

**DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022**

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

T Amies-Cull  
S Dean  
H Drinkwater  
R Gundesen  
E Isaacs  
G Marx  
R Wall

### Charity Number

1041297

### Principal address

154 Caledonian Road  
London N1 9RD

### Independent Examiner

M S Pinner ACA  
Errington Langer Pinner  
Chartered Accountants  
Pyramid House  
954 High Road  
London N12 9RT

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022*

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This year has been another busy year and saw some significant progress in several areas as we bounced back from the difficulties caused by Covid 19.

We were able to recruit two new experienced trustees, Geoffrey Marx and Hannah Drinkwater, an accountant, in April, following the resignation of trustee Spencer Fox.

We have seen the Network go from strength to strength thanks to expanding our services online and putting more energy into our presence and engagement on social media. We have also made a significant investment in development of a new website. When the new site goes live, it should transform the way we offer services and increase our efficiency. We hope that our members will soon see the benefits in terms of improving access to the support and information we offer.

We have continued to offer many of our services online in tandem alongside in-person events as we know there is huge value in both. Our online offer has been very successful and continues to attract a lot of participants to our workshops from beyond the UK, which is fantastic. We are always very grateful to our volunteer team who manage to do such great work supporting members, often acting as our frontline.

We welcomed 806 new members, and in addition, as our Annual Report shows, we had another very busy year undertaking the following activities for our members and non-members:

- 646 support interactions on the Helpline
- 42 local meet ups across the UK
- 206 online chats
- 13 online and 2 face to workshops for parents in Preparation for Parenthood and Telling and Talking
- 2 online workshops for professionals
- Plus numerous communication and advocacy activities

My thanks go to the staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters for your ongoing commitment to the Network. We are well placed for a successful 30th anniversary year in 2023 and for the Network to continue to thrive and meet the support and information needs of the wider donor conception community.

Sue Dean

May 2023

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities Act 2011 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

### **Objects of the charity**

The charity is an unincorporated association which was established by a constitution dated 24 September 1994 and amended 3 March 2000 and 20th October 2015 with the following objectives: to advance education in human fertility, fertilisation and embryology, assisted conception, genetics and the impact of non-genetic relationships by the provision to parents of children conceived by sperm, embryo or egg donation, to the children themselves and to those contemplating or undergoing treatment, of information, advice, counselling and support.

### **Donor Conception Network's Vision and Mission**

The Donor Conception Network's vision is a society where a climate of openness and understanding about donor conception enables people considering it to make informed decisions and helps build families who are confident, accepted and have a secure identity.

The Donor Conception Network's mission is to deliver high quality, non-judgemental and inclusive support and information to would-be and current parents and their children to enable them to navigate the often complex and individual journey of donor conception.

We are a pioneering parent-led and child-centred organisation and a trusted authority on the social and emotional aspects of building or expanding a family using donor conception. We are at the forefront of the donor conception movement, bringing our 25 years' of experience and the voices of our members to inform professionals, practitioners and policy makers in the UK and worldwide.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

The Network is a professionally-run support organisation for families using donor conception. It performs a vital role in providing information and support to prospective parents and donor conception families.

In 2021/22 we welcomed 806 new members to the Network. This included people considering donor conception, parents of donor conceived children, previous members who were re-joining, professionals working in the field and donor conceived adults.

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (CONTINUED)

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### Our activities in 2021/2022

#### DCN Helpline

Our phone and email helplines provide invaluable support to members, the general public and professionals working in the field wishing to discuss specific donor conception related issues. In total, we provided over 646 support interactions (beyond simple questions and queries), around half of these coming from non-members.

#### Local groups/meetups

During 2021/22 our volunteers ran 42 local meetups around the UK and in Ireland, some events being adults only and others catering for families with children. These opportunities for people to meet face-to-face are invaluable in helping break the isolation some people feel. They are opportunities to raise and discuss difficult topics where appropriate and generally help to build confidence in decision-making and sharing their family story.

We also ran 206 of our popular Zoom Chats for members, facilitated by volunteers. Some of these are topic based, some are grouped by family-type and others are location based. These activities, as well as welcoming new members, were supported by our 100 volunteers.

#### Communications

We published two DCN Journals, produced a weekly news bulletin for members and had an active presence on social media. We spoke at various events and engaged with professionals working in the field to educate them on the long-term implications for families using donor conception.

#### Workshops

We offer two main workshops which are open to both members and non-members, Preparation for Parenthood (for people considering donor conception) and Telling and Talking (separate events for those with children up to 7yrs and those with children 8-12yrs). These workshops are very important in helping participants explore the issues related to donor conception relevant to their stage of parenthood.

Preparation for Parenthood workshops (Zoom): We moved all workshops to online with one final in-person event for heterosexual couples at the end of 2021. We then ran 6 online workshops, 2 for single women and 4 for heterosexual couples.

Telling and Talking workshops (Zoom and in-person): We ran 7 online workshops for parents of children <7yrs (5 for heterosexual couples and 2 for single women and lesbian couples). We ran 2 in-person workshops in London for heterosexual couples and 1 for single women and 1 online mixed workshop for parents of children 8-12yrs.

In September 2021 and again in May 2022 we ran Making It Real workshops online for professionals working with donor conception families (e.g. fertility counsellors, clinic staff, lawyers, HFEA staff, fertility nurses, family therapists).

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (CONTINUED)

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### DCN Conferences

We decided not to hold our usual out-of-London conference in autumn 2021 although we did run our children's group as a stand-alone event in London. We were very pleased to be back running our on-person London conference in April 2022 and welcomed over 200 adults and nearly 100 babies and children.

### Projects

April Trust funding to make a new film for our workshops: We completed the interviews, but had to review the whole project in terms of final product. This is because the workshop content and structure has been fully revised in the move to online and the need and programme space for these films has changed.

Website and Digitalisation project: this project has started and is likely to complete Spring 2023.

### Advocacy and awareness

We evaluated and circulated 7 research projects to our membership. DCN Research Officer, Yael Ilan, is involved in the ConnecteDNA project being run by Manchester University. Nina Barnsley was invited to be part of the HFEA's Legislative Reform Advisory Group to discuss proposals for changing the HFE Act. Through the year we participated in the regular HFEA and POSG meetings.

The Fertility Show was back as an online event in September 2021 and then in-person in London in May 2022. We had a stand in London, as well as a speaking slot that weekend. We also attended the Modern Family Show and the My Surrogacy Journey conference in the autumn of 2021.

In November 2021 we participated in the annual National Fertility Awareness Week and in April 2022 we participated in the second International Donor Conception Awareness Day.

### How we are funded

The DC Network has five main sources of income: membership subscriptions and donations; membership activities (e.g. conferences); publication sales; workshop income; and income from our clinic and lawyer supporter schemes.

Membership subscriptions, gift aid and donations account for over half of our income and supports the services that we offer to members. These include: planning our annual conferences; biannual journal to members; supporting our local groups and meetups throughout the UK and Ireland; our regular bulletins to members; and our email and telephone support services.

Publication sales. Our publications continue to sell well around the world, reflecting the broader reach that our small charity achieves.

Workshop income. To keep prices as low as possible, our workshops are designed to be self-funding, rather than profit making, with the income received matching the cost of developing, organising and delivering these specialised, highly-sensitive and professionally-run events.

Our corporate supporter programmes generate part of our income and we are very grateful to all our clinic and lawyer supporters.

### Our Lawyer supporters

Our lawyer supporter scheme encourages legal firms specialising in fertility law to support us and help us ensure that we are connecting people to the right support that they may need. We know many people use our website for information and signposting to appropriate services. We are enormously grateful to all our lawyer supporters for building these links with us:

4 Paper Buildings  
A City Law Firm  
Biscoes

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (CONTINUED)

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### Our Lawyer supporters (continued)

Bishop and Sewell  
Burgess Mee  
Clarke Willmott  
Harper Macleod  
NGA Law  
Osbornes  
Penningtons Manches Cooper  
Simpson Miller  
Shoosmiths  
The Modern Family Law Company  
TV Edwards

### Our Clinic supporters

This scheme encourages fertility clinics to support us in the work we do. It enables us to forge closer links with these clinics, who are treating many of the people who go on to become our members at the start of their donor conception journey. Clinics who join the scheme recognise that there are wider issues to consider when a child is being created with the use of donor gametes. Their commitment to us is helping to ensure we can support families long-term, whatever needs may come up that relate to donor conception.

Aberdeen Fertility  
Manchester Fertility  
Herts & Essex Fertility Centre  
Gennet City Fertility (as it was then known)  
Care Fertility (12 clinics)  
London Women's Clinic (including London Sperm Bank and London Egg Bank and 4 clinics: London, Cardiff, Darlington, London Bridge)  
The Hewitt Fertility Centre  
CRGH  
Jessop Fertility  
European Sperm Bank  
Apricity  
Altrui

### Review of financial position

At the balance sheet date the total funds of the Charity were £80,692 (2021: £91,432).

### Trustees

T Amies-Cull  
L Bull (resigned 31st October 2021)  
S Dean  
H Drinkwater (appointed AGM 23 April 2022)  
R Gundesen  
E Isaacs (appointed AGM 23 April 2022)  
E Kippax (resigned 31st October 2021)  
G Marx (appointed AGM 23 April 2022)  
R Wall



# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (CONTINUED)

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### **Investment policy**

Under the constitution, the Trustees have the authority to invest the funds of the charitable trust at their discretion.

### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the Trustees that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level that will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

### **Risk Factors**

The Trustees regularly examine the major strategic business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to ensure that necessary steps are taken to lessen the effect of such risks.

### **Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 charity and of its financial activities for that year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Financial statements and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the trust deed. The Trustees are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

S Dean

**Trustee**

Dated 31 May 2023

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

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I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2022, which are as set out on pages 8 to 12.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under sections 145 (5) and 152 (5) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - (ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Name: Michael Pinner ACA

Relevant professional body: Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: Errington Langer Pinner  
Pyramid House  
954 High Road  
London N12 9RT

Date: 31 May 2023

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Donations and subscriptions	138,065	-	138,065	111,018
Publication sales	38,263	-	38,263	43,532
Grants	-	-	-	30,750
Other income	72,285	-	72,285	65,259
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	248,613	-	248,613	250,559
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Staff and management	118,233	-	118,233	129,370
Operations	131,624	9,496	141,120	84,494
<b>Total resources expended</b>	249,857	9,496	259,353	213,864
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing)/resources for the year ended 31 July 2022</b>	(1,244)	(9,496)	(10,740)	36,695
<b>Fund balances brought forward at 1 August 2021</b>	52,664	38,768	91,432	54,737
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 July 2022</b>	51,420 =====	29,272 =====	80,692 =====	91,432 =====

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY 2022

	Notes	£	2022	£	£	2021	£
<b>Current assets</b>							
Cash at bank and in hand			80,692			91,432	
<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			-			-	
<b>Net current assets</b>			80,692			91,432	
			=====			=====	
<b>Income funds</b>							
Restricted funds	2		29,272			38,768	
Unrestricted funds	2		51,420			52,664	
			80,692			91,432	
			=====			=====	

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 31 May 2023

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S Dean  
Trustee

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

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### 1. Accounting policies

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and “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)” (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

#### 1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (CONTINUED)

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### 1.5 Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Office equipment	-	15% reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income / (expenditure) for the year.

### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

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

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022 (CONTINUED)

#### 2. Analysis of charitable funds

##### Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

	Balance at 1 August 2021	Incoming Resources resources expended	Balance at July 31 2022
	£	£	£
General fund	52,664	248,613 (249,857)	51,420
	52,664	248,613 (249,857)	51,420
	=====	=====	=====

##### Analysis of restricted funds movement

	Balance at 1 August 2021	Incoming Resources resources expended	Balance at July 31 2022
	£	£	£
April Trust Film Project	10,448	- (5,014)	5,434
Digital Fund	25,820	- (4,482)	21,338
30th Anniversary Fund	2,500	- -	2,500
	38,768	- (9,496)	29,272
	=====	=====	=====

Name of the fund	Description, nature and purpose of the fund
April Trust Film Project	Grant to allow the remaking of our Telling and Talking film which we use in our workshops
Digital Fund	Website and Digitalisation project
30th Anniversary Fund	Grant to support anniversary project in 2023

#### 3. Staff costs

The average weekly number of employees remunerated during the year, calculated on a full time equivalent basis, was 4 (2021 – 4).