

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2024

Charity Number 1091181



KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE

2024 IN NUMBERS

Serving Kent For 25 Years

	1	72 MEMBERS 17 MEDICS 6 SEARCH DOGS 14 FLOOD RESPONDERS ALL UNPAID VOLUNTEERS
	2	128 DAYS DEPLOYED 301 SEPARATE INCIDENTS 7,561 HRS DEPLOYED 12,000 HRS TRAINING 3,750 HRS FUNDRAISING
	3	68% MISSING = MALES 19% MENTAL HEALTH 11% DEMENTIA 38% DESPONDENT/RISK OF SUICIDE 3 MEDICAL INCIDENTS
	4	3 X INCIDENT VANS 3 X RESPONSE CARS 3 X POWER BOATS 4 X KAYAKS, 2 X CANOES 8 X BIKES 2 X DRONES
	5	c.£90,000 ANNUAL EXPENDITURE TO PROVIDE 24/7/365 SERVICE ACROSS KENT ALL FUNDED BY YOU!
	6	AMAZING SUPPORTERS 11,922 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS 6,281 X/TWITTER FOLLOWERS 1,677 INSTAGRAM FRIENDS

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2024**

Contents

	PAGES
Report of the trustees	1-3
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7-10

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st December 2024 together with the financial statements for that period.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity's principal address:

Kent Search and Rescue
Kent Police Marine and Search Division
Coldharbour Outstation
London Road
Aylesford
Kent
ME20 7SL

Trustees

Lord Jonathan Evans (Chairman) – resigned 22nd Jan 2024
Mr John Weir (Chairman) – appointed 22nd Jan 2024 resigned 21st Oct 2024
Mr Andrew Heselwood (Chairman)
Mr Martin Kingman
Mr Brian Tinhaam
Mr Barry Doggett
Mr Peter Ayling
Mr Mark Rist
Mr Carl Hynes – appointed 22nd Jan 2024
Mr David Paul – appointed 20th Jan 2025
Mr Matthew Deadman – appointed 20th Jan 2025
Mrs Ann Spickett – appointed 20th Jan 2025
Mr David Schooledge – resigned 22nd Jan 2024
Mr Stewart Baird – resigned 25th July 2024
Mr Adrian Harper – resigned 7th Oct 2024
Mr Andrew Whitehouse – resigned 20th Jan 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is governed by a Constitution adopted by the members, the latest version of which was adopted on 25th January 2021. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT - continued

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the charity is to protect and preserve good health and life by the provision of volunteer search and rescue teams to assist organisations involved in the search and/or rescue of missing or vulnerable persons. The secondary objective is the provision of programs to help prevent the need of search and rescue teams by means of education of the general public. The charity activities assist in the relief of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards in the lowland areas of Kent, particularly by providing adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any person or persons so endangered. The trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - OPERATIONAL UPDATE

2024 has been a busier year than 2023, with almost 1,000 hours more on active deployments (7,561 hours) with a number of multi-day deployments, where the team was out searching for multiple operational periods spanning more than one day. The team continued to be available 24/7 throughout the year, deploying on 128 days, including both Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The number of despondent, suicidal and mental health cases continues to be high compared to historical times. This does seem to reflect wider society where external issues such as peer pressure, social media, high interest rates and inflation and the cost-of-living problems may all play their part.

The links with partners, including Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue and HM Coastguard remains very strong, as does the association with the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum. The Head of Unit remains the chair of the Kent Voluntary Sector Emergency Group linking us closely with other volunteer organisations supporting blue light and resilience operations.

Fundraising is increasingly becoming a challenge, which is in line with wider reports from the whole of the third sector post-covid. Cost of living pressures and the higher interest rates have had a bearing on both organisational and individual donations.

The year also saw the launch of the Kent Charity Trek, which is designed to be an annual fundraising event to raise money, not just for KSAR, but also for other Kent based charities. The event was a success with 2 distances, 25km and 50km. The event raised a total of £14,000 for the charities involved. The event is being run again in May 2025, hopefully building on the success of the first year.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT - continued

Team training has been to a high standard, with the aim for the year for members to go back to basics of search, which has been achieved. The specialist teams continue to amass experience. The underwater search team has been working with external agencies to be able to use our Remote Operated Underwater Vehicle to recover bodies. This is an area in which our practices are leading the way. The specialist teams, including both the underwater search and the aerial search teams, have been deployed as stand-alone assets to support the crown agencies

A major project for 2023 and 2024 was the acquisition and fit-out of a replacement Incident Support Vehicle. The vehicle was commissioned in July and as well as holding the majority of our search kit, it has a secondary role as a back-up Incident Control Vehicle, with a computer and power supply. The previous Incident Support Vehicle is being repurposed as a dedicated transport vehicle for underwater search equipment.

Our pro-active work with Kent Police, under Operation Concern, where small teams identified and attended calls of concern that would have otherwise required action by a police patrol continues to be a success. In addition, the Safe and Dry campaign was run again for the 7th year, both for the summer football and at Christmas/New Year. There were a number of interventions, keeping the public safe and away from the river.

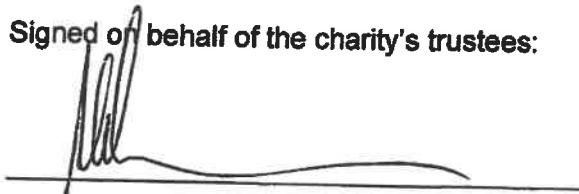
FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31st December 2024 the trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be in line with expectations. The reserves at the end of the year were £251,846 (2022: £265,363). Reserves are held to fulfil the charities aims and objectives in the future and to be sufficient to cover expenditures for a twelve-month period.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Martin Kingman', is written over a horizontal line.

Martin Kingman - Trustee
26th February 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (charity number 1091181) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2024.

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

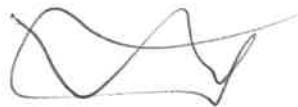
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

BASIS OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Roger P B Storey – Chartered Management Accountant
26 Cherry Orchard Road,
Bromley, Kent, BR2 8NE

Date: 26th February 2025

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

				<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Reserves £	Total Funds £
Income from:					
Fundraising events		26,345	0	0	26,345
Donations and Grants		38,984	7,000	0	45,984
Member subscriptions		2,340	0	0	2,340
Training services		120	0	0	120
Interest received		2,189	0	0	2,189
Total income		69,979	7,000	0	76,979
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	2	70,455	20,041	0	90,496
Net movement in funds		-476	-13,041	0	-13,517
Total funds brought forward		40,935	94,600	129,828	265,363
		40,459	81,559	129,828	251,846
Movement in Sinking Fund Asset Reserve		9,585	0	-9,585	0
Total funds carried forward		50,044	81,559	120,243	251,846

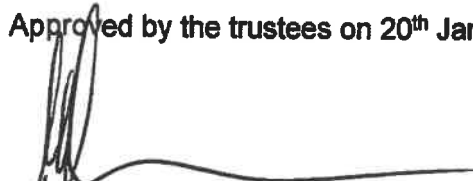
The notes to the accounts form part of these financial statements.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	<u>31/12/2024</u>	<u>31/12/2023</u>
		£	£
Fixed assets	3	156,051	152,801
Current assets			
Prepayments and accrued income		1,442	3,625
Cash at bank and in hand		98,358	113,999
		<u>99,800</u>	<u>117,624</u>
Current liabilities			
Accruals & Deferred Income		1,855	2,912
Kit deposits		2,150	2,150
		<u>4,005</u>	<u>5,062</u>
Net current assets		<u>95,795</u>	<u>112,562</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities		<u>251,846</u>	<u>265,363</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds		81,559	94,600
Unrestricted funds		50,044	40,935
Sinking Fund Asset Reserve		85,243	94,828
Operational Costs Reserve		35,000	35,000
		<u>251,846</u>	<u>265,363</u>

Approved by the trustees on 20th January 2025.


Martin Kingman - Trustee

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's 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) (SORP FRS 102) as updated by the Charities SORP (FRS 102) update bulletin. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102

1.2 Income recognition

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

1.3 Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

1.4 Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. The trustees have established two Reserve Accounts, namely the Sinking Fund Reserve Account and the Operational Costs Reserve Account. The former will provide funds to replace the charity's motor vehicles, boats, drones and other large items of equipment as they come to the end of their useful lives. The latter Reserve is to ensure there are sufficient funds to cover at least 12 months of ongoing non-discretionary expenditure in the event that income levels decrease substantially due to unforeseen events.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Motor vehicles 10 years; Other search equipment 5 to 10 years; IT and radio equipment 5 years.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024 - continued1.6 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised or set aside for particular restricted purposes.

2 **Expenditure on charitable activities**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Equipment and clothing	2,766	13,810
Depreciation	42,479	38,584
Training	1,355	428
Fuel and other vehicle costs	17,246	11,744
Insurances	14,940	13,410
IT and communications	9,522	10,098
Charitable donations	-	200
Member welfare and event costs	1,675	1,528
Finance & Carriage charges	92	170
Memberships and affiliations	145	155
Independent examiner's fees	275	157
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of assets	-	-2,696
	<u>90,496</u>	<u>87,588</u>

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024 - continued**3 Tangible fixed assets**

	Motor vehicles £	IT and radio equipment £	Other search equipment £	Total £
COST				
At 1 st January 2024	172,601	49,760	126,649	349,010
Additions	40,746	-	4,982	45,728
Disposals & adjustments	-	-	-5,660	-5,660
At 31 st December 2024	213,347	49,760	125,971	389,078
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 st January 2024	78,822	48,087	69,300	196,209
Charge for year	22,178	1,035	19,265	42,478
Disposals & adjustments	0	0	-5,660	-5,660
At 31 st December 2024	101,000	49,122	82,905	233,027
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 st December 2024	112,347	638	43,066	156,051
At 31 st December 2023	93,779	1,673	57,349	152,801

4 Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

**5 Analysis of net assets
between funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Reserves £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	52,606	22,382	81,063	156,051
Current assets	1,443	97,861	496	99,800
Current liabilities	-4,005	0	0	-4,005
	50,044	120,243	81,559	251,846

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024 – continued

6 Movement in funds	At 1 st January 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	At 31 st December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	94,600	7,000	-20,041	0	81,559
Unrestricted funds	40,935	69,979	-70,455	-9,585	50,044
Sinking fund					
asset reserve	94,828	0	0	-9,585	85,243
Operational costs reserve	35,000	0	0	0	35,000
	265,363	76,979	-90,496	0	251,846

7 Trustees' Remuneration and Transactions with related parties

No trustee received any remuneration during the year or had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (December 2023, £0).

One member of the Management team controls a company that provides Information Technology Services to the charity. These services, which are all provided on an arm's length basis, resulted in costs to the charity totalling £395 during the year (2023, £1,190). This Management team member also has an interest in a separate Community Interest Company, which licences dedicated search specific software to the charity for use during operational search activity. During the financial year the charity was charged licence fees for this software totalling £6,000 by this Community Interest Company (2023, £6,000).

8 Operating profit

This is stated after charging:	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	42,478	38,584