

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1060431

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1997-01-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The College Of Optometrists
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London
WC2N 5NG

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE (1) THE IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF HUMAN VISION (2) THE ADVANCEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE STUDY OF, AND RESEARCH INTO, OPTOMETRY, OPHTHALMIC OPTICS AND RELATED SUBJECTS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS THEREOF (3) THE PROMOTION AND IMPROVEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY, OPHTHALMIC OPTICS AND RELATED SUBJECTS (4) THE MAINTENANCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND CONDUCT ON THE PART OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE

Activities: THE COLLEGE IS THE PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH BODY FOR OPTOMETRY IN THE UK, PROMOTING OPTOMETRY TO KEY UK STAKEHOLDERS AND LOBBYING LEGISLATORS.WE FUND UNIVERSITY-BASED RESEARCH; DEVELOP GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT;PUBLISH A LEARNED JOURNAL; ARE THE SOLE UK REGULATOR APPROVED BODY TO ASSESS FITNESS TO PRACTICE IN THE UK;HOUSE AN OPTICAL MUSEUM AND OPTICAL REFERENCE LIBRARY.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£10,898,949	£10,380,501	£7,591,362	67
2023-09-30	£8,927,907	£9,547,626	£7,072,914	61
2022-09-30	£8,831,300	£9,090,337	£7,432,242	52
2021-09-30	£8,209,491	£6,998,255	£8,195,497	52
2020-09-30	£5,602,875	£6,507,565	£7,467,902	51

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew John Kitchen		
Dr Aleksandra Mankowska		2022-06-20
Dr Gillian Anne Rudduck		2017-03-20
Dr Irene Ctori		2021-03-23
Dr Leon Nicholas Davies		2016-03-14
Hassnain Safdar MCOptom		2024-04-29
Kathryn Trimmer MCOptom		2024-04-29
Kyla Black		2021-03-23
Lewes James Hambrey		2025-04-29
Mark Redhead		2020-02-24
Matt Roney		2022-06-20
Professor Joy Myint FCOptom		2024-04-29
Professor Kathryn Saunders FCOptomPhD		2021-03-23

Linked charities

- RESEARCH FUND OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS (1060431-1)

Accounts

Charity number: 1060431

The College of Optometrists

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024



The College of Optometrists

Contents

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees’ annual report	2
Independent auditor’s report	12
Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	16
Balance sheet	17
Statement of cashflows	18
Notes to the financial statements	19

The College of Optometrists

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Charity number	1060431
Country of registration	England & Wales
Registered office and operational address	42 Craven Street London WC2N 5NG

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Dr Gillian Rudduck	President
Professor Leon Davies	Chair and Immediate Past President
Dr Aleksandra Mankowska	Treasurer
Professor Irene Ctori	Vice President
Ms Kyla Black	
Mr Colin Davidson	Resigned 29 April 2024
Dr George Anthony Gibson	Resigned 29 April 2024
Mr Andrew Kitchen	
Professor Joy Myint	Appointed 29 April 2024
Mr Mark Redhead	
Mr Matt Roney	
Mr Hassnain Safdar	Appointed 29 April 2024
Professor Kathryn Saunders	
Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt	Resigned 29 April 2024
Ms Kathryn Trimmer	Appointed 29 April 2024
Mr Johnathan Waugh	Resigned 29 April 2024

Chief Executive Mr Ian Humphreys

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc One Churchill Place PO Box 35721 London E14 5HP	Solicitors	Fieldfisher LLP Riverbank House 2 Swan Lane London EC4R 3TT
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Investment Managers Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St. Paul's
Churchyard London
EC4M 8BU

Auditor Sayer Vincent LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane
LONDON EC1Y 0TG

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

The objects of the College are set out in its Royal Charter, as follows:

- The improvement and conservation of human vision.
- The advancement for the public benefit of the study of, and research into, optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects and the publication of the results thereof.
- The promotion and improvement for the public benefit of the science and practice of optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects.
- The maintenance for the public benefit of the highest possible standards of professional competence and conduct on the part of the members of the College.

From October 2020 the College adopted a five-year Strategic Plan, setting out a series of strategic pillars, as follows:

- Strategic pillar one: Defining and inspiring excellence in optometry
- Strategic pillar two: Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Strategic pillar three: Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Strategic pillar four: Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

Each Pillar is used to direct the College's operations, via a three-year business plan, and to produce departmental KPIs. The KPIs are reviewed monthly by the Senior Leadership Team and quarterly by trustees. Of the 72 KPIs (2023: 58) that the SLT set and monitored for the 2023 / 2024 business year, 74% have been achieved (2023: 55%), 15% (2023: 45%) are progressing but did not achieve targets/milestones (but are not at a level for significant concern), 3% are significantly behind their targets or milestones and 8% have either not been initiated or are not yet measured, with some metrics not due until after this report is written.

The Senior Leadership Team and trustees believe this represents a credible achievement given the ambitious nature of our business plan. With the three-year business plan in place, ongoing work will continue into the new business year.

Lessons learned regarding the usefulness of the KPIs and milestones set for 2023/24 will continue to be applied to improve those for the next 2024/25 business year, ensuring they are meaningful, measurable, and adaptable.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities and associated KPIs of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

The trustees, with the Council and Senior Leadership Team, have started the process of writing the new Strategic Plan, to be in place from October 2025.

Achievements and performance

The College works to a three-year Business Plan, covering the strategic pillars listed above. Progress is monitored by the Chief Executive and his senior team and reported regularly to the Board. More details of achievements and activities are available on our website and in our separate Annual Report.

Membership income totalled £3.14 million for the year ending September 30, 2024 (2023: £2.84m), slightly surpassing the budget. The small percentage increase in fees, our first increase in 13 years, did not have a detrimental effect on recruitment nor retention, with very few members citing it as a reason for not renewing. Board and Council have agreed that the same percentage increase will be applied to the 2024/25 year.

Clinical Learning in Practice (CLiP) is the College's placement programme which is part of the new master's degrees in optometry. The programme has been shaped by extensive sector consultation to meet the needs of future students and their universities and employers. The College will be facilitating, supporting and quality-assuring CLiP placements and assessing students in the workplace on behalf of our university partners. This will all be supported and monitored through the CLiP Portal. The first phase of the Portal was issued to the College by the developers in April 2024, allowing university partners to import students and trial the logbook with real data. The trial went well and the system went live in October 2024. The second phase is nearly complete and will enable students from the eight CLiP partner universities who began their master's degrees in 2023 to apply for placements early in 2025.

On behalf of the GOC and our partners, the College delivers SPOKE (Sector Partnership for Optical Knowledge and Education) to support the successful implementation of the new GOC education requirements. The Public Standards Authority's annual report on the GOC's performance highlighted SPOKE as a key mechanism for stakeholder engagement with the GOC's Education and Training Requirements. Our work continues to expand, evidenced by the delivery of SPOKE projects 4 (Supervision Guidance) and 5 (Developing Autonomy in Student Optical Professionals). We have also made progress on SPOKE projects 1 and 2 (Indicative Guidance) for the specialist qualifications (Prescribing and Contact Lens) Hub. The SPOKE Topic of the Month, launched in October 2023, has also been very well received.

Our vibrant CPD programme continues to grow with a mix of new online courses and recorded lectures. All courses, webinars, podcasts, peer review sessions, and events are now fully visible on our website, along with guidance on meeting GOC CPD requirements ahead of the end of cycle which was in December 2024.

The Scheme for Registration has benefited from new frameworks for in-person visits, the Autumn OSCE being held in Liverpool, the launch of Stage 2 rubrics and revamped feedback collection processes to boost trainee engagement.

We are continuously improving our Scheme for Registration and CLiP supervisor support package to enhance the experience for all participants. Key updates include ongoing drop-in sessions and targeted 1:1 support, new podcasts to support anxious trainees, a comprehensive training programme for new, additional, and advanced supervisors, introduction of the Optometric Practice Educator (OptPE) affix and recognition and support for supervisors from other optical professions through our new Associate Membership package.

Following a ministerial request from the Department of Health and Social Care, the College provided clinical leadership for, and endorsed, a Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning and LOCSU-led Standard Clinical Specification for community minor and urgent eye care in England. This specification aims to enhance local access to eye care across England by recognising and more effectively utilising the skills of primary care optometrists, including prescribing.

We released national guidance on infectious disease outbreaks (measles, whooping cough and mpox) and issued the fourth edition of the Guidance for Professional Practice.

The College has grown our influencing and public affairs activity, with notable results. Ahead of the Westminster General Election, we published our first manifesto addressing the eye care crisis in England. We urged the new government to prioritise optometrists as primary health professionals, to expand and appropriately fund community eye care services, and to enhance digital connectivity within the NHS to expedite diagnosis and treatment. We have also briefed key policy-makers in both the Westminster government and the shadow cabinet, in relation to both eye care and headlight glare.

The College, in partnership with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, continued to co-chair a national working group focused on establishing DICOM imaging standards in eye care. Collaborating with manufacturers and NHS England, the group aims to identify and test UK-wide standards to ensure compatibility across all machines. The group has secured NHSE funding for the next two years.

The NIHR funded eLearning for Clinicians Research Skills modules were successfully launched and have begun to be promoted. Members are starting to log into the NIHR platform and complete the modules.

In 2023/24 Docet, a service providing high-quality CPD to all UK-based optometrists, continued to be delivered by the College, under a contract from NHSE but with funding from all four nations. Sadly, with effect from October 2024, Scottish Optometrists will no longer be able to access the CPD as NHS Scotland, due solely to funding pressures, withdrew from the service.

The project to identify a new IT Support Services Company was completed effectively, and the new company has worked well with the College so far.

With space being freed by the move to hybrid working, the College has begun renting out a floor of its Craven Street building, to Orbis UK Ltd – the UK fundraising arm of the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital. This was the first time that the College has let space and it has proved successful and not as disruptive as some feared. This was due to choosing a tenant that aligned with the goals, ethos and values of the College.

Additionally, we have switched to a new electricity supplier that provides 100% renewable energy.

Our ongoing data visualisation project, integrating CRM data into Power BI, is crucial for the College. We have demonstrated its benefits by creating a membership dashboard, providing live data and trends to inform our offerings and communications. This advancement significantly improves efficiency, as data that previously took days to extract is now instantly accessible to everyone. The first of our new online communities were launched in early September, alongside the new App.

We maintain a high level of engagement at Board and Council meetings, with an average attendance rate of 80%. This strong participation ensures a high standard of accountability and effectively propels the College towards achieving its goals.

Enhancements to the College's staff appraisal system have been developed and implemented to support the performance element of the new pay scheme. Data from our regular staff surveys has shown an increase in staff satisfaction: support to develop career has increased by 12.5% points, opportunities to develop and grow by 12% points and support and training to do the job by 6% points.

Our EDI strategy was developed, approved by trustees and published. 85% of respondents to our staff survey continue to positively indicate we are an inclusive employer. We have selected an external partner called ENEI to work with the College to help secure external EDI accreditation.

Financial review

The College had a surplus for the year of £518,448 (2023: Deficit of £359,328). The 2024 result was a significant improvement over the 2023 result, with both operational and investment performance improving. Investments generated a surplus of £673,308 (2023: £260,391) with College operations improving from a deficit of £619,720 in 2023 to a 2024 deficit of £154,860. An operating deficit was expected as the trustees set a deficit budget to fund plans to improve engagement with and deliver long-term benefits for members. The operating deficit was significantly less than budgeted due to improvements in the Membership Support and Communications Department.

The improvement in financial performance is in line with a trustee direction to achieve a break even operating outturn for the 2024/25 year with small annual surpluses thereafter.

Restricted reserves showed a significant movement, from £657,805 to £182,319, as a higher level of Docet activity was undertaken during the year.

Cash improved, ending the year at £1,032,103 (2023: £707,916), with investments totalling £5,072,449 (2023: £4,431,604). Investments can be converted into cash quickly if required.

Cash was higher than forecast due to a reduction in capital expenditure, better than budgeted operational outturn and the issue with a debtor noted in last year's accounts being resolved.

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st October each year and the 2024 renewals are proving to be resilient.

The College continues to develop a strategic membership plan to support all members as well as introducing Associate Memberships, to allow wider access to our CPD courses and enable improved oversight of non-Optometrist Scheme for Registration supervisors, as required by last year's GOC audit of the Scheme.

When looking at Note 17a, analysis of group net assets between funds, it can be seen that general funds show net current liabilities of £2,836,960 (2023: £3,506,536). This balance is expected as there is a delay in earning the income in respect of cash already received for the Scheme for Registration. As the number of trainees joining the Scheme increases, especially towards the end of the financial year (as the trainees join after graduation in the Summer), then current net liabilities are expected. As the Trainees move through the Scheme, the College recognises the income earned. There are very few trainees who do not complete the Scheme.

The current net liabilities risk is further mitigated by the College's investments which could be liquidated, at 10 working days' notice if additional cash were to be required. The College also has a secured overdraft, which was not used during the year.

Principal risks and uncertainties

At the strategic level, trustees continually review the major risks to which the College is exposed, and systems have been established to manage and mitigate these risks. In 2024 there was a full review of the College's risk position, led by the Audit Committee. The previous full review was in 2021. The Committee discussed the College Strategic Risk Register, format and contents, and the process by which risk is managed at the operational level via specific project or programme level risk registers. Additionally all Board papers include a risks section setting out the risks and mitigations associated with the recommendation(s) in the paper. The risk appreciations in the papers are based on the individual operational risk registers held for each project.

The Audit Committee concluded that the Registers were complete as presented and all the risks identified were appropriately understood and mitigated. This has subsequently been considered and agreed by trustees. The next full review is due in the Summer of 2026.

The major strategic risks facing the College are: Number and composition of membership, lack of diversity of income, regulatory compliance, loss of reputation through clinical errors and not seizing opportunities when they present themselves because of an overly strong risk averse culture.

A previous high risk – a poor implementation of the Clinical Learning in Practice project – has been reduced to a much lower level due to the good management of the project.

Project and programme risks are discussed regularly by the Senior Leadership Team.

Reserves policy and going concern

Prior to 2023 – 24, unrestricted reserves declined over the past few years as trustees utilised reserves to maintain the College’s capability during the pandemic, invest in the new CRM, develop software to support the new Clinical Learning in Practice activity, and refurbish the building which the College owns.

The surplus in 2023–24 has started to reverse the reduction in unrestricted reserves, in line with trustee instruction to have a balanced operating outturn in 2024–25 and slight operating surpluses thereafter. Some of the improvement arose after a reconciliation of the restricted funds contract identified that some College direct costs should have been charged to contract and not to College general funds.

The trustees reviewed their reserves policy in 2024 and amended it from maintaining reserves equal to 5 months of operating costs to a policy of having free and tangible designated reserves in a range, between £4.3m to £6.0m. This range is based on having sufficient liquid reserves that would allow the College to mitigate or overcome financial shocks, or take advantage of opportunities.

As at 30 September 2024 the reserves policy showed reserves of	£m
Free:	2.24
Designated (excluding intangibles):	<u>3.28</u>
	<u>5.52</u>

£5.52m complies with the reserves policy.

Full details of the College’s reserves are in Note 18.

The College’s cash flow projections show that the College has sufficient resources to enable it to deliver its business plans and to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have instructed management that the College should re-establish its free reserves. This will be achieved by delivering surplus operating outcomes from the 2025–2026 financial year. The College is on track to meet the trustee instruction.

Given the current level of free and tangible designated reserves, the continuing reduction in deficits and the cash flow projection, the trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves are sufficient to meet any financial uncertainties that the College is likely to encounter.

Fundraising

The College only periodically fundraises, through its members to fund Research.

Small sums may also be received from third parties or the public to support the College's museum.

The College does not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators. Given this limited involvement in any fundraising, the College is not signed up to any particular fundraising regulation but would look to such codes for guidance on its activities. The College has had no complaints about its fundraising activity. No hard sell techniques are used and requests are only made to members, so the College believe that the risk to vulnerable people should be very low from any of their activities.

Plans for the future

The College works to a five-year strategic plan based on 4 strategic pillars:

- Defining and inspiring excellence in Optometry
- Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

The strategic plan informs a rolling three-year business plan, from which the annual budgets are developed.

The current strategic plan expires in September 2025 and the production of a new plan is in process.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation was founded on 1 March 1980 as The British College of Ophthalmic Opticians. The title was changed in 1987 to The British College of Optometrists. On 18 September 1995 the organisation was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation under the new title of The College of Optometrists.

The College is governed by its Charter and Byelaws. The trustees are responsible for the management of the College which is exercised through the Chief Executive. The Council is responsible for the strategic direction of the College. The Council consists of a maximum of forty persons from the following: up to 35 members elected to represent nine regions in England, along with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, four who are members of the Lay Advisory Panel, and one person nominated from the Optometry Schools Council.

In September 2017 the Board of Trustees agreed to adopt the Charity Governance Code and regularly adopts any necessary changes to meet the code.

The Board of Trustees has the legal and fiduciary responsibilities for the College and is comprised of up to 14 members including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, seven Council members elected by the Council, including one Council member who is a member of the Lay Advisory Panel

and up to three persons co-opted as trustees subject to the approval of the Council. The Chair of the Board will either be one of the elected trustees or be co-opted using one of the three possible co-options. Under the Charter, the Chief Executive has a right to attend all meetings of the trustees but shall not be a trustee. Currently there is one co-opted trustee.

The Chief Executive is supported in the management of the College by six executive directors heading departmental activity under Finance, IT and Facilities, Human Resources, Member Services and Communications, Policy and Strategy, Education, and Knowledge and Research.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity whilst acting as a trustee. Any expenses reclaimed from or paid by the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts. The trustees are allowed by the College's Charter and Byelaws to receive remuneration for certain services. Details of such remuneration is also set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Appointment of trustees

The College's Council annually elects members to vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

All new trustees receive an induction from the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board. Trustees hold an annual away day, either physically or electronically and two seminar sessions each year to increase their understanding of the issues affecting the College and develop plans for the future, including the strengthening of governance.

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 1.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists is a related party as the College appoints five out of the ten trustees. The College has previously donated £2 from members' subscriptions annually to the Benevolent Fund. After a review of the Benevolent Fund's financial position, it was decided that a donation was not required in 2023–2024 (2023: £25,134) and that the funds could be used for member benefit elsewhere by the College.

The College continued to reimburse expenses for the College nominated trustees, as well as providing, on a pro bono basis, meeting space, bookkeeping services, management accounts and draft statutory accounts. The College is also active in promoting the Fund.

One of trustee of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics is nominated by the College. The current nominee is not trustee of the College. The College has made a loan of £20,000.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

In determining levels of remuneration, the College has to balance a number of factors to ensure that it is able to recruit and retain employees to deliver its services effectively. Our principles are to pay our staff a fair salary that is competitive within the market, proportionate to each role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives. The College is committed to ensuring that its salaries remain competitive in the employment market, through conducting an annual pay review, paying individuals in line with the normal sector practice and standards, and benchmarking salaries against other employers. The College applies the same benchmarking principles in respect of the CEO and Directors' level of pay as that applied to all other employees.

Investment Policy and Performance

The trustees of the College have a legal duty to ensure that the College's funds are managed prudently and have adopted a medium risk investment strategy with a balance in the investment portfolio between gilts or fixed interest securities and equities, and a balance between UK and overseas investments. The investment portfolio is benchmarked against an appropriate composite index that is reviewed regularly. The trustees continue to retain investments in Common Investment Funds, managed by Sarasin.

The value of the College's investments at the end of September 2024 was higher than at September 2023, this was in line with market movements. The College did not draw down any investments in 2023 – 2024.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charity's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Professor Leon Davies
Chair

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The College of Optometrists (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows 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 FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 30 September 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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 charity 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 College of Optometrists 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.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

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

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

27 March 2025

Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The College of Optometrists

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	Note	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2024 £	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2023 £
Income from:									
Donations		858	–	232	1,090	1,370	–	240	1,610
Charitable activities									
Membership	2	–	–	3,138,587	3,138,587	–	–	2,932,539	2,932,539
Education	3	–	579,379	5,929,947	6,509,326	–	579,379	4,861,548	5,440,927
Research	4	–	–	258,184	258,184	–	143,406	247,250	390,656
Other trading activities		–	–	105,053	105,053	–	–	18,668	18,668
Investments		–	–	133,755	133,755	–	–	122,308	122,308
Bank Interest		–	–	79,646	79,646	–	–	21,199	21,199
Total income		858	579,379	9,645,404	10,225,641	1,370	722,785	8,203,752	8,927,907
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	–	–	42,761	42,761	–	–	42,776	42,776
Charitable activities	5								
Membership		–	–	1,572,884	1,572,884	–	–	2,834,961	2,834,961
Education		–	943,716	6,463,824	7,407,540	–	480,896	4,684,199	5,165,094
Research		–	10,189	1,347,127	1,357,316	–	21,179	1,483,616	1,504,795
Total expenditure		–	953,905	9,426,596	10,380,501	–	502,075	9,045,551	9,547,626
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments									
	7	858	(374,526)	218,808	(154,860)	1,370	220,710	(841,799)	(619,719)
Net gains / (losses) on investments		–	–	673,308	673,308	–	–	260,391	260,391
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		858	(374,526)	892,116	518,448	1,370	220,710	(581,408)	(359,328)
Transfer between funds		–	(101,818)	101,818	–	–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		858	(476,344)	993,934	518,448	1,370	220,710	(581,408)	(359,328)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		1,370	656,435	6,415,109	7,072,914	–	435,725	6,996,517	7,432,242
Total funds carried forward	17	2,228	180,091	7,409,043	7,591,362	1,370	656,435	6,415,109	7,072,914

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

The College of Optometrists

Balance Sheet

As at 30 September 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible fixed assets	11	1,897,141	1,871,341
Tangible fixed assets	12	3,276,413	3,357,990
Investments	13	5,072,449	4,431,604
		<u>10,246,003</u>	<u>9,660,935</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	2,178,704	2,239,890
Cash at bank and in hand		1,032,103	707,916
		<u>3,210,807</u>	<u>2,947,806</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors due within one year	15	5,865,448	5,535,827
Net current liabilities		<u>(2,654,641)</u>	<u>(2,588,021)</u>
Net assets	17	<u>7,591,362</u>	<u>7,072,914</u>
Funds	18		
Restricted income funds			
DOCET		169,871	534,208
Other restricted funds		12,448	123,597
		<u>182,319</u>	<u>657,805</u>
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated funds		5,406,309	5,490,041
General funds		2,002,734	925,068
		<u>7,409,043</u>	<u>6,415,109</u>
Total charity funds		<u>7,591,362</u>	<u>7,072,914</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 19 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Aleksandra Mankowska

The College of Optometrists

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 September 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure)	518,448	(359,328)
Depreciation charges	179,213	174,009
Amortisation charges	211,465	209,132
Gains on investments	(673,308)	(260,391)
Dividends and interest from investments	(133,755)	(122,308)
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	32,463	31,412
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	61,186	(1,423,150)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	328,478	1,639,403
Net cash flow provided by / (used in) operating activities	524,190	(111,220)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest from investments	133,755	122,308
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(97,636)	(135,830)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	(237,264)	(213,000)
Decrease in investment cash	1,143	2,390
Net cash used in investing activities	(200,002)	(228,301)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	324,188	(339,521)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	707,916	1,047,438
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,032,103	707,916

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory Information

The College of Optometrists is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered office and principal place of business is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG.

b) Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

These financial statements include as a restricted fund the results of the linked trust "the Research Fund of the College of Optometrists" (Charity number 1060431-1).

On 1 April 2006 the College took over the assets, liabilities and activities of The Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training ("DOCET") and it is now a restricted fund of the College.

c) Public benefit entity

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

d) Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the College's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

There are net current liabilities of £2,654,641 as at the balance sheet date (2023: £2,588,021 net current liabilities). This is due to increasing numbers of trainees on the scheme for registration, which increases the amount of cash received in advance of income recognition. At the balance sheet date the College had £5,072,449 of Investments (2023: £4,431,604), which are convertible into cash at 10 working days notice.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. This includes unrestricted membership and fee income received in advance where it relates to services provided in a future accounting period. The College allocates a share of the Scheme for Registration fee to each of the stages of the scheme and recognises income based on the stages completed at the end of the year by each registrant.

f) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs if appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes of the College.

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

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Total expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered.

h) Grants payable

The College pays out grants in furtherance of its charitable objects. A number of grants are made which may be payable over a number of years. The commitment to pay is recognised in full once the performance criteria are likely to be met.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central functions, is apportioned on the basis of a percentage of total Direct costs including staff costs attributable to each activity.

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the College. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the College's activities. These costs are now allocated to activities on the same basis as shown above for support costs.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold buildings	not depreciated after 30 September 2011
Building improvements	over 10 years straight line
Equipment and furniture	over 10 years straight line
Computers	over 3 years straight line

The College holds a collection of library books and museum exhibits that were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation, and includes antique books, paintings and prints. These are irreplaceable originals which are deemed not to decrease in value. Accordingly these items have not been depreciated in the financial statements, since any depreciation will not be material. The value included in the accounts is reviewed annually for indications of reduction.

k) Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets include costs of the membership database and website. Costs over £1,000 are capitalised.

Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The amortisation rates are as follows:

Website	3–5 years straight line
CRM system	10 years

1 Accounting policies (continued)

l) Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the SOFA. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Net gains/(losses) on investments" in the SOFA. The College does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

o) 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) Pensions

The College operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the College in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the College to the fund. The College has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

2 Membership

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Subscriptions	–	3,138,587	3,138,587	–	2,932,539	2,932,539
Total	–	3,138,587	3,138,587	–	2,932,539	2,932,539

3 Education

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Examination and pre-registration fees	–	5,298,448	5,298,448	–	4,672,875	4,672,875
Health Departments' funding for DOCET	579,379	–	579,379	579,379	–	579,379
College Events	–	374,359	374,359	–	–	–
Other events and activities	–	257,140	257,140	–	188,673	188,673
Total	579,379	5,929,947	6,509,326	579,379	4,861,548	5,440,927

4 Research

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £
Publications – OPO	–	232,446	232,446	–	165,000	165,000
Other	–	25,738	25,738	143,406	82,250	225,656
Total	–	258,184	258,184	143,406	247,250	390,656

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

			Education						
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Policy & Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs									
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff (note 8)	–	661,271	1,277,905	184,347	834,690	105,591	836,958	3,900,763	3,638,535
Exam and Assessment costs	–	–	3,282,659	–	–	–	–	3,282,659	2,442,818
Exam and CPD Development	–	–	44,820	462,352	–	–	–	507,172	196,763
Publications & Mailings	–	219,569	–	69,747	30,848	–	–	320,165	358,492
Events and Member Services	–	–	301,800	–	–	–	–	301,800	271,780
Campaigns and General Expenses	–	313,257	–	–	43,469	–	–	356,726	639,182
Clinical Guidelines	–	–	–	–	41,078	–	–	41,078	66,949
Research, Scholarship and Grants	–	–	–	–	80,358	–	–	80,358	177,271
Total Direct Costs	–	1,194,097	4,907,185	716,447	1,030,443	105,591	836,958	8,790,720	7,791,790
Indirect Costs									
Staff Expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	54,509	54,509	58,268
Council Trustee and Committee costs	–	–	–	–	–	108,839	–	108,839	67,606
College Representation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Professional Fees	32,463	–	–	–	–	45,243	213,759	291,465	436,466
Building Costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	164,107	164,107	167,116
Bank Charges and Interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	72,120	72,120	69,960
Printing, Postage & Stationery	–	–	–	–	–	–	13,684	13,684	11,902
IT, Telephones and Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	400,358	400,358	252,569
Subscriptions and Donations	–	–	–	–	–	28,156	19,417	47,573	53,526
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	46,446	46,446	67,991
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	179,214	179,214	259,069
Amortisation	–	–	–	–	–	–	211,465	211,465	311,362
Total Indirect Costs	32,463	–	–	–	–	182,238	1,375,080	1,589,781	1,755,836
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	32,463	1,194,097	4,907,185	716,447	1,030,443	287,829	2,212,037	10,380,501	9,547,626
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	10,298	378,787	1,556,639	227,269	326,873	(287,829)	(2,212,037)	–	–
Total Expenditure 2024	42,761	1,572,884	6,463,824	943,716	1,357,316	–	–	10,380,501	
Total Expenditure 2023	42,776	2,834,961	4,684,199	480,896	1,504,795	–	–		9,547,626

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

5b Analysis of expenditure (Prior year)

			Education					
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Policy & Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs								
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff (note 8)	–	978,994	1,019,332	96,466	731,644	102,429	709,670	3,638,535
Exam and Assessment costs	–	–	2,442,818	–	–	–	–	2,442,818
Exam and CPD Development	–	–	(22,405)	219,168	–	–	–	196,763
Publications & Mailings	–	289,270	–	37,502	31,720	–	–	358,492
Events and Member Services	–	271,780	–	–	–	–	–	271,780
Campaigns and General Expenses	–	541,751	–	–	97,431	–	–	639,182
Clinical Guidelines	–	–	–	–	66,949	–	–	66,949
Research, Scholarship and Grants	–	–	–	–	177,271	–	–	177,271
Total Direct Costs	–	2,081,795	3,439,745	353,136	1,105,015	102,429	709,670	7,791,790
Indirect Costs								
Staff Expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	58,268	58,268
Council Trustee and Committee costs	–	–	–	–	–	67,606	–	67,606
College Representation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Professional Fees	31,412	–	–	–	–	23,083	381,970	436,466
Building Costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	167,116	167,116
Bank Charges and Interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	69,960	69,960
Printing, Postage & Stationery	–	–	–	–	–	–	11,902	11,902
IT, Telephones and Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	252,569	252,569
Subscriptions and Donations	–	–	–	–	–	–	53,526	53,526
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	67,991	67,991
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	259,069	259,069
Amortisation	–	–	–	–	–	–	311,362	311,362
Total Indirect Costs	31,412	–	–	–	–	90,689	1,633,735	1,755,836
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	31,412	2,081,795	3,439,745	353,136	1,105,015	193,118	2,343,405	9,547,626
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	11,364	753,166	1,244,454	127,760	399,780	(193,118)	(2,343,405)	–
Total Expenditure 2023	42,776	2,834,961	4,684,199	480,896	1,504,795	–	–	9,547,626

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

6a Grant making (Current Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to members £	2024 £
Eye Health Research	–	6,020	6,020
	–	6,020	6,020

The College provided small grants to members to help with their research activities

6b Grant making (Prior Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to members £	2023 £
Eye Health Research	–	147,377	147,377
	–	147,377	147,377

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:/ crediting

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	179,213	174,009
Amortisation	211,465	209,132
Operating lease rentals payable	3,776	3,561
Operating lease rentals receivable – Property	70,125	19,125
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Audit – current year	22,000	21,000

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries and wages	3,170,443	2,863,527
Redundancy and Termination Costs	4,781	22,822
Social security costs	355,361	315,841
Pension contributions	306,953	279,309
Private health and sickness insurance	46,607	39,727
Staff costs	3,884,145	3,521,226
Temporary Staff	16,618	117,309
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	3,900,763	3,638,535

The following number of employees received employee salaries and benefits (excluding employer's national insurance and pension costs) during the year between:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,001 – £70,000	4	5
£70,001 – £80,000	4	2
£80,001 – £90,000	1	1
£90,001 – £100,000	3	2
£105,000 – £110,000	–	1
£120,001 – £130,000	–	–
£130,001 – £140,000	1	1

The total employee benefits (including employer's national insurance contributions and pension contributions) of the key management personnel were £793,326 (2023: £719,856).

8 Trustees (2023:4 Trustees) received remuneration in the form of payment of fees. This remuneration is for acting as examiners, lecturers, editors, facilitators and assessors checking the standards of optometric practice and is in accordance with the legal authority of the College's Charter and Bye-Laws.

None of the trustees are remunerated for their role as a trustee.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (cont.)

	2024 £	2023 £
Kyla Black	330	108
Colin Davidson	8,132	5,337
Aleksandra Mankowska	–	108
Joy Myint	1,060	–
Matt Roney	770	648
Hassnain Safdar	364	–
Kathryn Saunders	500	–
Kathryn Trimmer	71	–
Jonathan Waugh	453	–
Payment of fees to Trustees for non Trustee services	11,680	6,201

Travel or accommodation expenses of £28,250 were paid directly by the College or reimbursed to 16 Trustees (2023: £31,616 to 14). All expenses are incurred through the course of duties as Trustees.

9 Staff numbers

The average monthly number of employees (based on number of staff employed) during the year was 67 (2023: 61).

The average monthly number of employees (full-time equivalents) by activity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Membership	16	16
Education	20	19
Research and Policy	12	10
Support and Governance	12	10
	60	55

10 Taxation

The College is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Software under Construction	Website & CRM	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 October 2023	213,000	2,291,359	2,504,359
Additions in year	190,608	46,656	237,264
At 30 September 2024	403,608	2,338,015	2,741,623
AMORTISATION			
At 1 October 2023	–	633,017	633,017
Charge for the year	–	211,465	211,465
At 30 September 2024	–	844,482	844,482
NET BOOK VALUE At 30 September 2024	403,608	1,493,533	1,897,141
At 30 September 2023	213,000	1,658,341	1,871,341

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and property	Building improvements	Equipment, furniture and computers	College heritage	Library books	Museum exhibits	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION							
At 1 October 2023	2,611,250	505,242	923,177	2,137	104,250	303,076	4,449,133
Additions in year	–	51,200	46,436	–	–	–	97,636
At 30 September 2024	2,611,250	556,442	969,613	2,137	104,250	303,076	4,546,769
DEPRECIATION							
At 1 October 2023	644,977	100,571	345,595	–	–	–	1,091,143
Charge for the year	–	49,004	130,209	–	–	–	179,213
At 30 September 2024	644,977	149,575	475,804	–	–	–	1,270,356
NET BOOK VALUE At 30 September 2024	1,966,273	406,867	493,809	2,137	104,250	303,076	3,276,413
At 30 September 2023	1,966,273	404,671	577,582	2,137	104,250	303,076	3,357,990

The library books were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They are stated at the librarian's valuation dated 4 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost. The Museum Exhibits were also transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They include museum exhibits, antique books, paintings and prints, and are stated at a professional valuation dated 23 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost.

The Freehold land value at acquisition was £861,712 and is included in Freehold property. A third-party valuation of this land and property was obtained and reviewed by the trustees in 2023, and they remain satisfied that there is no indication of impairment and that the value at which the property is held in the accounts is exceeded by its market value.

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

13 Listed investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Fair value at 1 October	4,431,604	4,196,176
Additions at cost	4,496	4,169
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	(32,463)	(31,412)
Net gain / (loss) on change in fair value	667,674	260,391
	5,071,311	4,429,323
Cash held by investment brokers	1,138	2,281
Fair value at 30 September	5,072,449	4,431,604

Investments are all UK Common investment funds

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	1,612,671	1,930,571
Other debtors	1,511	4,664
Prepayments	347,634	139,654
Accrued income	216,888	165,000
	2,178,704	2,239,890

15 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	409,622	576,713
Grants Payable	232,756	260,711
Accruals	399,710	336,315
Taxation and social security costs	92,509	107,616
Deferred Income	4,658,134	4,215,869
Other creditors	72,717	38,604
	5,865,448	5,535,827

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

16a Deferred Income (Current Year)

	Subscriptions	Education Fees	2024
	£	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	484,271	3,731,598	4,215,869
Amount released to income in the year	(484,271)	(3,731,598)	(4,215,869)
Amount deferred in year	539,805	4,118,329	4,658,134
Balance at the end of year	<u>539,805</u>	<u>4,118,329</u>	<u>4,658,134</u>

Deferred income relates to subscriptions for membership received before the year end. It also relates to advance payment of examination and conference fees as part of educational activities.

16b Deferred Income (Prior Year)

	Subscriptions	Education Fees	2023
	£	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	488,303	1,975,966	2,464,269
Amount released to income in the year	(488,303)	(1,975,966)	(2,464,269)
Amount deferred in year	484,271	3,731,598	4,215,869
Balance at the end of year	<u>484,271</u>	<u>3,731,598</u>	<u>4,215,869</u>

17a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	General funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	–	1,897,141	–	1,897,141
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,276,413	–	3,276,413
Investments	–	–	5,072,449	5,072,449
Net current assets / (liabilities)	182,319	232,756	(3,069,716)	(2,654,641)
Net assets at 30 September 2024	<u>182,319</u>	<u>5,406,309</u>	<u>2,002,734</u>	<u>7,591,362</u>

17b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	Restricted funds	Designated funds	General funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	–	1,871,341	–	1,871,341
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,357,990	–	3,357,990
Investments	–	–	4,431,604	4,431,604
Net current assets / (liabilities)	657,805	260,710	(3,506,536)	(2,588,021)
Net assets at 30 September 2023	<u>657,805</u>	<u>5,490,041</u>	<u>925,068</u>	<u>7,072,914</u>

18a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 October 2023	Income and investment gains	Expenditure and Investment losses	Transfers	At 30 September 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Research	1,370	858	–	–	2,228
NIHR	122,227	–	(10,189)	(101,818)	10,220
DOCET	534,208	579,379	(943,716)	–	169,871
Total restricted funds	657,805	580,237	(953,905)	(101,818)	182,319
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	5,229,330	–	(390,678)	334,901	5,173,553
Research Fund	260,711	–	(27,955)	–	232,756
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>5,490,041</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>(418,633)</i>	<i>334,901</i>	<i>5,406,309</i>
General funds	925,068	10,318,712	(9,007,963)	(233,083)	2,002,734
Total unrestricted funds	6,415,109	10,318,712	(9,426,596)	101,818	7,409,043
Total funds	7,072,914	10,898,949	(10,380,501)	–	7,591,362

18b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 1 October 2022	Income and investment gains	Expenditure	Transfers	At 30 September 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Research	–	1,370	–	–	1,370
NIHR	–	143,406	(21,179)	–	122,227
DOCET	435,725	579,379	(480,896)	–	534,208
Total restricted funds	435,725	724,155	(502,075)	–	657,805
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	5,263,642	–	(383,141)	348,829	5,229,330
Research Fund	380,634	–	(119,923)	–	260,711
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>5,644,276</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>(503,064)</i>	<i>348,829</i>	<i>5,490,041</i>
General funds	1,352,241	8,464,143	(8,542,487)	(348,829)	925,068
Total unrestricted funds	6,996,517	8,464,143	(9,045,551)	–	6,415,109
Total funds	7,432,242	9,188,298	(9,547,626)	–	7,072,914

18 Movements in funds (Continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

College Research Fund	This is a separate linked charity within the College which exists to develop researchers and finance research in accordance with the aims and objects of the Royal Charter of the College and the funds trust deed.
DOCET	The Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training (DOCET), provides free CPD courses for all optometrists. The services are delivered by the College under a contract with NHS England, under Section 98 of the Care Act 2014. There are proportional financial contributions from the four Health Departments of the United Kingdom.
NIHR	This is the balance of funding received from NIHR for research projects. The transfer this year represents costs relating to the NIHR projects and their administration which had in error been charged to unrestricted funds in previous years.

Purposes of designated funds

Fixed assets fund	This represents the net book value of fixed assets held by the College. Depreciation and amortisation is charged to the fund annually, and transfers in represent additions during the year.
Research fund	This represents the value of grants the College has committed to paying and matches the value of the grants payable creditor. The research fund was established to raise awareness of research within the optometric community and to support research in the community, by funding research projects. Grants awarded in the year are charged against this fund and the reduction in the fund represents grant payments made. Transfers to this are reviewed by Trustees on an annual basis.

19 Related Party

The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists is a related party as the College appoints five out of the ten trustees. The College has previously donated £2 from members' subscriptions annually to the Benevolent Fund. After a review of the Benevolent Fund's financial position, it was decided that a donation was not required in 2023–2024 (2023: £25,134) and that the funds could be used for member benefit elsewhere by the College.

The College continued to reimburse expenses for the College nominated trustees, as well as providing, on a pro bono basis, meeting space, bookkeeping services, management accounts and draft statutory accounts. The College is also active in promoting the Fund.

20 Operating Leases payable as a lessee

Future commitments in respect of operating leases for printers

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	3,776	3,561
Within two – five years	6,608	10,096
Total commitment	10,384	13,657

21 Operating lease commitments receivable as a lessor

Amounts Receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows for each of the following periods

	Property	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Less than one year	70,125	70,125
One to five years	114,750	376,125
Total receivable	184,875	446,250

Accounts

Charity number: 1060431

The College of Optometrists

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

Contents

For the year ended 30 September 2023

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report	2
Independent auditor's report	11
Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	15
Balance sheet	16
Statement of cashflows	17
Notes to the financial statements	18

The College of Optometrists

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 30 September 2023

Charity number	1060431
Country of registration	England & Wales
Registered office and operational address	42 Craven Street London WC2N 5NG

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Professor Leon Davies	President
Mr Colin Davidson	Immediate Past President
Dr Gillian Rudduck	Vice President
Dr George Anthony Gibson	Treasurer
Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt	Chair (Co-optee)
Mr Andrew Kitchen	Lay Co-optee
Mr Mark Redhead	Lay Trustee
Professor Kathryn Saunders	
Johnathan Waugh	
Dr Irene Cori	
Dr Aleksandra Mankowska	
Ms Kyla Black	
Matt Roney	

Chief Executive Mr Ian Humphreys

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
One Churchill Place
PO Box 35721
London
E14 5HP

Solicitors Fieldfisher LLP
Riverbank House
2 Swan Lane
London
EC4R 3TT

Investment Managers Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St. Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Auditor Sayer Vincent LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane
LONDON EC1Y 0TG

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

The objects of the College are set out in its Royal Charter, as follows:

- The improvement and conservation of human vision.
- The advancement for the public benefit of the study of, and research into, optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects and the publication of the results thereof.
- The promotion and improvement for the public benefit of the science and practice of optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects.
- The maintenance for the public benefit of the highest possible standards of professional competence and conduct on the part of the members of the College.

From October 2020 the College adopted a five-year Strategic Plan, setting out a series of strategic pillars, as follows:

- Strategic pillar one: Defining and inspiring excellence in optometry
- Strategic pillar two: Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Strategic pillar three: Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Strategic pillar four: Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

Each Pillar is used to direct the College's operations, via a three-year business plan, and to produce departmental KPIs. The KPIs are reviewed monthly by the Senior Leadership Team and quarterly by trustees. Of the 58 KPIs and milestones the SLT set and monitored for the 2022/23 business year, 55% have been achieved and 45% are progressing but did not achieve targets/milestones (but are not at a level for significant concern).

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities and associated KPIs of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its

future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The College works to a three-year Business Plan, covering the objectives listed above. Progress is monitored by the Chief Executive and his senior team and reported regularly to the Board. More details of achievements and activities are available on our website and in our separate Annual Report.

College membership (excluding students) increased by 4.2% this year (2022: 4.4%). Retention of members (excluding newly qualifieds) remains high at 94% (2022: 94%) and a greater proportion of trainees who passed their Objective Structured Clinical Examination this year have joined the College (92.9% compared to 87.83% in 2022). We have also seen a slightly higher number of re-joiners.

Discussions around the General Optical Council's (GOC) Education and Training Requirements (ETR) and the provision of CLiP (Clinical Learning in Practice) have been successful. The CLiP portal has been through Phase One Launch and working towards a possible launch date of February 2024. Partnerships with 12 of the 15 Optometry programmes in the UK and all main employer groups have been announced. The SPOKE (Sector Partnership for Optical Knowledge and Education) hub, funded by the General Optical Council, has also successfully delivered a third project, which has been very well received.

We are meeting SLAs for enrolment and Stage 2 delivery of Scheme for Registration visits. We have continued to successfully deliver the OSCEs and received a commendation from the GOC Education Visitor Panel following their assessment.

We now have a robust online process for accrediting and reviewing higher qualifications online and have significantly reduced the time spent in accreditation meetings. Our Docet podcast is proving very popular with optometrists in addressing a diverse range of topics in a less formal (but no less effective) way.

We co-chair a UK-wide group (supported by NHSE) to develop DICOM image sharing standards for eye care, securing manufacturers' engagement and support.

There has been greater success in working with partners to support optometric research in funding applications with four applications involving four universities submitted. Despite the disruptions of COVID, College PhD Scholars continue to perform well and the completion rate remains above the target of 90%.

Members continue to rate our clinical guidance highly, particularly the Clinical Management Guidelines. The Guidance for Professional Practice consultation has been well received and highly

supported by members and stakeholders in ensuring it remains the definitive guidance for the profession.

We continue to grow our relationships with bodies across the eye care sector and in the wider health environment as well as bringing our workforce message to decision-makers in Westminster. Successful collaborations have led to securing cross-sector funding for our Workforce Data Modelling project.

Our summer pulse staff survey results were very positive, reflecting the work we have put in this year to placing the College values at the heart of our activities, and on improving cross-team collaboration and communication.

There have also been a number of challenges across the year that our teams have had to overcome:

Our new Dynamics CRM information system, which is now enabling more efficient day to day operations will continue to be developed to enable us to better engage with our members and stakeholders.

The challenges of working with a wide number and variety of stakeholders has delayed some of our projects, however, we have maintained good relationships and used our values to shape how we work with stakeholders, which has helped ensure the projects are ultimately successful.

In common with other employers in the UK, the College experienced historically high staff turnover during the year. Although this has now reduced it meant that there were periods when there was insufficient capacity to take forward all of our planned activities.

Member engagement in our work remains relatively lower than targeted, but we hope that the new Viewpoint section on the website, plans for online communities in 2023/24 and the better use of the Dynamics CRM will improve engagement.

The activities above are part of the current three-year business plan and will continue into the new financial year. Trustees have agreed to increase expenditure to improve member engagement.

The Trustees recognise that during the 2022 - 23 year the College has delivered significant positive outcomes for patients and the profession and wish to thank all those involved, particularly the staff of the College and our partners.

Beneficiaries of our services

The College is a registered charity because of the public benefit and educational services resulting from its activities. The College supports its members in all aspects of their professional development, enabling members to serve their patients and thus contribute to the wellbeing of

local communities. The College also provides services directly to the public in the form of personal advice on any aspect of optometric services, and via its website and the provision of national Guidance for Professional Practice

Financial review

The College had a deficit for the year of £359,328 (2022: Deficit of £763,255). The 2023 result was a significant improvement over the 2022 result, predominantly due to the reversal of the performance in investments. Investments generated a surplus of £260,391 in 2023 compared to a loss of £504,218 in 2022.

An operating deficit was expected as the Trustees set a deficit budget to enable plans to improve engagement with and long-term benefits for members. The loss for the year was worse than budgeted due to the 4th OSCE of the year being held in October, rather than September 2023. This change of date moves the benefit to the 2024 year and so has no impact on overall financial performance.

Cash remained satisfactory, ending the year at £707,916 (2022: £1,047,437), with investments totalling £4,431,604 (2022: £4,200,847). Investments can be converted into cash quickly if required.

Cash was lower than forecast due to late payment by a trade debtor due to internal issues. The funds were received before the calendar year end.

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st October each year and the 2023 renewals are proving to be resilient. For the first time in 12 years the College increased its membership fees (by 4–5% depending on payment method) and retention has remained as similar to previous years, increasing income to help address the budget deficits.

The College is developing a strategic membership plan to support all members.

With the move to hybrid working the College has surplus office space. From the Summer of 2023 a floor in the College's building has been let to Orbis UK, an international eye health charity. This was the first time that the College has let space and it has proved successful and not as disruptive as some feared. This was due to choosing a tenant that aligned with the goals, ethos and values of the College.

When looking at Note 17a, analysis of group net assets between funds, it can be seen that general funds show net current liabilities of £3,506,536 (2022: £2,848,606). This balance is expected as there is a delay in earning the income in respect of cash already received for the Scheme for Registration. As the number of trainees joining the Scheme increases, especially towards the end of the financial year (as the trainees join after graduation in the Summer), then current net

liabilities are expected. As the Trainees move through the Scheme the College recognises the income earned. There are very few trainees who do not complete the Scheme.

The current net liabilities risk is further mitigated by the College's investments which could be liquidated, at 10 working days' notice if additional cash were to be required. The College also has a secured overdraft, which was not used during the year.

Principal risks and uncertainties

At the strategic level, Trustees continually review the major risks to which the College is exposed, and systems have been established to manage and mitigate these risks. The last full review was in July 2021, led by the Audit Committee where the strategic and operational risks were reviewed in detail and reported to the Trustee Board. The Committee discussed the Registers and also considered risks that were not currently identified or on the Registers. The Committee concluded that the Registers were complete as presented and all the risks identified were appropriately understood and mitigated. The Trustee Board agreed. The next full review is due in the Summer of 2024.

The major strategic risks facing the College are: Number and composition of membership, long term diversity of income, regulatory compliance, loss of reputation through clinical errors and a poor implementation of the Clinical Learning in Practice project.

All papers presented to the Board of Trustees include a section on the risks, and mitigations, of the subject under discussion.

The risk section of the Trustee papers is based on the individual operational risk registers held for each project. The individual registers are an integral part of the project management methodology that the College has introduced across all of its activities.

The project risks are discussed regularly by the Senior Management Team.

Reserves policy and going concern

Unrestricted reserves have declined over the past few years as the Trustees utilised reserves to maintain the College's capability during the pandemic, invest in the new CRM, develop software to support the new Clinical Learning in Practice activity, and refurbish the building which the College owns.

Consequently, unrestricted reserves are below the level set by the policy of maintaining reserves equal to 5 months of operating costs: £0.9m (2022: £1.4m) compared to a target of £3.75m.

Designated Reserves were £5.4m (2022: £5.5m).

The College's cash flow projections show that the College has sufficient resources to enable it to deliver its business plans.

The Trustees have instructed management that the College should re-establish its unrestricted reserves. This will be achieved by delivering surplus outcomes from the 2025–2026 financial year. The College is on track to meet the Trustee instruction.

The Trustees have asked the Audit Committee to review the reserves policy to ensure that it is relevant and appropriate. This work should be completed for the 2023–24 financial statements.

Given the continuing reduction in deficits and the cash flow projection, the Trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves are sufficient to meet any financial uncertainties that the College is likely to encounter.

Fundraising

The College only fundraises through its members to fund Research and to ask for support for the profession's benevolent fund. Small sums may also be received from third parties or the public to support the College's museum. The College does not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators. Given this limited involvement in any fundraising, the College is not signed up to any particular fundraising regulation but would look to such codes for guidance on its activities. The College has had no complaints about its fundraising activity. No hard sell techniques are used and requests are only made to members, so the College believe that the risk to vulnerable people should be very low from any of their activities.

Plans for the future

The College has now developed a five-year strategic plan based on 4 strategic pillars:

- Defining and inspiring excellence in Optometry
- Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

The strategic plan has been developed into a three-year business plan, which will be updated annually to encompass the five-year plan, from which the annual budgets are developed.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation was founded on 1 March 1980 as The British College of Ophthalmic Opticians. The title was changed in 1987 to The British College of Optometrists. On 18 September 1995 the organisation was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation under the new title of The College of Optometrists.

The College is governed by its Charter and Byelaws. The Trustees are responsible for the management of the College which is exercised through the Chief Executive. The Council is responsible for the strategic direction of the College. The Council consists of a maximum of forty persons from the following: up to 35 members elected to represent nine regions in England, along with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, four who are members of the Lay Advisory Panel, and one person nominated from the Optometry Schools Council.

In September 2017 the Board of Trustees agreed to adopt the Charity Governance Code and has now made any necessary changes to meet the code.

The Board of Trustees has the legal and fiduciary responsibilities for the College and is comprised of up to 14 members including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, seven Council members elected by the Council, including one Council member who is a member of the Lay Advisory Panel; and up to three persons co-opted as Trustees subject to the approval of the Council. The Chair of the Board will either be one of the elected Trustees or be co-opted using one of the three possible co-options. Under the Charter, the Chief Executive has a right to attend all meetings of the Trustees but shall not be a Trustee. Currently there are three co-opted Trustees, one of whom is also a member of the Lay Advisory Panel.

The Chief Executive is supported in the management of the College by five executive directors heading departmental activity under Finance, Member Services and Communications, Policy and Strategy, Education and Research.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity whilst acting as a trustee. Any expenses reclaimed from or paid by the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts. The trustees are allowed by the College's Charter and Byelaws to receive remuneration for certain services. Details of such remuneration is also set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Appointment of trustees

The College's Council annually elects members to vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction from the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board. Trustees hold an annual away day, either physically or electronically and two seminar sessions each year to increase their understanding of the issues affecting the College and develop plans for the future, including the strengthening of governance.

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 1.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

The College appoints five of the ten Trustees of The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists. One of the College's Trustees is also a Trustee of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics, to which the College has made a loan of £20,000.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

In determining levels of remuneration, the College has to balance a number of factors to ensure that it is able to recruit and retain employees to deliver its services effectively. Our principles are to pay our staff a fair salary that is competitive within the market, proportionate to each role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives. The College is committed to ensuring that its salaries remain competitive in the employment market, through conducting an annual pay review, paying individuals in line with the normal sector practice and standards, and benchmarking salaries against other employers. The College applies the same benchmarking principles in respect of the CEO and Directors' level of pay as that applied to all other employees.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees of the College have a legal duty to ensure that the College's funds are managed prudently and have adopted a medium risk investment strategy with a balance in the investment portfolio between gilts or fixed interest securities and equities, and a balance between UK and overseas investments. The investment portfolio is benchmarked against an appropriate composite index that is reviewed regularly. The Trustees continue to retain investments in Common Investment Funds, managed by Sarasin.

The value of the College's investments at the end of September 2023 was higher than at September 2022, this was in line with market movements. The College did not draw down any investments in 2023.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

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

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 30 September 2023

- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charity's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 12 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The College of Optometrists (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows 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 FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 30 September 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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 charity 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 College of Optometrists 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

25 March 2024

Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The College of Optometrists

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 30 September 2023

	Note	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2023 £	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2022 £
Income from:									
Donations		1,370	–	240	1,610	–	–	5,923	5,923
Charitable activities									
Membership	2	–	–	2,932,539	2,932,539	–	–	2,852,512	2,852,512
Education	3	–	579,379	4,861,548	5,440,927	–	579,379	5,129,125	5,708,504
Research	4	–	143,406	247,250	390,656	–	–	113,090	113,090
Other trading activities		–	–	18,668	18,668	–	–	4,300	4,300
Investments		–	–	122,308	122,308	–	–	146,736	146,736
Bank Interest		–	–	21,199	21,199	–	–	235	235
Total Income		1,370	722,785	8,203,752	8,927,907	–	579,379	8,251,921	8,831,300
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	–	–	42,776	42,776	–	–	45,149	45,149
Charitable activities	5								
Membership		–	–	2,834,961	2,834,961	–	–	2,251,167	2,251,167
Education		–	480,896	4,684,199	5,165,094	–	666,886	4,868,453	5,535,339
Research		–	21,179	1,483,616	1,504,795	–	68,631	1,190,051	1,258,682
Total expenditure		–	502,075	9,045,551	9,547,626	–	735,517	8,354,820	9,090,337
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments									
	7	1,370	220,710	(841,799)	(619,719)	–	(156,138)	(102,899)	(259,037)
Net gains / (losses) on investments		–	–	260,391	260,391	–	–	(504,218)	(504,218)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		1,370	220,710	(581,408)	(359,328)	–	(156,138)	(607,117)	(763,255)
Transfer between funds		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		1,370	220,710	(581,408)	(359,328)	–	(156,138)	(607,117)	(763,255)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		–	435,725	6,996,517	7,432,242	–	591,863	7,603,634	8,195,497
Total funds carried forward	17	1,370	656,435	6,415,109	7,072,914	–	435,725	6,996,517	7,432,242

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

The College of Optometrists

Balance Sheet

As at 30 September 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible fixed assets	11	1,871,341	1,867,473
Tangible fixed assets	12	3,357,990	3,396,169
Investments	13	4,431,604	4,200,847
		<u>9,660,935</u>	<u>9,464,489</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	2,239,890	816,740
Cash at bank and in hand		707,916	1,047,437
		<u>2,947,806</u>	<u>1,864,177</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors due within one year	15	5,535,827	3,896,424
Net current liabilities		<u>(2,588,021)</u>	<u>(2,032,247)</u>
Net assets	17	<u>7,072,914</u>	<u>7,432,242</u>
Funds	18		
Restricted income funds			
DOCET		534,208	435,725
Other restricted funds		123,597	–
		<u>657,805</u>	<u>435,725</u>
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated funds		5,490,041	5,644,276
General funds		925,068	1,352,241
		<u>6,415,109</u>	<u>6,996,517</u>
Total charity funds		<u>7,072,914</u>	<u>7,432,242</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 12 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Dr George Anthony Gibson

The College of Optometrists

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)	(359,328)	(763,255)
Depreciation charges	174,009	101,314
Amortisation charges	209,132	162,272
(Gain)/ (Loss) on investments	(260,391)	504,218
Dividends and interest from investments	(122,308)	(146,736)
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	31,412	35,952
(Increase) in debtors	(1,423,150)	(134,863)
Increase / (Decrease) in creditors	1,639,403	(589,571)
Net cash flow (used in) operating activities	(111,220)	(830,669)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest from investments	122,308	146,736
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(135,830)	(849,301)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	(213,000)	(315,989)
Sale of fixed asset investments	–	1,000,000
Decrease / (Increase) in investment cash	2,390	(2,240)
Net cash used in investing activities	(228,301)	(20,794)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(339,521)	(851,463)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,047,438	1,898,898
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	707,916	1,047,438

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory Information

The College of Optometrists is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered office and principal place of business is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG.

b) Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

These financial statements include as a restricted fund the results of the linked trust "the Research Fund of the College of Optometrists" (Charity number 1060431-1).

On 1 April 2006 the College took over the assets, liabilities and activities of The Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training ("DOCET") and it is now a restricted fund of the College.

c) Public benefit entity

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

d) Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the College's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

There are net current liabilities of £2,299,968 as at the balance sheet date (2022: £2,032,247 net current liabilities). This is due to increasing numbers of trainees on the scheme for registration, which increases the amount of cash received in advance of income recognition. At the balance sheet date the College had £4,431,604 of Investments (2022: £4,200,847), which are convertible into cash at 10 working days notice.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. This includes unrestricted membership and fee income received in advance where it relates to services provided in a future accounting period. The College allocates a share of the Scheme for Registration fee to each of the stages of the scheme and recognises income based on the stages completed at the end of the year by each registrant.

f) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs if appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes of the College.

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

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Total expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered.

h) Grants payable

The College pays out grants in furtherance of its charitable objects. A number of grants are made which may be payable over a number of years. The commitment to pay is recognised in full once the performance criteria are likely to be met.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central functions, is apportioned on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff numbers, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Membership	25%
Education	61%
Research	14%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the College. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the College's activities. These costs are now allocated to activities on the same basis as shown above for support costs.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold buildings	not depreciated after 30 September 2011
Building improvements	over 10 years straight line
Equipment and furniture	over 10 years straight line
Computers	over 3 years straight line

The College holds a collection of library books and museum exhibits that were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation, and includes antique books, paintings and prints. These are irreplaceable originals which are deemed not to decrease in value. Accordingly these items have not been depreciated in the financial statements, since any depreciation will not be material. The value included in the accounts is reviewed annually for indications of reduction.

k) Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets include costs of the membership database and website. Costs over £1,000 are capitalised.

Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The amortisation rates are as follows:

Website	3–5 years straight line
CRM system	10 years

1 Accounting policies (continued)

l) Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the SOFA. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Net gains/(losses) on investments" in the SOFA. The College does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

o) 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) Pensions

The College operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the College in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the College to the fund. The College has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

2 Membership

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Subscriptions	–	2,932,539	2,932,539	–	2,852,512	2,852,512
Total	–	2,932,539	2,932,539	–	2,852,512	2,852,512

3 Education

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Examination and pre-registration fees	–	4,672,875	4,672,875	–	4,837,545	4,837,545
Health Departments' funding for DOCET	579,379	–	579,379	579,379	–	579,379
College Conference	–	–	–	–	221,280	221,280
Other events and activities	–	188,673	188,673	–	70,300	70,300
Total	579,379	4,861,548	5,440,927	579,379	5,129,125	5,708,504

4 Research

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £
Publications – OPO	–	165,000	165,000	–	113,059	113,059
Other	143,406	82,250	225,656	–	31	31
Total	143,406	247,250	390,656	–	113,090	113,090

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

			Education		Research					
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Research Fund	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs										
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff (note 8)	-	978,994	1,019,332	96,466	-	731,644	102,429	709,670	3,638,535	3,232,824
Exam and Assessment costs	-	-	2,442,818	-	-	-	-	-	2,442,818	2,737,156
Exam and CPD Development	-	-	(22,405)	219,168	-	-	-	-	196,763	548,232
Publications & Mailings	-	289,270	-	37,502	-	31,720	-	-	358,492	253,042
Events and Member Services	-	271,780	-	-	-	-	-	-	271,780	384,075
Campaigns and General Expenses	-	541,751	-	-	-	97,431	-	-	639,182	515,216
Guidelines	-	-	-	-	-	66,949	-	-	66,949	42,951
Research, Scholarship and Grants	-	-	-	-	-	177,271	-	-	177,271	152,778
Total Direct Costs	-	2,081,795	3,439,745	353,136	-	1,105,015	102,429	709,670	7,791,790	7,866,274
Indirect Costs										
Staff Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,268	58,268	36,901
Council Trustee and Committee costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,606	-	67,606	46,015
College Representation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Fees	31,412	-	-	-	-	-	23,083	381,970	436,466	378,138
Building Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167,116	167,116	169,471
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,960	69,960	42,299
Printing, Postage & Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,902	11,902	55,210
IT, Telephones and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	252,569	252,569	171,438
Subscriptions and Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,526	53,526	20,179
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,991	67,991	40,826
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	259,069	259,069	101,314
Amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	311,362	311,362	162,272
Total Indirect Costs	31,412	-	-	-	-	-	90,689	1,633,735	1,755,836	1,224,063
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	31,412	2,081,795	3,439,745	353,136	-	1,105,015	193,118	2,343,405	9,547,626	9,090,337
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	11,364	753,166	1,244,454	127,760	-	399,780	(193,118)	(2,343,405)	-	-
Total Expenditure 2023	42,776	2,834,961	4,684,199	480,896	-	1,504,795	-	-	9,547,626	
Total Expenditure 2022	45,149	2,251,167	4,868,453	666,886	-	1,258,682	-	-		9,090,337

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

		Education		Research				
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Research Fund	Research	Governance costs	Support costs
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs								
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff (note 8)	-	779,708	1,033,045	89,364	-	667,127	72,277	591,303
Exam and Assessment costs	-	-	2,737,156	-	-	-	-	-
Exam and CPD Development	-	-	106,554	441,678	-	-	-	-
Publications & Mailings	-	203,607	-	-	-	49,435	-	-
Events and Member Services	-	384,075	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campaigns and General Expenses	-	425,217	-	-	-	89,999	-	-
Guidelines	-	-	-	-	-	42,951	-	-
Research, Scholarship and Grants	-	-	-	-	-	152,778	-	-
Total Direct Costs	-	1,792,607	3,876,755	531,042	-	1,002,290	72,277	591,303
Indirect Costs								
Staff Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,901
Council Trustee and Committee costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,015	-
College Representation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Fees	35,952	-	-	-	-	-	59,062	283,123
Building Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	169,471
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,299
Printing, Postage & Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,210
IT, Telephones and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171,438
Subscriptions and Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,179
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,826
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,314
Amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	162,272
Total Indirect Costs	35,952	-	-	-	-	-	105,077	1,083,034
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	35,952	1,792,607	3,876,755	531,042	-	1,002,290	177,354	1,674,337
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	9,197	458,560	991,698	135,844	-	256,392	(177,354)	(1,674,337)
Total Expenditure 2022	45,149	2,251,167	4,868,453	666,886	-	1,258,682	-	9,090,337

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

6a Grant making (Current Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £	2023 £
Eye Health Research	–	147,377	147,377
	–	147,377	147,377

The College makes grants through the designated Research Fund. The focus is on developing future researchers for the sector but specific projects are sometimes supported. The College also runs a small grant scheme.

6b Grant making (Prior Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £	2022 £
Eye Health Research	–	152,778	152,778
	–	152,778	152,778

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:/ crediting

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	174,009	101,314
Amortisation	209,132	162,272
Operating lease rentals payable	3,561	3,560
Operating lease rentals receivable – Property	19,125	–
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Audit – current year	21,000	23,500

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	2,863,527	2,399,498
Redundancy and Termination Costs	22,822	–
Social security costs	315,841	289,271
Pension contributions	279,309	242,474
Private health and sickness insurance	39,727	37,969
Staff costs	3,521,226	2,969,213
Temporary Staff	117,309	263,612
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	3,638,535	3,232,824

The following number of employees received employee salaries and benefits (excluding employer's national insurance and pension costs) during the year between:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 – £70,000	5	2
£70,001 – £80,000	2	1
£80,001 – £90,000	1	4
£90,001 – £100,000	2	–
£105,000 – £110,000	1	–
£120,001 – £130,000	–	1
£130,001 – £140,000	1	0

The total employee benefits (including employer's national insurance contributions and pension contributions) of the key management personnel were £719,856 (2022: £662,624). This does not include any payments to Trustees.

4 Trustees (2022: 8 Trustees) received remuneration in the form of payment of fees. This remuneration is for acting as examiners, lecturers, editors, facilitators and assessors checking the standards of optometric practice and is in accordance with the legal authority of the College's Charter and Bye-Laws.

None of the trustees are remunerated for their role as a trustee.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (cont.)

	2023 £	2022 £
Kyla Black	108	110
Irene Ctori	–	110
Colin Davidson	5,337	–
Leon Davis	–	9,000
Edward Mallen	–	769
Aleksandra Mankowska	108	–
Matt Roney	648	432
Gillian Rudduck	–	364
Kathryn Saunders	–	110
Jonathan Waugh	–	327
Trustee Remuneration	<u>6,201</u>	<u>11,222</u>

Travel or accommodation expenses of £31,616 were paid directly by the College or reimbursed to 14 Trustees (2022: £21,721 to 14). All expenses are incurred through the course of duties as Trustees.

9 Staff numbers

The average monthly number of employees (based on number of staff employed) during the year was 61 (2022: 55).

The average monthly number of employees (full-time equivalents) by activity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Membership	16	14
Education	19	18
Research and Policy	10	9
Support and Governance	10	8
	<u>55</u>	<u>49</u>

10 Taxation

The College is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Software under Construction	Website & CRM	Total
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 October 2022	–	2,291,359	2,291,359
Additions in year	213,000	–	213,000
At 30 September 2023	213,000	2,291,359	2,504,359
AMORTISATION			
At 1 October 2022	–	423,885	423,885
Charge for the year	–	209,132	209,132
At 30 September 2023	–	633,017	633,017
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 September 2023	213,000	1,658,341	1,871,341
At 30 September 2022	–	1,867,473	1,867,473

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and property	Building improvements	Equipment, furniture and computers	College heritage	Library books	Museum exhibits	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION							
At 1 October 2022	2,611,250	444,398	848,192	2,137	104,250	303,076	4,313,304
Additions in year	–	60,844	74,985	–	–	–	135,829
At 30 September 2023	2,611,250	505,242	923,177	2,137	104,250	303,076	4,449,133
DEPRECIATION							
At 1 October 2022	644,977	57,761	214,396	–	–	–	917,134
Charge for the year	–	42,810	131,199	–	–	–	174,009
At 30 September 2023	644,977	100,571	345,595	–	–	–	1,091,143
NET BOOK VALUE							
At 30 September 2023	1,966,273	404,671	577,582	2,137	104,250	303,076	3,357,990
At 30 September 2022	1,966,273	386,638	633,796	2,137	104,250	303,076	3,396,170

The library books were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They are stated at the librarian's valuation dated 4 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost. The Museum Exhibits were also transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They include museum exhibits, antique books, paintings and prints, and are stated at a professional valuation dated 23 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost.

The Freehold land value at acquisition was £861,712 and is included in Freehold property. A third-party valuation of this land and property was obtained and reviewed by the trustees in 2023.

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

13 Listed investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Fair value at 1 October	4,196,176	5,736,346
Additions at cost	4,169	–
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	(31,412)	(35,952)
Disposals in year	–	(1,000,000)
Net gain / (loss) on change in fair value	260,391	(504,218)
	4,429,323	4,196,176
Cash held by investment brokers	2,281	4,671
Fair value at 30 September	4,431,604	4,200,847

Investments are all UK Common investment funds

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	1,930,571	334,442
Other debtors	4,664	12,549
Prepayments	139,654	237,931
Accrued income	165,000	231,819
	2,239,890	816,740

15 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	576,713	590,466
Grants Payable	260,711	380,634
Accruals	336,315	324,269
Taxation and social security costs	107,616	100,062
Deferred Income	4,215,869	2,464,269
Other creditors	38,604	36,724
	5,535,827	3,896,424

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

16a Deferred Income (Current Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2023 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	488,303	1,975,966	2,464,269
Amount released to income in the year	(488,303)	(1,975,966)	(2,464,269)
Amount deferred in year	484,271	3,731,598	4,215,869
Balance at the end of year	484,271	3,731,598	4,215,869

Deferred income relates to subscriptions for membership. It also relates to advance payment of examination fees and conference fees as part of educational activities.

16b Deferred Income (Prior Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2022 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	564,222	2,448,867	3,013,089
Amount released to income in the year	(564,222)	(2,448,867)	(3,013,089)
Amount deferred in year	488,303	1,975,966	2,464,269
Balance at the end of year	488,303	1,975,966	2,464,269

17a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2023 Total funds £
Intangible fixed assets	–	1,871,341	–	1,871,341
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,357,990	–	3,357,990
Investments	–	–	4,431,604	4,431,604
Net current assets / (liabilities)	657,805	260,710	(3,506,536)	(2,588,021)
Net assets at 30 September 2023	657,805	5,490,041	925,068	7,072,914

17b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2022 Total funds £
Intangible fixed assets	–	1,867,473	–	1,867,473
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,396,169	–	3,396,169
Investments	–	–	4,200,847	4,200,847
Net current assets / (liabilities)	435,725	380,634	(2,848,606)	(2,032,248)
Net assets at 30 September 2022	435,725	5,644,276	1,352,241	7,432,243

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

18a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 October 2022	Income and investment gains	Expenditure and Investment losses	Transfers	At 30 September 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Research	–	1,370	–	–	1,370
NIHR	–	143,406	(21,179)	–	122,227
DOCET	435,725	579,379	(480,896)	–	534,208
Total restricted funds	435,725	724,155	(502,075)	–	657,805
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	5,263,642	–	(383,141)	348,829	5,229,330
Research Fund	380,634	–	(119,923)	–	260,711
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>5,644,276</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>(503,064)</i>	<i>348,829</i>	<i>5,490,041</i>
General funds	1,352,241	8,464,143	(8,542,487)	(348,829)	925,068
Total unrestricted funds	6,996,517	8,464,143	(9,045,551)	–	6,415,109
Total funds	7,432,242	9,188,298	(9,547,626)	–	7,072,914

18b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 1 October 2021	Income and investment gains	Expenditure	Transfers	At 30 September 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Research – PrOVIDe	14,485	–	(14,485)	–	–
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	54,146	–	(54,146)	–	–
DOCET	523,232	579,379	(666,886)	–	435,725
Total restricted funds	591,863	579,379	(735,517)	–	435,725
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	4,361,939	–	(263,586)	1,165,290	5,263,642
Research Fund	291,827	–	(152,778)	241,585	380,634
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>4,653,766</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>(416,364)</i>	<i>1,406,875</i>	<i>5,644,276</i>
General funds	2,949,868	8,251,921	(8,442,673)	(1,406,875)	1,352,241
Total unrestricted funds	7,603,634	8,251,921	(8,859,038)	–	6,996,517
Total funds	8,195,497	8,831,300	(9,594,555)	–	7,432,242

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

18 Movements in funds (Continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

College Research Fund	This is a separate linked charity within the College which exists to develop researchers and finance research in accordance with the aims and objects of the Royal Charter of the College and the funds trust deed.
DOCET	This fund represents the activities of the Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training (DOCET). DOCET administers funds made available by the Government, via the four Health Departments within the United Kingdom, for continuing education and training under Section 98 of the Care Act 2014.
NIHR	This is funding received from NIHR for research projects.

Purposes of designated funds

Fixed assets fund	This represents the net book value of fixed assets held by the College. Depreciation is charged to the fund annually, and transfers in represent additions during the year.
Research fund	This represents the value of grants the College has committed to paying. The research fund was established to raise awareness of research within the optometric community and to support research in the community, by funding research projects. Grants awarded in the year are charged against this fund. Transfers to this are reviewed by Trustees on an annual basis.

19 Related Party

The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists is a related party as the College appoints five out of the ten trustees. The College collects donations from members on behalf of the Benevolent Fund and passed £25,134 to the Fund during the year (2022: £24,000). The College also provides basic accounting services on a pro bono basis.

20 Operating Leases payable as a lessee

Future commitments in respect of operating leases for printers

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	3,561	3,561
Within two – five years	10,096	13,657
Total commitment	13,657	17,218

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2023

21 Operating lease commitments receivable as a lessor

Amounts Receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows for each of the following periods

	Property	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than one year	70,125	–
One to five years	376,125	–
Over five years	–	–
Total receivable	446,250	–

Accounts

Charity number: 1060431

The College of Optometrists

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

The College of Optometrists

Contents

For the year ended 30 September 2022

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report	2
Independent auditor's report	10
Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cashflows	16
Notes to the financial statements	17

The College of Optometrists

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 30 September 2022

Charity number	1060431
Country of registration	England & Wales
Registered office and operational address	42 Craven Street London WC2N 5NG

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Professor Leon Davies	President, Appointed (June 2022)
Mr Colin Davidson	Immediate Past President, (Appointed June 2022)
Dr Gillian Rudduck	Vice President (Appointed June 2022)
Dr George Anthony Gibson	Treasurer
Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt	Chair (Co-optee)
Mr Andrew Kitchen	Lay Co-optee
Mr Mark Redhead	Lay Trustee
Professor Kathryn Saunders	
Johnathan Waugh	
Dr Irene Ctori	
Dr Aleksandra Mankowska	Appointed (June 2022)
Ms Kyla Black	Appointed (June 2022)
Matt Roney	Appointed (June 2022)
Dr Rob Hogan	Co-optee, Resigned (June 2022)
Professor Edward Mallen	Resigned (June 2022)
Miss Sheetal Patel	Resigned (June 2022)

Chief Executive Mr Ian Humphreys

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
One Churchill Place
PO Box 35721
London
E14 5HP

Solicitors Fieldfisher LLP
Riverbank House
2 Swan Lane
London
EC4R 3TT

Investment Managers Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St. Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Auditors Sayer Vincent LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
108-114 Golden Lane
LONDON EC1Y 0TL

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

The objects of the College are set out in its Royal Charter, as follows:

- The improvement and conservation of human vision.
- The advancement for the public benefit of the study of, and research into, optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects and the publication of the results thereof.
- The promotion and improvement for the public benefit of the science and practice of optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects.
- The maintenance for the public benefit of the highest possible standards of professional competence and conduct on the part of the members of the College.

From October 2020 the College adopted a series of strategic pillars, as follows:

- Strategic pillar one: Defining and inspiring excellence in optometry
- Strategic pillar two: Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Strategic pillar three: Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Strategic pillar four: Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

Each Pillar is used to direct the College's operations, via an annual business plan, and to produce departmental KPIs. The KPIs are reviewed monthly by the Senior Leadership Team and quarterly by trustees.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities and associated KPIs of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The College works to an Annual Business Plan, covering the objectives listed above. Progress is monitored by the Chief Executive and his senior team and reported regularly to the Board. More details of achievements and activities are available on our website and in our separate Annual Report. From October 2020 the College adopted a new Strategic Plan, building in the foundations of the previous plan.

College membership (excluding students) increased by 4.4% this year, which is a greater increase than that seen in 2020/21. Retention of members (excluding newly qualifieds) remains high at 94% and a greater proportion of trainees who passed their OSCE this year have joined the College (when compared to last year). We have also seen a slightly higher number of re-joiners.

Discussions around the General Optical Council's (GOC) Education and Training Requirements (ETR) and the provision of CLiP (Clinical Learning in Practice) have been successful, with approximately half of the Higher Education Institution course providers now in the final stages of contract negotiation. The SPOKE hub (Sector Partnership for Optical Knowledge and Education) has also successfully delivered two projects, which have been very well received.

We have had a record number of trainees enrol on the Scheme for Registration, and have continued to successfully deliver the OSCEs, even during difficult circumstances such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

Satisfaction with the College's CPD and DOCET offerings remains extremely high, and we have seen a significant increase in the number of Higher Qualifications passes compared to 2020/21.

Teams across the College have collaborated successfully to update and publish the Myopia Management evidence review and guidance, with peer review from experts in the field. A significant amount of cross-team working and member engagement also ensured that our response to the GOC's Call for Evidence on the Opticians Act was evidence-based, robust, reflected members' views and had patients at its heart.

Members continued to rate our clinical advice and guidance highly, particularly the Clinical Management Guidelines (CMGs). The format of the CMGs was improved based on the recommendations of last year's review, and 29 CMGs were updated this year.

We continued to grow our relationships with bodies across the eye care sector and in the wider health environment. Successful collaborations have led to new guidance that highlights the key roles optometrists can play within shared glaucoma care pathways and a joined up approach to seeking better digital connectivity in eye care. We have worked with Clinical Research networks to improve links with optometrists, including specifically promoting primary care and practice-based research in Wales. We have also secured agreements of cross-sector funding for our Workforce Data Modelling project.

The review of the year highlighted a range of challenges:

The start of 2021/22 was still heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing renovations to the College building. All staff were able to return to working in the building in March 2022, when we used our experiences of working at home since March 2020 to trial a new policy of hybrid working. The new College facilities have also helped to deliver effective hybrid meetings.

The impact of the pandemic continues to have a long-lasting "tail", particularly on the experiences of our newly qualified members. We are prioritising work in the next business year to better understand and meet the needs of this segment of members and better secure their commitment to the College.

We have been impacted by the general post-pandemic movement of staff and have consequently experienced higher than usual staff turnover this year, which affected our capacity to deliver some of the planned activities. However, we have filled the vacancies that have arisen and are confident that we have a strong staff team to take forward this work into the new business year.

The issues and delays to the full implementation of the Dynamics CRM software continued to impact all teams across the College. This has led to higher workloads as staff develop work-arounds while waiting for fixes or new developments to be rolled out. Although over the year, this had steadily reduced.

The activities above are part of the current three year business plan that is still and will continue into the new financial year.

The Trustees recognise that the 2021 - 22 was a difficult year but the College has delivered significant positive outcomes for patients and the profession and wish to thank all those involved, particularly the staff of the College and our partners.

Beneficiaries of our services

The College is a registered charity because of the public benefit and educational services resulting from its activities. The College supports its members in all aspects of their professional development, enabling those members to serve their patients and thus contribute to the wellbeing of local communities. The College also provides services directly to the public in the form of personal advice on any aspect of optometric services, and via its website.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the College worked closely with its members, the wide optometric and ophthalmology professions, the GOC and the NHS in the four nations of the U.K. to enable it to issue authoritative guidance throughout lockdown and other pandemic restrictions to ensure that the best possible eye care continued to be deliverable by Optometrists. As we moved out of the restrictions, our guidance has evolved to reflect a new normal. For the detail of the work see Achievements and performance above

Financial review

The College's financial statements include the Research Fund and the Directorate of Continuing Education and Training scheme (DOCET) a restricted fund (financed by the Departments of Health in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

The College had a deficit for the year of £763,255 (2021: Surplus £1,211,236). A deficit was expected as the Trustees set a deficit budget, to reduce reserves to the level identified by the reserves policy. The operational deficit was £259,037, with an additional loss on investments resulting in the £763,255 out turn. At the 1 March 2023 investments have improved by £376,041 from their year end position.

Cash remained satisfactory, ending the year at £1,047,437 (2021: (1,898,899), with investments totalling £4,200,847 (2021: £5,738,777) easily convertible into cash.

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st October each year and the 2022 renewals are proving to be resilient, although as with last year the membership mix continues to show more members moving into the non-practising categories. The College is developing a strategic membership plan to support all members.

When looking at Note 17a, analysis of group net assets between funds, it can be seen that general funds show net current liabilities of £2,032,249 (2021: £1,905, 219). This balance is expected as there is a delay in earning the income in respect of cash already received for the Scheme for Registration. As the number of trainees joining the Scheme increases, especially towards the end of the financial year (as the trainees join after graduation in the Summer), then current net liabilities are expected. As the Trainees move through the Scheme the College can recognise the income earned. There are very few trainees who do not complete the Scheme.

The current net liabilities risk is further mitigated by the College's investments which could be liquidated, at 10 days' notice, if additional cash were to be required.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees review on an ongoing basis the major risks to which the College is exposed and systems have been established to manage these risks. The last formal review was in July 2021, led by the Audit Committee where the Strategic and Operational Risks were reviewed in detail and reported to the Trustee Board. The Committee discussed the Registers and also considered risks that were not currently identified or on the Registers. The Committee concluded that the Registers were complete as presented and all the risks identified were appropriately understood and mitigated. The Trustee Board agreed. All papers prepared for Trustee decision making include a section on the risks associated with the decision. Trustees also have regular meetings to discuss their appetite for risk and how risk affects the work of the College.

The major risks facing the College are: Number and composition of membership, long term diversity of income, regulatory compliance, loss of reputation through clinical errors, loss of responsibility for the Scheme for Registration and implementation of a new CRM and website. To help mitigate these risks the College continues to review its membership offering, seeks to maintain the highest standards in both its clinical advice and education programmes and maintains appropriate reserves. The new CRM has been deployed and is in use.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees' policy is to hold sufficient accessible funds to enable the College to meet normal operational costs in the short term, in order to protect the College against any loss of income. This is currently based on five months of costs, or £3.0 million. The current level of undesignated reserves are £1.4m (2021: £2.9m), which is less than the reserves policy. However this level of reserves was anticipated and accepted by the Trustees as part of the development of the new College IT System and the refurbishment of the College's building. Reserves have been reducing during the pandemic as the College increased its costs to improve its support to members during this time. There are plans to review the reserves policy before the current year and to consider increasing the amount of undesignated reserves currently available. Levels of accessible funds (cash and investments convertible to cash) were £5.2m as at 30 September 2022.

As at 30 September 2022 general fund reserves were £1.4 million (2021: £2.9 million (see note 18)) and Designated Funds were £5.6 million (2021: £4.7 million).

The Trustees are satisfied that the College has an acceptable level of reserves.

Fundraising

The College only fundraises through its members to fund Research and to ask for support for the profession's benevolent fund. Small sums may also be received from third parties or the public to support the College's museum. The College does not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators. Given this limited involvement in any fundraising, the College is not signed up to any particular fundraising regulation but would look to such codes for guidance on its activities. The College has had no complaints about its fundraising activity. No hard sell techniques are used and requests are only made to members, so the College believes that the risk to vulnerable people should be very low from any of its activities.

Plans for the future

The College has now developed a five-year strategic plan based on 4 strategic pillars:

- Defining and inspiring excellence in Optometry
- Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists

- Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

The strategic plan has been developed into a three year business plan, which will be updated annually to encompass the five year plan, from which the 2021 – 2022 budget has been developed.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation was founded on 1 March 1980 as The British College of Ophthalmic Opticians. The title was changed in 1987 to The British College of Optometrists. On 18 September 1995 the organisation was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation under the new title of The College of Optometrists.

The College is governed by its Charter and Bye-Laws. The Trustees are responsible for the management of the College which is exercised through the Chief Executive. The Council is responsible for the strategic direction of the College. The Council consists of a maximum of forty persons from the following: up to 35 members elected to represent nine regions in England, along with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, four who are members of the Lay Advisory Panel, and one person nominated from the Optometry Schools Council.

In September 2017 the Board of Trustees agreed to adopt the Charity Governance Code and has now made any necessary changes to meet the code.

The Board of Trustees has the legal and fiduciary responsibilities for the College and is comprised of up to 14 members including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, seven Council members elected by the Council, including one Council member who is a member of the Lay Advisory Panel; and up to three persons co-opted as Trustees subject to the approval of the Council. The Chair of the Board will either be one of the elected Trustees or be co-opted using one of the three possible co-options. Under the Charter, the Chief Executive has a right to attend all meetings of the Trustees but shall not be a Trustee. Currently there are three co-opted Trustees, one of whom is also a member of the Lay Advisory Panel.

The Chief Executive is supported in the management of the College by five executive directors heading departmental activity under Finance, Education, Member Services and Communications, Policy and Strategy and Research.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity whilst acting as a trustee. Any expenses reclaimed from or paid by the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts. The trustees are allowed by the College's Charter and Bye-Laws to receive remuneration for certain services. Details of such remuneration is also set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Appointment of trustees

The College's Council annually elects members to vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction from the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board. Trustees hold an annual away day, physically or via Zoom, and two seminar sessions each year to increase their understanding of the issues affecting the College and develop plans for the future, including the strengthening of governance.

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 1.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

The College appoints five of the ten Trustees of The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists. One of the College's Trustees is also a Trustee of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics, to which the College has made a loan of £20,000.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

In determining levels of remuneration, the College has to balance a number of factors to ensure that it is able to recruit and retain employees to deliver its services effectively. Our principles are to pay our staff a fair salary that is competitive within the market, proportionate to each role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives. The College is committed to ensuring that its salaries remain competitive in the employment market, through conducting an annual pay review, paying individuals in line with the normal sector practice and standards, and benchmarking salaries against other employers. The College applies the same benchmarking principles in respect of the CEO and Directors' level of pay as that applied to all other employees.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees of the College have a legal duty to ensure that the College's funds are managed prudently and have adopted a medium risk investment strategy with a balance in the investment portfolio between gilts or fixed interest securities and equities, and a balance between UK and overseas investments. The investment portfolio is benchmarked against an appropriate composite index that is reviewed regularly. The Trustees continue to retain investments in Common Investment Funds, managed by Sarasin.

The value of the College's investments at the end of September 2022 was lower than at September 2021, this was in line with market movements and reflected that the College sold some investments during the year.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charity's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 April 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The College of Optometrists (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows 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 FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 30 September 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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 charity 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 College of Optometrists 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

28 April 2023

Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The College of Optometrists

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 30 September 2022

	Note	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2022 £	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2021 £
Income from:									
Donations		-	-	5,923	5,923	1,224	-	-	1,224
Charitable activities									
Membership	2	-	-	2,852,512	2,852,512	-	-	2,757,644	2,757,644
Education	3	-	579,379	5,129,125	5,708,504	-	579,379	3,929,149	4,508,528
Research	4	-	-	113,090	113,090	-	42,604	113,612	156,216
Other trading activities		-	-	4,300	4,300	-	-	1,632	1,632
Investments		-	-	146,736	146,736	-	-	135,389	135,389
Bank Interest		-	-	235	235	-	3	-	3
Total Income		-	579,379	8,251,921	8,831,300	1,224	621,986	6,937,426	7,560,636
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	-	-	45,149	45,149	-	-	36,896	36,896
Charitable activities	5								
Membership		-	-	2,251,167	2,251,167	-	-	1,916,781	1,916,781
Education		-	666,886	4,868,453	5,535,339	-	451,954	4,049,294	4,501,248
Research		-	68,631	1,190,051	1,258,682	83,952	-	459,378	543,330
Total expenditure		-	735,517	8,354,820	9,090,337	83,952	451,954	6,462,348	6,998,255
Net income / (expenditure) before net (losses) / gains on investments	7	-	(156,138)	(102,899)	(259,037)	(82,728)	170,032	475,078	562,381
Net (losses)/ gains on investments		-	-	(504,218)	(504,218)	-	-	648,855	648,855
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		-	(156,138)	(607,117)	(763,255)	(82,728)	170,032	1,123,933	1,211,236
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		-	(156,138)	(607,117)	(763,255)	(82,728)	170,032	1,123,933	1,211,236
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		-	591,863	7,603,634	8,195,497	82,728	421,831	6,479,701	6,984,260
Total funds carried forward	17	-	435,725	6,996,517	7,432,242	-	591,863	7,603,634	8,195,497

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements.

The College of Optometrists

Balance Sheet

As at 30 September 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible fixed assets	11	1,867,473	1,713,757
Tangible fixed assets	12	3,396,169	2,648,182
Investments	13	4,200,847	5,738,777
		<u>9,464,489</u>	<u>10,100,716</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	816,740	681,877
Cash at bank and in hand		1,047,437	1,898,899
		<u>1,864,177</u>	<u>2,580,776</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors due within one year	15	3,896,424	4,485,995
Net current liabilities		<u>(2,032,247)</u>	<u>(1,905,219)</u>
Net assets	17	<u>7,432,242</u>	<u>8,195,497</u>
Funds	18		
Restricted income funds			
DOCET		435,725	523,232
Other restricted funds		–	68,631
		<u>435,725</u>	<u>591,863</u>
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated funds		5,644,276	4,653,766
General funds		1,352,241	2,949,868
		<u>6,996,517</u>	<u>7,603,634</u>
Total charity funds		<u>7,432,242</u>	<u>8,195,497</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 19 April 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Dr George Anthony Gibson

The College of Optometrists

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 September 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (expenditure) / income	(763,255)	1,211,236
Depreciation charges	101,314	56,184
Amortisation charges	162,272	–
Loss / (Gain) on investments	504,218	(648,855)
Dividends and interest from investments	(146,736)	(135,392)
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	35,952	36,896
(Increase) in debtors	(134,863)	(458,829)
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	(589,571)	671,182
Net cash flow (used in) / provided by operating activities	(830,669)	732,422
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest from investments	146,736	135,392
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(849,301)	(157,755)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets	(315,989)	(1,226,807)
Sale of fixed asset investments	1,000,000	–
(Increase) / decrease in investment cash	(2,240)	13,669
Net cash used in investing activities	(20,794)	(1,235,501)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(851,463)	(503,079)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,898,898	2,401,977
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,047,438	1,898,898

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory Information

The College of Optometrists is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered office and principal place of business is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG.

b) Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

These financial statements include as a restricted fund the results of the linked trust "the Research Fund of the College of Optometrists" (Charity number 1060431-1).

On 1 April 2006 the College took over the assets, liabilities and activities of The Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training ("DOCET") and it is now a restricted fund of the College.

c) Public benefit entity

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

d) Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the College's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

There are net current liabilities of £2,032,247 as at the balance sheet date (2021: £1,905,219 net current liabilities). This has arisen predominantly due to a reduction in current assets of £555,173, reflecting the continued expenditure of cash on fixed assets (new membership computer system) and the refurbishment of the College's building) partially offset by a reduction in current liabilities (£428,145) which resulted from the improvement in trainee progression on the Scheme for Registration (£387,394) and Trade Creditors (£37,500). At the balance sheet date the College had £4,200,847 of Investments, which were convertible into cash at 10 working days notice.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. This includes unrestricted membership and fee income received in advance where it relates to services provided in a future accounting period. The College allocates a share of the Scheme for Registration fee to each of the stages of the scheme and recognises income based on the stages completed at the end of the year by each registrant.

f) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs if appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes of the College.

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

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Total expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered.

h) Grants payable

The College pays out grants in furtherance of its charitable objects. A number of grants are made which may be payable over a number of years. The commitment to pay is recognised in full once the performance criteria are likely to be met.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central functions, is apportioned on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff numbers, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Membership	25%
Education	61%
Research	14%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the College. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the College's activities. These costs are now allocated to activities on the same basis as shown above for support costs.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold buildings	not depreciated after 30 September 2011
Building improvements	over 10 years straight line
Equipment and furniture	over 10 years straight line
Computers	over 3 years straight line

The College holds a collection of library books and museum exhibits that were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation, and includes antique books, paintings and prints. These are irreplaceable originals which are deemed not to decrease in value. Accordingly these items have not been depreciated in the financial statements, since any depreciation will not be material. The value included in the accounts is reviewed annually for indications of reduction.

k) Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets include costs of the membership database and website. Costs over £1,000 are capitalised.

Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The amortisation rates are as follows:

Website	3–5 years straight line
CRM system	10 years

1 Accounting policies (continued)

l) Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the SOFA. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Net gains/(losses) on investments" in the SOFA. The College does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

o) 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

p) Pensions

The College operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the College in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the College to the fund. The College has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

2 Membership

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Subscriptions	–	2,852,512	2,852,512	–	2,757,644	2,757,644
Total	–	2,852,512	2,852,512	–	2,757,644	2,757,644

3 Education

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Examination and pre-registration fees	–	4,837,545	4,837,545	–	3,884,445	3,884,445
Health Departments' funding for	579,379	–	579,379	579,379	–	579,379
College Conference	–	221,280	221,280	–	–	–
Other events and activities	–	70,300	70,300	–	44,704	44,704
Total	579,379	5,129,125	5,708,504	579,379	3,929,150	4,508,529

4 Research

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £
Publications – OPO	–	113,059	113,059	–	113,612	113,612
Other	–	31	31	42,604	–	42,604
Total	–	113,090	113,090	42,604	113,612	156,216

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

			Education		Research					
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Research Fund	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs										
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff (note 8)	-	779,708	1,033,045	89,364	-	667,127	72,277	591,303	3,232,824	2,712,199
Exam and Assessment costs	-	-	2,737,156	-	-	-	-	-	2,737,156	2,325,819
Exam and CPD Development	-	-	106,554	441,678	-	-	-	-	548,232	463,526
Publications & Mailings	-	203,607	-	-	-	49,435	-	-	253,042	461,335
Events and Member Services	-	384,075	-	-	-	-	-	-	384,075	86,284
Campaigns and General Expenses	-	425,217	-	-	-	89,999	-	-	515,216	104,917
Guidelines	-	-	-	-	-	42,951	-	-	42,951	91,931
Research, Scholarship and Grants	-	-	-	-	-	152,778	-	-	152,778	4,604
Total Direct Costs	-	1,792,607	3,876,755	531,042	-	1,002,290	72,277	591,303	7,866,274	6,250,615
Indirect Costs										
Staff Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,901	36,901	90,791
Council Trustee and Committee costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,015	-	46,015	18,931
College Representation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	527
Professional Fees	35,952	-	-	-	-	-	59,062	283,123	378,138	130,944
Building Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	169,471	169,471	79,130
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,299	42,299	44,231
Printing, Postage & Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,210	55,210	27,635
IT, Telephones and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171,438	171,438	223,873
Subscriptions and Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,179	20,179	37,385
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,826	40,826	38,008
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101,314	101,314	56,184
Amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	162,272	162,272	-
Total Indirect Costs	35,952	-	-	-	-	-	105,077	1,083,034	1,224,063	747,639
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	35,952	1,792,607	3,876,755	531,042	-	1,002,290	177,354	1,674,337	9,090,337	6,998,254
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	9,197	458,560	991,698	135,844	-	256,392	(177,354)	(1,674,337)	-	-
Total Expenditure 2022	45,149	2,251,167	4,868,453	666,886	-	1,258,682	-	-	9,090,337	
Total Expenditure 2021	<u>36,896</u>	<u>1,916,781</u>	<u>4,049,294</u>	<u>451,954</u>	<u>83,952</u>	<u>459,378</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>6,998,254</u>

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

5b Analysis of expenditure (Prior year) restated

			Education		Research				
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Research Fund	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs									
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff (note 8)	-	631,212	747,321	89,852	-	215,598	-	1,028,216	2,712,199
Exam and Assessment costs	-	-	2,325,819	-	-	-	-	-	2,325,819
Exam and CPD Development	-	-	152,253	311,273	-	-	-	-	463,526
Publications & Mailings	-	369,657	-	43,184	-	48,494	-	-	461,335
Events and Member Services	-	86,284	-	-	-	-	-	-	86,284
Campaigns and General Expenses	-	104,917	-	-	-	-	-	-	104,917
Guidelines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91,931	91,931
Research, Scholarship and Grants	-	-	-	-	4,604	-	-	-	4,604
Total Direct Costs	-	1,192,070	3,225,393	444,309	4,604	264,092	-	1,120,147	6,250,615
Indirect Costs									
Staff Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,791	90,791
Council Trustee and Committee costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,931	-	18,931
College Representation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	527	527
Professional Fees	36,896	-	-	-	-	-	15,580	78,468	130,944
Building Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79,130	79,130
Bank Charges and Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,231	44,231
Printing, Postage & Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,635	27,635
IT, Telephones and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	223,873	223,873
Subscriptions and Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,385	37,385
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,008	38,008
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,184	56,184
Total Indirect Costs	36,896	-	-	-	-	-	34,511	676,232	747,639
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	36,896	1,192,070	3,225,393	444,309	4,604	264,092	34,511	1,796,379	6,998,254
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	-	724,711	823,901	7,645	79,348	195,286	(34,511)	(1,796,379)	-
Total Expenditure 2020	36,896	1,916,781	4,049,294	451,954	83,952	459,378	-	-	6,998,254

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

6a Grant making (Current Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £	2022 £
Eye Health Research	–	152,778	152,778
	–	152,778	152,778

The College makes grants through the designated Research Fund. The focus is on developing future researchers for the sector but specific projects are sometimes supported. The College also runs a small grant scheme.

6b Grant making (Prior Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £	2021 £
Eye Health Research	4,604	–	4,604
	4,604	–	4,604

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation	101,314	56,184
Amortisation	162,272	–
Operating leases	3,560	5,524
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Audit – current year	23,500	12,600

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and wages	2,399,498	2,016,440
Social security costs	289,271	244,815
Pension contributions	242,474	228,097
Private health and sickness insurance	37,969	41,499
Staff costs	2,969,213	2,530,851
Temporary Staff	263,612	181,348
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	3,232,824	2,712,199

A total of £266,270 of staff costs not included in the above analysis for 2021 was capitalised as part of an ongoing CRM development project. No staff costs were capitalised in 2022.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (cont.)

The following number of employees received employee salaries and benefits (excluding employer's national insurance and pension costs) during the year between:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
£60,001 – £70,000	2	3
£70,001 – £80,000	1	–
£80,001 – £90,000	4	3
£110,001 – £120,000	–	–
£120,001 – £130,000	1	1

The total employee benefits (including employer's national insurance contributions and pension contributions) of the key management personnel were £662,624 (2021: £720,535). This does not include any payments to Trustees.

8 Trustees (2021 : 5 Trustees) received remuneration in the form of payment of fees. This remuneration is for acting as examiners, lecturers, editors, facilitators and assessors checking the standards of optometric practice and is in accordance with the legal authority of the College's Charter and Bye-Laws.

	2022 £	2021 £
Kyla Black	110	–
Irene Ctori	110	–
Leon Davis	9,000	9,000
Edward Mallen	769	110
Joy Myint	–	2,905
Sheetal Patel	–	2,467
Matt Roney	432	–
Gillian Rudduck	364	–
Kathryn Saunders	110	171
Jonathan Waugh	327	–
Trustee Remuneration	11,222	14,653

Travel or accommodation expenses of £21,721 were paid directly by the College or reimbursed to 14 Trustees (2021: £584 to 4). All expenses are incurred through the course of duties as Trustees.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

9 Staff numbers

The average monthly number of employees (based on number of staff employed) during the year was 55 (2021: 52).

The average monthly number of employees (full-time equivalents) by activity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Membership	15	18
Education	18	16
Research and Policy	9	8
Support and Governance	8	8
	49	50

10 Taxation

The College is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

11 Intangible fixed assets

	Website & CRM	Total
	£	£
COST OR VALUATION		
At 1 October 2021	1,975,370	1,975,370
Additions in year	315,989	315,989
At 30 September 2022	2,291,359	2,291,359
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 October 2021	261,613	261,613
Charge for the year	162,272	162,272
At 30 September 2022	423,885	423,885
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 30 September 2022	1,867,473	1,867,473
At 30 September 2021	1,713,757	1,713,757

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and property	Building improvements	Equipment, furniture and computers	College heritage	Library books	Museum exhibits	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION							
At 1 October 2021	2,611,250	114,688	328,602	2,137	104,250	303,076	3,464,003
Additions in year	-	329,710	519,590	-	-	-	849,301
At 30 September 2022	2,611,250	444,398	848,192	2,137	104,250	303,076	4,313,304
DEPRECIATION							
At 1 October 2021	644,977	40,804	130,040	-	-	-	815,821
Charge for the year	-	16,957	84,357	-	-	-	101,314
At 30 September 2022	644,977	57,761	214,396	-	-	-	917,135
NET BOOK VALUE							
At 30 September 2022	1,966,273	386,638	633,796	2,137	104,250	303,076	3,396,169
At 30 September 2021	1,966,273	73,884	198,562	2,137	104,250	303,076	2,648,182

The library books were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They are stated at the librarian's valuation dated 4 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost. The Museum Exhibits were also transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They include museum exhibits, antique books, paintings and prints, and are stated at a professional valuation dated 23 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost.

The Freehold land value at acquisition was £861,712 and is included in Freehold property. The valuation of this was last reviewed by the trustees in Dec 2018.

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

13 Listed investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Fair value at 1 October	5,736,346	5,124,387
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	(35,952)	(36,896)
Disposals in year	(1,000,000)	–
Net gain on change in fair value	(504,218)	648,855
	<u>4,196,176</u>	<u>5,736,346</u>
Cash held by investment brokers	4,671	2,431
Fair value at 30 September	<u>4,200,847</u>	<u>5,738,777</u>

Investments are all UK Common investment funds

14 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	334,442	503,783
Other debtors	12,549	34,676
Prepayments	237,931	76,193
Accrued income	231,819	67,225
	<u>816,740</u>	<u>681,877</u>

15 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	590,466	627,967
Grants Payable	380,634	273,717
Accruals	324,269	431,874
Taxation and social security costs	100,062	113,026
Deferred Income	2,464,269	3,013,089
Other creditors	36,724	26,322
	<u>3,896,424</u>	<u>4,485,995</u>

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

16a Deferred Income (Current Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2022 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	564,222	2,448,867	3,013,089
Amount released to income in the year	(564,222)	(2,448,867)	(3,013,089)
Amount deferred in year	488,303	1,975,966	2,464,269
Balance at the end of year	488,303	1,975,966	2,464,269

Deferred income relates to subscriptions for membership. It also relates to advance payment of examination fees and conference fees as part of educational activities.

16b Deferred Income (Prior Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2021 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	434,205	2,221,436	2,655,641
Amount released to income in the year	(434,205)	(2,221,436)	(2,655,641)
Amount deferred in year	564,222	2,448,867	3,013,089
Balance at the end of year	564,222	2,448,867	3,013,089

17a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2022 Total funds £
Intangible fixed assets	–	1,867,473	–	1,867,473
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,396,169	–	3,396,169
Investments	–	–	4,200,847	4,200,847
Net current assets / (liabilities)	435,725	380,634	(2,848,606)	(2,032,248)
Net assets at 30 September 2022	435,725	5,644,276	1,352,241	7,432,243

17b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2021 Total funds £
Intangible fixed assets	–	1,713,757	–	1,713,757
Tangible fixed assets	–	2,648,182	–	2,648,182
Investments	–	–	5,738,777	5,738,777
Net current assets / (liabilities)	591,863	291,827	(2,788,909)	(1,905,219)
Net assets at 30 September 2021	591,863	4,653,766	2,949,868	8,195,497

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

18a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1 October 2021	Income and investment gains	Expenditure and Investment losses	Transfers	At 30 September 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Research – ProVIDe	14,485	–	(14,485)	–	–
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	54,146	–	(54,146)	–	–
DOCET	523,232	579,379	(666,886)	–	435,725
Total restricted funds	591,863	579,379	(735,517)	–	435,725
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	4,361,939	–	(263,586)	1,165,290	5,263,642
Research Fund	291,827	–	(152,778)	241,585	380,634
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>4,653,766</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>(416,364)</i>	<i>1,406,875</i>	<i>5,644,276</i>
General funds	2,949,868	8,251,921	(8,442,673)	(1,406,875)	1,352,241
Total unrestricted funds	7,603,634	8,251,921	(8,859,038)	–	6,996,517
Total funds	8,195,497	8,831,300	(9,594,555)	–	7,432,242

18b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 1 October 2020	Income and investment gains	Expenditure	Transfers	At 30 September 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
College Research Fund	82,728	1,224	(83,952)	–	–
Research – ProVIDe	14,485	–	–	–	14,485
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	11,542	42,604	–	–	54,146
DOCET	395,804	579,382	(451,954)	–	523,232
Total restricted funds	504,559	623,210	(535,906)	–	591,863
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	3,033,561	–	(56,184)	1,384,562	4,361,939
Research Fund	291,827	–	–	–	291,827
<i>Total designated funds</i>	<i>3,325,388</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>(56,184)</i>	<i>1,384,562</i>	<i>4,653,766</i>
General funds	3,154,313	7,586,281	(6,406,164)	(1,384,562)	2,949,868
Total unrestricted funds	6,479,701	7,586,281	(6,462,348)	–	7,603,634
Total funds	6,984,260	8,209,491	(6,998,254)	–	8,195,497

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2022

18 Movements in funds (Continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

College Research Fund	This is a separate linked charity within the College which exists to develop researchers and finance research in accordance with the aims and objects of the Royal Charter of the College and the funds trust deed.
ProVIDe	The National Institute for Health Research awarded funding to the College to carry out a research project into the Prevalence of Visual Impairment in Dementia.
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	The Department for Transport provided funding to research for visual impairment and road casualties among older road users and the role of optometrists in promoting road safety.
DOCET	This fund represents the activities of the Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training (DOCET). DOCET administers funds made available by the Government, via the four Health Departments within the United Kingdom, for continuing education and training under Section 98 of the Care Act 2014.

Purposes of designated funds

Fixed assets fund	This represents the net book value of fixed assets held by the College. Depreciation is charged to the fund annually, and transfers in represent additions during the year.
Research fund	This represents the value of grants the College has committed to paying. The research fund was established to raise awareness of research within the optometric community and to support research in the community, by funding research projects. Grants awarded in the year are charged against this fund. Transfers to this are reviewed by Trustees on an annual basis.

19 Related Party

The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists is a related party as the College appoints five out of the ten trustees. The College collects donations from members on behalf of the Benevolent Fund and passed £24,000 to the Fund during the year (2021: £24,000). The College also provides basic accounting services on a pro bono basis.

20 Operating Leases

Future commitments in respect of operating leases for printers

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	3,561	5,524
Within two – five years	13,657	–
Total commitment	17,218	5,524

Accounts

Charity number: 1060431

The College of Optometrists

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

Contents

For the year ended 30 September 2021

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report	2
Independent auditor's report	11
Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	15
Balance sheet	16
Statement of cashflows	17
Notes to the financial statements	18

The College of Optometrists

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 30 September 2021

Charity number 1060431
Country of registration England & Wales
Registered office and operational address 42 Craven Street
London
WC2N 5NG

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr Colin Davidson	President
Dr Mary–Ann Sherratt	Chair (Co-optee)
Dr Aleksandra Mankowska	Resigned (March 2021)
Dr George Anthony Gibson	Treasurer (Appointed March 2021)
Professor Leon Davies	Vice President
Professor Edward Mallen	Immediate Past President
Dr Rob Hogan	Co-optee
Ms Kyla Black	(Appointed March 2021)
Mrs Prabhjit Boparai	Resigned (March 2021)
Dr Irene Ctori	(Appointed March 2021)
Mr Andrew Kitchen	Lay Co-optee
Dr Joy Myint	Resigned (March 2021)
Miss Sheetal Patel	
Mr Mark Redhead	
Dr Gillian Rudduck	
Dr Parth Shah	Resigned (March 2021)
Ms Kiki Soteri	Resigned (March 2021)
Professor Kathryn Saunders	(Appointed March 2021)
Johnathan Waugh	(Appointed March 2021)

Chief Executive Mr Ian Humphreys

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
One Churchill Place
PO Box 35721
London
E14 5HP

Solicitors Fieldfisher LLP
Riverbank House
2 Swan Lane
London
EC4R 3TT

Investment Managers Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St. Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Auditor Sayer Vincent LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
108–114 Golden Lane
LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

The objects of the College are set out in its Royal Charter, as follows:

- The improvement and conservation of human vision.
- The advancement for the public benefit of the study of, and research into, optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects and the publication of the results thereof.
- The promotion and improvement for the public benefit of the science and practice of optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects.
- The maintenance for the public benefit of the highest possible standards of professional competence and conduct on the part of the members of the College.

The objects continue to form the foundation for all of the College's activities as set in its new strategy, which was approved by Trustees in July 2020 and started in October 2020.

The strategy sets out a bold framework for the next five years, built upon four pillars of activity – each of which looks at the immediate, medium and long-term.

Our four strategic pillars of activity are:

1. Defining and inspiring excellence in optometry
2. Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
3. Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
4. Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

This strategy will not be static. We will review our priority activities every year to make sure they remain appropriate to the changing health and social environment

During the first period of delivering this strategy, we will balance our work in developing the profession with supporting the clinical practice needs of members as both communities and the economy continue to recover from COVID-19.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The College works to an annual business plan, covering the objectives listed above. Progress is monitored by the Chief Executive and his senior team and reported regularly to the Board. More details of achievements and activities are available on our website and in our separate Annual Report.

Although we may not have expected that our work and ways of working to still be heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic at the end of September 2021, the College has still achieved some notable successes this year. Teams have been working at maximum capacity to take advantage of the College's growing influence and opportunities for leadership, and to respond to ongoing changes in education and clinical practice due to the pandemic and wider national policy and regulatory transformation.

We successfully delivered the Scheme for Registration over the year, getting back on track with 96% of 2020 candidates enrolled and over 800 newly qualified optometrists completing the Scheme. Our first trainee survey showed over 70% satisfaction rate across all aspects of the Scheme and 80% rating for clarity of assessment.

Our work, alongside sector partners, has led to the development of collaborative proposals to implement the outcomes of the GOC's Education Strategic Review (ESR). We continue to actively influence the GOC's IP Education Advisory Group as part of their IP ESR, and engaged members with the GOC's proposals. Work has started with other providers on possible collaboration on the qualification in the post-IP ESR world.

We negotiated changes with the GOC to the Independent Prescribing qualification so that IP optometrists can act as supervisors and virtual placements can also now take place. The College also fed into and endorsed the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's prescribing framework and influenced the GOC to align to it (subject to the IP ESR consultation). This brings optometrists into line with other prescribing professions and enables non-medical supervisors.

Take up of our CPD offer has remained high in spite of the pandemic and remote working. In many cases we have exceeded our targets for the year and have had record engagement. This has included over 8,000 unique users on the College Learning Management System, more than 20K listens for 13 episodes of the revamped DOCET podcast since launch in June 2020, 46 online events with close to 12,000 attendees and a new online format for our Bitesize conference which welcomed over 6,000 attendees to 15 sessions offered over a month.

The Higher Qualifications team has managed a growing programme of accreditation and reaccreditation. The number of College-accredited higher qualifications on offer has grown by 11% for the last two years and the approval rate of reaccreditation is four times that of the previous business year. Three new courses have been accredited.

College guidance has become the definitive COVID guidance for the profession. We have constantly reviewed and updated it, based on best evidence.

We have increased the College's policy influence, and are actively invited to provide clinical leadership. Our work has kept optometrists at top of national policy agendas. Improved relationships with stakeholders and national optometric advisers have helped achieve nationally important recognition of the role of optometrists in new pathways. Examples of our clinical leadership include the publication of a joint vision with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists for eye care across UK and a joint statement on post-operative cataract follow up, and the College President acting as a key clinical adviser to NHS England's National Eye Care Restoration and Transformation programme.

We have seen increased member engagement through one off and regular communications on key topics of interest. We launched three new monthly enews communications aimed at targeted groups. Posts on social media are now hitting over 45,000 individual accounts a day, with Instagram hitting up to 900 likes on a single post. Overall, our social media audience increased by 3,600 over the year with over 198,000 engagements with our output.

Although the new College CRM system, website and branding developments were delayed, they continue to progress and together will enable us to collect meaningful member data, provide a high quality customer experience for members, and demonstrate greater relevance and impact.

We ran two high profile national media campaigns. Over the summer, we ran a national campaign – 'Focus on Life' – to encourage people to have a sight test, which was extended to children's eye health in 2021. The supporting social media activity was highly commended in Memcom awards. We also ran a topical public campaign on 'lockdown' vision, which was particularly popular in the media. This garnered more than 230 minutes of radio time, 40 clips of coverage in national and regional papers, and national broadcast interviews on Sky News and BBC Morning Live (1.5 million+ viewers).

A '40 Years of Research' report was published, which was compiled to celebrate 40 years since the formation of the College, reflecting on the history and impact of our research work and funding.

Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics (OPO), our leading international journal for contemporary research in vision science and optometry saw a significant increase in its impact factor. There were more submissions this year, due to the pandemic, and quality remains high.

Funding was awarded by Department for Transport for a College led research project on visual impairment and road casualties among older road users and the role of optometrists in promoting road safety.

Beneficiaries of our services

The College is a registered charity because of the public benefit and educational services resulting from its activities. The College supports its members in all aspects of their professional development, enabling those members to serve their patients and thus contribute to the wellbeing of local communities. The College also provides services directly to the public in the form of personal advice on any aspect of optometric services, and via its website.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the College has worked closely with its members and all those involved in delivering eye care across the UK. This includes the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, the General Optical Council and the NHS in the four nations of the UK, to enable it to issue authoritative guidance throughout the pandemic to ensure that the best possible eye care continued to be delivered to patients.

Financial review

The College's financial statements include the Research Fund and the Directorate of Continuing Education and Training scheme (DOCET) a restricted fund (financed by the Departments of Health in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

Because the College's reserves were at a higher level than required by the reserves policy, the Trustees set a deficit budget for 2020-21 in order to spend some of those reserves on activities to further our objectives. However due to higher than expected Scheme for Registration income (due to trainee progression being less affected by COVID-19 than anticipated), better membership retention, reduction in costs and significant unrealised investment gains (2021: £648,855. 2020 restated: £98,064) the College had a surplus for 2021 of £1,211,237 (2020 restated: £979,262 deficit).

Cash remained satisfactory, ending the year at £1,898,899 (2020: £2,401,977), with investments totalling £5,738,777 (2020: £5,140,487) easily convertible into cash.

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st October each year and the 2021 renewals are proving to be resilient, although as with last year, the membership mix continues to show more members moving into the non-practising categories. The College is developing a plan to support these (as well as all other members) over the coming year to ensure that they can return to full time practising status as COVID-19 restrictions are removed.

When looking at Note 16a, analysis of net assets between funds, it can be seen that general funds show net current liabilities of £1,905,219 (2020 restated: £1,189,788). This balance is expected as there is a delay in earning the income in respect of cash already received for the Scheme for

Registration. The delay arises because the trainees were unable to progress through the Scheme as usual solely because of COVID-19. Although the Scheme has re-started (it had been halted at the height of the pandemic) and progression better than budgeted it is still not back to pre-pandemic levels. The current net liabilities risk is further mitigated by the College's investments which could be liquidated, at 10 days' notice if additional cash were to be required.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees review, on an ongoing basis, the major risks to which the College is exposed and systems have been established to manage these risks. The last review was in July 2021, led by the Audit Committee where the Strategic and Operational Risks were reviewed in detail and reported to the Trustee Board. The Committee discussed the Registers and also considered risks that were not currently identified or on the Registers. The Committee concluded that the Registers were complete as presented and all the risks identified were appropriately understood and mitigated. The Trustee Board agreed.

The major risks facing the College are: Number and composition of membership, long term diversity of income, regulatory compliance, loss of reputation through clinical errors, loss of responsibility for the Scheme for Registration and implementation of a new CRM and website. To help mitigate these risks the College continues to review its membership offering, seeks to maintain the highest standards in both its clinical advice and education programmes and maintains appropriate reserves.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees' policy is to hold sufficient accessible funds to enable the College to meet normal operational costs in the short term, in order to protect the College against any loss of income. This is currently based on five months of costs, or £3.0 million.

The policy will be reviewed in 2021 – 2022 to reflect the costs of the pandemic and the possibility of multi-year deficits. The review will consider the changes required to the College's method of operation to ensure that costs and income are balanced in the medium-term.

As at 30 September 2021 general fund reserves were £2.9 million (2020 restated: £3.2 million (see note 20)) and Designated Funds were £4.7 million (2020 restated: £3.3million). The College is in the process of installing a new membership system and website which will be funded from designated reserves. The Trustees are satisfied that this will still leave an acceptable level of reserves.

The College had a restricted Research Fund at the beginning of the year which had a value of £82,728. This Fund was spent down to zero during the year. Trustees will review the Fund's continued operation during the current year but it is likely that all future research funding will be met from the College's general funds.

Fundraising

The College only fundraises through its members to fund Research and to ask for support for the profession's benevolent fund. Small sums may also be received from third parties or the public to support the College's museum. The College does not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators. Given this limited involvement in any fundraising, the College is not signed up to any particular fundraising regulation but would look to such codes for guidance on its activities. The College has had no complaints about its fundraising activity. No hard sell techniques are used and requests are only made to members, so the College believe that the risk to vulnerable people should be very low from any of their activities.

Plans for the future

The College has now developed a five-year strategic plan based on 4 strategic pillars:

- Defining and inspiring excellence in Optometry
- Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

The strategic plan has been developed into a three year business plan, which will be updated annually to encompass the five year plan, from which the 2021 – 2022 budget has been developed.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation was founded on 1 March 1980 as The British College of Ophthalmic Opticians. The title was changed in 1987 to The British College of Optometrists. On 18 September 1995 the organisation was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation under the new title of The College of Optometrists.

The College is governed by its Charter and Bye-Laws. The Trustees are responsible for the management of the College which is exercised through the Chief Executive. The Council is responsible for the strategic direction of the College. The Council consists of a maximum of forty persons from the following: up to 35 members elected to represent nine regions in England, along with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, four who are members of the Lay Advisory Panel, and one person nominated from the Optometry Schools Council.

In September 2017 the Board of Trustees agreed to adopt the Charity Governance Code and has now made any necessary changes to meet the code.

The Board of Trustees has the legal and fiduciary responsibilities for the College and is comprised of up to 14 members including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President,

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 30 September 2021

seven Council members elected by the Council, including one Council member who is a member of the Lay Advisory Panel; and up to three persons co-opted as Trustees subject to the approval of the Council. The Chair of the Board will either be one of the elected Trustees or be co-opted using one of the three possible co-options. Under the Charter, the Chief Executive has a right to attend all meetings of the Trustees but shall not be a Trustee. Currently there are three co-opted Trustees, one of whom is also a member of the Lay Advisory Panel.

The Chief Executive is supported in the management of the College by five executive directors heading departmental activity under Finance, Education, Member Services and Communications, Policy and Strategy, and Research.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity whilst acting as a trustee. Any expenses reclaimed from or paid by the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts. The trustees are allowed by the College's Charter and Bye-Laws to receive remuneration for certain services. Details of such remuneration is also set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Appointment of trustees

The College's Council annually elects members to vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction from the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board. Trustees hold an annual away day, physically or via Zoom, and two seminar sessions each year to increase their understanding of the issues affecting the College and develop plans for the future, including the strengthening of governance.

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 1.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

The College appoints five of the ten Trustees of The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists. One of the College's Trustees is also a Trustee of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics, to which the College has made a loan of £20,000.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

In determining levels of remuneration, the College has to balance a number of factors to ensure that it is able to recruit and retain employees to deliver its services effectively. Our principles are to pay our staff a fair salary that is competitive within the market, proportionate to each role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives. The College is committed to ensuring that its salaries remain competitive in the employment market, through conducting an annual pay review, paying individuals in line with the normal sector practice and standards, and benchmarking

salaries against other employers. The College applies the same benchmarking principles in respect of the CEO and Directors' level of pay as that applied to all other employees.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees of the College have a legal duty to ensure that the College's funds are managed prudently and have adopted a medium risk investment strategy with a balance in the investment portfolio between gilts or fixed interest securities and equities, and a balance between UK and overseas investments. The investment portfolio is benchmarked against an appropriate composite index that is reviewed regularly. The Trustees continue to retain investments in Common Investment Funds, managed by Sarasin.

The value of the College's investments at the end of September 2021 was higher than at September 2020, this was in line with market movements although slightly below the agreed benchmark.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charity's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 2 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt
Chair

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The College of Optometrists (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows 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 FRS 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 charity's affairs as at 30 September 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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 charity 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 College of Optometrists' 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.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of

The College of Optometrists

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 Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

17 March 2022

Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The College of Optometrists

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 30 September 2021

		College Research Fund	Other Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2021	College Research Fund	Other Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	2020 Restated
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:									
Donations		1,224	–	–	1,224	1,027	–	–	1,027
Charitable activities									
Membership	2	–	–	2,757,644	2,757,644	–	–	2,773,960	2,773,960
Education	3	–	579,379	3,929,149	4,508,528	–	579,379	1,984,025	2,563,404
Research	4	–	42,604	113,612	156,216	–	12,000	90,517	102,517
Other trading activities – rent		–	–	1,632	1,632	–	–	–	–
Investments		–	–	135,389	135,389	19,163	–	132,924	152,087
Bank Interest		–	3	–	3	–	–	9,880	9,880
Total Income		1,224	621,986	6,937,426	7,560,636	20,190	591,379	4,991,306	5,602,875
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	–	–	36,896	36,896	3,755	–	26,050	29,805
Charitable activities	5								
Membership		–	–	1,916,781	1,916,781	–	–	1,799,347	1,799,347
Education		–	451,954	4,049,294	4,501,248	–	601,616	3,413,071	4,014,687
Research		83,952	–	459,378	543,330	217,960	–	618,402	836,362
Total expenditure		83,952	451,954	6,462,348	6,998,255	221,715	601,616	5,856,870	6,680,201
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains on investments	7	(82,728)	170,032	475,078	562,381	(201,525)	(10,237)	(865,564)	(1,077,326)
Net gains on investments		–	–	648,855	648,855	12,356	–	85,708	98,064
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		(82,728)	170,032	1,123,933	1,211,236	(189,169)	(10,237)	(779,856)	(979,262)
Transfer between funds		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		(82,728)	170,032	1,123,933	1,211,236	(189,169)	(10,237)	(779,856)	(979,262)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		82,728	421,831	6,479,701	6,984,260	582,903	432,068	7,259,557	8,274,528
Prior period adjustment	20	–	–	–	–	(311,006)	–	–	(311,006)
Total funds brought forward (as restated)		82,728	421,831	6,479,701	6,984,260	271,897	432,068	7,259,557	7,963,522
Total funds carried forward	17	–	591,863	7,603,634	8,195,497	82,728	421,831	6,479,701	6,984,260

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements.

The College of Optometrists

Balance Sheet

As at 30 September 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 Restated £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	4,361,939	3,033,561
Investments	12	<u>5,738,777</u>	<u>5,140,487</u>
		<u>10,100,716</u>	<u>8,174,048</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	681,877	223,048
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,898,899</u>	<u>2,401,977</u>
		2,580,776	2,625,025
Liabilities			
Creditors due within one year	14	<u>4,485,995</u>	<u>3,814,813</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(1,905,219)</u>	<u>(1,189,788)</u>
Net assets	16	<u>8,195,497</u>	<u>6,984,260</u>
Funds	17		
Restricted income funds			
Research Fund		–	82,728
DOCET		523,232	395,804
Other restricted funds		<u>68,631</u>	<u>26,027</u>
		591,863	504,559
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated funds		4,653,766	3,325,388
General funds		<u>2,949,868</u>	<u>3,154,313</u>
		7,603,634	6,479,701
Total charity funds		<u>8,195,497</u>	<u>6,984,260</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 2 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Dr George Anthony Gibson

The College of Optometrists

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 September 2021

	2021 £	2020 Restated £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure)	1,211,236	(1,290,268)
Depreciation charges	56,184	57,856
Gains on investments	(648,855)	(98,064)
Dividends and interest from investments	(135,392)	(161,967)
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	36,896	34,151
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(458,829)	650,244
Increase in creditors	671,182	1,094,847
Net cash flow provided by operating activities	732,422	286,799
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest from investments	135,392	161,967
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,384,562)	(641,109)
Decrease / (increase) in investment cash	13,669	(4,935)
Net cash used in investing activities	(1,235,501)	(484,077)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(503,079)	(197,278)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,401,977	2,599,255
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,898,898	2,401,977

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

1. Accounting policies

a) Statutory Information

The College of Optometrists is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered office and principal place of business is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG.

b) Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

These financial statements include as a restricted fund the results of the linked trust "the Research Fund of the College of Optometrists" (Charity number 1060431-1).

On 1 April 2006 the College took over the assets, liabilities and activities of The Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training ("DOCET") and it is now a restricted fund of the College.

c) Public benefit entity

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

d) Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the College's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

There are net current liabilities of £1,905,219 as at the balance sheet date (2020: £706,146 net current liabilities). This has arisen due to the continued slower progression through the Scheme for Registration for the 2020 – 2021 trainees plus a large number of trainees registering, and being invoiced late in the financial year. These delays are a direct consequence of the Covid19 pandemic and have resulted in an increase in deferred income of £357,448 (2020: £484,112 increase). Trade Creditors increased to £901,683 (2020: £227,105). This is due to the refurbishment of the college's office and the implementation of a new CRM with high expenditure in the final month of the financial year, both of which were planned for.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. This includes unrestricted membership and fee income received in advance where it relates to services provided in a future accounting period. The College allocates a share of the Scheme for Registration fee to each of the stages of the scheme and recognises income based on the stages completed at the end of the year by each registrant.

f) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs if appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes of the College.

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

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Total expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered.

h) Grants payable

The College pays out grants in furtherance of its charitable objects. A number of grants are made which may be payable over a number of years. The commitment to pay is recognised in full once the performance criteria are likely to be met.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central functions, is apportioned on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff numbers, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Membership	45%
Education	45%
Research	10%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the College. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the College's activities. These costs are now allocated to activities on the same basis as shown above for support costs

j) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold buildings	not depreciated after 30 September 2011
Building improvements	over 10 years straight line
Equipment and furniture	over 10 years straight line
Computers	over 3 years straight line
Website/CRM	over 3 –5 years straight line

The College holds a collection of library books and museum exhibits that were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation, and includes antique books, paintings and prints. These are irreplaceable originals which are deemed not to decrease in value. Accordingly these items have not been depreciated in the financial statements, since any depreciation will not be material. The value included in the accounts is reviewed annually for indications of reduction.

k) Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the SOFA. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Net gains/(losses) on investments" in the SOFA. The College does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

1. Accounting policies (continued)

l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

m) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

n) 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

o) Pensions

The College operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the College in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the College to the fund. The College has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

2. Membership

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Subscriptions	–	2,757,644	2,757,644	–	2,773,960	2,773,960
Total	–	2,757,644	2,757,644	–	2,773,960	2,773,960

3. Education

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Examination and pre-registration fees	–	3,884,445	3,884,445	–	1,565,855	1,565,855
Department of Health	–	–	–	–	104,000	104,000
Health Departments' funding for DOCET	579,379	–	579,379	579,379	–	579,379
College Conference	–	–	–	–	241,304	241,304
Other events and activities	–	44,704	44,704	–	72,866	72,866
Total	579,379	3,929,149	4,508,529	579,379	1,984,025	2,563,404

4. Research

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £
Publications – OPO	–	113,612	113,612	–	90,517	90,517
Other	42,604	–	42,604	12,000	–	12,000
Total	42,604	113,612	156,216	12,000	90,517	102,517

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

5a Analysis of expenditure (Current year)

			Education		Research		Governance costs	Support costs	2021	2020
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Research Fund	Research			2021	Restated
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs										
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	–	631,212	747,321	89,852	–	215,598	–	1,028,216	2,712,199	2,743,525
Exam and Assessment costs	–	–	2,325,819	–	–	–	–	–	2,325,819	1,219,531
Exam and CPD Development	–	–	152,253	311,273	–	–	–	–	463,526	525,922
Publications & Mailings	–	369,657	–	43,184	–	48,494	–	–	461,335	320,438
Events and Member Services	–	86,284	–	–	–	–	–	–	86,284	370,070
Campaigns and General Expenses	–	104,917	–	–	–	–	–	–	104,917	123,475
Guidelines	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	91,931	91,931	75,398
Research, Scholarship and Grants	–	–	–	–	4,604	–	–	–	4,604	443,653
Total Direct Costs	–	1,192,070	3,225,393	444,309	4,604	264,092	–	1,120,147	6,250,615	5,822,012
Indirect Costs										
Staff Expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	90,791	90,791	101,959
Council Trustee and Committee	–	–	–	–	–	–	18,931	–	18,931	63,884
College Representation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	527	527	9,358
Professional Fees	36,896	–	–	–	–	–	15,580	78,468	130,944	46,403
Building Costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	79,130	79,130	101,080
Bank Charges and Interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44,231	44,231	30,131
Printing, Postage & Stationery	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	27,635	27,635	10,701
IT, Telephones and Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	223,873	223,873	107,004
Subscriptions and Donations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	37,385	37,385	17,503
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	38,008	38,008	38,424
Irrecoverable VAT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	273,885
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	56,184	56,184	57,857
Total Indirect Costs	36,896	–	–	–	–	–	34,511	676,232	747,639	858,189
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	36,896	1,192,070	3,225,393	444,309	4,604	264,092	34,511	1,796,379	6,998,254	6,680,201
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	–	724,711	823,901	7,645	79,348	195,286	(34,511)	(1,796,379)	–	–
Total Expenditure 2021	36,896	1,916,781	4,049,294	451,954	83,952	459,378	–	–	6,998,254	6,680,201

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

5b Analysis of expenditure (Prior year) restated			Education		Research				
	Raising Funds	Membership	Education	DOCET	Research Fund	Research	Governance costs	Support costs	2020 Restated
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs									
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	–	799,479	993,831	100,969	–	210,600	66,225	572,421	2,743,525
Exam and Assessment costs	–	–	1,219,531	–	–	–	–	–	1,219,531
Exam and CPD Development	–	–	134,806	391,116	–	–	–	–	525,922
Publications & Mailings	–	107,870	197,388	–	–	15,180	–	–	320,438
Events and Member Services	–	43,074	326,996	–	–	–	–	–	370,070
Campaigns and General Expenses	–	123,475	–	–	–	–	–	–	123,475
Guidelines	–	75,398	–	–	–	–	–	–	75,398
Research, Scholarship and Grants	–	–	–	–	195,487	248,166	–	–	443,653
Total Direct Costs	–	1,149,296	2,872,552	492,085	195,487	473,946	66,225	572,421	5,822,012
Indirect Costs									
Staff Expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101,959	101,959
Council Trustee and Committee	–	–	–	–	–	–	63,884	–	63,884
College Representation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,358	9,358
Professional Fees	26,050	–	–	–	3,755	–	12,350	4,248	46,403
Building Costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101,080	101,080
Bank Charges and Interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30,131	30,131
Printing, Postage & Stationery	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,701	10,701
IT, Telephones and Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	107,004	107,004
Subscriptions and Donations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17,503	17,503
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	38,424	38,424
Irrecoverable VAT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	273,885	273,885
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	57,857	57,857
Total Indirect Costs	26,050	–	–	–	3,755	–	76,234	752,150	858,189
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	26,050	1,149,296	2,872,552	492,085	199,242	473,946	142,459	1,324,571	6,680,201
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	–	650,051	644,519	5,531	22,473	144,456	(142,459)	(1,324,571)	–
Total Expenditure 2020	26,050	1,799,347	3,517,071	497,616	221,715	618,402	–	–	6,680,201

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

6a Grant making (Current Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £	2021 £
Eye Health Research	4,604	–	4,604
	<u>4,604</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>4,604</u>

The College makes grants through the College Research Fund and the designated Research Fund. The focus is on developing future researchers for the sector but specific projects are sometimes supported. The College also runs a small grant scheme. See Note 20 for the impact of the change in accounting policy.

6b Grant making (Prior Year)

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £	2020 Restated £
Post Graduate Scholarships	–	259,020	259,020
Developing Researchers	–	29,925	29,925
Eye Health Research	24,441	–	24,441
Small Grants Scheme	–	18,298	18,298
	<u>24,441</u>	<u>307,243</u>	<u>331,684</u>

7. Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation	56,184	57,857
Operating leases	5,524	7,874
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Audit – current year	12,600	12,350
	<u>12,600</u>	<u>12,350</u>

8. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	2,016,440	2,152,706
Social security costs	244,815	232,375
Pension contributions	228,097	207,203
Private health and sickness insurance	41,499	36,709
Staff costs	<u>2,530,851</u>	<u>2,628,993</u>
Temporary Staff	<u>181,348</u>	<u>114,532</u>
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	<u>2,712,199</u>	<u>2,743,525</u>

A total of £266,270 of staff costs not included in the above analysis for 2021 was capitalised as part of an ongoing CRM development project.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

8. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (cont.)

The following number of employees received employee salaries and benefits (excluding employer's national insurance and pension costs) during the year between:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
£60,001 – £70,000	3	3
£70,001 – £80,000	–	1
£80,001 – £90,000	3	3
£110,001 – £120,000	–	–
£120,001 – £130,000	1	1

The total employee benefits (including employer's national insurance contributions and pension contributions) of the key management personnel were £720,535 (2020: £632,294). This does not include any payments to Trustees.

5 Trustees (2020 : 8 Trustees) received remuneration in the form of payment of fees. This remuneration is for acting as examiners, lecturers, editors, facilitators and assessors checking the standards of optometric practice and is in accordance with the legal authority of the College's Charter and Bye-Laws.

	2021 £	2020 £
Colin Davidson	–	2,268
Leon Davis	9,000	9,000
Edward Mallen	110	–
Joy Myint	2,905	3,816
Sheetal Patel	2,467	2,059
Gillian Rudduck	–	177
Kathryn Saunders	171	–
Kiki Soteri	–	212
Parth Shah	–	766
Prab Boparai	–	117
Trustee Remuneration	14,653	18,415

Travel or accommodation expenses of £584 were paid directly by the College or reimbursed to 4 Trustees (2020: £18,941 to 12). All expenses are incurred through the course of duties as Trustees.

9. Staff numbers

The average monthly number of employees (based on number of staff employed) during the year was 52 (2020 – 51).

The average monthly number of employees (full-time equivalents) by activity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Membership	18	19
Education	16	13
Research and Policy	8	7
Support and Governance	8	8
	50	47

10. Taxation

The College is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and property	Building improvements	Equipment, furniture and computers	College heritage	Library books	Museum exhibits	Website & CRM	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 1 October 2020	2,611,250	44,957	383,989	2,137	104,250	303,076	748,563	4,198,222
Additions in year	–	69,731	88,024	–	–	–	1,226,807	1,384,562
Disposals in year	–	–	(143,411)	–	–	–	–	(143,411)
At 30 September 2021	2,611,250	114,688	328,602	2,137	104,250	303,076	1,975,370	5,439,373
DEPRECIATION								
At 1 October 2020	644,977	40,262	230,311	–	–	–	249,111	1,164,661
Eliminated on Disposal	–	–	(143,411)	–	–	–	–	(143,411)
Charge for the year	–	542	43,140	–	–	–	12,502	56,184
At 30 September 2021	644,977	40,804	130,040	–	–	–	261,613	1,077,434
NET BOOK VALUE								
At 30 September 2021	<u>1,966,273</u>	<u>73,884</u>	<u>198,562</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>104,250</u>	<u>303,076</u>	<u>1,713,757</u>	<u>4,361,939</u>
At 30 September 2020	<u>1,966,273</u>	<u>4,695</u>	<u>153,678</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>104,250</u>	<u>303,076</u>	<u>499,452</u>	<u>3,033,561</u>

The library books were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They are stated at the librarian's valuation dated 4 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost. The Museum Exhibits were also transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They include museum exhibits, antique books, paintings and prints, and are stated at a professional valuation dated 23 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost.

The Freehold land value at acquisition was £861,712 and is included in Freehold property. The valuation of which was last reviewed by the trustees in Dec 2018.

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

12. Listed investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Fair value at 1 October	5,124,387	5,060,474
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	(36,896)	(34,151)
Net gain on change in fair value	<u>648,855</u>	<u>98,064</u>
	5,736,346	5,124,387
Cash held by investment brokers	<u>2,431</u>	<u>16,100</u>
Fair value at 30 September	<u><u>5,738,777</u></u>	<u><u>5,140,487</u></u>

Investments are all UK Common investment funds

13. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	503,783	22,700
Other debtors	34,676	5,131
Prepayments	76,193	127,992
Accrued income	<u>67,225</u>	<u>67,225</u>
	<u><u>681,877</u></u>	<u><u>223,048</u></u>

14. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 Restated £
Trade creditors	627,967	227,105
Grants Payable	273,717	483,642
Accruals	431,874	343,619
Taxation and social security costs	113,026	79,996
Deferred Income	3,013,089	2,655,641
Other creditors	<u>26,322</u>	<u>24,810</u>
	<u><u>4,485,995</u></u>	<u><u>3,814,813</u></u>

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

15a Deferred Income (Current Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2021 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	434,205	2,221,436	2,655,641
Amount released to income in the year	(434,205)	(2,221,436)	(2,655,641)
Amount deferred in year	564,222	2,448,867	3,013,089
Balance at the end of year	<u>564,222</u>	<u>2,448,867</u>	<u>3,013,089</u>

Deferred income relates to subscriptions for membership. It also relates to advance payment of examination fees and conference fees as part of educational activities.

15b Deferred Income (Prior Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2020 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	432,324	1,739,205	2,171,529
Amount released to income in the year	(432,324)	(1,739,205)	(2,171,529)
Amount deferred in year	434,205	2,221,436	2,655,641
Balance at the end of year	<u>434,205</u>	<u>2,221,436</u>	<u>2,655,641</u>

16a. Analysis of net assets between funds (Current Year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2021 Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	–	4,361,939	–	4,361,939
Investments	–	–	5,738,777	5,738,777
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>591,863</u>	<u>291,827</u>	<u>(2,788,909)</u>	<u>(1,905,219)</u>
Net assets at 30 September 2021	<u>591,863</u>	<u>4,653,766</u>	<u>2,949,868</u>	<u>8,195,497</u>

16b. Analysis of net assets between funds (Prior Year) restated

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2020 Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,033,561	–	3,033,561
Investments	576,631	–	4,563,856	5,140,487
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>(72,072)</u>	<u>291,827</u>	<u>(1,409,543)</u>	<u>(1,189,788)</u>
Net assets at 30 September 2020	<u>504,559</u>	<u>3,325,388</u>	<u>3,154,313</u>	<u>6,984,260</u>

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

17a. Movements in funds (Current year)

	At 1 October 2020 £	Income and investment gains £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 30 September 2021 £
Restricted funds:					
College Research Fund	82,728	1,224	(83,952)	–	–
Research – ProVIDe	14,485	–	–	–	14,485
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	11,542	42,604	–	–	54,146
DOCET	395,804	579,382	(451,954)	–	523,232
Total restricted funds	504,559	623,210	(535,906)	–	591,863
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	3,033,561	–	(56,184)	1,384,562	4,361,939
Research Fund	291,827	–	–	–	291,827
<i>Total designated funds</i>	3,325,388	–	(56,184)	1,384,562	4,653,766
General funds	3,154,313	7,586,281	(6,406,164)	(1,384,562)	2,949,868
Total unrestricted funds	6,479,701	7,586,281	(6,462,348)	–	7,603,634
Total funds	6,984,260	8,209,491	(6,998,254)	–	8,195,496

17b. Movements in funds (Prior Year) restated

	At 1 October 2019 Restated £	Income and investment gains £	Expenditure Restated £	Transfers £	At 30 September 2020 Restated £
Restricted funds:					
College Research Fund	271,897	32,546	(221,715)	–	82,728
Research – ProVIDe	14,485	–	–	–	14,485
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	–	12,000	(458)	–	11,542
DOCET	417,583	579,379	(601,158)	–	395,804
Total restricted funds	703,965	623,925	(823,331)	–	504,559
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	2,450,308	–	(57,856)	641,109	3,033,561
Research Fund	539,993	–	(248,166)	–	291,827
<i>Total designated funds</i>	2,990,301	–	(306,022)	641,109	3,325,388
General funds	4,269,256	5,077,014	(5,550,848)	(641,109)	3,154,313
Total unrestricted funds	7,259,557	5,077,014	(5,856,870)	–	6,479,701
Total funds	7,963,522	5,700,939	(6,680,201)	–	6,984,260

17. Movements in funds (Continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

College Research Fund	This is a separate linked charity within the College which exists to develop researchers and finance research in accordance with the aims and objects of the Royal Charter of the College and the funds trust deed.
PrVIDe	The National Institute for Health Research awarded funding to the College to carry out a research project into the Prevalence of Visual Impairment in Dementia.
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	The Department for Transport provided funding to research for visual impairment and road casualties among older road users and the role of optometrists in promoting road safety.
DOCET	This fund represents the activities of the Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training (DOCET). DOCET administers funds made available by the Government, via the four Health Departments within the United Kingdom, for continuing education and training under Section 98 of the Care Act 2014.

Purposes of designated funds

Fixed assets fund	This represents the net book value of fixed assets held by the College. Depreciation is charged to the fund annually, and transfers in represent additions during the year.
Research fund	The research fund was established to raise awareness of research within the optometric community and to support research in the community, by funding research projects. Transfers to and from this fund are reviewed by Trustees on an annual basis.

18. Related Party

The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists is a related party as the College appoints five out of the ten trustees. The College collects donations from members on behalf of the Benevolent Fund and passed £24,000 to the Fund during the year (2020: £25,000). The College also provides basic accounting services on a pro bono basis.

19. Operating Leases

Future commitments in respect of operating leases for printers

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	5,524	7,311
Within two – five years	–	5,524
Total commitment	<u>5,524</u>	<u>12,835</u>

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2021

20. Prior year adjustment

The College of Optometrists funds research through the awarding of grants for projects which take place over a number years. Historically, the later payments of these grants were treated as being dependent on the recipient fulfilling certain conditions to determine whether funding is provided. Therefore grants payable and the related expenditure were recognised only when these conditions have been successfully fulfilled. Amounts committed but with the conditions still to be fulfilled were not included in the College's balance sheet.

This treatment has been reviewed by the Trustees during the year and it is more appropriate to reflect the grants as expenditure when they are awarded. Therefore the prior year figures have been restated to reflect the grants awarded prior to the current financial year. There is no net impact on the movement in funds or reserves position at 30 September 2021.

The impact of this restatement on the reserves and movement in funds in the prior year is as follows:

Prior period adjustment

	College Research Fund	Other Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total	College Research Fund	Other Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total
	30-Sep-20				01-Oct-19			
Reserves position	£		£	£	£		£	£
Funds previously reported	393,734	421,831	6,652,337	7,467,902	582,903	432,068	7,259,557	8,274,528
Adjustments on restatement								
Recognition of research grants as payable when communicated to recipient	(311,006)	–	(172,636)	(483,642)	(311,006)	–	–	(311,006)
Funds restated	<u>82,728</u>	<u>421,831</u>	<u>6,479,701</u>	<u>6,984,260</u>	<u>271,897</u>	<u>432,068</u>	<u>7,259,557</u>	<u>7,963,522</u>
	College Research Fund	Other Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total				
	30-Sep-20							
Impact on income and expenditure	£	£	£	£				
Net (expenditure) as previously reported	(189,169)	(10,237)	(607,220)	(806,626)				
Adjustments on restatement								
Recognition of grant expenditure at point of award	–	–	(172,636)	(172,636)				
Net (expenditure) as restated	<u>(189,169)</u>	<u>(10,237)</u>	<u>(779,856)</u>	<u>(979,262)</u>				

Accounts

Charity number: 1060431

The College of Optometrists

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

The College of Optometrists

Contents

For the year ended 30 September 2020

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report	2
Independent auditor's report	11
Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	15
Balance sheet	16
Statement of cashflows	17
Notes to the financial statements	18

The College of Optometrists

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 30 September 2020

Charity number 1060431
Country of registration England & Wales

Registered office and operational address 42 Craven Street
London
WC2N 5NG

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Mr Colin Davidson	President
Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt	Chair (Co-optee)
Dr Aleksandra Mankowska	Treasurer
Professor Leon Davies	Vice President
Professor Edward Mallen	Immediate Past President
Dr Rob Hogan	Co-optee
Mr Andrew Kitchen	Lay Co-optee
Dr Joy Myint	
Miss Sheetal Patel	
Dr Gillian Rudduck	
Dr Parth Shah	
Ms Kiki Soteri	
Mr Mark Redhead	(From Feb 2020)
Mrs Prabhjit Boparai	(From Feb 2020)

Chief Executive Mr Ian Humphreys

Bankers Barclays Bank plc
One Churchill Place
PO Box 35721
London
E14 5HP

Solicitors Fieldfisher LLP
Riverbank House
2 Swan Lane
London
EC4R 3TT

Investment Managers Sarasin & Partners LLP
100 St. Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Auditors Sayer Vincent LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
108-114 Golden Lane
LONDON
EC1Y 0TL

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2020.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's trust deed and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Objectives and activities

Purposes and aims

The objects of the College are set out in its Royal Charter, as follows:

- The improvement and conservation of human vision.
- The advancement for the public benefit of the study of, and research into, optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects and the publication of the results thereof.
- The promotion and improvement for the public benefit of the science and practice of optometry, ophthalmic optics and related subjects.
- The maintenance for the public benefit of the highest possible standards of professional competence and conduct on the part of the members of the College.

For the three years ended 30 September 2020, the College adopted a series of strategic objectives, as follows:

- To ensure that College membership is valuable to optometrists and an asset to their employers.
- To provide and promote high quality services and support for members to develop their individual clinical practice.
- To influence policy and decision makers in health care delivery in the UK countries by showing how optometrists can improve the quality of eye care.
- To make people aware that they should look after their eyes and of the important role optometrists play in maintaining or improving sight.

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Achievements and performance

The College works to an Annual Business Plan, covering the objectives listed above. Progress is monitored by the Chief Executive and his senior team and reported regularly to the Board. More details of achievements and activities are available on our website and in our separate Annual Report. From October 2020 the College has adopted a new Strategic Plan, building in the foundations of the previous plan.

COVID-19 and its impact

COVID-19 impacted the College by increasing our workload as we provided appropriate advice and guidance to our members, the profession, NHS bodies and the public at large, to enable the delivery of safe and effective optometry during the pandemic.

In the last six months of the year the College developed and published:

- Six COVID-19 specific guidelines,
- 64 COVID FAQs,
- Three joint statements with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth),
- Risk assessment guidance
- Resources to support virtual consultations and social distancing.

Our guidance has been referenced in all of the UK nations' national guidance and Standard Operating Procedures.

The College worked with the RCOphth to develop a joint vision for the restoration and transformation of eye care services in England, and is working on similar approaches in each of the devolved nations. We sit on the NHSE Eye Health Restoration and Transformation (ECRT) Steering Group in order to influence the future direction of ophthalmology outpatients' services in England.

The pandemic also significantly affected the College's assessment and education programmes, reducing the number of face-to-face education events and requiring a radical re-structure of the Scheme for Registration to allow trainee progression whilst maintaining its rigour and quality assurance. The changes included the development from scratch of a hospital eye service online resource in the absence of hospital placement availability in the context of COVID-19.

The Scheme for Registration re-structure required the approval of the General Optical Council (GOC) and this was obtained towards the year end with assessments re-starting in August 2020 and the first modified final exam (the OSCE) being run in September 2020.

Membership numbers were impacted by COVID-19 as a reduced number of trainees qualified during the year due to the disruption to the Scheme for Registration.

The College of Optometrists

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 30 September 2020

Member numbers fell by 1.7% to 12,351 (2019: increased by 2.6% to 12,565) as at 30 September 2020. On the same date, the College had a total membership, including students, of 16,732 (2019: approaching 16,900). 93% of trainees who passed the OSCEs run in 2020 joined the College.

The financial impact was lessened due to the significant discount that the College offers newly qualified optometrists. There was also a number of new members to the College attracted by our work during the pandemic. As the normality resumes we expect the decline in membership to reverse.

Non-COVID-19 activities

As well as responding to the impact of COVID-19 the College also maintained many of its usual services to members, delivered improved Continued Professional Development (CPD), had our IP examination re-accredited (with commendations from the GOC) and contributed to the GOC's on-going Education Strategic Review.

We published six Clinical Management Guidelines (CMGs) in the year with a further 33 in the review process at the year end.

Our Clinical Advice Line answered a total of 1,413 queries, with 1,220 from members.

The College's CPD activity increased with the number of members using our Learning Management System (LMS) up by 14% and webinar and peer discussion participation up by 316%.

During the year the College also commissioned eight online courses, six of which had been launched by the year end.

Five regional events took place before COVID-19 restrictions came into place. The College then moved to virtual events and delivered over 20 online peer discussion events including three for IP members, a COVID-19 panel webinar and eight College coffee break sessions.

Optometry Tomorrow 2020 conference was successfully held in February at new location in Telford, with a small increase in delegates compared to 2019.

Our Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics (OPO) research journal remains the top ranked optometry journal in the world, and both two year and five year Impact Factors have increased.

The digital transformation project to replace the College's CRM (database) and website began in November 2019, with delivery expected in Spring 2021 along with a College re-brand.

Beneficiaries of our services

The College is a registered charity because of the public benefit and educational services resulting from its activities. The College supports its members in all aspects of their professional development, enabling those members to serve their patients and thus contribute to the wellbeing of local communities. The College also provides services directly to the public in the form of personal advice on any aspect of optometric services, and via its website.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the College worked closely with its members, the wide optometric and ophthalmology professions, the General Optical Council and the NHS in the four nations of the U.K. to enable it to issue authoritative guidance throughout lockdown and other pandemic restrictions to ensure that the best possible eye care continued to be deliverable by Optometrists. For the detail of the work see Achievements and performance above

Financial review

The College's financial statements include the Research Fund and the Directorate of Continuing Education and Training scheme (DOCET) a restricted fund (financed by the Departments of Health in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales).

Because the College's reserves were at a higher level than required by the reserves policy, the Trustees set a deficit budget for 2019-20 in order to spend some of those reserves on activities to further our objectives.

As would be expected, the budget was reviewed as a consequence of the pandemic. Initially the budget was revised to a deficit of £1.4m, and later revised to £0.936m. The biggest drivers of the revised budgets were an expected unrealised loss on investments and the reduction in income from the Scheme for Registration (SfR). The SfR had to be completely revised to enable trainees to be assessed on their learned skills in a safe environment for them, the patients and the assessors. The initial closure of high street optometry practices compounded the issue. The revised SfR needed to be approved by the GOC to ensure that it still robustly and fairly assessed the trainees. This approval was obtained prior to the year end and the Scheme re-started in August 2020, with the modified final examination (The OSCE) being held in September 2020. As a consequence of the required changes, the OSCE now costs the College twice as much to run per head as previously. It is expected that the cost will reduce once COVID-19 is over.

Membership income was in line with 2019, £2,773,960 compared to £2,770,018. This is unsurprising as the work of the College to support its members continued at an enhanced level throughout the pandemic and it is clear that the College's guidance was followed by the profession and relied upon by the GOC and the NHS. Consequently the College's workload actually increased during in the last six months of the financial year. Only three staff were furloughed for a short period of time and they are now back at work providing support to members.

The unrealised loss on investments had reversed by the year end and the investments had an unrealised gain of £98,064 (2019: £250,118) at the year end.

Overall the College had a deficit of £806,626 for the year (2019: Surplus £346,724), a decline over the previous year of £1,153,350.

Cash remained satisfactory, ending the year at £2,401,977 (2019: £2,599,255), with investments totalling £5,140,488 easily convertible into cash.

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st October each year and the 2020 renewals are proving to be resilient, although there has been a change in the membership mix with more members moving into the non-practising categories. The College is developing a plan to support these (as well as all other members) over the coming year to ensure that they can return to full time practising status when conditions permit.

When looking at Note 17, analysis of group net assets between funds, it can be seen that general funds show net current liabilities of £1,485,073 (2019: net current liabilities of £233,475). This change is because of the delay in earning income in respect of the cash already received for the Scheme for Registration. The delay arose because the trainees were unable to progress through the Scheme solely because of COVID-19. As the Scheme has now restarted the income can start to be taken. The net current liabilities risk is further mitigated by the College's investments which could be liquidated, at 10 days' notice if additional cash were to be required.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees review on an ongoing basis the major risks to which the College is exposed and systems have been established to manage these risks. The last review was in July 2020 and reflected the impact of the pandemic, resulting in the Trustees adding multi-year deficits to the list of key strategic risks for the College. The continuing risks are: Number and composition of membership, long term finance, regulatory compliance, loss of reputation through clinical errors, loss of responsibility for the Scheme for Registration and implementation of a new CRM and website. To help mitigate these risks the College continues to review its membership offering, seeks to maintain the highest standards in both its clinical advice and education programmes and maintains appropriate reserves.

The Trustees monitor the risks at Board meetings and the Audit Committee will be taking on a detailed oversight responsibility, with annual reports to the Board.

Given the strong support from membership, the work to re-start the Scheme for Registration and the level of reserves, the risk review was satisfactory.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees' policy is to hold sufficient accessible funds to enable the College to meet normal operational costs in the short term, in order to protect the College against any loss of income. This is currently based on five months of costs, or £3.0 million.

The policy will be reviewed in 2020 – 2021 to reflect the costs of the pandemic and the possibility of multi-year deficits. The review will consider the changes required to the College's method of operation to ensure that costs and income are balanced in the medium-term.

As at 30 September 2020 general fund reserves £3.1 million (2019: £4.3 million (see note 17)) and Designated Funds were £3.6 million (2019: 3.0 million). The College is in the process of installing a new membership system and website which will be funded from free reserves. The Trustees are satisfied that this will still leave an acceptable level of reserves.

Fundraising

The College only fundraises through its members to fund Research and to ask for support for the profession's benevolent fund. Small sums may also be received from third parties or the public to support the College's museum. The College does not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators. Given this limited involvement in any fundraising, the College is not signed up to any particular fundraising regulation but would look to such codes for guidance on its activities. The College has had no complaints about its fundraising activity. No hard sell techniques are used and requests are only made to members, so the College believe that the risk to vulnerable people should be very low from any of their activities.

Plans for the future

The College has now developed a new five-year strategic plan based on 4 strategic pillars:

- Defining and inspiring excellence in Optometry
- Enabling optometrists to maximise their skills and develop their careers
- Representing and amplifying the expert voices of optometrists
- Embedding insight and evidence at the centre of the profession

The strategic plan has been developed into a three year business plan, which will be updated annually to encompass the five year plan, from which the 2020 – 2021 budget has been developed.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation was founded on 1 March 1980 as The British College of Ophthalmic Opticians. The title was changed in 1987 to The British College of Optometrists. On 18 September 1995 the

organisation was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation under the new title of The College of Optometrists.

The College is governed by its Charter and Bye-Laws. The Trustees are responsible for the management of the College which is exercised through the Chief Executive. The Council is responsible for the strategic direction of the College. The Council consists of a maximum of forty persons from the following: up to 35 members elected to represent nine regions in England, along with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, four who are members of the Lay Advisory Panel, and one person nominated from the Optometry Schools Council.

In September 2017 the Board of Trustees agreed to adopt the Charity Governance Code and has now made any necessary changes to meet the code.

The Board of Trustees has the legal and fiduciary responsibilities for the College and is comprised of up to 14 members including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, seven Council members elected by the Council, including one Council member who is a member of the Lay Advisory Panel; and up to three persons co-opted as Trustees subject to the approval of the Council. The Chair of the Board will either be one of the elected Trustees or be co-opted using one of the three possible co-options. Under the Charter, the Chief Executive has a right to attend all meetings of the Trustees but shall not be a Trustee. Currently there are three co-opted Trustees, one of whom is also a member of the Lay Advisory Panel.

The Chief Executive is supported in the management of the College by five executive directors heading departmental activity under Finance, Education, Member Services and Communications, Policy and Strategy, and Research.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity whilst acting as a trustee. Any expenses reclaimed from or paid by the charity are set out in note 8 to the accounts. The trustees are allowed by the College's Charter and Bye-Laws to receive remuneration for certain services. Details of such remuneration is also set out in note 8 to the accounts.

Appointment of trustees

The College's Council annually elects members to vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Trustee induction and training

All new Trustees receive an induction from the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Board. Trustees hold an annual away day, physically or via Zoom, and two seminar sessions each year to increase their understanding of the issues affecting the College and develop plans for the future, including the strengthening of governance.

Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 1.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

The College appoints five of the ten Trustees of The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists. One of the College's Trustees is also a Trustee of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics, to which the College has made a loan of £20,000.

Remuneration policy for key management personnel

In determining levels of remuneration, the College has to balance a number of factors to ensure that it is able to recruit and retain employees to deliver its services effectively. Our principles are to pay our staff a fair salary that is competitive within the market, proportionate to each role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives. The College is committed to ensuring that its salaries remain competitive in the employment market, through conducting an annual pay review, paying individuals in line with the normal sector practice and standards, and benchmarking salaries against other employers. The College applies the same benchmarking principles in respect of the CEO and Directors' level of pay as that applied to all other employees.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Trustees of the College have a legal duty to ensure that the College's funds are managed prudently and have adopted a medium risk investment strategy with a balance in the investment portfolio between gilts or fixed interest securities and equities, and a balance between UK and overseas investments. The investment portfolio is benchmarked against an appropriate composite index that is reviewed regularly. The Trustees continue to retain investments in Common Investment Funds, managed by Sarasin.

The value of the College's investments at the end of September 2020 was higher than at September 2019, this was in line with market movements and above the agreed benchmark.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 30 September 2020

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charity's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 January 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt
Chair

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The College of Optometrists

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The College of Optometrists (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 September 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 September 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

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 charity 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

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

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

Other information

The 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. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The College of Optometrists

information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The College of Optometrists

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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

The College of Optometrists

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

9 February 2021

Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The College of Optometrists

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 30 September 2020

	Note	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2020 £	College Research Fund £	Other Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2019 £
Income from:									
Donations		1,027	–	–	1,027	3,164	–	273	3,437
Charitable activities									
Membership	2	–	–	2,773,960	2,773,960	–	–	2,770,018	2,770,018
Education	3	–	579,379	1,984,025	2,563,404	–	680,739	3,602,850	4,283,589
Research	4	–	12,000	90,517	102,517	–	–	102,680	102,680
Other trading activities – rent		–	–	–	–	–	–	1,398	1,398
Investments		19,163	–	132,924	152,087	18,354	–	126,897	145,251
Bank Interest		–	–	9,880	9,880	–	–	16,783	16,783
Total Income		20,190	591,379	4,991,306	5,602,875	21,518	680,739	6,620,899	7,323,156
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	5	3,755	–	26,050	29,805	3,976	–	27,575	31,551
Charitable activities	5								
Membership		–	–	1,799,347	1,799,347	–	–	2,051,929	2,051,929
Education		–	601,616	3,413,071	4,014,687	–	659,555	3,935,204	4,594,759
Research		217,960	–	445,766	663,726	195,383	1,620	419,585	616,588
Total expenditure		221,715	601,616	5,684,234	6,507,565	199,359	661,175	6,434,293	7,294,827
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains on investments	7	(201,525)	(10,237)	(692,928)	(904,690)	(177,841)	19,564	186,606	28,329
Net gains on investments		12,356	–	85,708	98,064	36,066	–	250,118	286,184
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		(189,169)	(10,237)	(607,220)	(806,626)	(141,775)	19,564	436,724	314,513
Transfer between funds		–	–	–	–	90,000	–	(90,000)	–
Net movement in funds		(189,169)	(10,237)	(607,220)	(806,626)	(51,775)	19,564	346,724	314,513
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		582,903	432,068	7,259,557	8,274,528	634,678	412,504	6,912,833	7,960,015
Total funds carried forward	18	393,734	421,831	6,652,337	7,467,902	582,903	432,068	7,259,557	8,274,528

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

The College of Optometrists

Balance Sheet

As at 30 September 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	3,033,561	2,450,308
Investments	12	<u>5,140,487</u>	<u>5,071,639</u>
		<u>8,174,048</u>	<u>7,521,947</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	223,048	873,292
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,401,977</u>	<u>2,599,255</u>
		2,625,025	3,472,547
Liabilities			
Creditors due within one year	14	<u>3,331,171</u>	<u>2,719,966</u>
Net current assets		<u>(706,146)</u>	<u>752,581</u>
Net assets	17	<u><u>7,467,902</u></u>	<u><u>8,274,528</u></u>
Funds	18		
Restricted income funds			
Research Fund		393,734	582,903
DOCET		395,804	417,583
Other restricted funds		<u>26,027</u>	<u>14,485</u>
		815,565	1,014,971
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated funds		3,573,554	2,990,301
General funds		<u>3,078,783</u>	<u>4,269,256</u>
		6,652,337	7,259,557
Total charity funds		<u><u>7,467,902</u></u>	<u><u>8,274,528</u></u>

Approved by the Trustees on 20 January 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Aleksandra Mankowska – Treasurer

The College of Optometrists

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 September 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income for the year	(806,626)	314,513
Depreciation charges	57,856	98,698
Gains on investments	(98,064)	(286,184)
Dividends and interest from investments	(161,967)	(162,034)
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	34,151	35,897
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	650,244	(52,213)
Increase in creditors	611,205	156,373
Net cash flow from operating activities	286,799	105,050
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest from investments	161,967	162,034
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(641,109)	(38,064)
(Increase) in investment cash	(4,935)	(4,358)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(484,077)	119,612
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(197,278)	224,662
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,599,255	2,374,593
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,401,977	2,599,255

1. Accounting policies

a) Statutory Information

The College of Optometrists is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter, with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered office and principal place of business is 42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG.

b) Basis of preparation

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 (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

These financial statements include as a restricted fund the results of the linked trust "the Research Fund of the College of Optometrists" (Charity number 1060431-1).

On 1 April 2006 the College took over the assets, liabilities and activities of The Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training ("DOCET") and it is now a restricted fund of the College.

c) Public benefit entity

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

1. Accounting policies (continued)

d) Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the College's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

There are net current liabilities of £706,146 as at the balance sheet date (2018: £752,581 net current assets). This has arisen due to the slowing down of student progression through the Scheme for Registration for the 2019 – 2020 year and the delayed start of the 2020 – 2021 Scheme for Registration. These delays are a direct consequence of Covid and have resulted in an increase in deferred income of £484,112 compared to 2019, a decrease in trade debtors of £599,079. There was also a reduction in cash at bank of £197,278, to £2,401,977. In addition to cash at bank the College liquid investments (available at 10 days' notice) of £5,140,487 (2018: £5,071,639) to generate cash if required.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the College has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. This includes unrestricted membership and fee income received in advance where it relates to services provided in a future accounting period. The College allocates a share of the Scheme for Registration fee to each of the stages of the scheme and recognises income based on the stages completed at the end of the year by each registrant.

f) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs if appropriate.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes of the College.

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

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Total expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

h) Grants payable

The College pays out grants in furtherance of its charitable objects. A number of grants are made over the term of a project which can be a number of years with later payments being dependent on the recipient fulfilling certain conditions to determine whether funding is provided. For this reason the immediate liability and the related expenditure are recognised only when these conditions have been successfully fulfilled. The amounts committed but with the conditions still to be fulfilled are disclosed as a future financial commitment in the notes to the financial statements.

i) Allocation of support and governance costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central functions, is apportioned on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff numbers, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Membership	45%
Education	45%
Research	10%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the College. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the College's activities. These costs are now allocated to activities on the same basis as shown above for support costs

j) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold land	not depreciated
Freehold buildings	not depreciated after 30 September 2011
Building improvements	over 10 years straight line
Equipment and furniture	over 10 years straight line
Computers	over 3 years straight line
Website/CRM	over 3 –5 years straight line

The College holds a collection of library books and museum exhibits that were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation, and includes antique books, paintings and prints. These are irreplaceable originals which are deemed not to decrease in value. Accordingly these items have not been depreciated in the financial statements, since any depreciation will not be material. The value included in the accounts is reviewed annually for indications of reduction.

k) Listed investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. Any change in fair value will be recognised in the SOFA. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading "Net gains/(losses) on investments" in the SOFA. The College does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

m) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

n) 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 after allowing for any trade discounts due.

o) Pensions

The College operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the College in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the College to the fund. The College has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

2. Membership

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2019 Total £
Subscriptions	–	2,773,960	2,773,960	–	2,769,051	2,769,051
Museum and Library	–	–	–	–	967	967
Total	–	2,773,960	2,773,960	–	2,770,018	2,770,018

3. Education

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2019 Total £
Examination and pre-registration fees	–	1,565,855	1,565,855	7,360	3,229,912	3,237,272
Department of Health	–	104,000	104,000	94,000	–	94,000
Health Departments' funding for DOCET	579,379	–	579,379	579,379	–	579,379
College Conference	–	241,304	241,304	–	250,786	250,786
Other events and activities	–	72,866	72,866	–	122,152	122,152
Total	579,379	1,984,025	2,563,404	680,739	3,602,850	4,283,589

4. Research

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2020 Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2019 Total £
Publications – OPO	–	90,517	90,517	–	102,680	102,680
Other	12,000	–	12,000	–	–	–
Total	12,000	90,517	102,517	–	102,680	102,680

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

5a Analysis of expenditure (Current Year)

	Education				Research		Governance costs £	Support costs £	2020 £	2019 £
	Raising Funds £	Membership £	Education £	DOCET £	Research Fund £	Research £				
Direct Costs										
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	–	799,479	993,831	100,969		210,600	66,225	572,421	2,743,525	2,521,760
Exam and Assessment costs	–	–	1,219,531	–	–	–	–	–	1,219,531	1,838,289
Exam and CPD Development	–	–	134,806	391,116	–	–	–	–	525,922	616,248
Publications & Mailings	–	107,870	197,388	–	–	15,180	–	–	320,438	338,858
Events and Member Services	–	43,074	326,996	–	–	–	–	–	370,070	448,178
Campaigns and General Expenses	–	123,475	–	–	–	–	–	–	123,475	149,461
Guidelines	–	75,398	–	–	–	–	–	–	75,398	68,553
Research, Scholarship and Grants	–	–	–	–	195,487	75,530	–	–	271,017	237,935
Total Direct Costs	–	1,149,296	2,872,552	492,085	195,487	301,310	66,225	572,421	5,649,376	6,219,282
Indirect Costs										
Staff Expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101,959	101,959	104,561
Council Trustee and Committee	–	–	–	–	–	–	63,884	–	63,884	97,828
College Representation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,358	9,358	25,361
Professional Fees	29,805	–	–	–	–	–	12,350	4,248	46,403	74,415
Building Costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101,080	101,080	184,293
Bank Charges and Interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30,131	30,131	36,165
Printing, Postage & Stationery	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10,701	10,701	27,933
IT, Telephones and Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	107,004	107,004	89,141
Subscriptions and Donations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17,503	17,503	20,460
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	38,424	38,424	37,195
Irrecoverable VAT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	273,885	273,885	279,495
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	57,857	57,857	98,698
Total Indirect Costs	29,805	–	–	–	–	–	76,234	752,150	858,189	1,075,545
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	29,805	1,149,296	2,872,552	492,085	195,487	301,310	142,459	1,324,571	6,507,565	7,294,827
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	–	650,051	644,519	5,531	22,473	144,456	(142,459)	(1,324,571)	–	–
Total Expenditure 2020	29,805	1,799,347	3,517,071	497,616	217,960	445,766	–	–	6,507,565	7,294,827
Total Expenditure 2019	31,551	2,051,929	4,036,564	558,195	195,383	421,205	–	–	7,294,827	

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

5b Analysis of expenditure (Prior Year)

			Education		Research		Governance	Support costs	2019
	Raising Funds £	Membership £	Education £	DOCET £	Research Fund £	Research £	costs £	£	£
Direct Costs									
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	–	915,880	772,708	94,065	–	204,639	58,277	476,191	2,521,760
Exam and Assessment costs	–	–	1,838,289	–	–	–	–	–	1,838,289
Exam and CPD Development	–	–	164,553	451,695	–	–	–	–	616,248
Publications & Mailings	–	114,070	208,735	–	–	16,053	–	–	338,858
Events and Member Services	–	93,715	354,463	–	–	–	–	–	448,178
Campaigns and General Expenses	–	149,461	–	–	–	–	–	–	149,461
Guidelines	–	68,553	–	–	–	–	–	–	68,553
Research, Scholarship and Grants	–	–	–	–	195,255	42,680	–	–	237,935
Total Direct Costs	–	1,341,679	3,338,748	545,760	195,255	263,372	58,277	476,191	6,219,282
Indirect Costs									
Staff Expenses	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	104,561	104,561
Council Trustee and Committee	–	–	–	–	–	–	97,828	–	97,828
College Representation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25,361	25,361
Professional Fees	30,491	–	–	–	–	–	12,100	30,764	73,355
Building Costs	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	184,293	184,293
Bank Charges and Interest	–	–	–	–	108	–	–	36,037	36,145
Printing, Postage & Stationery	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	27,933	27,933
IT, Telephones and Equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	89,141	89,141
Subscriptions and Donations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20,460	20,460
Insurance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	37,195	37,195
Irrecoverable VAT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	279,495	279,495
Depreciation	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	98,698	98,698
Total Indirect Costs	30,491	–	–	–	108	–	109,928	933,938	1,074,465
Total Direct and Indirect Costs	30,491	1,341,679	3,338,748	545,760	195,363	263,372	168,205	1,410,129	7,293,747
Support\Governance Cost Allocation	–	710,250	697,816	12,435	–	157,833	(168,205)	(1,410,129)	–
Total Expenditure 2019	30,491	2,051,929	4,036,564	558,195	195,363	421,205	–	–	7,293,747

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

6a Grant making (Current Year)

	Grants to institutions £	individual s £	Support costs £	2020 £
Post Graduate Scholarships	–	93,316	–	93,316
Developing Researchers	–	23,109	–	23,109
Eye Health Research	–	–	–	–
Small Grants Scheme	–	18,298	–	18,298
	–	134,723	–	134,723

The College makes grants mainly through the College Research Fund. The focus is on developing future researchers for the sector but specific projects are sometimes supported. The College also runs a small grant scheme.

6b Grant making (Prior Year)

	Grants to institutions £	individual s £	Support costs £	2019 £
Post Graduate Scholarships	–	138,720	91	138,811
Developing Researchers	–	40,093	26	40,119
Eye Health Research	16,442	–	11	16,453
Small Grants Scheme	–	8,000	1,017	9,017
	16,442	186,813	1,145	204,400

Grants to institutions for eye health research included larger payments to the following: Aston University £10,807 with £5,635 paid to others.

7. Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2020 £	2019 £
Depreciation	57,857	98,698
Operating leases	7,874	7,311
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Audit – current year	12,350	12,100

8. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Salaries and wages	2,152,706	1,966,830
Social security costs	232,375	216,292
Pension contributions	207,203	188,147
Private health and sickness insurance	36,709	53,270
Staff costs	2,628,993	2,424,539
Temporary Staff	114,532	97,221
Staff Costs and Temporary Staff	2,743,525	2,521,760

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

8. Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel (cont.)

The following number of employees received employee salaries and benefits (excluding employer's national insurance and pension costs) during the year between:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
£60,001 – £70,000	3	3
£70,001 – £80,000	1	–
£80,001 – £90,000	3	2
£110,001 – £120,000	–	1
£120,001 – £130,000	1	–

The total employee benefits (including employer's national insurance contributions and pension contributions) of the key management personnel were £632,294 (2019: £606,132). This does not include any payments to Trustees.

8 Trustees (2019 : 5 Trustees) received remuneration in the form of payment of fees. This remuneration is for acting as examiners, lecturers, editors, facilitators and assessors checking the standards of optometric practice and is in accordance with the legal authority of the College's Charter and Bye-Laws.

	2020 £	2019 £
Colin Davidson	2,268	18,847
Leon Davis	9,000	9,000
Joy Myint	3,816	6,971
Sheetal Patel	2,059	2,924
Gillian Rudduck	177	–
Kiki Soteri	212	–
Parth Shah	766	–
Prab Boparai	117	–
Rasmeet Chadha	–	215
Trustee Remuneration	18,415	37,957

Travel and accommodation expenses of £19,841 were paid directly by the College or reimbursed to 12 Trustees (2019: £41,319 to 13). All expenses were incurred through the course of duties as Trustees.

9. Staff numbers

The average monthly number of employees (based on number of staff employed) during the year was 51 (2019 – 47).

The average monthly number of employees (full-time equivalents) by activity during the year was as follows:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Membership	19	16
Education	13	15
Research and Policy	7	3
Support and Governance	8	8
	47	42

10. Taxation

The College is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and property	Building improvements	Equipment, furniture and computers	College heritage	Library books	Museum exhibits	Website	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION								
At 1 October 2019	2,611,250	44,957	225,063	2,137	104,250	303,076	266,380	3,557,113
Additions in year	–	–	158,926	–	–	–	482,183	641,109
At 30 September 2020	<u>2,611,250</u>	<u>44,957</u>	<u>383,989</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>104,250</u>	<u>303,076</u>	<u>748,563</u>	<u>4,198,222</u>
DEPRECIATION								
At 1 October 2019	644,977	39,646	197,610	–	–	–	224,572	1,106,805
Charge for the year	–	616	32,701	–	–	–	24,539	57,856
At 30 September 2020	<u>644,977</u>	<u>40,262</u>	<u>230,311</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>249,111</u>	<u>1,164,661</u>
NET BOOK VALUE								
At 30 September 2020	<u>1,966,273</u>	<u>4,695</u>	<u>153,678</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>104,250</u>	<u>303,076</u>	<u>499,452</u>	<u>3,033,561</u>
At 30 September 2019	<u>1,966,273</u>	<u>5,311</u>	<u>27,453</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>104,250</u>	<u>303,076</u>	<u>41,808</u>	<u>2,450,308</u>

The library books were transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They are stated at the librarian's valuation dated 4 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost. The Museum Exhibits were also transferred from the British Optical Association Foundation to the College as at 31 December 1993. They include museum exhibits, antique books, paintings and prints, and are stated at a professional valuation dated 23 March 1982, plus subsequent additions at cost.

The Freehold land value at acquisition was £861,712 and is included in Freehold property. The Trustees looked at the Freehold property value in December 2018 and are content that the value in the accounts does not need to be impaired given current market values.

All the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

12. Listed investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Fair value at 1 October	5,060,474	4,810,187
Investment fees deducted from portfolio	(34,151)	(35,897)
Net gain on change in fair value	<u>98,064</u>	<u>286,184</u>
	5,124,387	5,060,474
Cash held by investment brokers	<u>16,100</u>	<u>11,165</u>
Fair value at 30 September	<u>5,140,487</u>	<u>5,071,639</u>
Historic cost at 30 September	<u>3,564,494</u>	<u>3,559,559</u>

Investments are all UK Common investment funds

13. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	22,700	621,779
Other debtors	5,131	6,857
Prepayments	127,992	160,976
Accrued income	<u>67,225</u>	<u>83,680</u>
	<u>223,048</u>	<u>873,292</u>

14. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	227,105	133,219
Accruals	343,619	295,382
Taxation and social security costs	79,996	96,639
Deferred Income	2,655,641	2,171,529
Other creditors	<u>24,810</u>	<u>23,197</u>
	<u>3,331,171</u>	<u>2,719,966</u>

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

15a Deferred Income (Current Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2020 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	432,324	1,739,205	2,171,529
Amount released to income in the year	(432,324)	(1,739,205)	(2,171,529)
Amount deferred in year	434,205	2,221,436	2,655,641
Balance at the end of year	434,205	2,221,436	2,655,641

Deferred income relates to membership fees, examination fees and conference fees received in advance.

15b Deferred Income (Prior Year)

	Subscriptions £	Education Fees £	2019 £
Balance at the beginning of the year	389,126	1,664,367	2,053,493
Amount released to income in the year	(389,126)	(1,664,367)	(2,053,493)
Amount deferred in year	432,324	1,739,205	2,171,529
Balance at the end of year	432,324	1,739,205	2,171,529

16. Grant commitments

Future commitments in respect of grants made over a term of years:

	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	241,823	309,255
Between one and two years	125,171	121,866
Between two and three years	116,648	51,399
Greater than three years	–	–
	483,642	482,520

The above commitments are not provided for, as they are subject to annual review by the College before they are released.

17a. Analysis of net assets between funds (Current Year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2020 Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	–	3,033,561	–	3,033,561
Investments	576,631	–	4,563,856	5,140,487
Net current assets / (liabilities)	238,934	539,993	(1,485,073)	(706,146)
Net assets at 30 September 2020	815,565	3,573,554	3,078,783	7,467,902

17b. Analysis of net assets between funds (Prior Year)

	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	General funds £	2019 Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	–	2,450,308	–	2,450,308
Investments	568,908	–	4,502,731	5,071,639
Net current assets / (liabilities)	446,063	539,993	(233,475)	752,581
Net assets at 30 September 2019	1,014,971	2,990,301	4,269,256	8,274,528

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

18a. Movements in funds (Current year)

	At 1 October 2019 £	Income and investment gains £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 30 September 2020 £
Restricted funds:					
College Research Fund	582,903	32,546	(221,715)	–	393,734
Pre-registration	–	–	–	–	–
ESME –training	–	–	–	–	–
Research – ProVIDe	14,485	–	–	–	14,485
Department for Transport – Visual impairment in older road users	–	12,000	(458)	–	11,542
DOCET	417,583	579,379	(601,158)	–	395,804
Total restricted funds	1,014,971	623,925	(823,331)	–	815,565
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	2,450,308	–	(57,856)	641,109	3,033,561
Research Fund	539,993	–	–	–	539,993
<i>Total designated funds</i>	2,990,301	–	(57,856)	641,109	3,573,554
General funds	4,269,256	5,077,014	(5,626,378)	(641,109)	3,078,783
Total unrestricted funds	7,259,557	5,077,014	(5,684,234)	–	6,652,337
Total funds	8,274,528	5,700,939	(6,507,565)	–	7,467,902

18b. Movements in funds (Prior Year)

	At 1 October 2018 £	Income and investment gains £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 30 September 2019 £
Restricted funds:					
College Research Fund	634,678	57,584	(199,359)	90,000	582,903
Pre-registration	–	94,000	(94,000)	–	–
ESME –training	–	7,360	(7,360)	–	–
Research – ProVIDe	16,105	–	(1,620)	–	14,485
DOCET	396,399	579,379	(558,195)	–	417,583
Total restricted funds	1,047,182	738,323	(860,534)	90,000	1,014,971
Unrestricted funds:					
<i>Designated funds:</i>					
Fixed asset fund	2,510,942	–	(98,698)	38,064	2,450,308
Research Fund	545,993	–	–	(6,000)	539,993
<i>Total designated funds</i>	3,056,935	–	(98,698)	32,064	2,990,301
General funds	3,855,898	6,871,017	(6,335,595)	(122,064)	4,269,256
Total unrestricted funds	6,912,833	6,871,017	(6,434,293)	(90,000)	7,259,557
Total funds	7,960,015	7,609,340	(7,294,827)	–	8,274,528

The College of Optometrists

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 September 2020

18. Movements in funds (Continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

College Research Fund	This is a separate linked charity within the College which exists to develop researchers and finance research in accordance with the aims and objects of the Royal Charter of the College and the funds trust deed.
Pre-registration	This income is received from the Department of Health towards the cost of management and administration of the pre-registration scheme for trainee optometrists.
ESME – training	This income is received from Irvine Aitchison Fund and is used to recruit and fund Optometrists to take part in the Essential Skills in Medical Education Course.
ProVIDe	The National Institute for Health Research awarded funding to the College to carry out a research project into the Prevalence of Visual Impairment in Dementia.
Department for Transport - Visual impairment in older road users	The Department for Transport provided funding to research for visual impairment and road casualties among older road users and the role of optometrists in promoting road safety.
DOCET	This fund represents the activities of the Directorate for Optometric Continuing Education and Training (DOCET). DOCET administers funds made available by the Government, via the four Health Departments within the United Kingdom, for continuing education and training under Section 98 of the Care Act 2014.

Purposes of designated funds

Fixed assets fund	This represents the net book value of fixed assets held by the College. Depreciation is charged to the fund annually, and transfers in represent additions during the year.
Research fund	The research fund was established to raise awareness of research within the optometric community and to support research in the community, by funding research projects. Transfers to and from this fund are reviewed by Trustees on an annual basis.

19. Related Party

The Benevolent Fund of the College of Optometrists and the Association of Optometrists is a related party as the College appoints five out of the ten trustees. The College collects donations from members on behalf of the Benevolent Fund and passed £25,000 to the Fund during the year (2019: £25,612). The College also provides basic accounting services on a pro bono basis.

20. Operating Leases

Future commitments in respect of operating leases for printers:

	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	7,311	7,311
Within two – five years	5,524	12,835
Total commitment	12,835	20,146