

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024
FOR
DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
Landgate Chambers
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7LJ

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

TRUSTEES	Ms S Dean Chair Mr G Marx Trustee Ms H Drinkwater Trustee (resigned 13/10/2023) Ms E Issacs Trustee (resigned 19/9/2023) Mr T Amies-Cull Trustee Ms R Wall Trustee Ms R Gundesen Trustee Ms C Le Guyader Trustee (appointed 6/11/2023) Ms C Gilling Smith Trustee (appointed 6/11/2023)
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Unit 305, Clerkenwell Workshops 27-31 Clerkenwell Close Farringdon London EC1R 0AT
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1041297
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP Chartered Accountants Landgate Chambers Rye East Sussex TN31 7LJ

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

This year has been a high profile one for the Donor Conception Network. Not only did we celebrate the Network's 30th anniversary but 2023 was a significant year as the first cohort of children conceived after the UK law change turned 18 at the end of the year. We held a successful fundraising drinks event and launched a major social media campaign to celebrate our 30th and are preparing new support services for young people and families. We have also developed our relationships with our clinic supporters and expanded the scheme to include new clinics.

This year saw some significant progress in several areas. We have seen the Network go from strength to strength thanks to expanding our services online and continued investment into our presence and engagement on social media. We have also made a significant investment in development of a new website, which went live March 2024. This is already transforming the way we offer services and increasing our efficiency. Our members are now seeing 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. We ran conferences in London and Bristol, both well-attended, a testament to the value of bringing our community together. We also introduced a new Getting Started event for prospective parents which was highly successful. Our online offer continues to be very successful, attracting a lot of participants to our workshops from beyond the UK, which is fantastic.

We are very grateful to our volunteer team of around 100 dedicated individuals who do such great work supporting members, acting as our frontline. We continue to welcome more new members, as well as increasing retention of existing members.

My thanks go to the staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters for your ongoing commitment to the Network. We are well placed to capitalise on the successful launch of our new website and increased social media presence to ensure the Network continues to thrive and meet the support and information needs of the wider donor conception community.

Sue Dean

November 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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 30 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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our activities

Membership

Membership continued to grow over the year and in November 2023 we did a major tidy up of old records and non-active members. The introduction in Nov 2022 of both auto renew as the default and the option to pay monthly have proved very successful in terms of retention and improving accessibility by spreading the financial load for members across the year.

Website

In March 2024 we launched our new website which will enable us to do much more and offer members more content and service access online.

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.

Local groups/meetups and online chats - for members

During 2023/24 our volunteers ran local meetups around the UK, some events being for adults only and others catering for families with children. We also ran our popular, facilitated Zoom Chats for members.

These activities, plus welcoming new members, were made possible by our team of around 100 volunteers. We ran several volunteer support sessions during the year which were well attended and appreciated.

Communications

We rebranded our bi-annual Journal - now calling it a magazine with a new name, 'DCN Perspectives'. We produced our regular 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 ran a full programme of workshops which are open to both members and non-members. We offer Destination Parenthood workshops for people considering donor conception and Telling and Talking for those with children up to 7yrs. We also run a workshop for professionals working in the field 'Making It Real'.

DCN Conferences

We are fully back to business as usual with regard to our conferences. We held an out-of- London conference in Sheffield in October 2023 and in May 2024 we ran our annual London conference. In June we held our 4th Virtual Conference. Being online, it meant people from all over the world were able to access this valuable event.

Getting Started - New event

We have long recognised that the London conference can be overwhelming for people who haven't had children yet. In April 2024 we launched a new event specifically for prospective parents called 'Getting Started'. This event is planned to complement our conference, both in time and content. The format is designed exclusively for people at the earlier stage of considering donor conception. The London conference will become our main event for families, where people can bring their children and have the opportunity of attending the activities we run for children.

Projects

April Trust funding to make a new film for our workshops: The project work continued, with a slight delay due to availability of the editing team. The planned completion date is November 2024.

Website and Digitalisation project : this project completed in March 2024.

Advocacy and awareness

We supported a number of research project proposals. DCN Research Officer, Yael Ilan, continued in her role as part of the ConnecteDNA project being run by Manchester University and on the advisory board for the DigitalDC project. Through the year we participated in the regular HFEA and POSG meetings and had regular meetings with the HFEA.

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

In August 2023 we participated in the FNUK LGBT routes to parenthood course. In the autumn of 2023, we attended the My Surrogacy Journey conference and had a stand at the Modern Family Show, where we also spoke.

In January 2024, Nina Barnsley was invited to speak at the BFS conference in Edinburgh.

In March 2024 we were invited to attend the first Future Fertility Show in Dublin, Ireland, having a stand there as well as 2 speaking slots. Surrogacy UK invited us to participate in their annual conference in April 2024, both speaking and running an information stand.

We exhibited at the Fertility Show in May 2024 as well as having a speaking slot that weekend.

In November 2023 we participated in National Fertility Awareness Week and in April 2024 we participated in the second International Donor Conception Awareness Day (IDCAD).

We had several engagements with journalists, raising awareness of the particular issues for donor conception families. Autumn of 2023 was significant as the first children conceived after the UK law change turned 18 in November. The number of people that the new law applied to who have turned 18 is currently small, but that will change dramatically over the coming years.

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 a large proportion of our income and this income supports the services that we offer to members. These include: planning our annual conferences; biannual journal/magazine to members; supporting our local groups and meetups throughout the UK; 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

At the balance sheet date the total funds of the Charity were £66,673 (2023: £57,422).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 31 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Ms S Dean - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Donor Conception Network

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Donor Conception Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Mr David Ashby FCCA ACA

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
Landgate Chambers
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7LJ

7 February 2025

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		76,551	-	76,551	78,838
Charitable activities					
Charitable Activities		172,386	-	172,386	169,608
Other trading activities	3	42,347	-	42,347	36,819
Investment income	4	524	-	524	-
Total		<u>291,808</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>291,808</u>	<u>285,265</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Operations		<u>280,714</u>	<u>1,843</u>	<u>282,557</u>	<u>308,535</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		11,094	(1,843)	9,251	(23,270)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		51,262	6,160	57,422	80,692
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>62,356</u></u>	<u><u>4,317</u></u>	<u><u>66,673</u></u>	<u><u>57,422</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

DONOR CONCEPTION NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET
31 JULY 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	520	-	520	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	12,611	-	12,611	1,900
Cash at bank		60,197	4,317	64,514	62,633
		72,808	4,317	77,125	64,533
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(10,972)	-	(10,972)	(7,111)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		61,836	4,317	66,153	57,422
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		62,356	4,317	66,673	57,422
NET ASSETS		62,356	4,317	66,673	57,422
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				62,356	51,262
Restricted funds				4,317	6,160
TOTAL FUNDS				66,673	57,422

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 31 January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Ms S Dean - Trustee

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Donor Conception Network is an unincorporated charity, registered in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and registered office address can be found in the Report of the Trustees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOME

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

Any amounts received in advance for events taking place after the accounting period are recognised as deferred income when received.

EXPENDITURE

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

TAXATION

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

FUND ACCOUNTING

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

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

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

PENSION COSTS AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS

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

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Publication sales	37,347	36,819
Sponsorships	5,000	-
	<u>42,347</u>	<u>36,819</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest income	<u>524</u>	<u>-</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 July 2024 nor for the year ended 31 July 2023.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 July 2024 nor for the year ended 31 July 2023.

6. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	142,583	131,625
Social security costs	6,862	5,525
Other pension costs	3,085	3,172
	<u>152,530</u>	<u>140,322</u>

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

2024	2023
<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

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

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	78,838	-	78,838
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activities	169,608	-	169,608
Other trading activities	<u>36,819</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,819</u>
Total	<u>285,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>285,265</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Operations	285,423	23,112	308,535

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued			
	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(158)	(23,112)	(23,270)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	51,420	29,272	80,692
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>51,262</u>	<u>6,160</u>	<u>57,422</u>
8. INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REMUNERATION			
	2024 £	2023 £	
Fees payable to the charity's independent examiners for the preparation and examination of the financial statements	990	960	
Fees payable to the charity's accountants for bookkeeping and payroll support	<u>2,232</u>	<u>1,968</u>	
	<u>3,222</u>	<u>2,928</u>	
9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
			Computer equipment £
COST			
Additions			<u>780</u>
DEPRECIATION			
Charge for year			<u>260</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 July 2024			<u>520</u>
At 31 July 2023			<u>-</u>
10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	2024 £	2023 £	
Trade debtors	2,750	1,900	
Other debtors	8,770	-	
Prepayments	<u>1,091</u>	<u>-</u>	
	<u>12,611</u>	<u>1,900</u>	

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Taxation and social security	2,526	2,424
Other creditors	8,446	4,687
	<u>10,972</u>	<u>7,111</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/8/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/7/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	51,262	11,094	62,356
Restricted funds			
April Trust Film Project	4,317	-	4,317
Digital fund	1,843	(1,843)	-
	<u>6,160</u>	<u>(1,843)</u>	<u>4,317</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>57,422</u>	<u>9,251</u>	<u>66,673</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	291,808	(280,714)	11,094
Restricted funds			
Digital fund	-	(1,843)	(1,843)
	<u>291,808</u>	<u>(282,557)</u>	<u>9,251</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/8/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/7/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	51,420	(158)	51,262
Restricted funds			
April Trust Film Project	5,434	(1,117)	4,317
Digital fund	21,338	(19,495)	1,843
30th Anniversary Fund	2,500	(2,500)	-
	<u>29,272</u>	<u>(23,112)</u>	<u>6,160</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>80,692</u>	<u>(23,270)</u>	<u>57,422</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	285,265	(285,423)	(158)
Restricted funds			
April Trust Film Project	-	(1,117)	(1,117)
Digital fund	-	(19,495)	(19,495)
30th Anniversary Fund	-	(2,500)	(2,500)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,112)</u>	<u>(23,112)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>285,265</u>	<u>(308,535)</u>	<u>(23,270)</u>

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

	At 1/8/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/7/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	51,420	10,936	62,356
Restricted funds			
April Trust Film Project	5,434	(1,117)	4,317
Digital fund	21,338	(21,338)	-
30th Anniversary Fund	2,500	(2,500)	-
	<u>29,272</u>	<u>(24,955)</u>	<u>4,317</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>80,692</u>	<u>(14,019)</u>	<u>66,673</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	577,073	(566,137)	10,936
Restricted funds			
April Trust Film Project	-	(1,117)	(1,117)
Digital fund	-	(21,338)	(21,338)
30th Anniversary Fund	-	(2,500)	(2,500)
	<u>-</u>	<u>(24,955)</u>	<u>(24,955)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>577,073</u>	<u>(591,092)</u>	<u>(14,019)</u>

Description of Restricted Funds

April Trust Film Project - Grant to update the films we use to support our workshop content.

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Digital Fund - Website and digitalisation project to upgrade our website and online content delivery.

30th Anniversary Fund - Funds allocated to support our 30th anniversary celebrations.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 July 2024.