

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 5034
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 250605**

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

**PUBLISHERS OF THE LAW REPORTS, THE WEEKLY LAW REPORTS,
THE INDUSTRIAL CASES REPORTS, THE BUSINESS LAW REPORTS
AND THE PUBLIC AND THIRD SECTOR LAW REPORTS**

MEGARRY HOUSE, 119 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON WC2A 1PP

**THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT

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THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Chairman - R Fleck Esq. CBE
Vice Chairman – T H W Piper Esq.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Attorney-General - The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Wright QC MP
The Solicitor-General – Robert Buckland QC MP
The President of The Law Society – J B Egan Esq.

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Lincoln's Inn
His Honour Judge D R Hodge QC
The Hon. Mr Justice Norris

Middle Temple
The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
P Susman Esq. QC

Inner Temple
Miss M Bowron QC
The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Elias

Gray's Inn
S Gault Esq
The Hon. Mr Justice Turner

The Law Society
Mrs S Abraham
Ms L K H Lee

ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected by the Council on the nomination of the General Council of the Bar

T Dutton Esq. QC

K Hamer Esq.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

R Fleck Esq CBE
T H W Piper Esq.
Ms S Thomas
J M Turner Esq. QC
Miss C Walton

SECRETARY / CEO

Kevin Laws Esq.

Registered Address:
Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP

ADVISORS

Solicitors
Bird & Bird
15 Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1JP

Independent Auditor
haysmacintyre
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

Bankers
National Westminster Bank plc
156 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2DX

Stockbrokers
Quilter Cheviot
1 Kingsway
London WC2B 6AN

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, being the trustees under Charity law and the directors under company law, submit their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017. Details of members are given on page 1.

During the year there were the following changes to the members of the Council:

Ex-officio members: J B Egan Esq. succeeded RHG Bourns Esq. as President of The Law Society.

No trustees received any remuneration during the year. No trustees were reimbursed (2016: One trustee was reimbursed £188) in respect of expenses incurred in performing their duty.

The number of members of the Council shall not exceed twenty. Three, namely the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the President of The Law Society are appointed members by virtue of their office. Ten members, two from each of Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple, Middle Temple, Gray's Inn and The Law Society are nominated by each of these societies. Two members are elected to represent the Bar Council. Other co-opted members, not exceeding five in total, are appointed by the Council.

New members are provided with the articles of association, 'The Essential Trustee' document from the Charity Commission, the latest accounts and the minutes from the most recent Executive Committee meeting. They are also given the opportunity to ask the Chief Executive Officer any questions that they may have.

OBJECTS AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. The preparation and publication, in a convenient form, at a moderate price and under gratuitous professional control, of Reports of Judicial Decisions of the Superior and Appellate Courts in England and Wales.
2. The issue, periodically or occasionally, of any subsidiary or other publications relating to legal subjects which it may be considered expedient to combine with the publication of such reports, including the Statutes of the Realm, or any part thereof, if deemed expedient.

The principal activities of the Council are the publication of *The Law Reports*, *The Weekly Law Reports*, *The Industrial Cases Reports*, *The Business Law Reports* and *The Public and Third Sector Law Reports*. Following Practice Directions from Lord Woolf in 2001 and Lord Judge in 2012, the Official Law Reports must always be cited in preference to other law reports. The function to publish law reports of judicial decisions of the superior and appellate courts in England and Wales makes a significant contribution to the administration of justice in England and Wales. This independent role is free from political and shareholder influence.

The Council was formed in 1865, incorporated on 28 July 1870, registered as a charity on 17 November 1971, and is now a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The liability of members is limited to ten pounds per member.

The Council's primary object is, in substance, to record in a reliably accurate manner the development and application of judge-made law and to disseminate the knowledge of that law, its development and judicial application, in a way which is essential to the study of the law. Its purposes in doing so are (i) to assist the administration and development of the law by the courts and (ii) to make the law known, or at least accessible, to all members of the community, including professional lawyers whose advice on legal matters is likely to be sought by other members of the community, thereby making a sound knowledge and understanding of the law more available to all. In 1971 those purposes were held by the Court of Appeal in *Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales v Attorney-General* [1972] Ch 73, 88, 95, 104 to be of "general public utility" and "beneficial to the community". Nothing has changed in any relevant respect since 1971 and the Council continues to believe that substantial public benefit results from those activities.

The Council is run on a not-for-profit basis whilst offering preferential rates in respect of its publications to students, law lecturers and other charities. The trustees have taken due regard of the information issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

ICLR.3, a new platform to deliver content to customers in a clearer, more robust and user friendly way, was launched in October 2017. Feedback from users has been very positive. The delivery of transcripts in front of the paywall has also been well received.

A replacement Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system was implemented in 2017. Customer communication and online access control are now managed using a Salesforce CRM system.

The continuing publication of the online only 4th volume of the Weekly Law Reports has enabled ICLR to report more cases than ever before. This, together with a more extensive range of transcripts, has resulted in a wider coverage of case law.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the valuation of investments to market value, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

Income in 2017 at £4,899,850 was £53,243 (1.1%) higher than in 2016. The higher income is primarily attributable to the continuing rise in demand for online publications.

Costs have been kept under tight control. Total expenditure at £4,687,327 was £58,229 (1.2%) lower than in 2016.

This has resulted in an operating surplus of £212,523, much better than the £101,052 operating surplus in 2016.

Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) amount to just under £3.5m. This amount is mainly comprised of deferred income which represents a requirement to provide a future service, not a requirement to pay cash.

The accounts show net current liabilities of £550,264, compared to a net current asset position of £65,553 in 2016. This is due to the transfer of £500,000 to ICLR's investment managers for which there is a corresponding increase in the value of investments, most of which are held in highly liquid equities and funds. It also relates to ICLR's investment in the new online platform, CRM system and content, amounting to £367,329 in the year.

There was a rise of £1,044k in unrestricted funds to £2,645k, primarily due to a decrease in the accounting calculation of the pension fund deficit by £777k.

KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION POLICY

The members of Council have identified the Chief Executive Officer, Editor, Head of Product Development and Online Content and Head of Marketing and Customer Experience as key management personnel of the charity and they are in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

The pay of all staff is reviewed annually with average increases normally in line with inflation.

RISKS

A risk register is maintained and regularly reviewed at Council meetings. Areas currently identified with significant inherent risk include the risk that demand for ICLR content on paper declines to a level that results in an unsustainable loss and the risk that operational or archive data is lost. Controls have been put in place to mitigate these risks and include developing alternative sources of revenue and ensuring data is regularly backed up and held in multiple locations. Continuity of service for the online platform is also considered a risk. The security of the platform is regularly reviewed to ensure the appropriate measures are in place.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

INVESTMENT POLICY

Quilter Cheviot were appointed discretionary managers for the Council's investment portfolio in September 2015. The investment strategy falls within the wealth preservation category including a mixture of asset classes (approximate breakdown: UK equities (40%), overseas equities (30%), fixed interest (15%), property and infrastructure (15%)). The trustees regularly monitor the performance of the investment managers.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The Council operates a defined benefit pension scheme that was closed to new members in 1999 and closed to future accrual in 2010. The net liability for defined benefit pension scheme obligations has decreased from £1.8 million at 31 December 2016 to £1.0 million at 31 December 2017. This decrease in net liability of £0.8 million is largely due to a £0.7m increase in the market value of plan assets. The Council continues to contribute £135k per annum to reduce the deficit. The pension scheme trustees consider that this level of contribution is sufficient to meet the liabilities of the scheme. This view is supported by the scheme actuary.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Council will continue to seek to improve the efficiency of the publishing process and will explore new opportunities for expanding the Council's content and improve the functionality of the online platform in order to meet customers' demands.

RESERVES

Free reserves, being total unrestricted reserves less tangible and intangible fixed assets, plus the pension fund deficit stand at £1,643,725 (2016: £1,662,588). The free reserves provide working capital for the operations of the charity and the trustees consider that an ideal level of reserves would amount to a full year's worth of expenditure (£4.7m), although it is recognised that with the current economic conditions this level is unlikely to be reached in the foreseeable future. Amounts recorded in tangible fixed assets are excluded because they are not readily available to the charity for spending. The pension fund deficit will be dealt with through adjusting contributions over a period of years.

TANGIBLE ASSETS

The movements in tangible assets during the year are set out in note 10 to the accounts. The Trustees are aware that there is a material favourable difference between the disclosed carrying value of freehold properties (£1.5m) in these accounts and the current market value, but do not believe that there is value, commensurate with the associated cost, in ascertaining that market value at this time.

AUDITOR

A resolution proposing that haysmacintyre be reappointed for the ensuing year will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council members have confirmed that so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware and that they have taken all the reasonable steps that they ought to have taken as members in order to make themselves aware of any such relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

APPRECIATION

The Council wishes to express its thanks to Her Majesty's Judges and to both branches of the Profession for the aid afforded by them to the Editors and Reporters in the discharge of their duties and to record their appreciation of the efforts of the Editors, Reporters, and staff in maintaining the high quality of the published law reports.

By Order of the Council



K Laws
Company Secretary

Date: 13 June 2018

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report 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 that 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 net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. 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 Charities SORP;
- make judgements 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that 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.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

We have audited the financial statements of The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Council, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW
REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES (continued)**

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Council. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Council for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Council has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Council.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Report of the Council and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.



Samantha Coutinho (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of haysmacintyre, Statutory Auditor
10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG
Date: 13 June 2018

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
INCOME FROM:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Sales of print publications	3	1,065,105	1,185,792
Online, licensing and other income	3	3,716,316	3,552,891
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest receivable		5,790	8,477
Listed investments		51,953	45,448
<i>Other</i>			
Rental income		60,686	54,000
TOTAL		4,899,850	4,846,608
EXPENDITURE ON:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Costs of publications and services	4	4,598,984	4,643,357
Distribution costs	4	88,343	102,199
TOTAL		4,687,327	4,745,556
Net income for the year before investment gains		212,523	101,052
Net gains on investments	12	143,555	214,510
Net income for the year		356,078	315,562
Other recognised gains/(losses)			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	16	688,000	(721,000)
Net movement in funds for the year		1,044,078	(405,438)
Funds brought forward at 1 January	15	1,601,339	2,006,777
Funds carried forward at 31 December	15	2,645,417	1,601,339

All gains and losses arising in the year are included in the Statement of Financial Activities above and arose from continuing activities.


THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	£	2017 £	£	2016 £	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	10		1,962,692		1,730,751	
Intangible assets	11		54,000		-	
Investments	12		2,193,989		1,597,035	
			<u>4,210,681</u>		<u>3,327,786</u>	
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock		70,215		70,618		
Debtors	13	1,983,515		1,962,918		
Cash at bank and in hand		888,127		1,434,717		
		<u>2,941,857</u>		<u>3,468,253</u>		
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(3,492,121)</u>		<u>(3,402,700)</u>		
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ ASSETS			<u>(550,264)</u>		<u>65,553</u>	
NET ASSETS excluding pension liability			<u>3,660,417</u>		<u>3,393,339</u>	
Pension liability	16		<u>(1,015,000)</u>		<u>(1,792,000)</u>	
NET ASSETS			<u><u>2,645,417</u></u>		<u><u>1,601,339</u></u>	
FUNDS						
Unrestricted funds						
- Accumulated reserve	15		3,660,417		3,393,339	
- Pension reserve	15		<u>(1,015,000)</u>		<u>(1,792,000)</u>	
			<u><u>2,645,417</u></u>		<u><u>1,601,339</u></u>	

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council and were signed on its behalf on 13 June 2018.



.....R FLECK, Chairman



.....S GAULT, Member of the Council

Company Registration Number 5034 (England & Wales)

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by operating activities	a	217,545	165,125
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest		57,743	53,924
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(307,329)	(114,715)
Purchase of intangible assets		(60,000)	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		102,557	145,974
Purchase of investments		(557,106)	(371,515)
Net cash used in investing activities		(764,135)	(286,332)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(546,590)	(121,207)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	b	1,434,717	1,555,924
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	b	888,127	1,434,717
a) Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)		356,078	315,562
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation charges		75,388	45,504
Amortisation		6,000	-
Gains on investments		(143,555)	(214,510)
Dividends and interest from investments		(57,743)	(53,924)
Decrease in stock		403	2,960
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(20,598)	92,436
Increase in creditors		90,572	60,859
Fixed asset write off		-	8,238
Difference between pension movement and cash contributions		(89,000)	(92,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities		217,545	165,125
b) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in hand		438,127	434,717
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)		450,000	1,000,000
Total cash and cash equivalents		888,127	1,434,717

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information

The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales ("the Council") is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (Company registration no. 5034) and registered with the Charity Commission (Charity registration no. 250605). The Council's registered office address is Megarry House, 119 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP.

(b) Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of fixed asset investments, which are included at their market value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015), the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards (FRS 102).

The Council meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

(c) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties regarding the Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

(d) Income

All income, including income from publications, subscriptions and licensing agreements is accrued and included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Council is legally entitled to (or has received) the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received relating to future accounting periods is deferred and recognised as a creditor within the balance sheet. Subscriptions in respect of the following financial year are raised in advance and are due for payment by 31 December and these are shown within trade debtors and deferred income.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Direct charitable expenditure relates to salaries and expenditure incurred in preparing, publishing and distributing content and related services.

Support costs consist of central management, administration and governance costs. The amount spent on raising funds and other activities is considered to be immaterial and all support costs are allocated to costs of publications and services within charitable activities.

(f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible assets, other than freehold land, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis using the following rates:

Freehold buildings	-	2%
Fixtures and fittings	-	10%
Electrical and computer equipment	-	20%
Online Platform and Content Management System	-	20%

(g) Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

Intangible fixed assets consist of licences of transcripts and are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is provided on all intangible assets, to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life on a straight-line basis. The trustees consider that given the length of time that cases can be considered or cited, it is not possible to make a reliable estimate of the useful life and therefore have adopted the presumed useful life of 10 years as set out in the SORP 2015.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(h) Investments

Investments are included at market value on the Balance Sheet date. Net gains or losses on revaluation and disposal of investments are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Financial instruments – assets and liabilities

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts, when applicable, are shown within current liabilities.

Debtors and creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rates are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(k) Employee benefits

The Council provides a range of benefits to employees including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holidays and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Council operates a group personal pension scheme under which the Council makes fixed contributions to a separate entity. The Council also makes contributions to self-employed reporters appointed prior to 1989 which they invest in personal pension schemes. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. The assets of the pension plans are held separately from the Council in independently administered funds.

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has a defined benefit pension scheme for employees that was closed to future accrual on 15th June 2010, the assets of which are administered by trustees. The liability recognised in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting date less the fair value of the scheme assets at the reporting date.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the Council engages an independent actuary to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating the estimated period of the future periods ("discount rate"). The fair value of the scheme assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as "remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability".

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of the scheme assets. The cost is recognised within other pension costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Council's accounting policies and the reported assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and the disclosures made in the financial statements. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Key areas subject to judgement and estimation are as follows:

Defined benefit pension scheme

The Council has obligations to pay pension benefits under a defined benefit pension scheme. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors including; life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates the factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet, and the assumptions are agreed with the scheme's actuary on the basis of historical experience and current trends.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2017 £	2016 £
A geographical division of charitable income is given below:		
United Kingdom	3,809,532	3,663,524
Overseas	971,889	1,075,159
	<u>4,781,421</u>	<u>4,738,683</u>

4. COST OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Fees and Salaries £	Other Direct Costs £	Support Costs (Note 5) £	2017 Total £	2016 Total £
Costs of publications and services	2,797,561	803,547	997,876	4,598,984	4,643,357
Distribution costs	-	88,343	-	88,343	102,199
Total	<u>2,797,561</u>	<u>891,890</u>	<u>997,876</u>	<u>4,687,327</u>	<u>4,745,556</u>
Total 2016	<u>2,686,619</u>	<u>1,006,918</u>	<u>1,052,019</u>		

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	2017 £	2016 £
Salaries, wages, NI, health insurance and pension costs	588,985	639,815
Office rent and running costs	80,935	62,112
Office supplies and services	173,678	169,658
Depreciation	75,388	45,504
Amortisation	6,000	-
Miscellaneous	63,640	126,430
Governance costs – audit fees	9,250	8,500
	<u>997,876</u>	<u>1,052,019</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

6. NET INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	2017 £	2016 £
Net income for the financial year is stated after charging the following:		
Auditor's remuneration:		
- audit	9,250	8,500
- other financial services	4,450	-
	<u>13,700</u>	<u>8,500</u>
7. FEES AND SALARIES	2017 £	2016 £
Salaries and wages for:		
Employed reporters and editors	1,206,823	1,036,827
Other staff	939,072	1,050,432
	<u>2,145,895</u>	<u>2,087,259</u>
Social security costs	228,024	224,252
Other pension costs	317,897	294,736
Staff healthcare costs	59,779	51,745
	<u>2,751,594</u>	<u>2,657,992</u>
Self-employed reporters' and editors' fees	634,951	682,112
	<u>3,386,546</u>	<u>3,340,104</u>

The Council has made termination payments in the previous year but has disclosed these in the financial statements as it is bound by confidentiality agreements. The trustees acknowledge that non-disclosure of these amounts is a departure from the requirements of the SORP but as the amounts are not considered to be material to the financial statements, these still present a true and fair view of the affairs of the Council.

	2017 Number	2016 Number
The monthly average number of people employed by the Council during the year was:		
Other staff	20	21
Reporters and editors	25	24
	<u>45</u>	<u>45</u>
Permanent employees	45	45
Self employed reporters and editors	9	9
	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>
The emoluments of higher paid staff within the following range were:		
£60,000 - £69,999	4	4
£70,000 - £79,999	2	1
£80,000 - £89,999	1	1
£90,000 - £99,999	-	1
£120,000 - £129,999	1	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>

The key management personnel of the Council consist of the four (2016: four) members of the senior management team. Total compensation (including employer's national insurance contributions) for key management personnel for the year was £471,326 (2016: £449,434).

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

8. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2016: £nil). No members received expenses reimbursed during the year (2016: One member of the Council was reimbursed £188 in respect of travelling expenses incurred in performing his duty).

9. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and, as its income is applied to charitable purposes, there is no liability to corporation tax.

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Electrical and computer equipment £	Online sales platform £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2017	2,178,224	134,129	75,207	874,756	3,262,316
Additions	-	616	5,019	301,694	307,329
Disposals	-	(828)	(15,377)	(673,185)	(689,390)
At 31 December 2017	2,178,224	133,917	64,849	503,265	2,880,255
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 January 2017	663,981	114,848	62,460	690,276	1,531,565
Charge for the year	4,772	2,815	9,403	58,398	75,388
Disposals	-	(828)	(15,377)	(673,185)	(689,390)
At 31 December 2017	668,753	116,835	56,486	75,489	917,563
Net book values					
At 31 December 2017	1,509,471	17,082	8,363	427,776	1,962,692
At 31 December 2016	1,514,243	19,281	12,747	184,480	1,730,751

All assets are considered to be held for charitable purposes.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Transcript Licence £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2017	-	-
Additions	60,000	60,000
Disposals	-	-
	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
At 31 December 2017	60,000	60,000
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 January 2017	-	-
Charge for the year	6,000	6,000
Disposals	-	-
	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
At 31 December 2017	6,000	6,000
Net book values		
At 31 December 2017	<u>54,000</u>	<u>54,000</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

12. INVESTMENTS

	Fixed interest stock £	Listed investments £	Total £
Analysis of movements in the year			
Market value at 1 January 2017	182,733	1,414,302	1,597,035
Additions at cost	110,008	447,098	557,106
Sales proceeds	-	(102,557)	(102,557)
Realised losses on disposals	-	(6,499)	(6,499)
Unrealised gains on revaluation	1,668	147,236	148,904
	<u>294,409</u>	<u>1,899,580</u>	<u>2,193,989</u>
Market value			
At 31 December 2017	294,409	1,899,580	2,193,989
Cost			
At 31 December 2017	<u>286,334</u>	<u>1,415,805</u>	<u>1,702,139</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>151,075</u>	<u>1,060,987</u>	<u>1,212,062</u>

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

13. DEBTORS	2017 £	2016 £
Due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,824,371	1,834,244
Other debtors	39,952	40,391
Prepayments	82,230	71,653
Accrued income	36,962	16,000
	<u>1,983,515</u>	<u>1,962,288</u>

14. CREDITORS	2017 £	2016 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	122,658	128,300
Accruals	456,723	420,019
Deferred income	2,593,717	2,552,454
Tax and social security	312,855	298,347
Other creditors	6,168	3,580
	<u>3,492,121</u>	<u>3,402,700</u>

15. FUNDS	Accumulated Fund £	Pension Reserve £	Total £
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2017	3,393,339	(1,792,000)	1,601,339
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
Surplus for the year	267,078	777,000	1,044,078
Balance as at 31 December 2017	<u>3,660,417</u>	<u>(1,015,000)</u>	<u>2,645,417</u>

Included within the accumulated fund are unrealised gains on investments totalling £491,850 (2016: £384,973).

16. PENSIONS**(i) Pension and Life Assurance Scheme**

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme in the UK, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales Pension and Life Assurance Scheme (1975), in respect of office, editorial and warehouse staff, and reporters appointed subsequently to 6 April 1989. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in various investment vehicles with Royal London and Quilter Cheviot. The scheme was closed to new members in October 2001 and to future accrual on 15th June 2010. The pension contribution for the year was £135,000 (2016: £135,000) which included deficit recovery payments totalling £135,000 (2016: £135,000).

The most recent triennial review as at 1 April 2016 stated that the value of the scheme assets was £6,585,400 which represented 80% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for future increases in earnings. This is equivalent to a deficit of £1,603,000. The major assumptions used in the valuation as at 1 April 2016 are given below.

Rate of increase of salaries	3.3% pa
Rate of increase of pensions in payment	3.1% pa
Discount Rate – before retirement	4.2% pa
Discount Rate – after retirement	2.8% pa
Retail price index	3.2% pa
Consumer price index	2.6% pa

A Recovery Plan has been agreed with the company, which commits the company to paying contributions to fund the shortfall. These deficit reduction contributions are incorporated into the plan's Schedule of Contributions dated 6 December 2016 and require the company to make contributions of £33,750 per quarter up to and including January 2033. These payments are subject to review following the next funding valuation which will be undertaken as at 1 April 2019.

For the purpose of providing the disclosures required by Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Scheme actuary has prepared a valuation of the Scheme using the projected unit method in order to assess the liabilities of the Scheme at 31 December 2017. The major assumptions used by the actuary as at 31 December 2017 were as follows:

	31 December 2017	31 December 2016
Discount Rate	2.5%	2.7%
Salary increases	3.3%	3.4%
LPI Pension increases	3.2%	3.3%
Retail price index	3.3%	3.4%
Consumer price index	2.3%	2.4%

Mortality assumptions

The underlying mortality assumption is based upon the standard table known as S2PA on a year of birth usage with CMI_2016 future improvement factors and a long-term rate of future improvement of 1.0% p.a. (2016: same basis but CMI_2015). This results in the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy for a current 65 year old - males	87 years	87 years
- females	89 years	89 years

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

16. PENSIONS (continued)

Amounts Recognised in the Balance Sheet

	31 December 2017 £	31 December 2016 £
Market value of assets	8,197,000	7,499,000
Present value of scheme liabilities	(9,212,000)	(9,291,000)
Net defined benefit liability	(1,015,000)	(1,792,000)

Amounts Recognised in the Income and Expenditure account

	31 December 2017 £	31 December 2016 £
Current service cost	-	-
Interest cost on net defined benefit liability	46,000	43,000
Total charge	46,000	43,000

Changes in the present value of the scheme liabilities

	31 December 2017 £	31 December 2016 £
Opening present value of liabilities	9,291,000	7,657,000
Current employer service costs	-	-
Interest cost on scheme liabilities	249,000	297,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(226,000)	1,422,000
Benefits paid	(102,000)	(85,000)
Closing present value of liabilities	9,212,000	9,291,000

Changes in the fair value of Scheme Assets

	31 December 2017 £	31 December 2016 £
Opening fair value of Scheme Assets	7,499,000	6,494,000
Interest on scheme assets	203,000	254,000
Return on assets less interest included in I&E	462,000	701,000
Employer contributions	135,000	135,000
Member contributions	-	-
Benefits paid	(102,000)	(85,000)
Closing fair value of Scheme Assets	8,197,000	7,499,000
 Actual return on scheme assets	 665,000	 955,000

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

16. PENSIONS (continued)

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are as follows:

	At 31 December 2017	At 31 December 2016
Equities and Property	69%	68%
Bonds	30%	30%
Cash	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%

The scheme has no investments in property occupied by, assets used by or financial instruments issued by the charitable company.

Analysis of amount recognisable in other recognised gains and losses

	31 December 2017 £	31 December 2016 £
Return on assets, less interest recognised in I&E	462,000	701,000
Experience gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities	297,000	447,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of scheme liabilities	(71,000)	(1,869,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	688,000	(721,000)

Movement in net defined benefit liability during the year

	31 December 2017 £	31 December 2016 £
Net defined benefit liability at start of year	(1,792,000)	(1,163,000)
Income and expenditure charge	(46,000)	(43,000)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability recognised in other recognised gains and losses	688,000	(721,000)
Employer contributions	135,000	135,000
Net defined benefit liability at end of year	(1,015,000)	(1,792,000)

(ii) ICLR Group Personal Pension Plan (GPPP)

ICLR operates a defined contribution pension scheme for eligible employees. From 1st March 2016, all eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the scheme and ICLR contributes between 4% and 14.0% of pensionable salaries. The pension charge for the year to the ICLR GPPP was £238,775 (2016: £220,641). Contributions totalling £20,031 (2016: £18,654) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

(iii) Retirement reserve for appointed reporters

The Council pays annual pension increments to self-employed reporters appointed prior to April 1989 which they invest in their individual pension arrangements. The charge for the year, included in cost of publications and services, was £70,252 (2016: £73,670). Contributions totalling £52,518 (2016: £55,957) were payable in respect of this scheme at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

THE INCORPORATED COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

At the balance sheet date, the Council had no future capital commitments (2016: £86,695 relating to an ongoing project).

18. LEASE RENTALS RECEIVABLE

The Council lets part of its freehold buildings under a lease agreement. The future minimum lease rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable in:		
less than one year	55,500	55,500
two to five years	222,000	222,000
more than five years	44,400	99,900
	<u>321,900</u>	<u>377,400</u>

These future rents are subject to break clauses and rent review every five years. No contingent rents have been included in this disclosure or recognised in the period.