

COMPANY No. 03054853
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1046650

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST
(Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital)

REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

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INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OUR ORGANISATION

Established in 1981, INQUEST is the only charity providing expertise on state related deaths and their investigation to bereaved people, lawyers, advice and support agencies, the media and parliamentarians. Our specialist casework includes deaths in police and prison custody, immigration detention, mental health settings and deaths involving multi-agency failings or where wider issues of state and corporate accountability are in question, including the Hillsborough football disaster and Grenfell Tower fire. INQUEST's policy, parliamentary, campaigning and media work is grounded in the day-to-day experience of working with bereaved people. Employing an integrated model, we bring together casework support and family engagement, as well as a system-wide analysis of state related deaths and their investigation, which we use for our public facing advocacy.

Our work not only ensures the voices of bereaved families are heard, but that state related deaths are situated within their broader political and social context, whether that be concerns around structural racism and discrimination, mental health provision, prison overcrowding, over-policing of racialised communities, or the impact of poverty.

INQUEST has carried on supporting hundreds of bereaved families and advocating for their rights and for system changes in care and detention systems, operating in a very challenging context, not least the political context. We were horrified to witness unprecedented racist violence across the country in the summer of 2024, which also reminded us of the need for our essential work protecting fundamental rights and tackling the racism and discrimination underpinning a lot of our work. In a public statement in response to the violence, we said:

"We are appalled by the racist and Islamophobic violence we are seeing across the country. These are not isolated events - they are the predictable outcome of decades of racist and anti-migrant rhetoric by politicians and the media. We know that the government calling for more police powers, surveillance & imprisonment will disproportionately harm all racialised people. The bereaved families we work with know this only too well. Rather, the government must act on what the evidence has long been telling us: policing, prisons and immigration centres cause harm and death. They must eradicate racism and Islamophobia at its roots."

We do not take government funding to retain our independence and have been operating in a context where fundraising has become extremely challenging, with an increasing demand on a decreasing pool and trusts and foundations often closed for applications whilst reviewing their strategies. The year 2024 saw some of our large grants come to an end but also saw us securing new or continuation funding from, amongst others, the Oak Foundation, the John Ellerman Foundation, the Disrupt Foundation, and the Sony Social Justice Fund. Finally, we were delighted to reach our 40 Years of INQUEST fundraising appeal target of £40,000, and to also exceed our fundraising target of £22,800 at the 2024 Big give Christmas Challenge.

We are very grateful to our funders, who stand by us whilst we deliver this incredibly important but also challenging work towards social and racial justice.

Diane Newton formally stepped down as Chair of INQUEST in the spring of 2025 after three years in the role, handing over to Steve Tombs, professor of criminology, who was Diane's deputy since 2022. We are so grateful to Diane for her guidance and support over the last three years and are delighted that she will remain on our board.

As ever, we are also immensely grateful to our wonderful staff group, the families who inform our work, volunteers and trustees for their incredible work and their unwavering commitment.

The report below outlines key work undertaken over the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

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CASEWORK

During the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025, INQUEST worked on a total of **664** cases, **318** of which were newly opened during that period, the remainder having been opened beforehand and were still ongoing, reflecting the protracted nature of the post death investigation and inquest processes.

91 (14% of the total cases) were in police custody or following contact with the police; **163** in prison settings (25%); **226** (34%) in mental health settings; **6** (1%) were immigration-related cases; other cases include deaths in care homes, in supported accommodation, on probation, involving clinical negligence or disasters such as the Grenfell Tower fire.

155 (23%) of the total number of cases involved racially minoritised people: **20** (22%) police cases; **50** (31%) prison cases; **36** (16%) in mental health settings; **3** (50%) immigration cases; and **40** (22%) out of all other types of case.

Women accounted for **197** (30%) of all cases, and there were also **14** cases involving transgender, non-binary and gender-fluid people during the timeframe. Women made up **8** (9%) police cases; **13** (8%) prison cases; **104** (46%) in mental health settings; **1** (17%) immigration case; and **71** (40%) of all other types of case.

Due to funding and capacity issues, we changed the way we deliver casework in January 2025 in order to provide a more impactful service. We will work strategically on a smaller number of cases whilst creating resources and advice for other families, through online resources, ongoing workshops and training. Those families that would have had access to full casework support prior to the changes will now instead be referred directly to lawyers. They will also be directed to our online resources, [FAQs/Factsheets](#), [INQUEST Handbook](#), workshops, family events as well as Connection Cafes/closed INQUEST Families Facebook group.

Informed by consultation with bereaved families the workshops are a mix of online and in-person sessions and provide practical support on topics, such as preparing for and navigating inquests, working with the media, engaging in policy and parliamentary work, health and wellbeing. Some will be worked on inhouse with families, others will be commissioned e.g. mindfulness.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

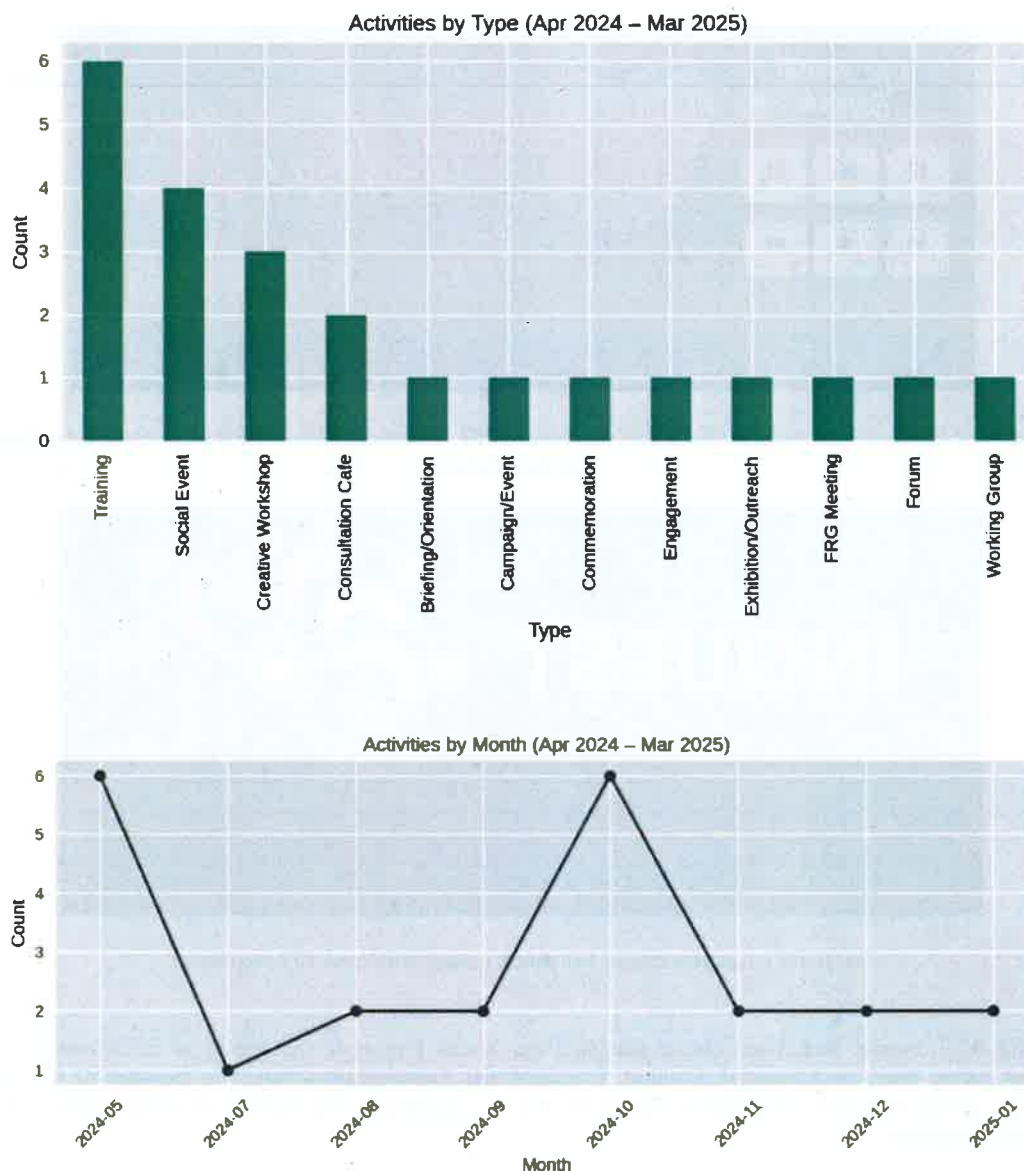
Over the year, INQUEST continued facilitating online spaces for peer-to-peer support, providing additional support and information before, during and after the inquest. Notable examples include Connection Cafés (24 events), self-care, the Facebook Group (which is jointly run by the Family Reference Group) and the revitalised Family Forum (one in person event held in London and another in Liverpool).

These safe spaces and networks of support and solidarity with others going through similar experiences have been described to staff as a "lifeline" because deaths in state care are unlike any other, often involving stigma, shame, legal delays and victim-blaming. Families can be left feeling isolated from friends, colleagues, and other family members.

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"There is so much stigma about people who die in prison. People on the outside think "well they deserve to be there, or it's their own fault." To be able to go on the screen at the INQUEST events and connection cafe and be in company of other people who get how you feel, your anxieties, your shame. It makes me feel less ashamed about where and how [my son] died. As much as the Family Engagement Coordinator sort of runs the meetings, she lets people just talk, and when they do they talk from the heart. You speak and you don't feel judged."
Family member

"Big thanks to [the Family Engagement Coordinator] for the way she runs these and thanks to all the families who share experiences that reduce isolation but also significantly help us to understand the complex inquest process and participate better." Family member

"I love Connection Caf ; it has been a huge support and gave me strength to face the inquest." Family member.

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Schedule of family events and flyer for Family Jukebox 2024, where families bring a song reminding them of their loved ones



INQUEST families closed Facebook group, with now 322 members.

The INQUEST Family Reference Group launched our Social Events in the spring of 2025 with a Coffee Morning taking place in Liverpool, London, Horsham and Birmingham – where a member of the Family Reference Group hosted in each venue. The event was an opportunity for families to build connections and community together.

As part of developing the new way of supporting families we created a survey to consult our families on the services they felt they needed and would like to see. 112 families responded and the consultation led to the following plan of activities:

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- **Workshops & Events:** *A mix of online and in-person sessions providing practical support on navigating inquests, creating space for emotional wellbeing, and connecting with others facing similar loss. Some will be worked on inhouse with families, others will be commissioned e.g. Mindfulness.*
 - **Digital Resource Development:** *Co-developing creative, accessible materials—including factsheets, explainers, and toolkits—with families. These resources respond directly to feedback calling for shorter, clearer, more manageable formats that acknowledge the cognitive challenges of grief and trauma, and the overwhelm attached to navigating an inquest for the first time.*
 - **Inclusion:** *Accessibility measures (including BSL, captioning, translation, and data bundles) will ensure the programme is inclusive, responsive, and able to demonstrate impact effectively.*
 - **Digital Infrastructure & Delivery Support:** *Investment in secure platforms and digital tools will enable high-quality delivery, while underpinning the sustainability of these resources.*
-

What families say about us

Our 2024 survey of 103 families we work with provided the following feedback:

86% of survey respondents in 2023/2024 assessed the casework service received as “Very good” or “good”.

85% said they felt less isolated after accessing the INQUEST casework survey.

68% said they had fostered a sense of community and support with other families.

89% said casework support had helped equip them to go through the inquest and investigation process.

81% of 103 said accessing services provided by INQUEST had made me feel better able to cope and become more resilient.

“Thank you so much for all the support you’ve provided me throughout this process. You’ve been an absolute gem; your compassion and dedication have meant a lot to me. I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you.” Bereaved family member to their Caseworker.

“Throughout this entire process, you and our lawyer have been instrumental in guiding and getting us to court. Your dedication and effort have been invaluable. Regardless of the jury’s verdict, we know that you have done everything in your power for us, and for that, we are truly grateful. Thank you so much for everything you have done and continue to do. I speak for my entire family when I say this.” Bereaved family to their Caseworker.

“I cannot fully express the magnitude of the positive impact your support has had on our ability as a family to shine a light on what happened. The coroner had wanted us to have a cursory inquest conducted remotely without the fullness of scope we eventually had. It has been clear throughout this process that the coroner’s office is not interested in discovering the truth for families but for carrying out damage limitation operations for the State and for organisations they outsource responsibilities for care to. Thank you to you and Inquest for being there for us when no one else was... Thank you once again for the extraordinary support you have provided for the past 5 years despite the immense pressures on your service.” Bereaved family to caseworker

“I have to say you have given us confidence that someone is standing with us through this process that understands what we are going through and gives us the confidence to help us navigate the very long process ahead.” Bereaved family to caseworker

“I’d like to tell you now that INQUEST was a life saver and game changer for us, especially in the early days. Your support and good advice were so welcome and appreciated and I send a huge thank you to you all. It was so good not to feel so alone.” Bereaved family to their caseworker.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – POLICING

INQUEST has long been campaigning alongside families for alternatives to policing, not least for people in crisis. Last year, we contributed to Liberty's [Holding Our Own: A guide to non-policing solutions to serious youth violence](#) alongside other incredible organisations fighting for change. We were delighted that this report won the Amplifying Voices award at the [Sheila McKechnie Foundation National Campaigner Awards 2024](#).

In 2023, our report [‘I can’t breathe’: race, death, and British policing](#) found that Black people are seven times more likely to die than White people following the use of restraint by police. The report was widely disseminated to NGO’s, oversight and monitoring groups, the United Nations and others and remains a well-used report accessed on our website. Raekha Prasad, the report’s author, wrote about the people behind these statistics and their families’ long waits for justice in the [Guardian](#).

Institutional racism in policing is also endemic in Scotland. Sheku Bayoh, a 31-year-old Black man, died in 2015 following restraint by Scottish police officers. Our Director Deborah Coles has supported the family and their lawyer since his death, sharing INQUEST’s expertise and resources. In June 2024, she was called to [give evidence as an expert witness to the public inquiry into his death](#). She also submitted two detailed witness statements. She stated that *“the lethal pattern of disproportionality continues”, as ‘no death of a Black person following police custody or contact has led to officers being effectively disciplined for racism or held to account.’* Campaigner, and INQUEST Family reference Group member and trustee Marcia also gave evidence about her experiences following the restraint death of her brother Sean Rigg.

In October 2024, Martyn Blake, a Metropolitan Police firearms officer was acquitted of the murder of Chris Kaba, an unarmed 24-year-old Black man, fatally shot in the head on 5 September 2022. INQUEST had worked with the family and their legal team following the death. No on-duty police officer has ever been found guilty of murder since 1990. [Speaking after the verdict](#), Chris’ family said: *“Today, we are devastated. No family should endure the unimaginable grief we have faced. Chris was stolen from us, and this decision shows his life - and many others like him - does not matter to the system. Our son deserved better.”* Following the trial, INQUEST saw familiar state tactics demonising the dead to deflect from the killing of an unarmed Black man whose identity the police did not know. Instead of focusing on ending police killings, the Police Federation called on the government to make it harder to investigate and prosecute officers. Warning about the dangers of this, our Director Deborah Coles, [said to the Guardian](#): *“The cynical attempts to protect the police from the rule of law must be rigorously resisted, as this is in effect giving them immunity.”* Home Secretary Yvette Cooper subsequently announced that in future, [armed officers charged after shooting will now likely remain anonymous](#) unless they are convicted. Chris’s death is not an isolated incident. This past year saw the highest number of deaths in and following police custody in 17 years according to [the latest annual statistics](#) published by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). [Read our analysis of these figures](#). We know that real justice and accountability is when the deaths and harms of policing stop. To do this, our Director Deborah Coles once again renewed calls to *“look beyond policing and redirect resources into community, health, welfare and specialist drug and alcohol services.”*

INQUEST has also worked on the case of ‘W80’, the firearms officer who shot Jermaine Baker and who sought to challenge the decision of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to bring gross misconduct proceedings against him. W80 had unsuccessfully fought in the Supreme Court for his use of force that day to be assessed using the higher criminal law test, rather than the civil law test. INQUEST and StopWatch intervened in the case providing detailed submissions, leading to the Supreme Court dismissing W80’s appeal. Our partnership with StopWatch continued, following the launch by the Government of the Rapid Review into Police Accountability. The review was announced in October 2024 following the acquittal of Metropolitan Police firearms officer, Martyn Blake, of the murder of Chris Kaba. INQUEST worked with ILG, PALG Centre for Women’s Justice, United Friends and Families Campaign and StopWatch to jointly submit a [response](#) to the review into whether there’s a case for reversing Supreme Court judgements into W80 and Maughan. We met with Godwin and Fulford, who lead on the review, in December to outline our views on the review and wrote an open letter to the Home Secretary highlighting the concerns of bereaved families and that the changes under consideration would undermine further public trust and allow police officers to evade accountability. <https://www.inquest.org.uk/police-accountability-open-letter>

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Following our collaboration on [Achieving Racial Justice at Inquests: A Practitioner's Guide \(2024\)](#), we have significantly strengthened our relationship with JUSTICE whom [we have worked with on crime and policing bill to highlight concerns regarding accountability and anonymity for the police.](#)

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – PRISONS

The crisis in the prison system continued with serious implications for the safety of prisoners as we see in our casework and the human stories behind the statistics. [Statistics](#) published by the Ministry of Justice revealed a record high rate of self-harm in prisons. [Responding to these appalling statistics](#), our director Deborah Coles said that Government plans to build 14,000 more prisons “does little to address why people end up in prison in the first place or how we can prevent further deaths.” She was also part of [this ITV documentary](#) on the state of our prisons talking about how this high death toll is a national scandal.

We joined over 70 campaigners calling on the new Government to reform the Imprisonment for Public Protection Sentence, which was abolished in 2012. The harm caused by IPP sentences was yet again evidenced in the recent inquest into [Shaine Tester's death](#). In November 2022, Shaine died a self-inflicted death in HMP Garmtree. As an IPP prisoner, he felt ‘forgotten by the system’ and punished for his mental ill health.

We [submitted](#) a response to the MOJ's Sentencing Review to outline the harm of short sentences as well as custodial sentences for women, neurodiverse people and people with mental ill health.

The Justice Committee launched an inquiry into drugs in prison. The policy team worked alongside our caseworkers to gather information from recent cases of deaths in prison where drugs were an issue to analyse the key issues arising from the inquests and investigations into those deaths. We also teamed up with the organisation RELEASE and a Professor of Criminology and Social Policy at Manchester Metropolitan University to bring together a comprehensive evidence submission for the Committee, which was cited in the Committee's final inquiry report. The Welsh Affairs Committee launched an inquiry into prisons in Wales, which we submitted [evidence](#) to building on our drugs in prison submission and cases in HMP Parc.

In Scotland, the family of Allan Marshall, who died following restraint by 17 officers in HMP Edinburgh sued the Scottish Prison service over his death. Our Director Deborah Coles spoke to the Guardian about how the shameful way that this death was investigated [should send shock waves through the Scottish parliament, police, and prison service.](#)

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – MENTAL HEALTH

On 9 September 2024, a statutory public inquiry opened into the deaths of over 2,000 people in the care of Essex mental health services. It was converted to a statutory inquiry as a result of the lack of candour and disclosure of information from those working at the NHS Trust. This is the first public inquiry into mental health services that has ever been held in England and established by a Minister as a direct result of the campaigns of families. Matthew Leahy, 20, died 12 days after being admitted for inpatient care in Essex. His mother Melanie has been fighting for a public inquiry alongside other bereaved families ever since. [Speaking at the inquiry](#), she said she hopes it will “set an example to the rest of the mental health providers across our nation to get their establishments up to standard or I fear many, many families will suffer the same losses”.

As a result of our unique expertise on deaths in mental health services and their investigation, INQUEST has for the first time been [given core participant status in a public inquiry](#). You can read our opening statement to the Inquiry [here](#). We issued press statements at the beginning of the Inquiry. <https://www.inquest.org.uk/statutory-inquiry-essex-opens> INQUEST is working with a legal team to provide the Inquiry with detailed witness statements providing a comprehensive overview of the issues arising from our work and the way deaths are investigated. The Inquiry will continue through 2026.

Alongside our family member Trustee, Doug Cave, INQUEST attended the Suicide & Co conference where our Family Engagement Coordinator spoke. It was great to get together with other organisations and campaigners and join up our work to support bereaved people and prevent self-inflicted deaths.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – NATIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM (NOM)

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We have carried on our work on our NOM campaign. In September 2024, we held a fringe meeting at Labour Party Conference [to remind the government that they must do more to put an end to preventable deaths](#). Together with Natasha Elcock from Grenfell United, Richard Caseby whose son Matthew died in a Priory run mental health setting, Emma Jones from Leigh Day and Joe Powell MP, we discussed the need for a National Oversight Mechanism to ensure life-saving recommendations made after state-related deaths lead to meaningful change.

The then new Attorney General Richard Hermer attended the meeting and committed to listen and consult with families and INQUEST. The event was sponsored by Leigh Day who chaired the event.

We also came together with campaigners from [Covid Families for Justice](#), [Hillsborough Law Now](#), [Grenfell United](#), [Hacked Off](#) and [Truth About Zane](#) to discuss why Hillsborough Law and our No More Deaths campaign are interlinked and crucial to prevent further harm and injustice.

As part of our campaign, we also spoke to The Guardian informing [a powerful editorial](#) on the urgent need for action on coroners' prevention of future death reports and they referenced INQUEST's call for the NOM. We worked with the Health Service Safety Investigations body to provide information on the repeated issues arising from deaths of people in mental health settings, and in their report on this matter they also supported the need for an oversight mechanism. INQUEST's work on the NOM was cited extensively in a paper published in the Harvard Law Journal written by a professor and former UN Special Rapporteur.

We have forged new relationships with prestigious legal and policy organisations as part of NOM campaign. This has included working with Institute for Government and our Director being a key presenter and respondent on a roundtable on public inquiries which engaged with former public inquiry chair, lawyers, and academics. We were pleased to see that our campaign for a National Oversight Mechanism was mentioned in both [House of Lords](#) and [House of Commons](#) debates on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report. A National Oversight Mechanism is crucial to ensure that life-saving recommendations made after disasters such as the Grenfell Tower Fire are followed up, reported on and implemented. We also worked with Carla Denyer MP on a Private Members Bill, the [State Related Deaths \(National Oversight Mechanism\) Bill](#) and on [a related early day motion](#). We also spoke about our campaign, alongside [Hillsborough Law Now](#), at the inspiring [Dan Kay Foundation](#) event at Liverpool Hope University's Festival of Futures. The Dan Kay Foundation is a charity set up in memory of Liverpool journalist and Hillsborough campaigner Dan Kay which aims to tackle stigma around mental illness.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE WORK – HILLSBOROUGH LAW

2024 saw the Government committing to enact Hillsborough Law in the [King's Speech](#). This was a huge step forward in providing a legacy for the 97 people unlawfully killed during the Hillsborough Football Disaster. The legislation will introduce a legal duty of candour so that state authorities have to tell the truth in investigations and ensure that bereaved families and victims receive equal legal funding from the start. [Speaking to BBC News](#), our Director Deborah Coles said: *"This is the result of the incredible power of families standing together to demand justice accountability and change. A massive thank you to you all and we hold in our thoughts those who have been killed or harmed by the state."*

In July 2024, Deborah Coles spoke at the parliamentary event for the of the [Hillsborough Law Now campaign launch](#) and INQUEST worked with the Hillsborough Law Now campaign and the organisation JUSTICE to advocate for a Hillsborough Law and a statutory duty of candour during debates on the Victims and Prisoners Bill (now Act).

INQUEST, with the support of the campaign group Hillsborough Law Now organised a Family Listening Day and brought together 23 family members and victims with direct experience of inquests and inquiries into deaths and harm caused by public or corporate bodies. These included circumstances involving the police, NHS trusts, the Post Office and the military, as well as victims and survivors of mass fatalities such as the Hillsborough stadium football disaster (after which the Bill is named) and the Grenfell Tower fire. It also included the sister of Ruth Perry, the headteacher who died by suicide following an Ofsted inspection. The event was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and held on 3 February 2025 in central London. It involved facilitated conversations exploring participants' experiences of state violence, neglect, secrecy, cover-ups and their legal

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battles for truth, justice and accountability. Those present were 'unwilling experts by experience', but experts nonetheless, and brought unique and insightful evidence as to what a 'good' Hillsborough Law would look like to them. Attendees spoke with openness, reflection and from the heart, helping the listeners in attendance understand what a Hillsborough Law could do to ensure inquests, investigations and inquiries better served them as bereaved people and victims of injustice, but also the public more broadly in the hope of preventing future deaths and harms. The Secretary of State for Justice, Cabinet Office minister, civil servants and the mayors of Liverpool and Manchester were in attendance to hear the families' experiences. Bereaved families and survivors have issued a clear warning to Government that Hillsborough Law must be "all or nothing".



Hillsborough Law Family Listening Day, February 2025

Following the Family Listening Day we published our report [*"All or Nothing" A report on the Hillsborough Law Family Listening Day*](#) on 8th April 2025.

GRENFELL

INQUEST has continued to support bereaved families and campaign groups from the Grenfell community, also attending the annual memorial silent walk. We continued to work closely with Grenfell United on their campaign aims as well as work around the Grenfell inquiry recommendations, and kept liaising with Justice4Grenfell, Grenfell Next of Kin, Ethio-Eritrea group of families. We also met with the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission to discuss how we can support their work and work together in future.

On 4th September 2024, we attended the Grenfell Tower Inquiry venue for the panel's publication of the Grenfell Inquiry phase 2 report alongside families. We were invited to attend a roundtable discussion organised by young people from the Grenfell community to discuss the report and next steps for achieving justice with members of the community. We spoke about the report and informed community members about the National Oversight Mechanism and how they can be involved in the campaign, alongside housing campaigner, Kwajo Tweneboa and journalist Pete Apps.

The report made a recommendation to the Government *"that it be made a legal requirement for the government to maintain a publicly accessible record of recommendations made by select committees, coroners and public inquiries together with a description of the steps taken in response. If the government decides not to accept a recommendation, it should record its reasons for doing so. Scrutiny of its actions should be a matter for Parliament, to which it should be required to report annually"* further evidencing the need for a National Oversight Mechanism.

Following the publication of the report our director took part in a podcast with Channel 4 News hosted by Krishnan Guru-Murphy, [How to stop scandals like Grenfell from happening again](#).

INQUEST's submission on recommendations, where we called for a National Oversight Mechanism, has now been published on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry website: [INQUEST's Recommendations Submission](#).

SCOTLAND WORK

Aside from the work on the Sheku Bayoh Inquiry referenced above, we have undertaken other work in Scotland: ***Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of William Lindsay and Katie Allan***

Deborah also went to Scotland both during and at the culmination of the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the deaths of William Lindsay and Katie Allan whose families and lawyer she has worked with since their deaths 7 years ago. The Inquiry resulted in a 419-page report identifying a 'catalogue of failures' and demonstrating that their deaths could have been avoided. At an emotionally charged [press conference attended by Deborah](#), the families welcomed the damning report by Sheriff Simon Collins KC and demanded a complete overhaul of Scotland's fatal accident inquiry (FAI) system to make its recommendations legally binding. The Inquiry's findings prompted the families' and INQUEST to call on the UK government to end prisons' crown immunity from prosecution. Deborah is taking part in discussions with the Allan family, lawyer and their MP about that removal of immunity, an issue impacting on families across the UK – she contributed to a briefing for a 10 min rule bill and did interviews on this with family and MP on the day the bill being discussed in parliament.

Other Scotland work

Deborah has undertaken high-level influencing and coalition building and established relationships with multiple stakeholders working on deaths in custody in Scotland including bereaved families, lawyers, academics, NGOs, inspection, oversight and investigation bodies, and human rights organisations. Deborah is working with some families bereaved after a death in custody and has been monitoring the legal processes that have followed, and this has helped identify some of the systemic problems with the investigation processes and the lack of support available for bereaved people. Our expertise on deaths in custody and detention, and the treatment of bereaved people, is being sought by a variety of organisations and specialist bodies as well as by bereaved families themselves.

Deborah and INQUEST intend to undertake further influencing work as the Scottish Government have announced they will adopt our proposal for a National Oversight Mechanism – there will be a need to set up follow up meetings with the Government. Government is also setting up a [review of the Fatal Accident Inquiry](#) process (the Scottish equivalent of an inquest). INQUEST will apply its extensive understanding of and experience advising on the Article 2 framework in England and Wales to the Scottish context in our engagement and analysis. Across our work with bereaved families, INQUEST has shown a commitment to promoting national and international human rights.

UNJUST DEATHS- LEGACY AND MEMORIALISATION

Unjust Deaths is a project by INQUEST, helping communities bereaved by state violence to memorialise the people who have died and encouraging the public to meaningfully engage with this difficult and ongoing history. From podcasts to a memorial project, INQUEST was able to develop its creative campaigns as part of its legacy project.



Memorialisation Working Group

We launched a 12-month consultation to collectively think about, plan and begin to deliver, memorial strategies. Our 14 members are a combination of bereaved people, socially engaged artists, campaigners, academics, heritage specialists, journalists and gardeners. The group includes representatives from Glasgow, Manchester, Essex, Newport, Devon, London and Leeds.

The INQUEST Archive

You can now access a catalogue of the [INQUEST archive here](#) documenting state violence, death and resistance in the UK since 1981. The archive explores over 40 years of fighting for justice through sound, image and print.

Podcast Series 2- Unlawful Killing

Our specialist podcast series, focusing on memorialisation, has been a great success – allowing us to invite more guests for interview and explore questions of memory, history and change from different voices. We have had wonderful feedback from participants and listeners. Sandra Ruiz, Grenfell Memorial Commissioner, who was interviewed for episode 2 said: *'Thank you so much for inviting me to record the podcast and thank you to the whole team for making it such a great experience and helping me relax into it. It is such an important project and so brilliantly framed.'* Thanks to additional support from Goldsmiths University and Bishopsgate Institute we were able to put on a podcast and digital archive launch celebration on 25 March. This felt like a solidification of INQUEST's investment in creative, collaborative and community focused heritage – we had over 100 people in the room, a mix of bereaved families, people involved in the organisation from the 1980s to now, journalists, artists and lawyers. The event featured a volunteer-curated display of archive material, our new [digital archive](#) website on display, postcards we created to spotlight the archive featuring QR codes, family created quilt banners (one being the outcome of this current project), a short film documenting the creation of the banner during this project, a podcast episode teaser and speeches. It was a joyous evening despite the reason all this history exists.

[Episode 1](#) – Legacy (part 1): Creating lasting change in memory of Cherry Groce.

[Episode 2](#) – Legacy (part 2): Sandra Ruiz on remembering Grenfell and those who died

[Episode 3](#) – Artistic and the fight for change

[Episode 4](#) – Artistic Voices (part 2): Echoes from the archive: remembering the artists silenced by the state

[Episode 5](#) – Protest Banners (part 1): Azelle Rodney's mother speaks about a mother's love, art Podcast series has been recorded, edited and released. It features six episodes all on the theme of legacy, memorial and creative responses to archives.

[Episode 6](#) – Protest Banners (part 2): Beyond the inquest: stitching to build memory and community



Launch of INQUEST archive, 25 March 2025, Bishopsgate Institute

SoulsINQUEST

Following the huge success of the London exhibition, a second SoulsINQUEST exhibition was held in Platform Arts Centre Glasgow in May 2024. The launch saw attendance of a broad group of policymakers and organisations, and bereaved families, including the Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland, the National Preventative Mechanism, the Human Rights Commission, NGOs, and theatre and arts groups. This enabled engagement and discussion on the broader issues surrounding deaths in custody to new and diverse audiences. It also strengthened ongoing relationships with key stakeholders whilst supporting our wider strategic aims in Scotland where we aim to further embed our work.

Both exhibitions attracted significant media interest, including in [the Guardian](#), [The Independent](#), and [the Herald Scotland](#), who recommended the exhibition as one of its 10 'must sees'.

Commemorative Banners

Following the roaring success of our first family commemorative banner, we got a new group of families together and produced a beautiful second banner (see both banners below) which was launched at the UFFC silent march in Westminster on 26th October 2024. Simultaneously in Scotland, families bereaved by state violence took their own new banner out in Edinburgh outside Bute House, the formal residence of the First Minister of Scotland.

You can find here a preview of our ['Stitched Together' film](#) showing bereaved families coming together to create a memorial banner for their loved ones.



The Scottish banner and the two banners made in England

INQUEST was honoured to have been presented with the 'Most Impactful Organisation Award 2024' from the Ronaldo Thierry Johnson Foundation. Ron was unlawfully killed in a crash following a [police chase in Manchester in March 2021](#). His family continue to campaign to [end police pursuits](#) and support other bereaved families. [Follow their campaign](#). INQUEST attended an event in Manchester on 28 September 2024 organised by the Foundation celebrating what would have been Ron Johnson's 21st birthday.

INQUEST in the media

- [Justice review calls for end to child imprisonment in England](#), The Guardian
- Jodie Anderson spoke to [BBC news](#) about the need to meaningfully support people leaving prison as the Government's early release scheme begins, and the inherent harms of prison.
- [Hundreds of suicides at 'traumatising' NHS mental health hospitals](#), The Times
- [Trans teenager's parents call for better emotional support for families](#), ITV
- [Family of Allan Marshall to sue prison service in Scotland over 2015 death in custody](#), The Guardian
- [NHS sends vulnerable patients to private hospital accused of abuse](#), The Independent
- ['Mum was ill, not bad': family call for reform of England's justice system after prison suicide](#), The Guardian
- [Number of deaths linked to police custody 'extremely concerning'](#), The Independent
- [The Guardian view on the coroner's role: if deaths can be prevented, they should be](#)
- ['Hillsborough Law' on the table by anniversary - PM](#), BBC

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- [Landmark inquiry launched into deaths of mental health patients in Essex](#), Channel 4
 - [Labour Government Promises Bereaved Covid Families: 'Failures of State' During Pandemic Will Not be Repeated](#), Byline Times
 - ['No immediate response' to inmate's self-harm plan](#), BBC
 - [Jason Lee McQuoid 'failed' by prison's mental health team](#), Norwich Guardian
 - [Chris Kaba shot man and was alleged core member of gang](#), The Guardian
 - [Police push to make it harder to prosecute officers after Chris Kaba shooting](#), The Guardian
 - [Chris Kaba: Officers on trial after shooting suspects to have anonymity, home secretary says](#), ITV
 - [Met officers cleared of ignoring Kevin Clarke's 'I can't breathe'](#), BBC.
 - [Deaths at young offenders' institution in Scotland could have been avoided](#), The Guardian.
 - ['Liam's death could have so easily been avoided': Family of man who drowned in River Thames 'broken'](#), My London
 - [Ruth Perry: How I would fix our unjust inquest system](#), The Times
 - [Coroners criticise Wandsworth prison in failings over inmates' deaths](#), The Times
 - [Multiple failures led to death of teenager at mental health hospital](#), Channel 4
 - [Lengthy stay in A&E contributed to death – coroner](#), BBC
 - [Climate Prisoners Are Exposing the Dire State of Prison Healthcare](#), Novara Media
 - [Family of man who died in HMP Pentonville say 'nobody should be treated that way'](#)
 - [Grenfell firms facing possible bans over 'mercenary behaviour' named](#), ITV London (including a live interview with Aniesha Obuobie), ITV
 - [Four in ten who took their lives in prison were denied adequate healthcare](#), The Independent
 - [Jailed, Failed, Forgotten, Dani Garavelli on suicides in state custody](#), London Review of Books
 - [Family's frustration with police for not stopping drowning of their son in Thames](#), ITV London
 - [Campaigners express deep concern over police accountability review](#), The Independent
 - [Family of Black man tasered by cops call for fearless investigation into his death](#), The Mirror
 - [Justice review calls for end to child imprisonment in England](#), The Guardian
 - Jodie Anderson spoke to [BBC news](#) about the need to meaningfully support people leaving prison as the Govt's early release scheme begins, and the inherent harms of prison.
 - [Hundreds of suicides at 'traumatising' NHS mental health hospitals](#), The Times
 - [Trans teenager's parents call for better emotional support for families](#), ITV
 - [Family of Allan Marshall to sue prison service in Scotland over 2015 death in custody](#), The Guardian
 - [We need prevention, learning and long-term structural change to achieve justice for... - LBC](#), LBC written by Deborah Coles, our director, and Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator
 - [DC BBC News -Grenfell.mov](#) – Deborah Coles BBC News interview
 - [BBC 5 Live, Deborah Coles Interview on Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 report from 1:10:07](#)
 - Channel 4 Political Fourcast Podcast, ["How to stop scandals like Grenfell from happening again"](#), Deborah Coles on the panel.
-

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number: 1046650

Company registration number: 03054853

Registered and principal office: Unit T3
89-93 Fonthill Road
London N4 3JH

Directors and Trustees

The Board of trustees constitutes directors of the company for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Stephen Tombs (Chair)
Daniel Machover
Geraldine Isherwood
Ruth Bunday
Joe Sim (resigned 15 November 2025)
Diane Newton
Rajiv Menon
Pete Weatherby
Patrick Williams
Douglas Stephen Cave
Rebecca Charlotte Montacute
Marcia Patricia Rigg- Samuel
Christine De Grasse

No trustee received any remuneration for services during the year (2024 – nil), nor did they have any beneficial interest in any contract with the charity.

Company Secretary: Arnaud Vervoitte

Chief Executive Officer: Deborah Coles

Statutory Auditors: Barcant Beardon Limited
Chartered Accountants
8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

Banker: Unity Trust Bank plc
Nine Brindley Place
Birmingham B1 2HB

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Staff

At 31st March 2025, the total staff number was 16:

Deborah Coles, Executive Director
Arnaud Vervoitte, Operations & Development Director
Anita Sharma, Head of Casework (resigned 14 March 2025)
Selen Cavcav, Senior Caseworker
Jodie Anderson, Senior Casework
Jordan Ferdinand-Sergeant, Caseworker
Aniesha Obuobie, Grenfell Project Coordinator and Senior Caseworker
Lucy McKay, Policy and Communications Officer (resigned 7 June 2024)
Robert Styles, Office Administrator/Casework Assistant
Tanya Karastoyanova, Finance Officer
Maureen Mansfield, Family Participation Officer
Luana D'Arco Yakubu, Casework Assistant
Jessica Pandian, Policy and Research Officer
Rosanna Ellul, Senior Policy & Parliamentary Officer
Mira Peliti - Operations & Development Officer (resigned 15 August 2024)
Naomi Oppenheim – Heritage Project Coordinator
Leila Hagmann – Media and Communication Assistant
Catherine Rosina – PA
Alfie Neill - Heritage Project Assistant (appointed 14 January 2025)

Risk Management

The Board regularly reviews the risks to which INQUEST is subject on a rolling basis in order to protect the assets and property of the organisation and ensure that they are used to deliver its objectives.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of INQUEST. They help the staff with a range of tasks and are vital in supporting the small staff team. We ensure that the volunteer scheme took into account the skills and interests of volunteers to ensure that their experience of working at INQUEST is beneficial to them.

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Inquest Charitable Trust 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources,

including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- State whether applicable United Kingdom 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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

On behalf of the board



Daniel Machover
Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 18 / 12 / 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Inquest Charitable Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirement 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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Opinion 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 trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our 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 directors' report.

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, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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 prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 16, 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the audit team had the appropriate competence, capability and skill to identify and recognise any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified such laws and regulations applicable from our discussions with trustees and other management and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption legislation, Taxation legislation and Employment legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documents
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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.



Mukesh Khatri
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
BARCANT BEARDON LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

8 Blackstock Mews
Islington
London N4 2BT

22nd December 2025

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>					
Donations and legacies	3	582,319	531,277	1,113,596	1,078,303
Charitable activities	4	-	35,818	35,818	42,604
Other trading activities	5	-	11,025	11,025	19,115
Investments	6	-	8,099	8,099	6,122
Total income and endowments		582,319	586,219	1,168,538	1,146,144
<i>Expenditure on:</i>					
Costs of raising funds:					
Fundraising costs	7	-	90,715	90,715	89,861
Charitable activities	8	582,319	505,102	1,087,421	1,163,768
Total expenditure		582,319	595,817	1,178,136	1,253,629
Net income/(expenditure)		-	(9,598)	(9,598)	(107,485)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<i>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</i>		-	(9,598)	(9,598)	(107,485)
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>					
Total funds brought forward		-	100,523	100,523	208,008
Total funds carried forward		-	90,925	90,925	100,523

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST


BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<i>Fixed assets</i>			
Tangible assets	15	3,967	10,286
<i>Current assets</i>			
Debtors	16	23,664	111,436
Cash at bank and in hand		514,785	311,655
		538,449	423,091
<i>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</i>	17	(451,491)	(332,854)
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>		86,958	90,237
<i>Net assets</i>		90,925	100,523
<i>Charity funds</i>			
Restricted funds	19	-	-
Unrestricted funds			
- General funds	19	90,925	100,523
Total charity funds		90,925	100,523

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees


 Geraldine Isherwood
 Member of the Board of Trustees

Date: 19.12.25

The notes on pages 23 to 33 form part of these financial statements.
 Company registration number: 03054853

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<i>Cash flow from operating activities</i>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22.0	195,031	(133,544)
<i>Cash flow from investing activities</i>			
Interest income		8,099	6,122
Purchase of tangible fixed assets			(4,064)
Net cash used in investing activities		8,099	2,058
<i>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year</i>		203,130	(131,486)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>		311,655	443,141
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>		514,785	311,655
<i>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</i>			
Cash in bank and in hand		514,785	311,655
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</i>	22.1	514,785	311,655

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1.0 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Inquest Charitable Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is Unit T3, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3JH.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Unrestricted funds are donations and other income received or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest income is recognised when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 *Expenditure recognition*

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred on activities that raise funds.
- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

1.5 *Support costs allocation*

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include premises overheads, office, finance and governance costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.6 *Operating leases*

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.7 *Tangible fixed assets*

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Office equipment	4 years
------------------	---------

1.8 *Debtors*

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.9 *Creditors and provisions*

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

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1.10 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the year in which the employee's services are received.

2.0 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3.0 Income from Donations and Legacies

	2025 £	2024 £
Gifts	210,618	173,315
Gift Aid tax reclaims	16,453	11,000
AB Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	30,000	22,000
Allen and Overy (Unrestricted)	-	5,000
The Blue Moon Trust (Unrestricted)	10,000	10,000
Bromley Trust (Unrestricted)	25,000	25,000
Disrupt Foundation	22,555	-
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (Unrestricted)	60,500	55,000
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Unrestricted)	95,050	114,000
Oak Foundation (Restricted/Unrestricted)	102,316	97,051
Grants from other sources (Restricted and Unrestricted)	510,214	529,927
Memberships	30,890	36,010
	<u>1,113,596</u>	<u>1,078,303</u>

3.1 Income from donations and legacies was £1,113,596 (2024 - £1,078,303) of which £582,319 (2024 - £610,478) was attributable to restricted and £531,277 (2024 - £467,825) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4.0	<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>	2025 £	2024 £
	Income from consulting and training services	31,992	37,970
	Income from publications	3,826	4,634
	Income from grants	-	-
		<u>35,818</u>	<u>42,604</u>
4.1	Income from charitable activities was £35,818 (2024 - £42,604) of which £nil (2024 - £nil) was attributable to restricted and £35,818 (2024 - £42,604) was attributable to unrestricted funds.		
5.0	<i>Income from Other Trading Activities</i>	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
	Fundraising events	<u>11,025</u>	<u>19,115</u>
6.0	<i>Income from Investments</i>	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
	Interest – bank	<u>8,099</u>	<u>6,122</u>
7.0	<i>Expenditure on Raising Funds</i>	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
	Staff costs	88,418	82,737
	Other fundraising costs	<u>2,297</u>	<u>7,124</u>
		<u>90,715</u>	<u>89,861</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8.0 Analysis of Expenditure on Charitable Activities

8.1 Charitable Activities 2025	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Project work	394,853	-	394,853
Casework and other family support	525,935	136,556	662,491
Publications	30,077	-	30,077
	<u>950,865</u>	<u>136,556</u>	<u>1,087,421</u>
Charitable Activities 2024	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Project work	422,068	-	422,068
Casework and other family support	569,083	137,778	706,861
Publications	34,839	-	34,839
	<u>1,025,990</u>	<u>137,778</u>	<u>1,163,768</u>

8.2 Of the £1,087,421 expenditures in 2025 (2024 - £1,163,768), £582,319 (2024 - £620,878) was attributable to restricted funds and £505,102 (2024 - £542,890) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

9.0 Analysis of Support and Governance Costs

	Support £	Governance costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Premises	66,311	-	66,311	67,029
Office running	1,930	-	1,930	5,262
Information technology	30,203	-	30,203	22,438
Legal and professional	12,361	-	12,361	16,597
Bookkeeping	3,000	-	3,000	4,349
Depreciation	6,319	-	6,319	6,820
Audit/Independent examination	-	16,340	16,340	14,900
Trustees' expenses	-	92	92	383
	<u>120,124</u>	<u>16,432</u>	<u>136,556</u>	<u>137,778</u>

10.0 Net Income/(Expenditure) for the Year

	2025 £	2024 £
This is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration	16,340	14,900
Depreciation	6,319	6,820
Operating lease payments: Land and buildings	<u>52,800</u>	<u>52,800</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11.0 Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees were not paid any remuneration or received any other benefits during the year (2024 – none). Travel costs amounting to £92 (2024 - £250) were reimbursed to 1 (2024 – one) member(s) of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees incurred meeting expenses in the sum of £nil (2024 - £49). No (2024 – No) trustee(s) attended a Charity Trustee training course at a cost of £nil (2024 - £nil).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into the charity during the year (2024 – Nil).

12.0 Analysis of Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	735,386	764,821
Social security costs	71,532	74,551
Pensions	58,593	61,402
	<u>865,511</u>	<u>900,774</u>

12.1 The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employers' pension contributions) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
£70,001 - £80,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

During the year pension contributions on behalf of these staff amounted to £19,214 (2024 - £12,351).

12.2 The total amount of employees' benefits received by key management personnel is £259,387 (2024 - £227,546). The company considers its key management personnel comprise its Executive Director, Operations & Development Director and Head of Casework.

13.0 Staff Numbers

The average monthly head count was 16.83 staff (2024: 18.42 staff) and the average monthly number of full-time equivalent employees (including casual and part time staff) during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Direct charitable work	<u>16.83</u>	<u>18.42</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14.0 Taxation

Inquest Charitable Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1, Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3, Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15.0 Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
<i>Cost</i>	
At 1 April 2024	49,167
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	49,167
<i>Depreciation:</i>	
At 1 April 2024	38,881
Charge for the year	6,319
Eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	45,200
<i>Net Book Value:</i>	
At 31 March 2025	3,967
At 1 April 2024	10,286

16.0 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	600	13,685
Grants receivables and accrued income	11,499	80,970
Prepayments	11,565	16,781
	23,664	111,436

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17.0 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	20,485	12,249
Taxation and social security	27,908	20,009
Accruals	53,554	53,586
Other creditors	98,324	63,691
Deferred income (see note 18)	251,220	183,319
	<u>451,491</u>	<u>332,854</u>

17.1 Included in creditors is a pension liability of £21,602 (2024 - £8,401).

18.0 Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises of grants received in advance or monies received in advance for work taking place after the year end date.

	Total
	£
Balance as at 1 April 2024	183,319
Amount released in the year	(183,319)
Amount deferred in the year	251,220
	<u>251,220</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2025	<u>251,220</u>

19.0 Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted Funds – Current Year	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance
	1 Apr 2024	Resources	Resources		31 Mar 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>100,523</u>	<u>586,219</u>	<u>(595,817)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,925</u>

Unrestricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance
	1 Apr 2023	Resources	Resources		31 Mar 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>197,608</u>	<u>535,666</u>	<u>(632,751)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,523</u>

Name of unrestricted fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General funds The free reserves after allowing for any designated funds.

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19.1 Restricted Funds – Current year	Balance 1 Apr 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2025 £
Baring Foundation	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Blue Tread Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Garden Court Chambers	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	59,500	(59,500)	-	-
Legal Education Foundation	-	83,621	(83,621)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	104,749	(104,749)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	102,316	(102,316)	-	-
United Nations	-	19,499	(19,499)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
AB Charitable Trust	-	3,500	(3,500)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	-	37,634	(37,634)	-	-
	-	582,319	(582,319)	-	-

Restricted Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 Apr 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2024 £
Baring Foundation	-	15,833	(15,833)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust	2,400	8,833	(11,233)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	151,061	(151,061)	-	-
City Bridge Trust (City of London)	-	60,670	(60,670)	-	-
Evan Cornish	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	22,500	(22,500)	-	-
Henry Smith Charity	-	58,500	(58,500)	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	8,000	99,949	(107,949)	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	97,051	(97,051)	-	-
United Nations	-	4,644	(4,644)	-	-
Three Guineas Trust	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
Trust for London	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
	10,400	610,478	(620,878)	-	-

Name of restricted fund

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

Baring Foundation	Change work around addressing structural racism
Blue Tread Foundation	Policy, Women's briefing
Evan Cornish Foundation	Casework and policy work
Garden Court	Family engagement in policy and influencing work.
Henry Smith Charity	England & Wales Casework
Oak Foundation	Grenfell project, access to justice policy work
United Nations	Casework
Three Guineas Trust	Casework, research and policy (mental health, learning disabilities and autism)
Garfield Weston Foundation	Provision of casework
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Legacy project associated with INQUEST's 40th anniversary

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Legal Education Foundation
AB Charitable Trust

Provision of casework and capacity building in the legal sector
Additional Support in response to 2024 summer racist violence

20.0 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Current Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,967	3,967
Cash at bank and in hand	-	514,785	514,785
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(427,827)	(427,827)
	<u>-</u>	<u>90,925</u>	<u>90,925</u>

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds – Previous Year

	Restricted Fund £	Unrestricted Fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	10,286	10,286
Cash at bank and in hand	-	311,655	311,655
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	-	(221,418)	(221,418)
	<u>-</u>	<u>100,523</u>	<u>100,523</u>

21.0 Operating Leases - Lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than one year	8,800	52,800
Later than one and not later than five years	-	8,800
More than five years	-	-
	<u>8,800</u>	<u>61,600</u>

INQUEST CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

22.0 Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year	(9,598)	(107,485)
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(8,099)	(6,122)
Depreciation	6,319	6,820
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	87,772	(49,229)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	118,637	22,472
	<u>195,031</u>	<u>(133,544)</u>

22.1 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At 31 March 2024 £	Cash-flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>311,655</u>	<u>203,130</u>	<u>514,785</u>

23.0 Related Party Transactions

The partner of Chief Executive Officer has provided consultancy services to the charity at arm's length and the value of the services provided was £8,985 (2024 - £8,575).

Aside from trustee remuneration and expenses disclosed in note 11, donations and other income totalling £7,235 (2024 - £240) were receivable from trustees during the year.

