#### **UK ASTRONOMY LIMITED**

(A company limited by guarantee)

# TRUSTEES' REPORT AND INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 CONTENTS

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023 LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Number 1190172

Company registration number 10276672

**Registered office** 3 Pleshey Close

Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire

MK5 6EP

**Board of Trustees** Ross M. Hockham

Francesca L. Hockham

Emma J. Bird

Nicholas S. Whitton

Bankers Metro Bank

thecentre:mk

44-46 Midsummer Arcade

Midsummer Arcade

Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire

MK9 3BB

Website www.UKAstronomy.org

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (incorporating the directors' report) continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

The trustees (who are also directors of UK Astronomy Limited for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The objective of UK Astronomy Limited ("UK Astronomy", "the charitable company" or "we") is the advancement of education, community development and science: specifically, to educate and assist amateur and beginner astronomers in their discovery of astronomy and collective contribution to knowledge. The charitable company benefits any amateur astronomer without prejudice to age, ability, or experience, provided they are located within the United Kingdom.

UK Astronomy, in furtherance of this overriding purpose, engages in activities which encourage group support and self-help, and which:

- 1. Encourage amateur astronomers in the UK to help one another to learn and enjoy any aspect of astronomy.
- 2. Facilitate online forums where members can, in the context of astronomy:
  - seek assistance with technical, local, or other matters
  - promote local group activities and events
  - share information and photographs
  - share learning and refer to astronomy news and other current points of interest
  - · engage in lively debate
- 3. Convene events to develop understanding in the subject
- 4. Provide support for other organisations' engagement in astronomy, with a strong focus on introductory and other workshops as well as information for beginners
- 5. Contribute to the body of astronomical knowledge.

#### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and believe that the achievements and performance of the past year detailed below demonstrate that the Charity's activities provide benefit to the public.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

In the past year, our charity has achieved significant milestones and made a positive impact on our community and the field of astronomy. We are proud to highlight the following accomplishments:

**Successful Fundraising for Our New Planetarium:** In a remarkable effort, we successfully raised funds for our new planetarium service, which was launched in May. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous funders who supported this project, making it possible. The grant funders who contributed to the success of the planetarium project include:

- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards: Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire & Villages, Haddenham & Waddesdon, Northwest Chilterns, Wendover & Villages and Winslow & Villages
- Foyle Foundation
- Heart of Bucks
- Mk Community Foundation
- Rothschild Foundation
- William Hardings Charity

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (incorporating the directors' report) continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

**Royal Recognition for Our Founder:** Our founder, Ross Hockham, received a prestigious honour by being nominated as a Coronation Champion by their Royal Highnesses in conjunction with the Royal Voluntary Service. This recognition led to an exclusive invitation to a Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, a testament to his dedication and contribution to our cause.

**Young Volunteer's Literary Contribution:** Aston Smith, one of our young volunteers, launched his second book titled "Things About Space." In a heartwarming gesture, he donated £2 per book from the sale of the first 500 books to support UK astronomy. Additionally, First Light Optics matched his donation with a further £2 for each book they sold, magnifying the impact of his philanthropic endeavour.

**Funeral Donations in Memory of Supporters:** This year, we received our first-ever funeral donations in memory of Les Hughes and David Robey. These donations signify the enduring legacy of their support for our charity.

**National Magazine Feature:** We were honoured to be approached by the prestigious national magazine, "Astronomy Now," to contribute a 3-page spread, showcasing our work and mission to a wider audience. This recognition is a testament to our growing influence in the field.

#### **Future Plans & Priorities**

As we look ahead to the future, our charity is dedicated to building upon our recent achievements and expanding our impact. To achieve our objectives, our trustees will continue to review our activities and income-generating events, ensuring they have a wide appeal to all our supporters while closely monitoring the return on investment of such activities.

Here are some of our specific plans for the coming year:

**Expanding the Planetarium Service:** Our commitment to the cosmos will shine brightly as we continue the rollout of our planetarium service. Our aim is to ensure it reaches an even wider audience and enriches their understanding of the universe.

**Continuing Outreach and Stargazing Evenings:** We stand steadfast in our commitment to outreach. Stargazing evenings and community engagement will remain at the forefront of our activities, fostering a deeper appreciation for astronomy among enthusiasts of all ages.

**Annual Photo Competition:** To encourage creativity and participation, we are refreshing our photo competition by making it an annual event, with a relaunch scheduled for November. This initiative provides a platform for individuals to share their passion for the cosmos through the art of photography.

**10-Year Anniversary in 2024:** An exciting milestone awaits as we plan a grand celebration for our 10-year anniversary in 2024. This special occasion will be an opportunity to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to a future filled with even more astronomical wonders and community engagement.

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (incorporating the directors' report) continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

#### Financial review

The results for the year ended 31 July 2023 are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities together with the Balance Sheet which provides details of the assets and liabilities.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows that UK Astronomy Limited had another successful year, generating £46,036 total income (2022: £15,296), and incurring £22,235 total expenses (2022: £12,489). Expenses are primarily driven by depreciation on fixed assets (including, in 2023, a full year's charge on the new planetarium). The net increase in funds of £23,801, (2022: increase £2,807) brings total funds at 31 July 2023 to £78,276 (2022: £54,475).

Thanks are given to the following funders:

- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards: Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire & Villages, Haddenham & Waddesdon, Northwest Chilterns, Wendover & Villages and Winslow
- Foyle Foundation
- Heart of Bucks
- Mk Community Foundation
- Rothschild Foundation
- The Barrett Foundation
- William Hardings Charity

No members of the Company take any remuneration from the Company.

At 31 July 2023 UK Astronomy held cash at bank and in hand of £13,262 (2022: £23,633).

#### Reserve policy

Unrestricted funds are those funds that the charity can use for any activity that meets its charitable objects. Freely available reserves are funds which are unrestricted and not invested or committed to spend on operational assets. In this context free reserves therefore exclude the value of fixed assets in the accounts. The trustees monitor the level of reserves which they believe to be appropriate to ensure UK Astronomy's ability to meet its objectives over the medium and long term.

At 31 July 2023 the Charity held freely available reserves of £14,746). Equivalent of 9 Months expenditure for the forthcoming year (2022: £10,053 – 9 Months)

Restricted funds are unexpended funds that have been donated to the Charity with specific conditions attached to their use. At 31 July 2023 these funds totalled £1,109 restricted towards the running of the mobile observatory (2022: £15,378)

The Trustees have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis having taken into account future income and expenditure and they consider this is an appropriate basis.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (incorporating the directors' report) continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

The main risk categories relevant to UK Astronomy are:

- Financial Risk: The charity continues to face challenges related to financial stability and sustainability. In the current economic climate, with the ongoing increase in the cost of living, there are heightened financial risks associated with maintaining and growing our operations.
- Reputational Risk: With the expansion of our services, maintaining a positive reputation
  is crucial. Negative publicity or issues related to our operations could impact public trust
  and support.
- Volunteer Shortage Risk: One of the significant risks we face this year is the lack of volunteers. The success of our charity heavily relies on the dedication and support of volunteers. A shortage in volunteers could strain our resources and limit our ability to deliver our services effectively.
- External Environment Risk: The broader external environment, including economic conditions, government policies, and changes in public sentiment, can influence our ability to operate effectively and secure funding.
- Legal and Regulatory Risk: This year, legal and regulatory risks encompass areas such
  as GDPR compliance, health and safety regulations, and evolving fundraising standards.
  Staying compliant with these regulations is vital to avoid legal consequences and maintain
  public trust.

The major risk to the Charity this year remains the continuing challenge of raising income, exacerbated by the current economic downturn and the cost-of-living crisis. Furthermore, the lack of volunteers and increase in demand for our services require strategic planning and mitigation measures. The Trustees are committed to monitoring and managing these risks to safeguard the charity's mission and its ability to serve the community effectively.

### Structure, governance, and management

#### Governance

UK Astronomy Limited is a private company limited by guarantee which was incorporated in the UK on 13 July 2016 and commenced charitable activities immediately. It is recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes in line with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and was registered with the charity commission on 29 June 2020.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of five years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

The board may select new trustees by any means it deems appropriate, which may include the introduction of personal contacts, by advertising, or by direct approach to individuals. All applicants to become trustees are interviewed by a selection panel of at least 2 trustees including the Chair.

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (incorporating the directors' report) continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

All members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

#### **Trustee Induction and Training**

New Trustees receive an induction pack including a copy of the Charity Commission's Guide "The Essential Trustee", the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the latest financial statements, and key policy documents.

#### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of UK Astronomy Limited for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period 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 year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

The trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's web site.

#### **Small company provisions**

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

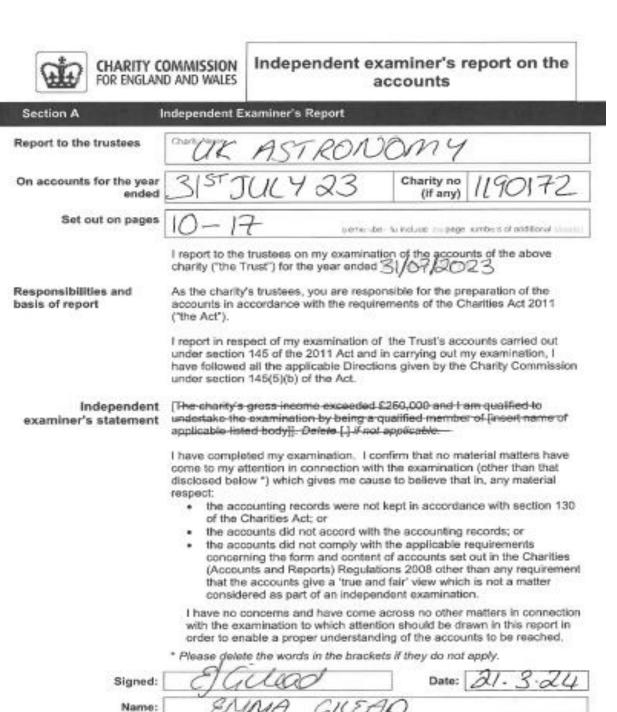
Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Ross M. Hockham
Trustee

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

**IER** 

### ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023



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Oct 2018

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

			2023			2022	
	Note	Un- restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Un- restricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations	2	7,438	33,055	40,493	873	9,188	10,061
Charitable activities	3	5,543	-	5,543	3,340	-	3,340
Other trading activities	4	-	-			1,895	1,895
Total income	,	12,981	33,055	46,036	4,213	11,083	15,296
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(2,173)	_	(2,173)	(602)	_	(602)
Charitable activities	6	(17,741)	(2,321)	(20,062)	(9,971)	(1,916)	(11,887)
Total expenditure	•	(19,914)	(2,321)	(22,235)	(10,573)	(1,916)	(12,489)
	7 &						
Net income for the year	9	(6,933)	30,734	23,801	(6,360)	9,167	2,807
Transfers between funds	,	45,003	(45,003)	_	2,023	(2,023)	_
Net movement in funds		38,070	(14,269)	23,801	(4,337)	7,144	2,807
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		39,097	15,378	54,475	43,434	8,234	51,668
Total funds carried forward	:	77,167	1,109	78,276	39,097	15,378	54,475

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006. All the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included.

The principal accounting policies and accompanying notes on pages 12-16 form part of these financial statements.

### **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

	<u>-</u>		2023			2022	
	Note	Un- restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Un- restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible Assets	8	62,421	-	62,421	29,044	-	29,044
Current assets		4040	650			4000	4 =00
Debtors		1,943	650	2,593	589	1209	1,798
Cash at bank and in har	nd _	12,803	459	13,262	9,646	14,169	23,633
Total current assets	-	14,746	1,109	15,855	10,053	15,378	25,431
Net assets	-	77,167	1,109	78,276	39,097	15,378	54,475
Funds							
Unrestricted funds	9	77,167	-	77,167	39,097	-	39,097
Restricted funds	9 _	-	1,109	1,109		15,378	15,378
Total funds	=	77,167	1,109	78,276	39,097	15,378	54,475

The balance sheet continues on the following page

The principal accounting policies and accompanying notes on pages 12-16 form part of these financial statements.

#### **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2023**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

- a) That for the year ended 31 July 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.
- b) No member of the company has deposited a notice pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 July 2023.
- c) The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:
  - i. ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
  - ii. preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with Section 1A Financial Reporting Standard 102.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 21 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Ross M. Hockham

Trustee

Francesca L. Hockham

Trustee

Company Registration Number 10276672

The principal accounting policies and accompanying notes on pages 12-16 form part of these financial statements.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### a) Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP (Financial Reporting Standard 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 1 January 2015), FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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

#### b) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charities ability to continue as a going concern.

#### c) Disclosure exemptions

The charitable company has taken advantage of the FRS 102 Section 7 exemption from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

The company is entitled to the small companies' exemption and is therefore not required to produce a strategic report in accordance with SI 2013/1970 The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013.

#### d) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for a particular future project or commitment. At 31 July 2023 no funds were designated in this manner (2022: Nil).

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on the expenditure declared by the donor.

#### e) Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donated equipment is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

#### f) Expenses

Expenses are recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

#### 2 Income from donations

Donations include all income received by the charity that is, in substance, a gift made to it on a voluntary basis. A donation may be for any purpose of the charity (unrestricted funds) or for a particular purpose of the charity such as funding towards a mobile observatory (restricted funds).

Donations under gift aid, together with the associated income tax recoveries, are credited as income when donations are received.

#### 3 Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities comprises income earned from UK Astronomy events.

#### 4 Income from other trading activities

Income from other trading activities includes income from the sale of UK Astronomy branded merchandise to raise funds for the charity, and income from fundraising events organised by the charity.

#### 5 Expenditure on raising funds

Expenditure on raising funds includes costs such as marketing and website costs.

#### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs to further its charitable aims including the costs of organising UK Astronomy events and costs relating to the governance of the charity.

#### 7 Net income and movement in funds

Net income is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	14,830	9,274

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

### **8** Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful economic life:

Vehicles	14% straight line
Telescopes	20% straight line
Filters	50% straight line
Outreach Equipment	20% straight line
Other Equipment	20% straight line
Planetarium	10% straight line

Tangible fixed assets	Vehicles	Planetariums	Telescopes	Filters	Outreach Equipment	Other Equipment	Total
<u>u33Ct3</u>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost							
At 1 August							
2022	45,255	-	6,115	184	3,490	1,783	56,827
Additions	-	33,199	1,507	150	1,522	11,829	48,207
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(76)	(8)	(84)
At 31 July 2023	45,255	33,199	7,622	334	4,936	13,604	104,950
Depreciation							
At 1 August							
2022	19,395	-	4,070	184	2,881	1,254	27,783
Charge for the	6,465	3,320	1 016	75	1 270	2 504	14 920
year Eliminated on	0,405	3,320	1,016	/5	1,370	2,584	14,830
disposals	_	_	_	_	(76)	(8)	(84)
					(1.2)	(-7	(- '/
At 31 July 2023	25,860	3,320	5,086	259	4,174	3,830	42,529
Net Book Value							
At 31 July 2023	19,395	29,879	2,536	75	762	9,774	62,421
				-			
At 31 July 2022	25,860	-	2,045	-	610	529	29,044

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Tangible fixed assets	Vehicles £	Telescopes £	Filters £	Outreach Equipment £	Other Equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 August 2021	45,255	3,899	184	2,432	1,759	53,529
Additions	-	2,216	-	1,218	24	3,458
Disposals	-	-	-	(160)	-	(160)
At 31 July 2022	45,255	6,115	184	3,490	1,783	56,827
<b>Depreciation</b> At 1 Aug 2021	12,930	2,856	184	1,791	908	18,669
Charge for the year	6,465	1,214	-	1,250	345	9,274
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	(160)	-	(160)
At 31 July 2022	19,395	4,070	184	2,881	1,254	27,783
Net Book Value						
At 31 July 2022	25,860	2,045	-	610	529	29,044
At 31 July 2021	32,325	1,043	-	641	851	34,860

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

### 9 Analysis of charitable funds

	At 31 July 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	At 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	39,097	12,981	(19,914)	45,003	77,167
Restricted funds					
Restricted donations	15,378	33,055	(2,321)	(45,003)	1,109
Total funds	54,475	46,036	(22,235)	-	78,276
Movement in funds (prior year)	At 31 July 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	At 31 July 2022 £
	2021		-	Transfers	2022
(prior year)	2021		-	Transfers 2,023	2022
(prior year) Unrestricted funds	2021 £	£	£		2022 £
(prior year)  Unrestricted funds  General fund	2021 £	£	£		2022 £

### 10 Company limited by guarantee

The charitable company is limited by guarantee of members and does not have a share capital. The liability of members is limited to £1.

#### 11 Employees

	2023	2022
Average number of employees during		
the year	0	0