

OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER: 07445499

&

CHARITY REGISTERED NUMBER: 1142005

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

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**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

The trustees, who are also directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report, and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2015 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Legal Status:

OBAC is a registered a charitable company which was established for exclusively charitable purposes and registered in England on 19th November 2010 under Companies Act 2006, limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, and is a registered incorporated charity under Charities Act 2011 and not liable to direct UK taxation on its charitable activities. The charitable company became operational on 1st April 2012.

Governing Document – Constitution:

OBAC is a charitable company constituted as a members' voluntary organisation, its governing instrument is its Constitution which restricts its objects to the furtherance of the welfare of disabled people from black and ethnic minority communities, primarily blind and partially sighted Africans and Caribbean people; by means of an information and advice center and by access to employment, training and other relevant services. There are no restrictions as to powers of investment; however, it may not pay any surpluses to its Members.

Organisation structure and decision-making:

The Charitable Company is managed by its Executive Committee; such consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and any other Honorary Officers. The Executive Committee is appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting, together with other persons so elected. The Officers are selected at the first executive committee meeting following the AGM. The maximum number of executive committee is 8 persons of whom no less than two thirds should have a sensory or physical disability.

Method of appointment or election of Trustees

The strategic direction, policy and management of the charitable company are the responsibility of the Executive Committee who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the governing document. A director/trustee can be co-opted onto the executive committee at any time between AGM's. Directors/Trustees are elected by the members, and they may choose to retire or may seek re-election/re-appointment.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of the Executive Committee

The executive committee consists of the directors/trustees of the charitable company. An induction pack is provided to all new directors/trustees. The induction process includes meeting of other staff members and volunteers. The new directors/trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under the company law and charity law. They are issued with the following:

1. Copy of OBAC Constitution

2. OBAC most recent annual report and accounts;
3. Diagram showing structure of the organization/ summary of decision process
4. Organisation's business strategy development plan
5. Briefing document, which explains the roles and responsibilities of a charity
6. Trustee. - Information in this document has been gathered from the Governance Hub and Charity Commission.
7. Trustee Appraisal process
8. Dates of forthcoming meetings
9. Contact information of other Executive Committee Members

The Directors/Trustees are actively encouraged to pursue training to support their role and regular information is circulated to trustees. Our commitment to training is further reinforced by having the Investor in People standard and discussing learning and development at Executive Committee meetings.

The directors/trustees take out an annual personal indemnity insurance cover. The directors/trustees have also considered activities that could lead to any detriment and harm to the organisation's beneficiaries or the wider public and they have found and concluded that the current activities have no measurable elements that could lead to detriment or harm to the general public.

Policies

The organisation continues to review its existing policies and procedures to ensure that we are in line with new government legislation and also obligations under our existing contracts with funding partners. OBAC engages consultants to review and oversee the implementation of these processes.

1. Equal Opportunities Policy
2. Adult Safeguarding Policy
3. Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy
4. Volunteers' Policy
5. Health and Safety Policy
6. Sustainability Policy
7. Risk Strategy

OBAC is currently reviewing its Health and Safety to include the COVID 19 Pandemic safety and compliances.

OBAC continues to offer disabled people the opportunity to volunteer this is used as a pathway into employment and also overcome social isolation. Majority of our volunteers are sensory impaired and use the opportunity to share their life experience with other service users and members to help increase their interests in the organisation.

Quality Standards

We continued to work within the parameters of our quality standards. We have also been able to maintain the standards through the years, thus ensuring that we provide good quality advice to our service users:

1. Investors in People quality standard which we have achieved and maintained since 2001.
2. Advice Quality Standard (General Advice and Casework) since 2002
3. Level 2 Immigration Advice agency with the OISC (Office of Immigration Services Commissioners) since 2006.
4. City and Guilds
5. OCR – Oxford Cambridge and RSA

6. Open College Network to offer Access Technology ICT training, a course that we designed

Pay policy for senior staff

The directors who are the OBAC's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management of the charity in charge of; through the Chief Executive Officer in directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in related notes to the accounts. The pay of staff is reviewed annually and normally increases in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors benchmark against pay levels in other similar organisations of a similar size run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration bench-mark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles adjusted for a weighting of up to 30% for any additional responsibilities. If recruitment has proven difficult in the recent past a market addition is also paid with the pay maximum no greater than the highest benchmarked salary for a comparable role.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company, contractor or exhibitor must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises of:

1. an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity this also includes environmental risks.
2. The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic; the health and safety policy and procedure had to be reviewed to help keep staff and service users safe. We have considered staff working from home and also staff working alternate days.
3. Financial sustainability is the major financial risk for both the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due, regular liaison with the bank, and active management of trade debtors and creditors balances to ensure sufficient working capital by the charity. Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from health and safety in particular the COVID 19 pandemic and ensuring that we are in compliance with government health and safety regulations in regards to the premises, staff and services. The pandemic had an adverse impact on our trading activities and as such we could not meet the financial projections for the financial year and beyond.

Directors' & Trustees' Responsibilities

The Directors who are also the Trustees of the charitable company are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations and for being satisfied that the accounts give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors & trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Summary and purpose of the charity as set out in the governing document

The charity's objects ("objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

In the Articles of Association reference to blind and partially sighted include persons with other physical and sensory disabilities including people from other ethnic minorities communities living in the United Kingdom

1. To relieve the needs of disabled people in particular the blind and partially sighted by provision of an Information and Advice Service
2. To promote and advance primarily the education of disabled people by provision of work related training.
3. To work with similar likeminded organisations and individuals outside the UK and in particular Africa and the Caribbean to promote charitable purpose for the benefits of marginalised and disadvantaged people and communities.

In furtherance of the aforementioned aims and objectives but not further or otherwise:

1. To collect, disseminate and publish primarily all relevant information on the education, training, rehabilitation and employment of blind/Partially sighted Africans and Caribbean people.
2. To commission, carry out and promote research and studies on blind/disabled related issues by way of conferences, seminars, workshops and lectures and to ensure the dissemination of the information to all interested parties in accessible formats.
3. To raise Funds and invite and receive Contributions, Donations, Equipments, and Subscriptions from any source so long as it meets with the organisational ethical policy.
4. The organisation shall promote and organise cooperation with all relevant bodies and organisation in order to achieve the promotion and furtherance of its aims and objectives.
5. To engage in all such other lawful activities as is necessary for the attainment of the aforementioned aims and objectives.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. OBAC relies on grants and the income from fees and charges to cover its operating costs. Affordability and access to our services is important to us and is reflected in our pricing policy set out in detail later in this report. We endeavor to encourage all within our community to access our services, and thus by so doing, our charitable company is acting for the public benefit.

Volunteers: OBAC is very involved in the community and relies on voluntary help. OBAC continues to be extremely grateful for the unstinting efforts of our volunteers; they have made valuable contribution to the service delivery. The volunteers provide support and assistance in our administration, supported services and training.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL BENEFIT

Our core areas of work are:

1. Legal Advice and Casework (Immigration, Benefits, Entitlements etc)
2. Independent living (Supported Planning and Brokerage Service
3. Training and education

Big Lottery Reaching Communities & Greater London Fund for the Blind

The past year has seen the project continuing to be delivered very much as planned, with the majority of participants contacting us through self-referrals with presenting issues such as health and social care planning, housing, welfare benefits, loss or a reduction in income and debt advice. This year has also seen the inclusion of other service users who initially contacted us to access other services, but who were themselves already experiencing the onset of disability and who had relatives or friends who exhibited varying levels of disability and who often required their assistance if at all possible. Needless to say this was an interesting and worthwhile development, as it enabled participants to learn how to relate to their own impairments as well as learning how to assist others with varying disabilities and in particular guiding and supporting those with visual impairments.

The increase in the number of participants occurred in the first six-months, however in the second half of the year the numbers accessing the project fell quite significantly due to the numbers being re-assessed and the number of decisions being questioned or challenged by service users.

These activities are set against a background of the ongoing changes to the Welfare Benefits system being implemented by the government and as previously stated these include the changes to the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), the migration from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and the roll out of a single universal payment, Universal Credit (UC), which is designed as a single payment which would contain all elements of benefit to which one was entitled. The trigger to accessing these benefits are contained in the assessment process; majority of the service users are cynical about these assessments and have expressed the view that there is an agenda of reducing the costs to the government as it invariably assesses users at lower levels of need and hence the reduction in the level of benefit to which they are entitled. Furthermore, the expectation is that claimants are fully cognitive and capable of managing their own financial arrangements themselves and hence the need for them to be more conscious of managing their own finances and meeting their own daily living costs themselves.

From our own perspective we have seen a marked increase in the numbers experiencing increased levels of debt and have continued to support them by applying financial planning and budgeting methods to not only stabilise their debt, but also setting up long term debt reduction plans with both service users and their creditors. Service users have reported that this element has proven itself very useful not only in practical terms (debt reduction), but also in terms of their own feelings of emotional wellbeing, with the ensuing tangible reduction in feelings of stress and anxiety caused by worry over being in debt and unable to manage.

As a consequence of the changes in the social care environment and the perceived fact that benefits are being assessed at lower levels, the need for energy conservation becomes more and more important, as a comfortable well heated home is essential when one is living with a disability or a serious long term illness, this is particularly so during the winter months, when the external and internal temperature falls quite significantly.

The money management and soft skills training undertaken during the year was primarily focussed on enabling participants to learn how to manage their finances adequately and in particular meet their own health and social care, utilities and daily living costs. The delivery of the online aspect of the project is done in partnership with Greater London for the Blind (now Vision Foundation) and the Good Things Foundation thus improving their digital and financial skills and health and mental well. This was facilitated through the use of our resource room which is well equipped with computers featuring access technology and which can be accessed whenever the need arises.

Social Benefit and Impact

The social impact and benefit of our health and mental wellbeing of the service users. 100% of the service users who attended the workshops stated that it improved their general wellbeing. For their utilities and daily living costs including their health and social care costs the course has been critical in giving them the tools and skills needed to assist them in maintaining their independence and mobility and they have stated that they now feel a greater sense of wellbeing as they experience less feelings of stress and anxiety and are now much more confident in their own ability to cope on a day to day basis and are more prepared to participate in events and activities in their own local areas and much further afield.

Addressing poverty issues most users rely on welfare benefits to maintain their daily living needs (food/clothes/accommodation) and have a restricted budget to work with consequently it is essential that they are able to plan ahead and budget for essential items and recurring costs. We therefore work with users in acquiring the knowledge and skills and aptitude needed for them to manage their finances competently and budget for ongoing and future recurrent costs, thus reducing the experience of financial hardship, stress and/or anxiety and social isolation. **108** Beneficiaries were supported in accessing the relevant welfare benefits, health and social care support enabling them to live independently in their own home/community. We hosted information and advice sessions around paying utility bills and setting up direct debits/standing orders.

Conducting energy saving sessions using the price comparison site U-SWITCH, with beneficiaries being urged to take advantage of lower prices and tariffs.

Participants demonstrating increased confidence and social inclusion

We worked with the beneficiaries and volunteers in increasing confidence and social worked with the Royal College of Arts, Co-hosting external events where the effects of living with a disability can be expressed to a wider audience with a view to changing perceptions and reducing the impact of stigmas and stereotypes. This included exploring ways of reducing the impact of disabilities on individuals and communities and using art and design to make the built environment more accessible to people with disabilities.

Participants on the programmes have reported that many of the barriers that have had in regards to finance have been reduced or eliminated and they now feel much more able to not only discuss their financial matters, but also make financial decisions earlier so as to avoid the onset of debt. They have also reported that financial planning and budgeting has been of great assistance in enabling them to address long term debt issues and have worked with creditors to arrange debt reduction plans. Further it has also enabled them to better manage their finances in such a way as to avoid accumulating any or further debt.

Participants on the program have stated that the learning undertaken has given them a greater sense of awareness, not only about their own situation, but also the situation of others with similar or other disabling conditions and has also given them a sense of worth and purpose, in that they are more confident, in not only their ability to look after themselves, but to also become more socially active. Mobilizing in and around their local area to attend networking events and activities, participating in disability organisations and peer support groups, where they can speak out and share their experiences of living with a disability, with a view to contributing to the general trend in trying to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Another key benefit of our work is supporting the independence by ensuring that they can access concessionary travel options, such as freedom pass, taxi-card, dial a ride, disabled person rail-card and for those with access to vehicles the blue badge. All of these options enable people with disabilities to travel around freely and thus encourages wider social interaction and participation and consequently can be seen as a part of their own strategy to reduce their experiences

- Nutritional benefits of healthy eating in managing disabilities and maintaining good health.
- Using regular exercise to maintain fitness and enhance the quality of life.
- Coping skills
- Diabetes seminar
- Importance of prevention of eye conditions
- Living with and managing mental illness,
- Accessing personal care in the home

To this end 100% of the beneficiaries had increased understanding of self-advocacy support the vital importance as it focuses on the individual's capacity to develop aspects of self-awareness, self-confidence, self-assertiveness which enabled them to speak out on issues of concern, as well as representing themselves with the relevant authorities as and when necessary. This also enables them to become engaged and get themselves involved in events and activities in their own local areas, leading to them experiencing more social interaction, having a richer social life and thus reducing the impact of social isolation and the stresses and anxieties that this may cause.

27 beneficiaries learning from shared experiences, greater understanding and development of social interactions and applying the knowledge and skills learnt in addressing peer issues.

Budgeting your money

This element was well received by users and this year's intake was mainly of individuals in the 35-65 age range adversely affected by reduced income. They also pointed out that they were now more likely to seek discounted goods and services as a means of staying in budget. 150 Money Management Training sessions using learn my way training courses.

Online and mobile Banking

Again this element is becoming more accessible, especially amongst older service users, as we have managed to remove a lot of doubts and fears about it's use and have demonstrated that it works effectively and securely in operating and managing bank accounts.

Staying in control of your money (again during the period this element was well received and as in the previous year we encountered learners (47%) for whom there were language barriers. They were given an English assessments and provided with additional support through the learning process. Most learners have expressed the view that these sessions have really assisted them in taking control of their finances

Debt Prevention

128 beneficiaries benefitted from through financial planning and budgeting sessions/workshops, designed to highlight and develop an understanding of the importance of making timely payments and ensuring that there are enough funds in their accounts to honour any pre-arranged payments. Beneficiaries shared experience and gave tips on how other beneficiaries could take advantage of what they had learnt.

54 Learning beneficiaries benefitted from shared experiences, greater understanding and development of social interactions and applying the knowledge and skills learnt in addressing peer issues.

108 Beneficiaries were supported in accessing the relevant welfare benefits, health and social care support enabling them to live independently in their own home/community. We hosted information and advice sessions around paying utility bills and setting up direct debits/standing orders.

54 beneficiaries benefited from these sessions by increasing their knowledge of how they can travel in and around their local area by accessing accessible transport - freedom pass, taxi-card, blue badge, dial-a-ride, disabled person rail-card. Facilitating access to events and activities in the local area and beyond by providing information in an appropriate format (Braille, audio, large print).

Immigration advice and case work

During the year under review we went into partnership with We Are Digital. Our immigration service was funded by the Windrush Scheme (Ministry of Justice).

We had 98% successful applications. We provided advice and casework on their immigration matters covering European Applications and Family migration. In terms of our immigration advice and casework the government's changing policies and the implementation means that we have to keep abreast of these to be able offer our client's appropriate advice and casework.

Digital Skills training

We continued to work in partnership with Good Things Foundation to 75 learners achieved the Digital online skills course. We also received funding for the COVID-19 Resources fund.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission when reviewing the Charitable Company's aims and objectives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Performance:

Our overall incoming resources are grant aided from local government and central government, a considerable amount of the funding was received from the Big Lottery Fund – National Lottery - Reaching Communities. These grants fall under the Care in the Community legislation. The funds have been applied in the furtherance of its objectives and the assets are held either for use by OBAC's clients or for the purpose of providing them information, training and advice. Certain assets are held for the production of talking books and newspapers. Although, we know that the next financial year we may feel the impact of government cuts on our service income and as such we need to become consistent and effective in our fundraising endeavors to meet the needs of our beneficiaries. We are also working hard at seeing OBAC becoming less dependent on government funding and as such we are investing in setting up our trading activities that would build our unrestricted funds. With regards to the year-end results, the organisation's total income for the year ended 31st March 2020 was £180,965 (2019: £193,863) including grants, and total expenditure for the year was £209,673 (2019: £205,594), and net expenditure for the year was £28,708 (2019: £11,731), as shown on page 15. We can only state that we have been able to continue to survive based on strong financial management, commitment and loyalty of OBAC staff and reviewing our fundraising strategy with a view of diversifying our funding.

Financial Position:

The financial position as at 31 March 2020, which the directors/trustees also considered to be less than satisfactory are shown in the balance sheet on page 16. The directors/trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements of the Companies Acts 2006 and Charities Acts

2011, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities SORP 2015).

Reserves Policy:

The Charities Commission requires charities to determine and explain their policy for free reserves. The directors/trustees have established the level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity ought to have. Reserves are needed to bridge the funding gaps between spending on projects and receiving of resources through grants and other funding sources. The reserves are also used for the implementation of pilot projects. In addition, short-term reserves will also be needed to pay for winding down costs upon close of operations where all income generating activities permanently ceased.

The trustees have reviewed the current financial circumstances of OBAC, and the possible impact of Covid-19 pandemic on its finances, and the counter-measures taken to suppress it, and considered that adequate resources need to be raised to be able to continue and be available to fund the activities of the organization for the foreseeable future. However, the trustees are of the view that OBAC is a going concern. The trustees are aware that the lack of free reserves, together with the economic backdrop, will provide a challenging environment in the year to come. Our intention is to obtain a prudent amount of reserves each year, and we had been successful in achieving this in the past, however, with the recession and the lack of funds available for voluntary and community organisations, it has been difficult for the organisation to continue with its work and to maintain the previous level of performance. Although, the trustees have plans in hand to address the current situation, and to improve the reserves balance.

Principal Funders:

During the year ended 31st March 2020, the organisation received funds and donations from:

1. DWP (Access to Work)
2. Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities
3. Greater London Fund For The Blind
4. Good Things Foundation
5. We Are Digital & Windrush

The directors and trustees are grateful to the above listed statutory and charitable agencies for their financial support.

Plans for the future

OBAC continues to pursue its strategy and business plan to develop its trading activities. Last year we ran a pilot project targeting young disabled adults with Autism; and were hiring our resources for teaching and other independent skills training, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this had to be suspended indefinitely until government changes on health and social care environment. We are exploring trading in the Health and Social Care sector. We projected a gradual growth of £86,000 for targeting 5 Autistic young adults during the year 1. An additional income of £50,000 in year 2 and by the third year £80,000. We are reviewing our Gift Aid; which is now easy for donors to access through our newly published website. These unrestricted funds will assist in delivering services in the absence of grant support. A major financial concern for the organization will be ongoing financial sustainability given the high competitive funding environment and the external financial situation that has an impact on trusts and foundations that support the sector.

We continue to strengthen our links with the community. The local community will also be key to the success of our plans for a public appeal during the next 3 years; we aim to become the Hub for black and ethnic minority disabled people and people with long term disabling conditions.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

We continue to work in partnership with similar organisations to provide services to our beneficiaries

- In preparing the financial statements, the directors & trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors & trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.
- The directors & trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.
- Charity trustees must have regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when carrying out activities to which it's relevant.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charitable Company Name: OBAC – (Organisation of Blind Africans & Caribbeans)

Company Registered Number: 07445499

Charity Registered Number: 1142005

Registered Office & Principal Address: 1st Floor Gloucester House 8 Camberwell New Road London SE5 0TA

Area of Operation: Throughout England and Wales

Trustees & Directors Who Served During the Year:

1. Ms Francesca Osibo (Chairman)
2. Ms Ruth Bishop (Vice Chair)
3. Mr Abdul Rasheed Bello (Treasurer)
4. Ms Dibb Jama
5. Mr Michael Aikhomu
6. Mr Oliver Ounounou
7. Mr Dwight Watson

Company Secretary: Ms Ibukun Olashore

Independent Examiner: Mr Moses Oluniyi Peters, FCCA
Principal of Moses Peters and Company
Chartered Certified Accountants & Registered Auditors
136 Southwyck House, Moorland Road, London SW9 8UR

Bankers: Unity Trust Bank Plc
Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2HB

Funds Held as Custodian Trustees on behalf of others

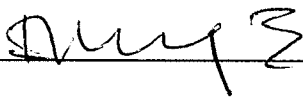
The charitable company did not hold funds as custodians on behalf of others in the year ended 31st March 2020.

Declarations

The charitable company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the above trustees' report (including directors' report) on 24th day of March 2021, and signed on their behalf by:

Name: Ms Ibukun Olashore

Signature:  _____

Position: Company Secretary

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES (WHO ARE ALSO
THE DIRECTORS) OF
OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
(CHARITY NUMBER 1142005) (COMPANY NUMBER 07445499)
ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020
SET OUT ON PAGES FIFTEEN TO TWENTY FIVE**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

Signed:



Date: 24th Day of March 2021

Examiner's Name: Mr Moses Oluniyi Peters

Relevant Professional Qualification: FCCA

Relevant Professional Body: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address: Moses Peters & Company

Chartered Certified Accountants

136 Southwyck House

Moorland Road, London, England SW9 8UR

OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	Notes: 2.3&2.4				
Donations and Legacies:					
Donations & Fundraising For Members	3	1,902	Nil	1,902	6,153
Charitable Activities:					
Grants Receivable	4	Nil	176,692	176,692	177,872
Other Trading Activities:					
Advisory & Brokerage Services		1,020	Nil	1,020	8,074
Investments		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Income:					
Rental Income		1,351	Nil	1,351	1,764
Total Income and Endowments		4,273	176,692	180,965	193,863
EXPENDITURE	2.5				
Expenditure on Raising Funds:					
Fundraising Trading Costs	5	895	Nil	895	6,862
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	6	30,870	176,692	207,562	197,212
Other Expenditure: Rental Costs		1,216	Nil	1,216	1,520
Total Expenditure		32,981	176,692	209,673	205,594
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS / (LOSSES)	7	(28,708)	Nil	(28,708)	(11,731)
NET GAINS / (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR		(28,708)	Nil	(28,708)	(11,731)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		(151,552)	Nil	(151,552)	(139,821)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(180,260)	Nil	(180,260)	(151,552)

There were no recognised gains and losses besides those shown above for this and previous year.

All income and expenditure derived from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total Funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	12	Nil	6,041	6,041	7,107
		<u>Nil</u>	<u>6,041</u>	<u>6,041</u>	<u>7,107</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors & Prepayment	13	6,399	Nil	6,399	162
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>3,274</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>3,274</u>	<u>3,895</u>
		9,673	Nil	9,673	4,057
LESS: CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(67,982)</u>	<u>(Nil)</u>	<u>(67,982)</u>	<u>(35,224)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)		<u>(58,309)</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>(58,309)</u>	<u>(31,167)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		(58,309)	6,041	(52,268)	(24,060)
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>(121,951)</u>	<u>(6,041)</u>	<u>(127,992)</u>	<u>(127,492)</u>
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)		<u>(180,260)</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>(180,260)</u>	<u>(151,552)</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds				(180,260)	(151,552)
Restricted Funds				Nil	Nil
TOTAL FUNDS HELD				<u>(180,260)</u>	<u>(151,552)</u>

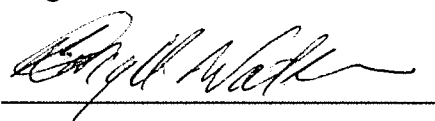
In respect of the year ended 31st March 2020, the directors consider that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 “the Act” relating to the small companies’ regime. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records, which comply with section 386 of the Act, and preparing accounts, which give a true and fair view of the state of the company’s affairs as at the end of the financial year, and of its income and expenditure for the year in accordance with the requirements of section 393 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as is applicable to this company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies’ regime.

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and Trustees on 24th day of March 2021, and signed on its behalf by:

Name: Mr Dwight Watson

Signature: 

Position: Company Director

The notes on pages 18 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

1. STATUS OF THE CHARITABLE COMPANY

OBAC – (Organisation of Blind Africans & Caribbeans) is a charitable company which was established for exclusively charitable purposes and registered in England under Companies Act 2006, limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, and is a registered incorporated charity under Charities Act 2011 and not liable to direct UK taxation on its charitable activities. It qualifies as a small charitable company under the Companies Act 2006 subject to the small companies' regime, with an income of less than the turnover threshold applicable to small companies as identified in Section 382 of the Companies Act 2006.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The particular accounting policies adopted by the board of directors and trustees for the charitable company are described as follows:

- 2.1 Basis of Accounting:** The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice [the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2015)'], and in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The financial reporting frameworks that have been applied in preparation of the financial statements are applicable laws: Company law and Charity law, and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). After the directors and trustees have made appropriate enquiries and review that the charitable company has adequate resources and sufficient sources of funds available, and considered the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on OBAC's finances, and the counter-measures taken to suppress it, the directors and trustees are confident that the charitable company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Hence, a going concern basis was adopted by the directors and trustees in preparing these Accounts.
- 2.2 Cash Flow Statement:** The charitable company has taken advantage of the exemption from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it qualifies as a small charitable company under the Companies Act 2006.

2.3 Funds Accounting: Funds held by the charitable company are:

Unrestricted general fund- comprising funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the directors and trustees.

Restricted funds- which were raised for particular restricted purposes and which can only be used for those particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

2.4 Recognition of Income

Unrestricted funds and restricted funds are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resources; the directors / trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

2.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Expenditure is recognised and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to the expenditure, and it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be obtained in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the funds. All costs relating to particular expenditure categories are allocated directly, and where costs can not be directly attributed to particular expenditure categories, they are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. floor area, staff time, transaction, or usage.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs associated with generating income, both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries, and includes all those costs associated with meeting the statutory requirements of the charitable company and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

2.6 Tangible Fixed Assets & Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets held for the charitable company's own use, and that can be used for more than one year are capitalised and are stated at costs less depreciation. The costs of minor additions are not capitalised. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the costs of tangible fixed assets: equipment, fixtures and fittings, less their estimated residual values, over their useful economic lives at the rate of 15%, using a reducing balance method.

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

2.7 Liabilities Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to pay out resources.

2.8 Value Added Tax

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charitable company, and as such is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

3. DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING FOR MEMBERS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Donations	1,902	Nil	1,902	6,053
Fundraising For Members	Nil	Nil	Nil	100
Total Received	1,902	Nil	1,902	6,153

OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

4. GRANTS RECEIVABLE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
London Borough Southwark - Community Support	0	0	0	16,337
DWP (Access to Work)	0	57,213	57,213	43,624
JCWIA	0	2,000	2,000	0
Greater London Fund For The Blind	0	7,500	7,500	7,500
Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities	0	107,616	107,616	109,411
Good Things Foundation	0	2,363	2,363	1,000
TOTAL RECEIVABLE	0	176,692	176,692	177,872

5. Fundraising Trading Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Staff Costs	620	0	620	4,920
Rent, Rates, Utilities, Insurance, Phone & PPS	275	0	275	1,942
TOTAL COSTS	895	0	895	6,862

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Provision of Charitable Services:				
Staff Costs	30,870	91,251	122,121	123,277
Rent, Rates and Utilities	0	46,116	46,116	43,421
Insurance	0	1,370	1,370	1,169
Telephone, Fax & Internet	0	7,303	7,303	6,683
Advertising	0	0	0	161
Printing, Postage & Stationery	0	1,868	1,868	1,177
Computer Consumables	0	956	956	163
Staff Volunteer Training and Books	0	0	0	1,035
CRB/DBS Checks & Health and Safety	0	901	901	1,204
Volunteers	0	19	19	800
Equipment Rentals	0	12,816	12,816	6,114
Other Charitable Costs	0	4,356	4,356	415
Subtotal	30,870	166,956	197,826	185,619
Provision of Governance:				
Rent, Rates and Utilities	0	6,994	6,994	8,210
Examination and Accountancy Services	0	1,500	1,500	2,000
Bank Charges	0	176	176	129
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	0	1,066	1,066	1,254
Subtotal	0	9,736	9,736	11,593
Overall Expenditure On Charitable Activities	30,870	176,692	207,562	197,212

OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

7. NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR:

	2020	2019
	£	£
The net movement in funds for the year is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,066	1,254
Examiner's fee for examination service	1,250	1,250

8. STAFF COSTS AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Staff costs were as follows:	2020	2019
	£	£
Gross Salaries and Benefits	114,855	120,722
Workplace Pension Cost	2,871	1,824
Social Security Cost	8,015	8,651
<u>Less: Employment Allowance</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
TOTAL	<u>122,741</u>	<u>128,197</u>

There were no employees whose remuneration exceeded £60,000 in either year to be disclosed.

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalent, is as follows:

	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Management, Administration & Operations	7	7
TOTAL	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

9. DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS AND EXPENSES

There were no Directors' & Trustees' remuneration or other benefits, during the year ended 31st March 2020, nor in the year ended 31st March 2019.

There were no Directors' & Trustees' expenses, which were paid during the year ended 31st March 2020, nor in the year ended 31st March 2019.

10. DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' TRANSACTIONS

The directors and trustees had no transactions with the charitable company during the year.

OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charitable company had no transactions with any related party during the year.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Equipment, Furniture & Fittings</u> £
Cost at 1 st April 2019	22,169
Additions during the year	Nil
At 31 st March 2020	<u>22,169</u>
Depreciation at 1 st April 2019	15,062
Charge for the year	1,066
At 31 st March 2020	<u>16,128</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2020	<u>6,041</u>
Net Book Value at 31st March 2019	<u>7,107</u>

13. DEBTORS & PREPAYMENT

	2020	2019
	£	£
Debtors: Amounts Receivable	6,237	0
Prepayment: Prepaid Insurance	162	162
TOTAL	<u>6,399</u>	<u>162</u>

14. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2020	2019
	£	£
Unity Bank Current Account Balance	3,274	3,835
Unity Bank Reserve Account Balance	0	60
TOTAL	<u>3,274</u>	<u>3,895</u>

**OBAC – (ORGANISATION OF BLIND AFRICANS & CARIBBEANS)
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
PAYE Income Tax & NICs Payable	24,475	18,124
Pension Contributions Payable	2,096	263
Salaries In Arrears	37,698	14,624
Accrued Expenses	3,713	2,213
	<hr/> 67,982 <hr/>	<hr/> 35,224 <hr/>

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Royal National Institute for the Blind Loan	93,392	93,392
Other Loan Payable	34,600	34,100
	<hr/> 127,992 <hr/>	<hr/> 127,492 <hr/>

17. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS / (LIABILITIES) / FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fixed Assets Represented by Restricted Funds	6,041	7,107
<u>Less: Liabilities</u>	(6,041)	(7,107)
Net Assets Represented by Restricted Funds	<hr/> Nil <hr/>	<hr/> Nil <hr/>
Current Assets Represented by Unrestricted Funds	9,673	4,057
<u>Less: Liabilities</u>	(189,933)	(155,609)
Net Assets Represented by Unrestricted Funds	<hr/> (180,260) <hr/>	<hr/> (151,552) <hr/>
Net Assets Represented by Total Funds	<hr/> (180,260) <hr/>	<hr/> (151,552) <hr/>