

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07226359 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1137708

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
FOR
THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

Liles Morris Limited
1st Floor
80 Coombe Road
New Malden
Surrey
KT3 4QS

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
07226359 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1137708

Registered office
10 Norwich Street
London
EC4A 1BD

Trustees
G G BERINGER CBE, QC(Hon)
R KNOWLES CBE
A F DOUGLAS
J L BASS
I A P CARTY
S T CROWNE
R H G BOURNS

Company Secretary

Independent examiner
Liles Morris Limited
1st Floor
80 Coombe Road
New Malden
Surrey
KT3 4QS

Website
<http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/>

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who are all volunteers. No paid employee, whether in full or part time employment, is a member of the Board.

When appointing Trustees, the Board has regard to the skills and experience appropriate to the needs of the Charity and the provisions, in this regard, in the Articles. The Board of Trustees meets about six times a year.

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The Charity implements governance arrangements that take into account consultations with other pro bono organisations and advice provided by its legal advisers, Macfarlanes LLP (who act pro bono).

The Charity is governed by the Board of Trustees, who retain all authority for expenditure and financial and other material commitments.

The Charity had employed two members of staff whilst the Charity provided a physical Centre at 48 Chancery Lane. The 10-year lease of 48 Chancery Lane expired shortly after the commencement of the pandemic.

The two members of staff were made redundant with effect from 31 July 2020. Mary Dobson Smith, a consultant in the legal sector, has been retained by the Charity from September 2020, to support the Trustees with strategy, to assist with governance and administration, fund-raising communications. Other assistance is retained as required.

Risk management

The principal financial risks faced by the Charity lay with its lease of 48 Chancery Lane and its obligations under that lease, including potential liabilities for dilapidations, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in taking new leased premises. All liabilities of the Charity following the expiration of its lease of 48 Chancery Lane were successfully negotiated and settled within budget.

The Trustees decided, after discussion with the pro bono sector, not immediately to take on new lease liabilities until the implications of the pandemic become better known and further consultation with those providing legal pro bono services have been undertaken in order to ensure that if and when new premises are taken by the Charity, they reflect the prevailing needs of the pro bono sector and are aligned with proportionate and available financial resources. At the same time, as summarised below, there are a number of important ways (some of new or of greater importance than ever) of supporting and assisting the pro bono sector that do not involve the Charity in taking premises at least at this point.

The Trustees continue to keep under review and to assess other major risks to which the Charity is or may become exposed, the operation of the Charity and its finances. The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate measures have been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken to minimise major risks to the Charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

When planning the Charity's activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Charity's objects are specifically restricted to promoting, for the public benefit, the efficiency and effectiveness of charities established to promote the upholding and proper administration of the law through any or all of the following means:

- a) the provision of pro bono services
- b) the education and training of lawyers undertaking or intending to undertake pro bono services
- c) the support, encouragement, and advice to lawyers in the provision of pro bono services or the undertaking of voluntary work in the administration of the law, education, social services, community works and other charitable activities for the benefit of the community,

by the provision of services or facilities, including but not limited to the provision of premises, directed towards supporting improvement in the administration of those charities or otherwise supporting them in being more efficient to enhance the service provided to beneficiaries of those charities.

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Charity will continue to adhere to its core principles; to assist and support the pro bono sector, to resource its contribution through new channels without diverting resources from individual charities in the sector and making its contribution through actions that do not duplicate the work of individual charities in the sector. It will continue to explore and take opportunities to encourage and improve collaboration in the pro bono sector, to assist in making the best use of technology by the pro bono sector, to support sector-wide events, to exploit new non-financial resources so that these become available for individual charities working in the pro bono sector, and to assist with information flow where it is helpful to individual charities in the sector.

In carrying out its work the Charity, and the sector, are supported by a crucial and enduring partnership with the Commercial Litigators Forum, whose membership extends across the dispute resolution departments of the London, UK and international commercial law firms. The Charity, and the sector, further enjoy the support of the association of General Counsel for the FTSE 100 companies (GC100) and the Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR). The Charity further gratefully acknowledges the support of many of the businesses that work with the commercial dispute resolution sector.

Whilst the Charity develops arrangements to make the most effective contribution in the future, and consults with the sector, it remains actively engaged in supporting the provision of pro bono legal services through several initiatives, in particular Pro Bono Week 2020 and 2021 and supporting and resourcing the Network for Justice (formerly the LIP Network).

Pro Bono Week 2020 saw 52 events organised with over 2200 people attending them. They included events for those enabling and organising pro bono work and events for lawyers and students wanting to undertake or already undertaking pro bono work, focusing on specific themes: the use of technology, signposting, better collaboration and improving the collation of relevant data. Those themes will be further explored and developed in Pro Bono Week 2021.

The Network for Justice continues to build a community of organisations and individuals working to help vulnerable people dealing with legal issues and threats. Its focus is to develop collective knowledge and experience to deliver stronger access to the legal system to those with limited or no financial resources through connection coordination and collaboration.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of The National Pro Bono Centre for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

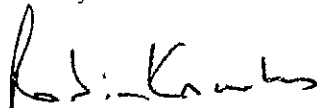
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28/9/2021 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
R KNOWLES CBE - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages six to fifteen.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 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.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. that accounting records were not kept as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
2. that the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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; or
4. that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Alison Sanderson
ICAEW
Liles Morris Limited
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80 Coombe Road
New Malden
Surrey
KT3 4QS

Date: 29/9/2021

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	180,877	10,000	190,877	333
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Charitable activity	3	135,948	-	135,948	361,497
Total incoming resources		316,825	10,000	326,825	361,830
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income	4	9,760	10,000	19,760	13,464
Charitable activities					
Charitable activity	5	224,583	-	224,583	355,477
Governance costs		4,185	-	4,185	2,250
Other resources expended		65,575	-	65,575	11,687
Total resources expended		304,103	10,000	314,103	382,878
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		12,722	-	12,722	(21,048)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		64,288	-	64,288	85,336
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		77,010	-	77,010	64,288

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	1,696	-	1,696	12,487
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	8,450	-	8,450	72,356
Cash at bank		125,718	-	125,718	79,874
		<u>134,168</u>	-	<u>134,168</u>	<u>152,230</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(58,854)	-	(58,854)	(100,429)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>75,314</u>	-	<u>75,314</u>	<u>51,801</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>77,010</u>	-	<u>77,010</u>	<u>64,288</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>77,010</u>	-	<u>77,010</u>	<u>64,288</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				77,010	64,288
Restricted funds				-	-
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>77,010</u>	<u>64,288</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention and basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

The Company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity established as a company limited by guarantee and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the 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 (The FRS 102 Charities SORP) and the Companies Act 2006. The National Pro Bono Centre meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These costs include the cost of the preparation of the statutory accounts, legal cost relating to the running of the charity and the costs of Board of Trustee meetings.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- Over term of lease
Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due

Financial instruments

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

Redundancy and termination costs

These are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities and a liability on the Balance Sheet immediately at the point the Charity is demonstrably committed to either:

- terminate the employment of an employee or group of employees before normal retirement date or,
- provide termination benefits as a result of an offer made in order to encourage voluntary redundancy.

The Charity is considered to be demonstrably committed only when it has a detailed formal plan for the termination and is without realistic possibility of withdrawal from the plan.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
Sponsorship and donations	<u>190,877</u>	<u>333</u>

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2020	2019
		£	£
Licence fees	Charitable activity	<u>135,948</u>	<u>361,497</u>

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4. COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
Staff costs	-	3,955
Other costs	-	9,509
Fundraiser fees	19,760	-
	<u>19,760</u>	<u>13,464</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable activity	<u>213,792</u>	<u>10,791</u>	<u>224,583</u>

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2020	2019
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	10,791	24,741
Other pension costs	2,687	3,364
Auditors' remuneration for non-audit work	<u>2,950</u>	<u>2,250</u>

Auditors' remuneration for non audit work relates to preparation of the Statutory accounts and Independent Examination.

For the year ended 31 December 2020, the fees paid relate to LilesMorris Accountants £2,700 (2019 : £nil) and Elson Greaves £250 (2019 : £2,250)

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019 .

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2020 nor for the year ended 31 December 2019 .

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

8. STAFF COSTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	64,123	62,553
Social security costs	1,452	-
Other pension costs	2,687	3,364
	<u>68,262</u>	<u>65,917</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Governance and provision of services	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

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

Included in Wages and Salaries are redundancy payments relating to two staff of £28,750 (2019 : £nil). As of 31 December 2020 the company had no employees.

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2020	211,906	4,967	26,929	243,802
Disposals	(211,906)	(4,967)	(22,870)	(239,743)
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,059</u>	<u>4,059</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2020	201,927	4,967	24,421	231,315
Charge for year	9,979	-	812	10,791
Eliminated on disposal	(211,906)	(4,967)	(22,870)	(239,743)
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,363</u>	<u>2,363</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,696</u>	<u>1,696</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>9,979</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,508</u>	<u>12,487</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	1,184	3,334
Other debtors	7,266	69,022
	<u>8,450</u>	<u>72,356</u>

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR - continued

Included in Other debtors are prepayments of £3,327 (2019 : £65,083). 2019 includes £61,690 relating to lease and service charges paid in advance.

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	28,906	13,149
Taxation and social security	27,248	2,649
Other creditors	2,700	84,631
	<u>58,854</u>	<u>100,429</u>

12. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The following operating lease payments are committed to be paid within one year:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Expiring:		
Within one year	-	61,479
	<u>-</u>	<u>61,479</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	64,288	12,722	77,010
	<u>64,288</u>	<u>12,722</u>	<u>77,010</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>64,288</u>	<u>12,722</u>	<u>77,010</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	316,825	(304,103)	12,722
Restricted funds			
CLF support	10,000	(10,000)	-
	<u>326,825</u>	<u>(314,103)</u>	<u>12,722</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>326,825</u>	<u>(314,103)</u>	<u>12,722</u>

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.19 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	85,336	(21,048)	64,288
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>85,336</u>	<u>(21,048)</u>	<u>64,288</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	361,830	(382,878)	(21,048)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>361,830</u>	<u>(382,878)</u>	<u>(21,048)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,336	(8,326)	77,010
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>85,336</u>	<u>(8,326)</u>	<u>77,010</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	678,655	(686,981)	(8,326)
Restricted funds			
CLF support	10,000	(10,000)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>688,655</u>	<u>(696,981)</u>	<u>(8,326)</u>

THE NATIONAL PRO BONO CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

CLF Support Fund

£10,000 was donated to assist with the funding of the work by Mary Dobson Smith, supporting the Commercial Litigators Forum in their efforts to fund-raise for the National Pro Bono Centre.

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

One of the company's trustees and directors, Alasdair Douglas, was also a trustee of Solicitors Pro Bono Group t/a LawWorks. During the year ended 31 December 2020, the National Pro Bono Centre received licence fees of £56,028 (2019 : £149,000) from LawWorks. As at the year end the National Pro Bono Centre was owed £2,361 (2019 : £2,361).

Another director, Sir Robin Knowles CBE is a trustee of the Bar Pro Bono Unit. During the year ended 31 December 2020, the National Pro Bono Centre received licence fees of £56,028 (2019 : £149,000) from the Bar Pro Bono Unit. As at the year end the National Pro Bono Centre was owed £1,578 (2019 : £1,578).

15. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

As a charity limited by guarantee there is no controlling party. The charity is controlled by the Trustees as a body under the terms of the governing documents.