

I-PROBONO

(a company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2019

Trustees

Ellen Fleming
Shireen Irani
Roger James
Katherine Mulhern (resigned on 9 August 2019)
Douglas Peniston

Company registered number

07026261

Charity registered number

1148556

Registered office

Riverbank House, 2 Swan Lane, London EC4R 3TT

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2019

The Trustees, who are also directors of i-Probono for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2019. i-Probono ("iProbono") operates under the name "iProbono". The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of iProbono comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of iProbono's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2015).

Since iProbono qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

1. Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

iProbono is constituted under articles of association dated 22 September 2009 as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity number 1148556.

b. Method of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of iProbono is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the articles of association.

c. Organisational structure and network

iProbono is a platform for civic engagement, to amplify the voices of civil society and defend human rights, bridging the gap between law and justice. iProbono works to:

- Strengthen civil society organisations by providing them with comprehensive legal support;
- Represent those seeking justice, pursuing strategic casework that leads to legal reform; and
- Advocate for human rights to move governments towards policies that protect civil liberties and end discrimination.

iProbono operates throughout the world, with principal activities in the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. iProbono has undertaken projects across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and South East Asia. In India, it operates in association with iProbono India.

2. Objectives and Activities

a. Objects

iProbono's objects are the promotion of volunteering to further such charitable purposes (as are charitable under English law) for the public benefit in particular but not limited to providing and arranging online community matching pro bono projects (that require legal and other advice) and assistance, with volunteers from around the world.

b. Activities for the public benefit

Over 1,800 organisations worldwide are currently registered with the iProbono network, allowing organisations to source quality legal advice and representation. In the year to 30 April 2019 iProbono undertook more than 320 substantial matters for individuals and civil society organisations. More than 400,000 individuals have benefited from this work, either through direct representation or by being beneficiaries of the civil social organisations that iProbono has represented.

iProbono continues to work to institutionalise a culture of pro bono, to strengthen and professionalise the charitable sector by providing it with free comprehensive legal support and enabling access to justice for vulnerable populations around the world. In managing iProbono's activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

c. Contribution by volunteers

iProbono has a worldwide community of over 90,000 registered volunteers. The iProbono platform is broad, encompassing leading advocates, judges, academics, law firms and in-house legal teams. For all matters, iProbono co-counsels with volunteers to deliver an end-to-end holistic legal service.

Law firms that have provided support during the year include Fieldfisher, Baker McKenzie, K&L Gates, Pinsent Masons, Dentons, Debevoise & Plimpton, Hogan & Lovells, White & Case, Ashurst, amongst others; along with in-house legal teams from major corporations, including eBay, Cognizant and NBCUniversal.

3. Achievements and performance

a. Summary of work during the year

Through its access to justice work, iProbono upholds the rights of vulnerable populations around the world – amplifying their voices, enabling them to access justice, to participate in society and access basic services. iProbono's vision is a world where there is equal access to justice for all, not just those who can afford it. iProbono litigates for those denied justice, pursuing strategic casework that leads to legal reform. Advocating on their behalf, iProbono mobilises the combined power of civil society and the private sector to highlight injustice, protect civil liberties, entrench human rights and end discrimination.

iProbono continues to provide capacity-building support to organisations as part of its mission to strengthen civil society. Through its pro bono legal community, iProbono helps civil society organisations comply with legislation, enabling them to expand their work.

Some of our **Capacity-Building** work has included:

- **Nepal Communitere Resource Center and Innovation Hub, Nepal:** Protecting their intellectual property to enable international, national and local non-governmental organisations to work together with communities and transition from initial emergency relief to long-term development.
- **LGBT Partnership Forum, Sri Lanka:** Creating the Grievance Redress Mechanism.
- **Social Entrepreneurs, Bangladesh:** Publishing a Legal Toolkit to help those looking to create impact through social enterprise to navigate the registration processes with relevant ministries.
- **Innovation for Change, Afghanistan:** Mapping national legal resources and civil liberties lawyers across South Asia to provide support to human rights defenders in the region.
- **Mijwan Welfare Society, India:** Providing wide-ranging legal support, in conjunction with Mahindra, to expand grassroots work in order to empower rural citizens in Uttar Pradesh to bring about change in their communities.
- **Social enterprises in the UK:** Running a legal workshop for twelve social enterprises in the UK, in conjunction with the eBay legal team.

Some of our **Litigation** work has included:

- Ensuring access to prenatal and antenatal health care schemes for **new and expectant mothers in India** and setting up legal training for community groups to provide key information to stakeholders.
- Appealing the UK Home Office's decision to refuse visas to **people with learning disabilities** from around the world, enabling them to attend the **World Congress on Intellectual Disability**.
- Securing the right to housing for **350 slum dwellers**, preventing the demolition of their homes until suitable rehabilitation schemes were set up.
- Training twelve senior lawyers in Nepal to conduct litigation in the high courts to **secure the economic, social and cultural rights of citizens**, in light of new constitutional provisions.

b. Geographical expansion

With a strong foothold in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, iProbono is considered the leading pro bono organisation in South Asia. In March 2019, iProbono hosted its first regional forum, 'Accelerating Inclusive Movements for Justice', bringing together leading activists, artists, civil society organisations and lawyers from across the sub-continent.

4. Financial review

a. Policy on reserves

In the Trustees' view, the reserves should provide iProbono with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its commitments for the foreseeable future taking account of the support it receives from sponsoring organisations and grant providers. The Trustees periodically review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil iProbono's continuing obligations.

b. Resources

iProbono has no deficit. After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that iProbono has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

c. Principal sources of funds

iProbono is funded by grants, substantial donations from individuals and support in-kind. Institutional grant funding during the year to 30 April 2019 has been made available by the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundation, Rule of Law Expertise UK, and the God My Silent Partner Foundation. In-kind support valued at over £160,000 has been provided by Fieldfisher which includes accounts, legal and company secretarial services, administration support, marketing, IT, programme support, office premises, conference/events/ workshop space and seconding members of staff.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemption provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 30 January 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Douglas Peniston
Director authorised to sign on behalf of the Board

i-Probono

Company Number 7026261

**Balance Sheet
as at 30 April 2019**

	2019 £	2019 £	2018 £	2018 £
Current Assets				
Cash at bank	85,969		52,674	
Debtors (grant receivable)	-		-	
		85,969		52,674
Creditors (amounts falling due within 1 year)				
Accruals		(27,130)		507
Net Current Assets		58,839		52,167
Capital & Reserves	£	£	£	£
Reserves at 1 May 2018		52,167		37,966
Movements to 30 April 2019				
Grant awarded	191,741		133,721	
Donations/other income	25,820		3,732	
Expenses incurred	(210,889)		(123,252)	
Net Increase/(Decrease)		6,672		14,201
Capital & Reserves as at 30 April 2019		58,839		52,167

For the year ending 30 April 2019, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

Directors' responsibilities:

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting periods and the preparation of accounts.

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

These accounts have been approved by the Board of Directors on 29 January 2020
And signed on their behalf by:

Douglas Peniston

Director

Shireen Irani

Director**i-Probono**

Company Number 7026261

**Notes to the Balance Sheet
as at 30 April 2019**

1. The Company has incurred expenses of £210,889 (2017-18 £123,252) and was awarded grant income of £191,741 (2017-18 £133,721) and received donations of £25,820 (2017-18 £3,732).
2. The cost of the Companies House Annual Return fee was borne by Fieldfisher LLP without any right of reimbursement from the Company.
3. In addition to the Income included above the Company received donations in kind from Fieldfisher LLP for programme and administrative support in the form of the use of office facilities and secondment of staff. The estimated value of these benefits was £160,000 (2017-18 £160,000).
4. The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of members of the Company is limited to the extent that each member undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £1) to the Company's assets in the event of a winding-up.

