

British Fertility Society Limited

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Unaudited Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31 March 2021

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BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

INFORMATION

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Directors

Dr M P R Hamilton
Professor H J Leese (resigned on 11 January 2021)
Ms A McTavish
Ms S A Norcross
Professor A A Pacey
Dr J Stewart (appointed on 11 January 2021)
Ms K L Woodcock (appointed 1 January 2020)
Dr V Bolton (resigned 1 July 2020, reappointed on 11 January 2021)
A H Balen

Company Number

03761793

Registered and Principal Office

Profile Productions Ltd
Boston House
Boston Manor Road
Brentford
Middlesex
TW8 9JJ

Independent Examiner

Vincent Marke
5th Floor
3 Wellington Place
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS1 4AP

Registered Charity Number

1075661

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The directors, who are also the trustees of the charity, present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2021.

Company status

British Fertility Society does not have a share capital and is limited by guarantee to the value of £1 per member.

The charity is constituted under the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, which were adopted on 12 April 1999 and comprise its principal governing documents.

The objects of the charity are to promote research into the study and treatment of human reproduction including infertility, contraception and early pregnancy failure.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company Law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the year and of its financial activities during the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the trust and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the trust and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The directors also confirm that they do not know of any relevant information that has not been disclosed to the charity's Independent Examiner, having taken all possible steps to make themselves aware of such information and pass it on to the Independent Examiner.

Governance and management

The charity is a registered charity, number 1075661. The charity is managed by its board of directors who also act as its trustees. They have power to appoint further directors. The day-to-day administration of the charity is delegated to the secretary who is responsible for instructing any advisors who may be appointed to assist in the running of the charity.

In shaping the Charity's objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Significant relationships

British Fertility Society Limited works closely with BFS Education Limited whose principal activity is the running of the academic interests of the members. These activities complement the objectives of British Fertility Society Limited.

Financial review

The activities for the period ending at 31 March 2021 have resulted in a surplus of £38,500 (year ended 30 September 2019: deficit of £7,385).

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Review of activities to March 2021

British Fertility Society Ltd. has continued to develop its activities in relation to the promotion of education and knowledge in the field of infertility, in line with the following objectives:

- **The advancement of education**

The Joint Annual Meeting with the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF) and the Association of Reproductive & Clinical Scientists (ARCS), took place in January 2020 with in excess of 900 delegates registered to attend in person. Due to pandemic restrictions, the conference adapted and ran as an online event in January 2021 with more than 750 delegates logging in during live streaming. This event has continued to strengthen the Society's relationships with other professional organisations and increased its accessibility to all within the profession.

The Annual BFS Study Week was also pivoted to an online event, with Virtual Study Week launching in mid-2020. Registration fees were reduced to reflect the new virtual environment and we were delighted to maintain attendance numbers and the events generated a surplus once again. Feedback from delegates was wholly positive and we were delighted that this virtual offering opened up BFS Study Week to delegates from abroad. We also extended the duration of study week, to six months, to enable delegates to take part, mindful of the pressures and restrictions imposed on them due to the pandemic. We are proud to have continued to offer first class training for our members and ran our 2021 study week in the same way in mid-2021. The shared Annual Study Week with the RCOG was suspended for 2020, due to the pandemic but ran online in 2021, and attendance was significantly higher than normal.

The Society is responsible for the publication of Human Fertility, a multidisciplinary journal, which publishes articles ranging from molecular medicine to practical healthcare delivery and psycho-social aspects of reproductive medicine. All members of the British Fertility Society receive the Journal online as part of their subscription; the readership is still increasing both in the UK and internationally.

Public engagement continued during the year despite the pandemic with BFS Executive members frequently engaged in on-line public debate either in the media or in taking part in panel discussions as for example provided by Progress Educational Trust and others.

- **The advancement of health**

The Joint Annual meeting and two Study Weeks are designed to better equip clinicians, nurses, scientists and ancillary professionals to deal with matters related to fertility and infertility. Certification of Training modules also ensure that practitioners reach specific standards in delivering the relevant components of care, always incorporating the latest material and practices for the benefit of those seeking care. In 2020, we added to the modules we provide with the addition of a Nursing study day, and a GP study day. We now offer, Fertility Preservation, Creating Modern Families, Male Fertility, ET/IUI, PGT, Pelvic Ultrasound and PR/Effective Fertility Services (in conjunction with the HFEA), GP, Nursing, Assisted Conception and Management of the Infertile Couple. The principles of evidence-based practice, as promoted by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE), underpin these and our other training modules. There is continuing interaction with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the Department of Health always striving to improve access to and delivery of high-quality clinical care.

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- **The advancement of science**

The Joint Annual meeting and the two Study weeks provide opportunities for members to present the results of their research orally and in posters and provide an arena for more general discussion of the latest trends and advances in our specialty.

- **The advancement of human rights with respect to equality**

Perhaps more than in most branches of medicine, fertility care covers both males and females and equal emphasis is placed on the delivery of their combined and mutually dependent care with due respect to individual autonomy, justice and equality legislation. Infertility is recognised as a disease by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and promotion of high-quality care of infertile people is part of our obligation as healthcare professionals to reduce disability, distress, stigmatisation and disease burden in society. The BFS Study Week delivers modules in Male Fertility and Creating Modern Families. Our equality and diversity policy is displayed on our website and all members are expected to abide by the standards set out in that document.

- **The relief of those in need because of ill-health and disability**

Infertility is designated a disease and a disability by the World Health Organisation. The Society strives to offer education to enable the best care to be given by practitioners to those with fertility problems and the consequent disability.

Key achievements of the charity during the period ended 31 March 2021 include:

- The BFS are working towards achieving a Royal Charter, with the aim of increasing our influence with government in matters related to fertility practice and reproductive health. The intention is to make us more effective in campaigning on issues such as fair access to fertility treatment and the funding of research topics. We are applying for Royal Chartered status together with ARCS and SRF. The award of a Royal Charter would mean we are recognised as the national experts on matters of fertility and reproduction and to do so, we need to include representation of the professional groups involved in the discipline: clinical, scientific and academic. In recent years we have had closer cooperation between the three societies, working together to create the annual Fertility Conference, on policy statements and guidelines, as well as recently leading a coordinated response to the Covid 19 pandemic. This partnership we believe has been of benefit to the memberships and strengthening the relationship through a Royal Charter will make us more effective.
- The BFS formed a working party with ARCS to produce advice for members and the general public in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The working party worked closely with the HFEA and our FAQs were used to inform public messaging.
- The Charity pivoted its Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Student careers event, online – producing a series of short videos which were disseminated to all schools across the United Kingdom.
- A continuing uptake of travel grants through promotion of the grants. The Charity makes available grants for professionals and trainees to attend relevant educational events, and requires them to report on their activities, in order to monitor effectiveness and relevance.
- The Joint Fertility Meetings were major meetings, involving all the significant organisations in fertility care and, once more, attracted a large, multidisciplinary audience. The extremely positive feedback indicates to the Trustees that this event is extremely valuable to scientists and health professionals working in this field and much appreciated by attendees.

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- The increased topic coverage of the Study Week has continued to attract a larger group of trainees to the event and the training event is continuing to steadily enrich its reputation – online provision increased access to this training.

The charity has had another influential year and continues to expand its activities.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Directors' principal aim is to ensure that membership income is sufficient to cover the charity's regular expenditure and to utilise any surplus resources towards the principal objects as set out elsewhere in this report.

The intention continues to be to consolidate the current level of reserves to advance the aims and objectives of the Charity.

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund its activities for the foreseeable future.

Risk Management

The directors are aware of the major risks facing the organisation and continue to develop the strengthened risk register. This clearly lays out the necessary lines of communication and measures required to manage any identified weaknesses.

Directors

The Directors of the Society are listed below:

Dr M P R Hamilton (Chair of Trustees from 5 January 2019)

Mrs H Kendrew (resigned 15 May 2020)

Mr Peter Brinsden (resigned 15 May 2020)

Prof Henry Leese (resigned 11 January 2021)

Mrs Karen Woodcock (appointed 1 January 2020)

Mrs A R McTavish

Prof Adam Balen

Prof Allan Pacey

Ms Sarah Norcross

Dr Jane Stewart (appointed 11 January 2021)

Dr Virginia Bolton (resigned 1 July 2020, reappointed 11 January 2021)

Small Company Rules

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provision of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the secretary on Jan 31, 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Mark Hamilton

Mark Hamilton (Jan 31, 2022 14:25 GMT)

Dr M P R Hamilton
Director

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report on the financial statements of British Fertility Society Limited for the period ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustees as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, which is complete, no matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of British Fertility Society Limited in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principals of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Independent examiner's statement (continued)

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.


Vincent Marke (Jan 31, 2022 15:06 GMT)

Vincent Marke

For and on behalf of

Mazars LLP
Chartered Accountant
5th Floor
3 Wellington Place
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS1 4AP

Date: Jan 31, 2022

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	18 months to 31 March 2021 Unrestricted funds		12 months to 30 September 2019 Unrestricted funds	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Other sundry income		34,404		18,777
Conferences		41,457		11,484
Bank interest receivable		108		-
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
Membership fees		146,942		91,609
Donations		36,000		68,000
Sponsorship donations		19,115		17,640
Total income		<u>278,026</u>		<u>207,510</u>
Expenditure				
Charitable activities:				
Educational expenses	22,198		22,144	
Secretarial and other member expenses	207,908		187,191	
Governance costs:				
Accountancy	9,420		5,560	
Total expenditure		<u>239,526</u>		<u>214,895</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>38,500</u>		<u>(7,385)</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

There are no gains or losses other than those reported in the Statement of Financial Activities.

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

Company number 03761793

	Notes	31 March 2021 £	30 September 2019 £
Assets			
Cash at Bank and in hand		129,411	98,078
Debtors	3	<u>94,935</u>	<u>85,191</u>
		224,346	183,269
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	<u>(118,964)</u>	<u>(116,387)</u>
Net assets		<u>105,382</u>	<u>66,882</u>
Financed by:			
Unrestricted funds	5	<u>105,382</u>	<u>66,882</u>

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the financial statements.

The financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the special provision of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to small companies, were approved by the Board of Trustees on Jan 31, 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Mark Hamilton

Mark Hamilton (Jan 31, 2022 14:25 GMT)

Dr M P R Hamilton
Director

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting policies

British Fertility Society Limited is a public benefit entity, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registered number 03761793. It is registered within the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered office is Profile Productions, Boston House, 69 – 75 Boston Manor Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9JJ.

The principal purpose of the charity is to promote research into the study and treatment of human reproduction including infertility, contraception and early pregnancy failure.

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

(a) Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been presented in pound sterling which is the functional currency of the company, and rounded to the nearest £.

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

British Fertility Society Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial information is presented for the 18 months ended 31 March 2021 and therefore the figures are not comparable with the prior period of 12 months to 30 September 2019.

(b) Income

Income from charitable activities represent fees and sponsorship receivable from members.

Bank interest is accounted for when receivable.

Other income is accounted for when receivable.

(c) Expenditure

• Educational expenses

Includes expenses directly related to the objects of the charity (in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and include human fertility production costs and contributions to fertility meetings.

• Governance costs

Governance costs comprise the costs of running the charity including independent examination, certain legal and professional fees and secretarial and administration costs.

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(d) Going concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the Charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities for the foreseeable future and for a period of at twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. These financial statements have therefore been prepared on the going concern principle. The Trustees have considered the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Charity's going concern status. The Trustees do not consider there to be any material uncertainties which could impact on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(e) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured as their settlement value.

(f) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires trustees to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for reserves and expenses during the year. However, the nature of the estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from the estimates. The trustees believe that there are no critical accounting policies where judgements or estimates are necessarily applied.

2. Independent examiner's remuneration

	18 months 2021	12 months 2019
	£	£
Independent examination	<u>3,540</u>	<u>5,560</u>

3. Debtors

	31 March 2021	30 September 2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	10,145	5,386
Prepayment	17,640	17,640
Other debtors	6,018	-
Accrued income	-	1,033
Amounts owed by BFS Education Limited	61,132	61,132
	<u>94,935</u>	<u>85,191</u>

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. Creditors

	31 March 2021	30 September 2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	55,450	23,426
Accruals and deferred income (see below)	62,854	92,162
Other creditors	660	799
	<u>118,964</u>	<u>116,387</u>
	31 March 2021	30 September 2019
	£	£
Brought forward	45,031	40,642
Amounts released	(45,031)	(40,642)
Amounts deferred in current year	<u>52,670</u>	<u>45,301</u>
Carried forward	<u>52,670</u>	<u>45,301</u>

Deferred income represents subscriptions and sponsorship relating to future periods.

5. Funds

	Balance at 1 October 2019	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>66,882</u>	<u>278,026</u>	<u>(239,526)</u>	<u>105,382</u>

6. Financial Instruments

	31 March 2021	30 September 2019
	£	£
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>16,163</u>	<u>5,386</u>
	31 March 2021	30 September 2019
	£	£
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>66,294</u>	<u>66,288</u>

Financial assets that are measured at amortised cost are comprised of trade and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost are comprised of trade creditors, other creditors and accrued expenses.

BRITISH FERTILITY SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. Related Party Transactions

During the year, BFS Education Limited, a company related to British Fertility Society Limited due to their close working, made donations to British Fertility Society Limited totalling £36,000 (2019: £68,000). At 31 March 2021 an amount of £61,132 (30 September 2019: £61,132) was owed by BFS Education Limited.

8. Remuneration and Trustee Expenses

The members of the Board of Trustees received no remuneration for their services during the year. Expenses reimbursed to Board of Trustee members for costs incurred on behalf of the charity during the period amounted to £2,705 (year to 2019 - £2,292). This was in respect of 6 Trustees (2019 – 4).

The Charity has no employees.