

SOUTH WESTMINSTER LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE CIO

Registered Charity No: 1180716

Report and Accounts for the period from 15th November 2018 to 31st December 2019

SOUTH WESTMINSTER LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE CIO
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the accounts of the CIO for the period from 15th November 2018 to 31st December 2019.

Incorporation of the CIO

CIO stands for “Charitable Incorporated Organisation”, a form of charitable body governed by the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012 (SI No 3012 of 2012).

The CIO was formally incorporated and registered as such on 15 November 2018 (Registered charity No: 1180716), but did not undertake any activities until 1st January 2019. On that date, it took over the activities of the charitable trust of the same name, which had materially identical objects (purposes).

By a Deed of Gift agreed as between the Trustees of the charitable trust and the CIO, at 23:59:59 hours on 31 December 2018 (“the Transfer Date”), the Trustees gave to the CIO all of the assets of the charitable trust including the goodwill associated with, and the right to use, the name “South Westminster Legal Advice Centre.” Upon winding-up of the charitable trust, the surplus assets of the trust – as represented by its reserves at that time – are to be merged with the reserves of the CIO.

Principal activities

The purposes are set out in the Constitution of the CIO, but may be summarised as the provision of free legal advice to people on low incomes.

Results for the period

During the period, the trust's total income was £14,183 and its expenditure was £17,040. The deficit of £2,857 has been carried to the General Reserve.

Events since the end of the period

There have been two major events occurring since the end of the period which have impacted on the operations of the CIO.

The first of these was that the freehold owner of the building at 246 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1 sold it for re-development, and so (fortuitously, as it turned out) the CIO vacated that property in the latter days of March 2020. We were fortunate in securing alternative premises at London Scottish House, 95 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2DX

The second major event has been the Covid-19 pandemic, and the initial lockdown requirement meant that the CIO ceased to operate on a face-to-face basis. As the pandemic continued, and thanks to the superb work of some of the Trustees and volunteers, the CIO has increasingly dealt with clients by telephone and electronically. Whilst the CIO is keen to re-open for face-to-face consultations, the safety of our volunteers and clients is paramount.

Volunteers

The charity could not have functioned without our dedicated volunteers, all of whom generously give of their own time and energy to advise those less fortunate than themselves. Our clients, and we, are hugely grateful to them.

Trustees

The names of the persons who were Trustees during the period were Richard Walford; Robert Walters; Elaine Vignoli; David Warner; Chris White and James macLachlan.

Patrons and Supporters

The CIO is extremely grateful to its patrons, Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury (former President of the Supreme Court) and Lord Briggs of Westbourne (Justice of the Supreme Court), as well as to its loyal friends and supporters. It is encouraging to know that there is such strong support for this important work

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are required to prepare in respect of each financial year of the charity, financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation,
- comply with the charity's governing document,
- comply with the Financial Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE),
- comply with the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees are responsible for keeping records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the CIO's Constitution.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review risks to which the CIO is exposed and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Public benefit

The CIO had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit, and believes that its work is for the public benefit.

On behalf of the Board:

Richard Walford

Chairman

Date: 25 October 2020

South Westminster Legal Advice Centre CIO
Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 2019

	£	£
Current Assets		
Debtors and prepayments	1,264	
Balance at Bank	6,771	
	<hr/>	
	8,035	
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	5,105	
	<hr/>	
Net Current Assets		2,930
Loans from Trustees		<hr/> (5,787)
		(2,857)
		<hr/> <hr/>
Represented by:		
General Reserve		
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year to 31.12.2019		(2,857)
Surplus/(Deficit) carried forward		<hr/> (2,857)
		<hr/> <hr/>

The Income and expenditure account and Balance sheet of the South Westminster Legal Advice Centre CIO have been prepared in accordance with its records and reflect the position at 31st December, 2019

Robert Walters
Hon.Treasurer