benefit Section amounted to £517.0m at 30 September 2025 (2024: £587.8m).

Money Purchase Top-up Section

The Money Purchase Top-up Section members transferred to the Legal & General Master Trust in January 2022.

Defined Contribution Section

The Defined Contribution Section transferred to the Legal & General Master Trust in January 2022.

Actuarial review

The Financial Statements set out on pages 24 to 37 do not take into account the liabilities to provide pension benefits which fall due after the year end. In respect of the Defined Benefit Section, these liabilities are considered by the Next 2013 Plan Actuary who carries out an actuarial valuation of such liabilities every three years. This valuation considers the funding position of the Defined Benefit Section and the level of contributions payable.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

An actuarial valuation of the Next 2013 Plan was undertaken as at 30 September 2022. The valuation was performed under the scheme specific funding requirements. The result of the valuation was that the funding level of the Next 2013 Plan had increased, on a Technical Provisions basis, to 114% compared to 98% at the previous valuation (30 September 2019).

Based on the previous 2019 valuation, the Company has made annual contributions to meet the cost of future benefit accrual as outlined in last years' Trustee Report and accounts.

Under the previous 2019 actuarial valuation, there was flexibility for the Company's advanced annual contribution for 2023 to be based on 38% p.a. of 2012 Frozen Basic Salaries for the whole of 2023, rather than reflecting the step up to 47% p.a. for the last 3 months of 2023. The 2023 Company contributions, combined with the advanced payment of the 2024 Company contributions of £5m (received in June 2023) are sufficient to fund this difference and therefore no further Company contributions are required to fund this step up in rate in 2023.

The 2022 valuation resulted in the actuary recommending that the Company should pay regular contributions to the Next 2013 Plan at the rate of 26.8% of members' Frozen Basic Salary at 31 October 2012 from 1 January 2024 (which was advance paid in June 2023 as noted above). Following the closure of future accrual on 31 March 2024 no further Company contributions were due.

The assumptions used by the Trustee for the 30 September 2022 valuation were:

Pay increases for pension purposes	NIL
Pension increases in respect of pre April 1997 excess over GMP	NIL
Discount rate to 30 September 2027	4.09% pa
Discount rate from 1 October 2027	3.94% pa
Mortality improvements	SAPS Series 3 All Pensioners Table with CMI 2022 projecting with a s-Kappa 7.0 and 1.75% pa long term trend
Allowance for commutation on retirement	20% of pension

The formal actuarial certificate required by statute to be included in this Annual Report from the Next 2013 Plan Actuary appears on page 42. In addition, as required by FRS 102, the Trustee has included the Report on Actuarial Liabilities on page 40, which forms part of the report of the Trustee.

The next triennial actuarial valuation is due as at 30 September 2025 and is currently underway.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Membership

The membership of the Next 2013 Plan at the beginning and end of the year and changes during the year are set out below.

Pensioner members	
	Defined Benefit Section
Pensioners at 1 October 2024	1,698
Prior year adjustments	17
New pensioners in year resulting from:	
■ Deferred to pensioner	138
■ New dependants	13
Cessation of benefits:	
■ Deaths	(19)
■ Lump sum payments	(2)
In payment at 30 September 2025	1,845

Undecided members	
	Defined Benefit Section
Undecided members at 1 October 2024	9
At 30 September 2025	9

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Deferred members	
	Defined Benefit Section
Deferred pensioners at 1 October 2024	2,680
Prior year adjustments	(5)
Cessation of deferred pensions resulting from:	
■ Deaths	(5)
■ Retirements	(138)
■ Deferred Pensioners transferring benefits	(2)
At 30 September 2025	2,530

As at 30 September 2025, total membership of the Defined Benefit Section was 4,384. Included within the DB section are 1,845 pensioners and dependants whose benefits are provided by annuities (2024: 1,698).

Defined Benefit Section undecided members are leavers pre 2003 who left with an entitlement to a refund which is yet to be claimed.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Pension increases

Pension increases in respect of pensionable service before 6 April 1997 are discretionary and, apart from Alfred Preedy & Son and Combined English Stores whose pensions carry an element of guarantee, are not guaranteed under the rules of the Next 2013 Plan. However, pensions earned in respect of pensionable service since 6 April 1997 are subject to guaranteed increases once in payment. The Rules of the Next 2013 Plan were amended from 5 April 2005 so that in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004, defined benefit pensions which relate to pensionable service after 5 April 1997 will be guaranteed to increase when in payment in line with the annual Retail Prices Index (RPI) to the September prior to the increase being awarded, up to a maximum in any year of:

- 5.0% for pensionable service after 5 April 1997 and before 6 April 2005.
- 2.5% for pensionable service after 5 April 2005.

Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) form part of a member's pension once the pensioner attains age 60 (for a woman) or 65 (for a man) and represent the equivalent of the pension foregone in the former State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) as a result of the Next 2013 Plan being contracted-out of SERPS. Once in payment, GMPs in respect of pensionable service prior to 6 April 1988 are not subject to any increase via the Next 2013 Plan but are protected against increases in inflation by additional payments to the member's state pension. GMPs accrued between 6 April 1988 and 5 April 1997 have a limited guarantee within the Next 2013 Plan; the first 3.0% increase in inflation must be paid by the Next 2013 Plan. The Trustee can award discretionary increases above any of these guarantees. In July 2010, the government announced that the inflationary measure for all state benefits and GMP revaluation within occupational pension schemes would change from RPI to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

In October 2024, the Trustee met to consider the increases to be applied to defined benefit pensions in payment with effect from 1 December 2023. The Trustee determined that a discretionary increase of 2.7% would be applied for all tranches of non GMP pension. All legislative increases were made as required.

Deferred pensions have been increased in line with statutory requirements (CPI) this year.

All increases were in accordance with the Trust Deed and Rules of the Next 2013 Plan or legislative requirements.

Custody

Investment managers appointed by the Trustee have their own custody arrangements in place. Each custodian is responsible for the safe-keeping of share documentation relating to the ownership of listed investments. The Trustee is responsible for ensuring that the Next 2013 Plan's assets continue to be held securely.

Investment management

The Trustee sets the investment strategy for the Next 2013 Plan after taking advice from their investment consultant. The Trustee has put in place investment mandates with its investment managers which implement this strategy. These investment managers are third-party appointments chosen following advice from the Trustee's investment consultant.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

In accordance with section 35 of the Pensions Act 1995, a Statement of Investment Principles ("SIP") has been produced by the Trustee following consultation with the Employer. The SIP was last reviewed and updated in March 2024. The Trustee reviews the SIP at least once every three years, and after any significant change in investment strategy. A copy of the latest SIP and any addendum is available online at <http://www.nextpensionscheme.co.uk/>.

The overriding objective of the Trustee is for the Next 2013 Plan to provide sufficient returns from current and future investments to secure Next 2013 Plan benefits as set out in the Deed and Rules. As a consequence, investments are selected, retained and realised in accordance with the Trustee's investment strategy, as advised to the investment managers, on the basis of financially material considerations in order to achieve this overall objective. The Trustee ensures that investment managers have appropriate knowledge and experience to undertake the management of the Next 2013 Plan portfolio. The Trustee recognises that over the time horizon of the Next 2013 Plan, ESG factors including climate change could impact investment performance.

The Trustee has considered the extent to which non-financial matters, including ESG factors, should be taken into account in the selection, retention and realisation of investments. As noted above, the Trustee believes that its overriding responsibility is to act in the best financial interests of the Next 2013 Plan members and, accordingly, it does not propose to develop any specific policies considering non-financial matters in setting the investment policy.

The Trustee has limited influence over managers' investment practices because all of the Next 2013 Plan's assets are held in pooled funds, but it encourages its managers to improve their practices where appropriate.

The Trustee's view is that the fees paid to the investment managers, and the possibility of their mandate being terminated, ensure they are incentivised to provide a high-quality service that meets the stated objectives, guidelines and restrictions of the fund. However, in practice, managers cannot fully align their strategy and decisions to the (potentially conflicting) policies of all their pooled fund investors in relation to strategy, long-term performance of debt/equity issuers, engagement and portfolio turnover.

The main investment objective of the Defined Benefit Section is to maintain a portfolio of suitable assets of appropriate liquidity which will generate investment returns to meet the benefits of the Defined Benefit Section payable under the Trust Deed and Rules as they fall due. A further objective is that the Next 2013 Plan's funding position (i.e. the value of the assets relative to the assessed value of the liabilities) should remain at an appropriate level.

The Trustee has set the investment strategy for the Defined Benefit Section taking into account considerations such as the strength of the Employer covenant, the duration of liabilities and the funding agreed with the Employer. The investment strategy is set out in its Statement of Investment Principles (SIP) dated March 2024.

The investment objectives of the Next 2013 Plan are set by the Trustee, in consultation with the Employer. Within the context of these risk and return objectives, the Trustee, taking advice from the Plan's investment consultants, decides on the overall allocation of assets between various asset classes, and selects the appropriate managers within each asset class. The strategic allocation as at 30 September 2023 was as follows: 10% for global equity, 7% listed infrastructure, and 83% for bonds and gilts. These are classified into categories referred to as growth assets and matching assets. The Trustee de-risked the investment strategy over the 12 months to 30 September 2023, removing the strategic allocation to property and equity-linked bonds whilst increasing the allocation to gilts and corporate bonds. The Trustee has submitted a redemption instruction in relation to the abrdn Long Lease Property Fund, and this was redeemed in full on 12 January 2024.

The Next 2013 Plan entered into a bulk annuity contract (also known as a buy-in) with JUST Retirement Limited in 2018.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

In January 2024, the Next 2013 Plan entered into a second bulk annuity contract with PIC, which covers the remaining benefits payable to all the Next 2013 Plan's members. The objective of JUST Retirement and PIC policies is to match the Next 2013 Plan's benefit payments relating to those pensions covered by the terms of the policies.

The annuity policies are "buy-ins" and therefore remain assets of the Next 2013 Plan. Holding these policies reduces the Next 2013 Plan's exposure to interest rate, inflation and longevity risks thereby protecting the long-term financial security of members' benefits.

Details of the Investment managers

In January 2024, the Next 2013 Plan entered into a second bulk annuity contract with PIC. This annuity contract insures the remaining members of the Plan and follows a previous bulk annuity contract secured with JUST. Ahead of securing the annuity contract the Plan de-risked its investment strategy. The purchase of the annuity contract with PIC was funded by an in-specie transfer of gilts and transfer of cash (cash previously received from disinvesting the Plan's other invested assets). Following the transaction, the Plan's remaining invested assets other than the two annuity policies are held in gilt funds and the L&G Sterling Liquidity Fund, with the investment in the gilt funds occurring on 1 May 2024.

Legal & General – Sterling Liquidity Fund and gilts

The Trustee has entered into an insurance policy with Legal & General Assurance (Pensions Management) Limited to manage the Next 2013 Plan's assets. Investment management of these assets is delegated to Legal & General Investment Management. The insurance policy sets out details of the terms under which the Next 2013 Plan's assets are managed.

The Next 2013 Plan holds part of the non-insured invested assets in the L&G Sterling Liquidity Fund and part in fixed and index-linked gilts funds. The assets in the fixed and index-linked gilts funds are held with an aim to match the potential additional liabilities that may be secured with the buy-in provider PIC.

The L&G Sterling Liquidity Fund is a pooled fund invested in very high quality, liquid money market instruments and deposits to achieve a short-term cash return in line with money market rates.

Legal & General is responsible for custody of the assets of the fund. Responsibility is delegated to HSBC for the corporate bond and gilt funds and to Citibank for the global equity funds. The Trustee does not have a direct relationship with the custodians.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Actual allocations at the year-end are shown below:

	2025	2024
	%	%
Matching Assets	100	100
	100	100

The nature and disposition of the investments are set out below, together with the actual allocation of investments at 30 September 2025, with pooled investment vehicles analysed by underlying economic exposure.

Asset Class	Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other	Total	%
	£000	£000	£000	
Matching Assets:				
■ Gilts	21,225	-	21,225	54.3
■ Other – Cash	17,883	-	17,883	45.7
■ AVCs *	-	1	1	-
Total	39,108	1	39,109	100

* legacy AVC fund held with Santander in relation to one member of the Alfred Preedy Pension Scheme.

Excludes investments relating to the JUST Retirement Limited Buy-in and Pension Insurance Corporation plc, see note 10.

The Pooled Investment Vehicles (PIVs) managed by Legal & General Investment Management Limited (L&G) are priced and traded weekly. Any withdrawals from the PIV are made in line with the disinvestment policy.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

1. Investment performance

The performance of the investment managers is reviewed periodically at the Trustee's meetings.

The following table shows the performance of the Next 2013 Plan's invested assets (excluding Trustee bank account and buy-in insurance policies) over the one, three and five year periods to 30 September 2025, based on the performance of the investment managers, after the deduction of fees.

	One year (%)	Three years (% pa)	Five years (% pa)
2013 Next Plan	-2.3	-0.8	-5.0
Benchmark	-2.3	-0.8	-5.0

Investment Principles

The Trustee has established and practised the following investment principles over the reporting year. These principles are set out in the Next 2013 Plan's SIP. There were no departures from the SIP over the year.

Trustee's policies in relation to voting rights

The Trustee recognises its responsibilities as owners of capital and believes that good stewardship practices, including monitoring, engaging with investee companies, and exercising voting rights attaching to investments, protect and enhance the long-term value of investments. The Next 2013 Plan's only investments are buy-in policies, gilts funds and a cash fund. Therefore, there are no voting rights.

Trustee's policies on environmental, social and governance ("ESG") and ethical factors

The Trustee has considered how ESG considerations (including but not limited to climate change) should be addressed in the selection, retention, and realisation of investments, given the time horizon of the Next 2013 Plan and its members.

The Trustee influences the Next 2013 Plan's approach to ESG and other financially material factors through its investment strategy and manager selection decisions. The Trustee expects its investment managers to take account of financially material factors (including climate change and other ESG factors) within the parameters of the mandates they have agreed with the Trustee. The Trustee seeks to appoint managers that have the skills and processes to do this, and periodically review how the managers are taking account of these issues in practice.

Whilst the Trustee notes that it has limited influence over managers' investment practices where assets are held in pooled funds, it encourages managers to improve their practices within the parameters of the fund. Within each asset class, the Trustee considered investment options that give increased weight to ESG factors. The Trustee has chosen to invest part of the equity allocation in a passively managed fund that tracks a market index of equity stocks with reduced exposure to climate-related risks and increased exposure to climate-related opportunities.

The Trustee does not explicitly consider any non-financial matters (i.e. matters relating to the ethical and other views of members and beneficiaries, rather than considerations of financial risk and return) in the selection, retention, and realisation of investments.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Trustee's policy on the implementation of asset manager arrangements

Before investing in any manner, the Trustee obtains and considers proper written advice from its investment adviser as to whether the investment is satisfactory, having regard to the need for suitable and appropriately diversified investments.

The Trustee has signed agreements with the bulk annuity providers setting out the terms on which they will meet member benefits as they fall due. The Trustee has limited influence on the bulk annuity providers' underlying investment practices, but it encourages them to improve their practices where appropriate.

The Trustee has limited influence over L&G's investment practices because all of the Next 2013 Plan's non-insured assets are held in pooled funds, alongside other pension-scheme investors. However, the Trustee encourages L&G to improve its practices within the parameters of the funds it is managing.

The Trustee's view is that the fees paid to L&G, and the possibility of the mandate being terminated, ensure they are incentivised to provide a high-quality service that meets the stated objectives and guidelines of their funds. However, in practice managers cannot fully align their strategy and decisions to the (potentially conflicting) policies of all their pooled fund investors in relation to strategy, long-term performance of debt/equity issuers, engagement, and portfolio turnover.

It is the Trustee's responsibility to ensure its managers' investment approaches are consistent with its own policies before any new appointment and to monitor, and consider terminating, any arrangements that are investing contrary to those policies. The Trustee expects investment managers to make decisions based on appropriate time periods for each mandate, and to engage with issuers of debt or equity to improve their performance (or where this is not appropriate to explain why).

The Trustee evaluates investment manager performance over both shorter and longer-term periods as available. The duration of a manager's appointment will depend on strategic considerations and the outlook for future performance. The Trustee's policy is to evaluate investments by considering performance, the role of the investment in helping to meet the Plan's overall long-term objectives, taking account of risk, the need for diversification and liquidity and value for money.

The Trustee recognises that portfolio turnover and associated transaction costs are a necessary part of investment management. Since the impact of these costs is reflected in the manager-reported performance figures for the investments, the Trustee does not explicitly monitor portfolio turnover. The Trustee expects its investment consultant to incorporate portfolio turnover and resulting transaction costs as appropriate in its advice.

The Trustee's policy is to evaluate the Next 2013 Plan's investment managers by considering performance, the role it plays in helping to meet the Next 2013 Plan's overall long-term objectives, taking account of risk, the need for diversification and liquidity and value for money.

The Trustee recognises that portfolio turnover and associated transaction costs are a necessary part of investment management. Since the impact of these costs is reflected in performance figures used in our assessment of the investment managers, the Trustee does not explicitly monitor portfolio turnover. The Trustee expects its investment consultant to incorporate portfolio turnover and resulting transaction costs as appropriate in its advice on the Next 2013 Plan's investment mandates.

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Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs)

The Next 2013 Plan provided for members to pay Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) to increase their benefit entitlement at retirement. AVCs for the Defined Benefit Section are invested separately held with Legal and General Investment Management.

Investment management

The overall management of the Trustee's investments is the responsibility of the Trustee. However, the day-to-day management of the Next 2013 Plan's asset portfolio is the responsibility of the investment managers, who operate within the guidelines of their specific mandates.

Arrangements with investment managers

In broad terms, the investment managers are responsible for:

- managing their respective portfolios, within the guidelines agreed with the Trustee;
- providing the Trustee with regular information concerning the management and performance of its respective portfolios; and
- having regard to the provisions of Section 36 of the Act insofar as it is necessary to do so.

The Next 2013 Plan uses LCP to implement its investment policies. The Trustee ensures that, in aggregate, its portfolio is consistent with the policies set out in this Statement, in particular those required under regulation 2(3)(b) of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations (2005).

The Trustee will also ensure that the investment objectives and guidelines of any particular pooled vehicle are consistent with its policies, where relevant to the mandate in question. These considerations also apply in the appointment process of new investment managers and arrangements.

To maintain alignment, Investment managers are provided with the most recent version of this Statement of Investment Principles on a regular basis to ensure managers are aware of the Trustee's expectations regarding how the Next 2013 Plan's assets are being managed.

Should the Trustee's monitoring process reveal that an investment manager's fund is not aligned with the Trustee's policies, the Trustee will engage with the investment manager to ascertain the reasons for this and whether closer alignment can be achieved. This monitoring process includes, but is not limited to, specific consideration of the sustainable investment/ESG characteristics of the fund and the investment manager's engagement activities. If, following engagement, it is the view of the Trustee that the degree of alignment remains unsatisfactory, the Trustee may consider alternative options available in order to consider terminating and replacing the investment manager.

For most of the Next 2013 Plan's investment funds, the Trustee expects the investment managers to invest with a medium to long time horizon, and to use their engagement activity to drive improved performance over these periods. The Trustee may select certain investment funds where such engagement is not deemed appropriate, due to the nature of the strategy and/or the investment time horizon underlying decision making.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Annual report of the Trustee (continued)

The Trustee appoints its investment managers with an expectation of a long-term partnership, which encourages active ownership of the Next 2013 Plan's assets. When assessing an investment manager's performance, the focus is on longer-term outcomes, and the Trustee would not expect to terminate an investment manager's appointment based purely on short term performance. However, an investment manager's appointment could be terminated within a shorter timeframe due to other factors such as a significant change in business structure or the investment team.

Self-investment

At 30 September 2025 the Next 2013 Plan had no investment in Next plc via investments held (2024: nil). This complies with the 5% investment in own shares limit as prescribed by UK regulation

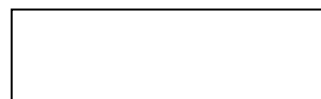
Implementation statement

The Implementation Statement has been included as Appendix 1 and forms part of this report.

The Trustee's report including the Implementation Statement in Appendix 1 is approved by the Trustee and signed for and on behalf of the Trustee of the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan.



J Stevenson



L House

On behalf of Next Pension Trustees Ltd

18 March 2026

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The audited financial statements, which are to be prepared in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP), including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*, are the responsibility of the Trustee. Pension scheme regulations require the Trustee to make available to Next 2013 Plan members, beneficiaries and certain other parties, audited financial statements for each Next 2013 Plan year which:

(i) show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Next 2013 Plan during the Next 2013 Plan year ended 30 September 2025 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the Next 2013 Plan year;

and

(ii) contain the information specified in the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, including a statement whether the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice *Financial Reports of Pension Schemes*.

The Trustee has supervised the preparation of the financial statements and have agreed suitable accounting policies, to be applied consistently, making estimates and judgements on a reasonable and prudent basis. They are also responsible for:

- assessing the Next 2013 Plan's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to wind up the Next 2013 Plan's, or have no realistic alternative but to do so; and
- making available each year, commonly in the form of a Trustee's annual report, information about the Next 2013 Plan's prescribed by pensions legislation, which they should ensure is fair and impartial.

The Trustee also has certain responsibilities in respect of contributions which are set out in the Statement of Trustee Responsibilities accompanying the Trustee's summary of contributions.

The Trustee is responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have a general responsibility for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Next 2013 Plan and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Next 2013 Plan and financial information included on the Plan's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025



Independent Auditor's report to the Trustee of the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of 2013 Next Group Pension Plan ("the Next 2013 Plan") for the year ended 30 September 2025 which comprise the Fund Account and the Statement of Net Assets (available for benefits) and related notes, including the accounting policies in Note 4.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- show a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Next 2013 Plan during the Next 2013 Plan year ended 30 September 2025 and of the amount and disposition at that date of its assets and liabilities, other than liabilities to pay pensions and benefits after the end of the Next 2013 Plan year;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*; and
- contain the information specified in Regulation 3A of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, made under the Pensions Act 1995.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Next 2013 Plan in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

The Trustee has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to wind up the Next 2013 Plan and as they have concluded that the Next 2013 Plan's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Trustee's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Next 2013 Plan and analysed how those risks might affect the Next 2013 Plan's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
- we have not identified, and concur with the Trustee's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Next 2013 Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Next 2013 Plan will continue in operation.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud (“fraud risks”) we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of the Trustee, as to the Next 2013 Plan’s high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, as well as enquiring whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Reading Trustee’s minutes.

We remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, our overall knowledge of the control environment, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that Trustee or Next 2013 Plan administrator may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries and the risk of bias in accounting estimates. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because revenue in a pension scheme relates to contributions receivable as paid under an agreed schedule or pre-determined by the Trustee; there are no subjective issues or judgements required.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation and unusual entries to cash. These included those posted after the first draft of the financial statements have been prepared.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience and through discussion with the Trustee and Next 2013 Plan administrator (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the Trustee and Next 2013 Plan administrator the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

As the Next 2013 Plan is regulated by The Pensions Regulator, our assessment of risks involved gaining an understanding of the control environment including the Next 2013 Plan’s procedures for complying with regulatory requirements and reading the minutes of Trustee’s meetings.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the Next 2013 Plan is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related pensions legislation) and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Secondly, the Next 2013 Plan is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation, or the loss of the Next 2013 Plan's registration. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: pension's legislation data protection legislation, and, recognising the financial and regulated nature of the Next 2013 Plan's activities and its legal form. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustee and their delegates and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

We have reported separately on contributions payable under the Schedule of Contributions in our statement about contributions on page 38 of the financial statements.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Trustee is responsible for the other information, which comprises the Trustee's report and the actuarial certification of the schedule of contributions. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon in this report.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on this work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Trustee's responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 19, the Next 2013 Plan Trustee is responsible for: supervising the preparation of financial statements which show a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the Next 2013 Plan'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 they either intend to wind up the Next 2013 Plan, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

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 our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Next 2013 Plan Trustee in accordance with the Pensions Act 1995 and Regulations made thereunder. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Plan Trustee those matters we are required to state to it 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 Plan Trustee for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Iryndeeep Kaur-Delay
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
15 Canada Square
London
E14 5GL

18 March 2026

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Fund account

For the year ended 30 September 2025						
	Notes	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up section	Defined Contribution Section	Total	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Contributions and benefits						
Employer normal	5	-	-	-	-	326
Employee normal	5	-	-	-	-	34
		-	-	-	-	360
Benefits payable	6	(14,945)	-	-	(14,945)	(14,924)
Payments to and on account of leavers	7	(1,179)	(1)	-	(1,180)	(170)
Administrative expenses		(2,885)	-	-	(2,885)	(2,484)
		(19,009)	(1)	-	(19,010)	(17,578)
Net withdrawals from dealings with members		(19,010)	-	-	(19,010)	(17,218)
Returns on investments						
Annuity Income	8	15,954	-	-	15,954	9,485
Transfers in	20	242	-	-	242	-
Change in market value of investments	12	(68,041)	-	-	(68,041)	928
Investment management expenses		(8)	-	-	(8)	(101)
Net returns on investments		(51,853)	-	-	(51,853)	10,312
Net assets at 1 October 2024		587,821	1	-	587,822	594,728
Net increase / (decrease) in the fund during the year		(70,861)	(1)	-	(70,862)	(6,906)
Net assets at 30 September 2025		516,960	-	-	516,960	587,822

The notes on pages 26 to 37 form part of these Financial Statements.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Statement of Net Assets (available for benefits)

At 30 September 2025						
	Notes	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up section	Defined Contribution Section	Total	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Investment Assets:						
Pooled Investment Vehicles	10	39,109	-	-	39,109	43,450
Annuity policies	12	475,000	-	-	475,000	542,000
Total investments	12	514,109	-	-	514,109	585,450
Current assets	16	4,851	-	3	4,854	3,669
Current liabilities	16	(2,000)	-	(3)	(2,003)	(1,297)
Net assets at 30 September		516,960	-	-	516,960	587,822

The Financial Statements summarise the transactions of the Next 2013 Plan and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Trustee. They do not take account of obligations to pay pensions and benefits which fall due after the end of the Next 2013 Plan year. The actuarial position of the Defined Benefit Section, which does take account of such obligations, is dealt with in the Report on Actuarial Liabilities included on page 40 and these Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with that Report.

J Stevenson

L House

On behalf of Next Pension Trustees Ltd

18 March 2026

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (forming part of the Financial Statements)

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Occupational Pension Schemes (Requirement to obtain Audited Accounts and a Statement from the Auditor) Regulations 1996, Financial Reporting Standard 102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the guidance set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (Revised 2018).

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, which the Trustee believes to be appropriate as they believe that the Next 2013 Plan has adequate resources to meet obligations as they fall due for at least the next twelve months from the approval of these financial statements. In reaching this conclusion, the Trustee considered the impact of the current economic conditions on the Next 2013 Plan and on Principal Employer Next Limited. Following this assessment, the Trustee concluded it was appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The Trustee and the Company are currently in discussions regarding the possible further wind-up and buy-out of the Next 2013 Plan. However, no decision has been made at this stage.

2. Identification of the financial statements

The Next 2013 Plan is established as a trust under English law. The address for enquiries to the Next 2013 Plan is included in the Trustee's Report.

3. Valuation of Annuity policies

Buy-in annuity policies purchased in the name of the Trustee which fully provide the pension benefits for certain members are included in these financial statements at the amount of the related obligation, on a basis consistent with the Next 2013 Plan's Technical Provisions as at the Net Asset date. The annuity policies valuation has been calculated by the Next 2013 Plan Actuary and the policies are insured by JUST Retirement and PIC.

4. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies of the Next 2013 Plan are as follows:

- a) Investments
 - i. Investments are included at fair value.
 - ii. The Next 2013 Plan's functional and presentation currency is pounds Sterling.
 - iii. Pooled investment vehicles are stated at bid price for funds with bid/offer spreads, or single price where there are no bid/offer spreads as provided by the investment manager.
 - iv. Refer to note 3 for valuation of annuity policies.
- b) Investment income
 - i. Interest is accrued on a daily basis.
 - ii. Income from the Annuity Policies with JUST Retirement Limited and PIC is shown within Annuity Income, under Return on Investments.
 - iii. Investment income arising from the underlying investments of the Pooled Investment Vehicles is rolled up and reinvested within the Pooled Investment Vehicles. This is reflected in the unit price and reported within 'Change in Market Value'.
- c) Contributions
 - i. Employer additional contributions are accounted for in accordance with the agreement under which they are being paid.
 - ii. Employee normal contributions were accounted for when deducted from pay.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

- iii. Any Employer deficit repair contributions were accounted for on the due dates on which they are payable in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions.
- d) Payments to members
 - i. Benefits are accounted for in the period in which they fall due for payment. Where there is a choice, benefits are accounted for in the period in which the member notifies the Trustee of his/her decision on the type or amount of benefit to be taken or, if there is no member choice, they are accounted for on the date of retirement or leaving.
 - ii. Individual transfers out are accounted for when paid which is normally when member liability is discharged.
 - iii. Refunds are accounted for when paid.
 - iv. Group transfers are accounted for in accordance with the terms of the transfer agreement.
- e) Expenses
 - i. Expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. The Next 2013 Plan bears all the costs of administration.

5. Contributions receivable

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2025 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employer normal*	-	-	-	-
Employee normal	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2024 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employer normal*	326	-	-	326
Employee normal	34	-	-	34
	360	-	-	360

*Salary sacrifice contributions are included within Employer normal contributions. Employer normal contributions ceased with effect from 31 March 2024.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

6. Benefits payable

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2025 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pensions	10,099	-	-	10,099
Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	4,751	-	-	4,751
Lump sum death benefits	95	-	-	95
	14,945	-	-	14,945

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2024 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pensions	9,017	-	-	9,017
Commutations and lump sum retirement benefits	5,817	-	-	5,817
Lump sum death benefits	90	-	-	90
	14,924	-	-	14,924

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

7. Payments to and on account of leavers

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2025 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pension sharing orders	-	-	-	-
Individual transfers out to other schemes	1,179	1	-	1,180
	1,179	1	-	1,180

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2024 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pension sharing orders	(1)	-	-	(1)
Individual transfers out to other schemes	171	-	-	171
	170	-	-	170

8. Annuity income

	2025	2024
Defined Benefit Section	£'000	£'000
Annuity Income – JUST	3,544	3,511
Annuity Income – PIC	12,384	5,861
Interest on cash deposits	26	113
	15,954	9,485

9. Tax

The Next 2013 Plan is a registered pension scheme for tax purposes under the Finance Act 2004. It is therefore exempt from taxation except for certain withholding taxes relating to overseas investment income. Tax charges are accrued on the same basis as the investment income to which they relate.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

10. Pooled Investment Vehicles (PIVs)

Defined Benefit Section

The Defined Benefit Section holdings of PIVs are analysed below:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Fixed Interest	21,226	23,171
Cash	17,883	20,279
	39,109	43,450

There are no direct transaction costs for PIVs, all costs are incurred through the bid offer spread on investments within PIVs and are included in the above values.

11. Insurance policies - annuities

The JUST Retirement Limited (JUST) buy-in was purchased in August 2018. The purchase price of the buy-in was £94,214,491. The change in the valuation over the period to 30 September 2025 reflects the decrease in JUST's liability to the Next 2013 Plan as a result of pensioner member deaths during the period and the impact of inflation assumptions, basis changes and financial conditions as at 30 September 2025. The valuation has been prepared on a Technical Provisions basis, in accordance with the Pensions Research Accountants Group (PRAG) guidelines for buy-in valuations. The market value as at 30 September 2025 reflects the remaining liability for the pensions secured by the policy in August 2018. The change in the value of the policy does not affect the ability to pay future pensions to Next 2013 Plan pensioners.

In January 2024, the Next 2013 Plan entered into a second bulk annuity contract with the Pensions Insurance Corporation (PIC). This annuity contract insures the remaining members of the Next 2013 Plan and adds to the JUST bulk annuity contract discussed above.

Income from the Annuity Policy with JUST and PIC is shown within Annuity Income, under Return on Investments.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

12. Investment reconciliation

Reconciliation of investments held at the beginning and the end of the year.

Defined Benefit Section

	Value at 1 Oct 2024	Purchases at cost	Sales Proceeds	Change in market value	Value at 30 Sep 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Pooled Investment Vehicles	43,450	-	(3,300)	(1,041)	39,109
Insurance policies – Annuities – JUST	58,000	-	-	(6,000)	52,000
Insurance policies – Annuities – PIC	484,000	-	-	(61,000)	423,000
Net investment assets	585,450	-	(3,300)	(68,041)	514,109

The change in market value of investments during the year comprises all increases and decreases in the market value of investments held at any time during the year, including profits and losses realised on sales of investments during the year.

13. Transaction costs

Included within the Defined Benefit Section purchases and sales are direct transaction costs of nil (2023: £nil) comprising fees, commissions and other transaction costs.

Transaction costs are also borne by the Next 2013 Plan in relation to transactions in Pooled Investment Vehicles. Such costs are taken into account in calculating the bid/offer spread of these investments and are not separately reported.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

14. Investment Fair Value Hierarchy

The Next 2013 Plan's non-insured invested assets (excluding buy-in policies and Trustee bank account) are held in pooled funds and all can be classified as "Level 2" according to the fair value hierarchy above.

The fair value of financial instruments has been estimated using the following fair value hierarchy.

- Level 1: the unadjusted quoted price in an active market for identical assets or liabilities which the entity can access at the assessment date;
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 which are observable (i.e. developed for the asset either directly or indirectly);
- Level 3: inputs which are unobservable (i.e. for which market data is unavailable) for the asset.

Next 2013 Plan's invested assets have been fair valued using the above hierarchy levels as follows:

	Level (1)	Level (2)	Level (3)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 30 September 2025				
Defined Benefit Section				
Pooled Investment Vehicles	-	39,109	-	39,109
Insurance policies – annuities – JUST	-	-	52,000	52,000
Insurance policies – annuities – PIC	-	-	423,000	423,000
	-	39,109	475,000	514,109

	Level (1)	Level (2)	Level (3)	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 30 September 2024				
Defined Benefit Section				
Pooled Investment Vehicles	-	43,450	-	43,450
Insurance policies – annuities - JUST	-	-	58,000	58,000
Insurance policies – annuities – PIC	-	-	484,000	484,000
	-	43,450	542,000	585,450

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

15. Investment risks

When deciding how to invest the Next 2013 Plan's assets, the Trustee considers a range of risks, including credit risk and market risk, as defined below.

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

Market risk: this comprises currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk, defined as follows:

- Currency risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.
- Interest rate risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in real interest rates due to market interest rates or expected inflation rates.
- Other price risk: this is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial asset will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.
- There are no significant asset exposures to credit and market risks in the Next 2013 Plan, with the exception of exposure to the credit risk of the insurers. This risk is also mitigated by the regulatory environment in which the insurers operate and the diversification of the policies' underlying assets (which is managed by the insurers).

The following table shows the Next 2013 Plan's exposure to market risks from the residual non-insured assets. The asset values shown in the table are as at 30 September 2025 and use the bid price where available. Figures may not sum due to rounding. This excludes the buy-in policies as well as cash held in the Trustee bank account.

Fund	Credit risk	Currency risk	Interest rate risk	Other price risk	30 Sept 2025 £m
L&G Over 15 Year Index-Linked Gilts Index	○	○	●	○	10.2
L&G All Stocks Index-Linked Gilts Fund	○	○	●	○	11.0
L&G Sterling Liquidity	○	○	○	○	17.9
Total					39.1

Key: The risk noted affects the fund significantly (●), or hardly / not at all (○).

Further information on these risks and the Trustee's approach to risk management is set out below.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Notes (continued)

Further information on these risks and the Trustee's approach to risk management is set out below.

Credit risk

The Next 2013 Plan is indirectly exposed to credit risks arising from the underlying investments held by the pooled funds. However, there is no material credit risk associated with the residual Plan assets held with L&G, since these are invested in gilts funds (backed by the UK government) and a money market liquidity fund (which is invested in low risk short term deposits and other money market investments).

The Next 2013 Plan is also subject to direct credit risk through its investments in L&G pooled funds, in relation to the solvency of the custodian of the pooled funds. The role of a custodian is to ensure the safekeeping of the assets and facilitate all transactions entered into by the appointed investment managers. The Trustee is not responsible for the appointment of the pooled funds' custodian. The governing body of each pooled fund is responsible for appointing the custodian for that pooled fund, and for the safekeeping, monitoring and reconciliation of documentation relating to the assets held in the pooled fund.

Direct credit risk arising from pooled funds is mitigated by the underlying assets of the pooled arrangements being ring-fenced from the assets of the custodian and the investment manager, and by the regulatory environments to which the pooled funds are subject.

Currency risk

As the Next 2013 Plan's liabilities are denominated in Sterling, any non-Sterling currency exposure within the assets presents additional currency risk. The Plan's assets are not subject to any direct currency risk as none of the Plan's investments are held in overseas markets.

Interest rate risk

The Next 2013 Plan is only exposed to material interest rate risk through the assets invested in the gilts funds. However, the interest rate exposure of the gilts funds should hedge part of the corresponding risks associated with the Plan's estimated residual non-insured liabilities. Therefore, the Trustee believes that it is appropriate to have exposure to interest rate risk in this manner

Other price risk

Given the Next 2013 Plan's non-insured assets are invested in gilts and liquidity funds, other price risks are small.

The buy-in policies are also exposed to other price risk in respect of changes in inflation which impact the buy-in policy value

Legal Types of pooled investment funds

The pooled funds in which the Plan's assets are invested are all unit-linked insurance contracts.

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Notes (continued)

Legal types of pooled investment funds

A summary of the type of pooled investment vehicle arrangements is as follows:

Fund	Fund vehicle
L&G Over 15 Year Index-Linked Gilts Index	Unit-linked insurance contract
L&G All Stocks Index-Linked Gilts Fund	Unit-linked insurance contract
L&G Sterling Liquidity Fund	Unit-linked insurance contract

Employer related investments

As at 30 September 2025 there was no Employer-related investments in the Next 2013 Plan, within the meaning of Section 40(2) of the Pensions Act 1995 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005.

Concentration of investments

The following investments represent >5% of total net assets:

	2025	2025	2024	2024
	%	£	%	£
JUST Retirement Buy In	10.1	52,000,000	9.9	58,000,000
Pension Insurance Corporation plc	81.8	423,000,000	82.3	484,000,000

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Notes (continued)

16. Current Assets and Liabilities

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2025 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash	4,795	-	3	4,798
Prepayments	56	-	-	56
	4,851	-	3	4,854
Less sundry creditors	(2,000)	-	(4)	(2,004)
	2,851	-	(1)	2,850

	Defined Benefit Section	Money Purchase Top-up Section	Defined Contribution Section	2024 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash	3,613	1	3	3,617
Contributions due	52	-	-	52
	3,665	1	3	3,669
Less sundry creditors	(1,294)	-	(3)	(1,297)
	2,371	1	-	2,372

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Notes (continued)

17. Related party transactions

Next Pension Trustees Limited is the Trustee for both the Next Group Pension Plan and the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan.

The 2013 Next Group Pension Plan has the same principal employer and Trustee as the Next Group Pension Plan.

One Director of the Trustee company is a pensioner member of the Next 2013 Plan Defined Benefit Section and his benefits were also calculated in accordance with the Rules of the Next 2013 Plan. Two Directors are deferred members of the Next 2013 Plan Defined Benefit Section.

The emoluments of the Directors of the Trustee Company have been allocated on a 96:4 basis with the Next Group Pension Plan. These amounted to 2025: £358k (2024: £258k, 96:4 basis).

The Employer pays expenses on behalf of the Next 2013 Plan which are recharged to the Next 2013 Plan on a monthly basis. At 30 September 2025 expense recharges due to Employer totalled £1,416k (2024: £339k).

18. Self-investment

At 30 September 2025, there were no Employer- related investments in the Next 2013 Plan, within the meaning of Section 40(2) of the Pensions Act 1995 and the Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2005.

19. GMP equalisation

As explained on page 5 of the Annual Report of the Trustee, on 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgment involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgment concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits. The issues determined by the judgment arise in relation to many other defined benefit pension schemes.

In addition, on 20 November 2020, the High Court handed down a second judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. This latest judgement confirms that Defined Benefit (DB) schemes which provide GMPs need to revisit and where necessary top up historic Cash Equivalent Transfer Values that were calculated based on unequalised benefits. Again, the issues determined by the judgement arise in relation to many other defined benefit pension schemes.

The Trustee has appointed Gallagher (previously known as Buck Consultants Limited) to assist it with considering its next steps as the Next 2013 Plan has experienced significant historical transfers out which will be subject to adjustment as a result of this second ruling. The Trustee, in consultation with the Company, has chosen to adopt Method B in order to achieve GMP equalisation. Both insurers have confirmed that they are supportive of this method of GMP equalisation. No provision made in the accounts for any liabilities.

20. Transfer from the Next Group Pension Plan

During the year, the Trustee of the Plan agreed with the Trustee of the Next Group Pension Plan and the Company that the benefits for six individuals would be transferred from the Next Group Pension Plan to the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan. This transfer was completed in July 2025, and assets of £0.242m were received to cover the transferred liabilities. The liabilities for these six individuals will be added to the bulk annuity contract with PIC in early 2026

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025



Independent Auditor's Statement about Contributions to the Trustee of the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Statement about contributions

We have examined the summary of contributions payable under the Schedule of Contributions to the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan ("the Next 2013 Plan") in respect of the Plan year ended 30 September 2025 which is set out on page 39.

In our opinion, contributions for the Next 2013 Plan year ended 30 September 2025 as reported in the Summary of Contributions and payable under the Schedule of Contributions have, in all material respects, been paid at least in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions certified by the Next 2013 Plan Actuary on 20 December 2023.

Scope of work

Our examination involves obtaining evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that contributions reported in the summary of contributions have in all material respects been paid at least in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions. This includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts of contributions payable to the Next 2013 Plan and the timing of those payments under the Schedule of Contributions.

Respective responsibilities of Trustee and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustee's responsibilities set out on page 39, the Next 2013 Plan's Trustee is responsible for ensuring that there is prepared, maintained and from time to time revised a Schedule of Contributions showing the rates and due dates of certain contributions payable towards the Plan by or on behalf of the employer and the active members of the Next 2013 Plan. The Trustee is also responsible for keeping records in respect of contributions received in respect of active members of the Next 2013 Plan and for monitoring whether contributions are made to the Next 2013 Plan in accordance with the Schedule of Contributions.

It is our responsibility to provide a statement about contributions paid under the Schedule of Contributions to the Next 2013 Plan and to report our opinion to you.

The purpose of our work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This statement is made solely to the Next 2013 Plan's Trustee, in accordance with the Pensions Act 1995 and Regulations made thereunder. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Next 2013 Plan's Trustee those matters we are required to state to it in an auditor's statement about contributions and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Next 2013 Plan's Trustee, for our work, for this statement, or for the opinions we have formed.

Iryndeeep Kaur-Delay
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
15 Canada Square
London
E14 5GL

Date: 18 March 2026

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Year ended 30 September 2025

Statement of Trustee Responsibilities in respect of Contributions

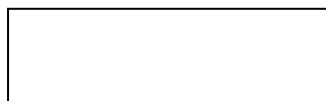
The Next 2013 Plan's Trustee is responsible under pensions legislation for ensuring that there is prepared, maintained and from time to time revised a Schedule of Contributions showing the rates of contributions payable towards the Next 2013 Plan by or on behalf of the employer and the active members of the Next 2013 Plan and the dates on or before which such contributions are to be paid. The Next 2013 Plan's Trustee is also responsible for keeping records of contributions received in respect of any active member of the Next 2013 Plan and for monitoring that contributions are made to the Next 2013 Plan in accordance with the Schedule.

Trustee Summary of Contributions payable under the Schedules in respect of the Next 2013 Plan year ended 30 September 2025

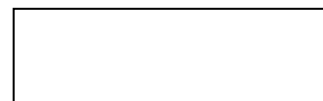
This summary of contributions has been prepared by, and is the responsibility of, the Trustee. It sets out the Employer and member contributions payable to the Next 2013 Plan under the Schedule of Contributions certified by the Plan actuary on 20 December 2023 in respect of the Next 2013 Plan year ended 30 September 2025. The 2 Next 2013 Plan's auditor reports on contributions payable under the Schedule in the Auditor's Statement about Contributions.

Contributions payable under the Schedule in respect of the Next 2013 Plan year ended 30 September 2025	£'000s
Employer normal	-
Member normal	-
Total contributions payable under the Schedule (as reported in the Financial Statements)	-

This summary was approved by the Trustee on 18 March 2026



J Stevenson



L House

On behalf of Next Pension Trustees Ltd

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

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Report on Actuarial Liabilities (forming part of the Trustee's report)

Under Section 222 of the Pensions Act 2004, every scheme is subject to the Statutory Funding Objective, which is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover its technical provisions. The technical provisions represent the present value of the benefit members are entitled to, based on pensionable service to the valuation date. This is assessed using the assumptions set by the Trustee, having consulted the Employer, and set out in the Statement of Funding Principles, which is available to members on request

The most recent full actuarial valuation of the Next 2013 Plan was carried out as at 30 September 2022. An approximate update (known as an Annual Actuarial Report) was carried out as at 30 September 2024. A summary of the results at both dates are shown below:

	30 September 2020	30 September 2021	30 September 2022*	30 September 2023
The value of the liabilities (including expenses) was	£941.5m	£887.7m	£606.7m	£515.4m
The Plan's assets were valued at	£897.7m	£945.1m	£695.5m	£596.1m
This means there was a (shortfall)/surplus of	(£43.8m)	£57.4m	£88.8m	£80.7m
Funding level (assets divided by liabilities)	95.3%	106.5%	114.6%	115.7%

* 30 September 2022 position includes £5.75m of advance Company future service contributions

The improvement in the funding position in percentage terms since 30 September 2022 has been due to an increase in government bond yields which has acted to reduce the liabilities, whilst a reduction in future expectations of inflation have also contributed to this. These factors also reduce the value of the assets, but to a lesser extent meaning the funding level improved.

The values above relate only to the Defined Benefit section of the Next 2013 Plan, and do not include assets or liabilities of the Defined Contributions section or of members' AVCs.

As the Trustee owns insurance policies, which are intended to meet all defined benefit payments to all members of the Next 2013 Plan, the funding position of the Next 2013 Plan now relates principally to the residual assets in the Next 2013 Plan, any outstanding payments due to or from the insurers and the expected costs that will be incurred by the Next 2013 Plan going forwards.

This differs from previous funding updates that the Trustee has provided, which assessed the difference between the actual assets held by the Next 2013 Plan and the target level of assets (i.e. the amount of assets that is projected to be enough to continue to pay out all the pensions that members have already built up in the Next 2013 Plan). On this basis, and based on advice provided by independent advisors, as at 30 September 2024, the value of the Next 2013 Plan's residual assets were expected to cover all of the expected remaining liabilities of the Next 2013 Plan.

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Method

The actuarial method to be used in the calculation of the technical provisions is the Projected Unit Method.

Significant actuarial assumptions

The principal assumptions that were used for the actuarial valuation as at 30 September 2022 and the actuarial report as at 30 September 2023 shown above are set out below. These were derived having regard to the Statement of Funding Principles agreed as part of the 30 September 2022 actuarial valuation.

Assumption	30 September 2020	30 September 2021	30 September 2022	30 September 2023
Discount rate to 30 September 2030	1.96% p.a.	2.42% p.a.	4.09% p.a.	5.19% p.a.
Discount rate from 1 October 2030	0.96% p.a.	1.57% p.a.	3.94% p.a.	5.04% p.a.
Pensionable earnings increases	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deferred pension revaluation				
Pre 6 April 2009 pension	2.36% p.a.	2.95% p.a.	3.11% p.a.	2.78% p.a.
Post 5 April 2009 pension	2.36% p.a.	2.50% p.a.	2.50% p.a.	2.50% p.a.
Pension increases				
Guaranteed in line with RPI up to a 5% annual maximum	3.00% p.a.	3.38% p.a.	3.44% p.a.	3.28% p.a.
Guaranteed in line with CPI up to a 3% annual maximum	1.96% p.a.	2.23% p.a.	2.24% p.a.	2.22% p.a.
Guaranteed in line with RPI up to a 2.5% annual maximum	2.04% p.a.	2.16% p.a.	2.16% p.a.	2.08% p.a.
Allowance for discretionary increases	2.04% p.a.	2.16% p.a.	2.13% p.a.	2.08% p.a.
Mortality base table				
Male pensioners	101%/103% of S3PMA for male Pensioners / Non-Pensioners			
Female pensioners	101%/ 99% of S3PFA_ middle table for female Pensioners / Non-Pensioners			
Mortality future improvements	CMI_2022 projection model with core parameters and 1.75% p.a. long-term trend			

All other assumptions are in line with the Statement of Funding Principles dated 20 December 2023.

Actuary's Certification of Schedule of Contributions



Certificate Of Schedule Of Contributions

Name of the Plan

2013 Next Group Pension Plan

Adequacy of rates of contributions

1. I certify that, in my opinion, the rates of contributions shown in this schedule of contributions are such that the statutory funding objective can be expected to continue to be met for the period for which the schedule is to be in force.
2. I also certify that the rates of contributions shown in this schedule are not lower than I would have provided for had I had responsibility for preparing or revising the Schedule and the Statement of Funding Principles.

Adherence to statement of funding principles

3. I hereby certify that, in my opinion, this schedule of contributions is consistent with the Statement of Funding Principles dated 20 December 2023.

The certification of the adequacy of the rates of contributions for the purpose of securing that the statutory funding objective can be expected to be met is not a certification of their adequacy for the purpose of securing the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan liabilities by the purchase of annuities, if the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan were to be wound up.

Signature

DocuSigned by:
Neil Brougham
512973AB378E4F0...

Name

Neil Brougham

Date of signing

20 December 2023

Qualification

Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

Name of employer

Mercer Limited

Address

Belvedere, 12 Booth Street, Manchester M2 4AW

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

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Implementation Statement for the DB Section, covering the 12 months to 30 September 2025 (forming part of the Trustee's report)

The Trustee of the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan (the "Next 2013 Plan") is required to produce a yearly statement as part of the Trustee Report and Accounts, to set out how and the extent to which, the Trustee has followed the voting and engagement policies in its Statement of Investment Principles ("SIP") dated March 2024, during the 12 months to 30 September 2025 (the "Plan Year").

1. Introduction

The Trustee has, in its opinion, followed the Next 2013 Plan's voting and engagement policies during the Plan Year, by continuing to delegate to its investment managers the exercise of rights and engagement activities in relation to investments, as well as seeking to appoint managers that have strong stewardship policies and processes.

It is important to note that the Plan's only investments are buy-in policies with JUST and PIC, and units of gilts pooled funds and a liquidity fund managed by Legal & General. Therefore, there is no voting data to report since the Plan's assets do not have voting rights and no engagement activities to report since there are no underlying companies to engage with. The investments of the insurers of the buy-in policies are decided on by the insurers and not able to be influenced by the Trustee.

2. Voting and engagement

As part of its advice on the selection and ongoing review of the investment managers, the Plan's investment adviser, LCP, incorporates its assessment of the nature and effectiveness of managers' approaches to voting and engagement.

Neither voting nor engagement are relevant to the Plan since the only assets it holds are units in gilts funds and a liquidity fund managed by L&G, and buy-in policies. Although there were no voting rights during the Plan Year, the Trustee's general policy on voting and engagement, as stated in the SIP, is set out below:

- The Trustee has delegated to the investment manager the exercise of rights attaching to investments, including voting rights, and engagement with relevant persons such as issuers of debt and equity, stakeholders and other investors about relevant matters such as performance, strategy, capital structure, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, risks and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) factors.
- The Trustee cannot usually directly influence the manager's policy on the exercise of investment rights where assets are held in pooled funds; this is due to the nature of these investments. The Trustee understands that investment rights will be exercised by the investment manager in line with the manager's general policy on corporate governance, which reflects the recommendations of the UK Stewardship Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council, considering the financial interests of the beneficiaries.

The Trustee's investment adviser, LCP, confirmed that the Plan's investment manager, L&G, is rated highly in relation to their responsible investment credentials, including their voting and engagement policies.

Next Pension Trustees Limited - annual report and financial statements for the 2013 Next Group Pension Plan

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3. Description of voting behaviour during the Plan Year

Apart from the annuity policies with JUST and PIC, all the Plan's investments are units in L&G pooled funds. The pooled funds that the Plan is invested in are the L&G All Stocks Index-Linked Gilts Index Fund, L&G Over 15 Year Gilts Index Fund and L&G Sterling Liquidity Fund.

The JUST and PIC policies and L&G funds did not hold any equities or assets that had voting opportunities during the Plan Year. Therefore, there is no directly relevant voting information to include in this Statement and there are no relevant governance or stewardship examples to comment on.