HANSARD SOCIETY LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1091364

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04332105
Registered	2002-03-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	36-37 Albert Embankment London SE1 7TL
Phone	0203 925 3979
Email	contact@hansardsociety.org.uk
Website	www.hansardsociety.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT FOR WHICH THE SOCIETY IS ESTABLISHED IS TO PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Activities: We are an independent, non-partisan political research and education society working in the UK and around the world to promote democracy and strengthen parliaments.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£354,518	£297,684	-	-
2023-12-31	£273,415	£316,247	-	-
2022-12-31	£273,956	£425,999	-	-
2021-12-31	£296,569	£390,845	-	-
2020-12-31	£660,654	£715,589	£395,512	7

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Baroness Winifred Ann Taylor of Bolton	Chair	2019-09-10
Dr Rebecca Anne Rumbul		2020-10-29
Jacqueline Ashley		2022-10-26
Lord Andrew James Dunlop		2022-10-26
Lord GERALD SHAMASH		
Shirley Cameron		2016-07-18
Sir David Richard Beamish		2018-07-18
Sir Paul Silk		2017-03-14
Sue Inglish		2017-07-11

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HANSARD SOCIETY LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1091364

Accounts

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Company Number: 04332105
Charity Number: 1091364

80 YEARS 1944 2024
HANSARD SOCIETY

Photo credit

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP delivering the Hansard Society's inaugural Churchill–Attlee Democracy Lecture, 14 May 2024

© Hansard Society / Roger Harris

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Administrative and legal information

Trustees

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)
Jackie Ashley
Professor Roger Awan-Scully
Sir David Beamish KCB
Dianne Bevan (resigned December 2024)
Shirley Cameron
The Lord Dunlop
Sue Inglish
Dr Rebecca Rumbul
The Lord Shamash
Sir Paul Silk KCB

Director

Dr Ruth Fox

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith

Registered address

36-37 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TL

Company registration number

04332105

Charity registration number

1091364

Independent Examiner

Counterculture LLP
23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham, B1 2HB

Scottish Widows
PO Box 12757
67 Morrison Street
Edinburgh, EH3 8YJ

Chair's foreword

2024 was a landmark year for the Hansard Society as we celebrated our 80th anniversary. Eight decades ago our founder, Stephen King-Hall MP, brought together Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee, political rivals but also champions of parliamentary democracy, as the Society's first members. Since then, we have remained Parliament's "critical friend": promoting public understanding of its work, scrutinising its effectiveness, and championing its central role in our national life.

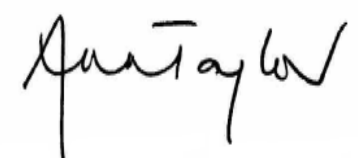
We marked this anniversary with the launch of the Churchill–Attlee Democracy Lecture and welcomed the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Theresa May MP, as our inaugural lecturer. Her reflections on the fragility and value of democracy, the responsibilities of MPs, and the importance of standards in public life could not have been timelier. The lecture brought together parliamentarians, scholars, and school pupils in a shared moment of reflection on how democracy can be renewed for the future.

The year was also shaped by the general election in July, which returned one of the most significant turnovers of MPs in modern times, with more than half the House newly elected. At such a critical juncture, the Society once again proved its value. Within days of the new Parliament assembling, our Back to Business guide provided indispensable insight into procedures, pageantry and practicalities. Its impact was striking: downloaded over 26,000 times in the first week, it was a trusted resource not only for new MPs and their staff but also for journalists and the wider public seeking to understand Parliament's inner workings.

Supporting new MPs and their teams will remain central to our work in the months ahead, through practical resources like the Parliament Matters podcast and our new Parliament Matters Bulletin as well as our continuing contributions to debates on parliamentary reform. In an era when democratic institutions face pressure from polarisation, distrust and disengagement, strengthening Parliament's effectiveness is more vital than ever.

Equally important is our commitment to nurturing the next generation of citizens. Our long-standing Mock Elections programme once again gave tens of thousands of pupils the chance to experience democracy first-hand. More than 39,000 young people from over 100 schools took part in 2024, learning how elections work and discovering the responsibilities of candidates, campaigners, and voters alike. For many, it was their first taste of the democratic process – and, we hope, the start of a lifetime of civic participation.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank our Director, our staff, our members, and our many supporters. As we look back on this anniversary year, we are proud of what the Society has achieved. From convening distinguished voices to offering practical guidance, from supporting MPs to educating schoolchildren, we have worked to uphold our founders' vision: a democracy that is better understood today, and resilient enough to meet the challenges of tomorrow.



The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Acknowledgements

The Trustees extend their sincere thanks to all our members, supporters, and partners who have worked with us throughout 2024. We are especially grateful to the following organisations for their generous project grant funding:

- the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust;
- the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust; and
- the Legal Education Foundation.

Our thanks also go to the Society's dedicated staff team. In particular, we acknowledge the contribution of Luke Boga Mitchell, who left early in 2024 for a new role after a decade of committed service.

We remain indebted to the co-editors of our journal *Parliamentary Affairs* – Professor Alistair Clark and Dr Louise Thompson – for their exceptional stewardship throughout the year, and to the production team at Oxford University Press, who ensure the journal reaches readers every quarter.

Our *Parliament Matters* podcast has thrived thanks to the expertise and energy of co-host and editor Mark D'Arcy, supported by producers Richard Townsend and Gareth Jones.

We are profoundly grateful to the many MPs, Peers, parliamentary staff, academics, consultants and partner organisations who generously shared their time and expertise with us throughout the year. We also acknowledge the invaluable support of others, particularly at Westminster, at the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly, whose names cannot be published. To each of them we extend our sincere thanks for their advice and insight.

Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom
Steve Baker
Professor Tim Bale
Baroness Bertin
Dr Caroline Bhattacharya
Dr Anna Bocking-Welch
Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Daniel Brittain
Rob Burley
Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Wendy Chamberlain MP
Theo Clarke
Lord Coaker
Dr John Cooper
Nikki da Costa
Professor Philip Cowley
Michael Crick
Sir Wayne David
Rt Hon Philip Dunne
Ian Dunt
Paul Evans CBE
Dr Nigel Fletcher
Max Freedman
Sam Freedman
Dr Marc Geddes
Dr Daniel Gover
Patrick Grady
Professor Holger Hestermeyer
Dr Stephen Holden Bates
Alexander Horne
Professor David Howarth
Professor Richard Huzzey
Alicia Kearns MP
The Earl of Kinnoull
Rt Hon David Laws
Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira
Paul Masterton
Rt Hon the Baroness May of Maidenhead
Dr Henry Midgley
Dr Henry Miller
Layla Moran MP
Baroness Morgan of Cotes
Chris Morris
Sir David Natzler KCB
Sir Bob Neill KC
Dr Jack Newman
Lord Owen CH
Professor David Phinnemore
Rt Hon Sir Peter Riddell
Professor Meg Russell
Dr James Strong
Kacper Surdy
Dr Mari Takayanagi
Alison Thewliss
Adam Wagner KC
William Wragg

Trustees' report

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law, present their annual report (pages 8-32) and accounts (pages 34-48) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, those of the governing documents, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trustees review the activities of the Charity on an ongoing basis and are satisfied that they continue to be directly related to the Society's core mission and objectives.

The inaugural Churchill–Attlee Democracy Lecture

14 May 2024, Westminster Central Hall

To mark the Society's 80th anniversary, we launched a new tradition: the Churchill–Attlee Democracy Lecture, created in honour of our first members, Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee.

The inaugural lecture took place on 14 May 2024 at Westminster Central Hall, where an audience of 200 people, including members of the Society, distinguished guests, and groups of pupils from two local secondary schools, gathered to reflect on the future of British democracy. The event was chaired by our Trustee, Jackie Ashley.

We were honoured to welcome former Prime Minister the Rt Hon Theresa May MP as our first lecturer. With 27 years in Parliament, serving on the backbenches, in ministerial office, and at the very top as Prime Minister, she brought unmatched experience to the occasion.

In her recent book *The Abuse of Power*, she called for political reform, and at our lecture she expanded on her ideas, offering reflections on her time in public life, the health of our democracy, and how it can be strengthened for the future.

Looking back to Churchill and Attlee, Theresa May reminded us that both leaders were deeply committed to Parliament as the representative forum of the nation, and to the primacy of the Commons as the elected chamber. Significantly, both chose to remain active in political life after leaving Downing Street. "I am proud," she said, "to have followed in that tradition."

She also placed today's democratic challenges in a broader historical perspective, emphasising that democracy is both fragile and precious. Democracy, she argued, has been the platform for extraordinary human progress: longer lives, medical breakthroughs, rights for women and minorities, access to education, rising living

Westminster Central Hall, 14 May 2024
Credit: Hansard Society / Roger Harris

standards, and the technological revolution. None of this, she suggested, would have been possible in closed societies where freedom of thought and innovation were stifled.

"Less democracy," she cautioned, "means less freedom, less control over our lives, and fewer opportunities for generations to come."

Theresa May's reflections were also rooted in her own experience of parliamentary life. She spoke passionately about the bond between MPs and their constituencies, the "bedrock of our parliamentary democracy."

In today's world, she argued, it is no longer enough for MPs simply to cast votes in Westminster. Constituents rightly expect their representatives to be visible in communities, to fight their corner, and to act in their interest. "We work in the service of others," she said, "and we should be accountable to our voters."

Another theme of the lecture was the vital importance of standards in public life and the need to protect public trust in politics. To rebuild that trust, parties must recruit diverse, capable candidates who recognise the responsibilities of public service.

From the expenses scandal to the rule-breaking of the Covid-19 era, she reminded the audience that perceptions of exceptionalism and double standards strike at the heart of public trust. Upholding the Nolan Principles, the seven principles of public life, is not optional, she argued, but essential if democracy is to be credible.

Picking up themes that resonate with the Society's work, the former Prime Minister also urged reforms to strengthen Parliament itself: better training for new MPs, more scrutiny of legislation (particularly delegated legislation) and a more systematic approach to post-legislative review.

She argued that Parliament's ability to hold the executive to account has weakened over recent decades, and that strengthening this scrutiny is crucial to a healthy democracy.

A key theme of the lecture was the danger of extremism and polarisation in politics. She described how an absolutist, winner-takes-all approach corrodes public debate, weakens democratic institutions, and plays into the hands of global adversaries, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, who exploit divisions to undermine western democracies.

"We owe democracy a great debt. And to ensure our values endure for generations to come, we must therefore cherish it and conserve it. If we fail in that endeavour, we will all pay the price. But we must be honest with ourselves. Democracy is in trouble here in the UK and around the world."

Theresa May MP in conversation with Jackie Ashley. Credit: Hansard Society / Roger Harris

Against this backdrop, she urged cohesion and co-operation: "The best long-term solutions arise from the politics of moderation. We should bring people together, not create a society of warring cultural tribes." Progress in a democracy depends on compromise – not as weakness, but as the essence of practical governance. "Being prepared to make compromises in order to make progress," she said, "does not mean compromising on our values."

The new Parliament

With over half of MPs newly elected in July 2024, we provided timely guidance and analysis and renewed our work on parliamentary reform, ensuring MPs, their staff, journalists and the wider public could navigate the challenges of a changing Commons.

Back to Business guide

On Tuesday 9 July 2024, just five days after the general election, the new Parliament assembled. With 335 newly elected MPs – more than half the House of Commons – Parliament faced a significant logistical challenge, as many Members and their staff navigated parliamentary procedures for the very first time.

To help smooth this transition, we published our Back to Business guide, setting out the ceremonial, legislative, organisational, and procedural steps that mark the start of a new Parliament. It also examined the particular challenges that follow a general election held in July – from disruptions to the parliamentary calendar to the Government's early legislation and financial plans.

The response was immediate: in its first week the guide was downloaded more than 26,700 times. Our 26-post social media thread, outlining what MPs would experience in their first week, reached two million views, with 1,100 reposts, 5,900 likes and 1,300 bookmarks.

One of the most popular sections of the guide explored the pageantry and process of the State Opening of Parliament and the King's Speech. Our Director, Ruth Fox, brought those insights to a broader audience with live commentary on the ceremony for BBC Radio 5 Live and later that day analysed the constitutional dimensions of the King's Speech on LBC's Andrew Marr show.

Parliament Matters Bulletin

At the start of the new Parliament, we also launched the Parliament Matters Bulletin – a weekly analysis of forthcoming business in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Developed in response to feedback from new MPs and their teams who told us they were struggling to navigate the Order Paper, track down parliamentary documents, and make sense of proceedings, the Bulletin serves as a practical procedural guide. It helps both new and experienced parliamentarians stay focused and informed about the week ahead, complementing our popular *Parliament Matters* podcast, with clear, accessible insights in a written format.

Beyond Westminster, the Bulletin has attracted strong interest from civil servants, journalists, campaigners, public affairs professionals, lawyers, academics and teachers, underscoring its value as a trusted guide to parliamentary business.

Parliamentary reform

The need for reform to make Parliament a more effective institution has been a central theme of our work since the general election. Through our blogs, briefings and evidence submissions to parliamentary select committees, we have sought to highlight both the challenges and opportunities facing the House of Commons as it adapts to a changing political environment.

In *A House more divided: Practice and procedure in a multipolar Parliament*, Paul Evans, a former Commons Clerk and member of the Society, explored how the composition of the opposition today looks markedly different from that of recent decades. Unlike the period following the Labour landslide of 1997, the House of Commons operates in a new era of multi-party opposition.

This shift has important implications for parliamentary practice and procedure: it raises questions about how effectively the House can scrutinise government when opposition voices are more fragmented, and how the rules and conventions of the Chamber might need to evolve in response.

We also contributed directly to the House of Commons Modernisation Committee's call for evidence on its strategic priorities.

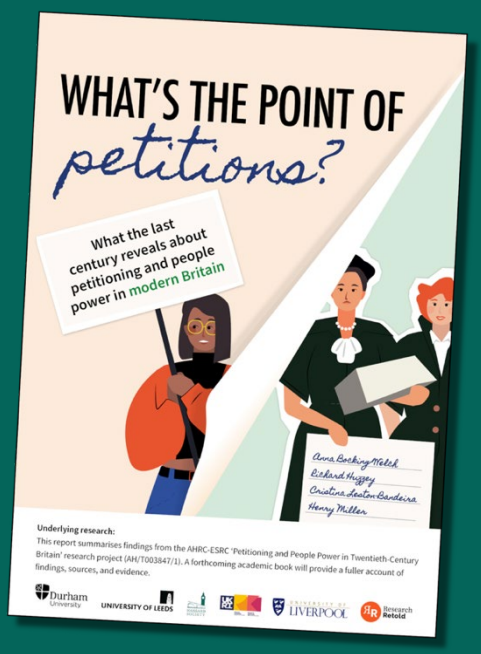
House of Commons Modernisation Committee
Credit: House of Commons

In our submission, we argued that modernisation must go beyond surface-level changes and tackle some of the deeper structural weaknesses in the way the Commons conducts its business.

We recommended reforms to strengthen legislative scrutiny, particularly of the delegated legislation system; to enhance financial scrutiny of the Budget and the Estimates process; to address long-standing strategic gaps in parliamentary oversight in areas such as treaties; and to ensure that parliamentary time is used more effectively. We also urged a review of the Standing Orders, as well as the language and rituals of the House, to ensure that they remain relevant and accessible.

Case study: E-Petitions

Beyond voting, signing a petition remains the form of democratic activity that the public are most likely to engage in. We published *What's the Point of Petitions?*, a study by researchers from the Universities of Durham, Leeds and Liverpool, which explores why petitions have endured as a popular and resilient tool of political participation. The report traces the evolution of petitioning over the 20th century – from a practice rooted in Parliament and other political institutions to a widely accessible means of mass campaigning, capable of capturing public and media attention. It also challenges the idea that petitions are ineffective, showing that petitioners often have a sophisticated understanding of 'success', valuing not only policy change but also the ability to raise awareness, shape debate, and give voice to public concerns.



Reform of delegated legislation

Reform of the delegated legislation system remains the Society's most important area of work. The year saw us continue to highlight how Statutory Instruments and other forms of delegated legislation are increasingly being used to make significant policy changes with limited parliamentary scrutiny.

General election rules and regulations

In April 2024, we published *General election rules and regulations: what has changed?*, a comprehensive briefing on the extensive reforms to electoral law introduced via Statutory Instrument ahead of the general election. Covering voter ID, postal voting, overseas voters, party spending limits, and the regulation of digital campaigning and marketing, the briefing drew attention to the inconsistent levels of scrutiny applied to these changes. It also provided a one-stop shop for journalists, campaigners and practitioners seeking to understand the new rules.

A man in jeans walks towards the entrance of a polling station. Credit: Greg Sayer / Adobe Stock

Legislative briefings

During the year we produced a series of targeted briefings on the use of delegated powers in current legislation. *Creeping ministerial powers: the example of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill* examined how precedents from earlier laws are now being used to expand executive authority. *How delegated legislation is being used to tackle the prisons crisis* explored emergency measures in the justice system, while *Puberty blockers legislation: has the parliamentary calendar undermined accountability?* highlighted the risks to democratic oversight when scheduling constraints curtail scrutiny.

We also published contributions from parliamentarians and experts to stimulate wider debate. In a blogpost for the Society, the Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, the then Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, examined how Parliament should approach scrutiny of Carbon Budget Orders. The accompanying explainer video attracted more than 3,200 views on YouTube, reflecting interest in what otherwise

might be seen as a niche procedural issue with significant environmental implications.

Beyond Westminster, our Director served as an independent Commissioner on the Bingham Centre's Independent Commission on Emergency Health Powers. Drawing on lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic, she contributed research and expertise on delegated legislation to the Commission's examination of how emergency powers are designed, scrutinised and constrained. The Commission's final report, published in May 2024, set out recommendations to preserve a balance between executive power and parliamentary oversight.

Legislative monitoring: Statutory Instrument Tracker® app

A large share of the UK's legislative and regulatory changes are introduced not through Acts of Parliament but via Statutory Instruments (SIs). Yet the SI process is often complex, opaque and difficult to understand.

To address this, we developed the Statutory Instrument Tracker®, an online monitoring tool that draws on our long-standing research into delegated legislation. Since the start of the 2017 Session, it has provided comprehensive tracking of every SI laid before Parliament and every government consultation that could lead to the creation of new delegated legislation.

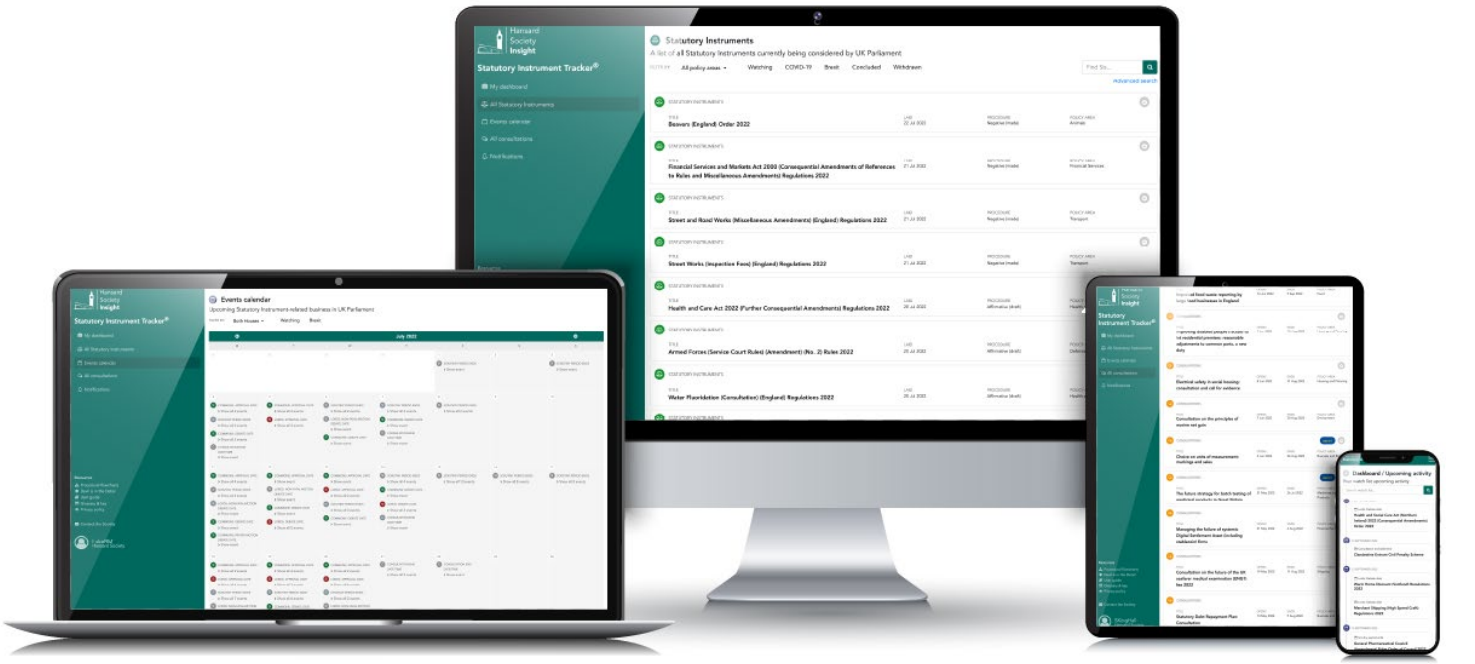
By making this information accessible and transparent, the Tracker continues to be an invaluable resource for parliamentarians, journalists, researchers, and campaigners seeking to navigate the world of delegated legislation.

In 2024, the number of Statutory Instruments was lower than in previous years due to the general election and dissolution of Parliament.

Nonetheless, during the year we tracked the progress of:

690 Statutory Instruments

and **932 consultations**



Our Statutory Instrument Tracker® app

Case study: The assisted dying bill

The Private Member's Bill to legalise assisted dying, properly known as The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, is one of the most sensitive and high-profile pieces of legislation to come before Parliament in decades.

It has attracted widespread public interest and intense parliamentary debate, but the procedures governing its passage – as a Private Member's Bill – are complicated and often poorly understood. With complex moral, ethical and constitutional questions at stake, it is essential that MPs, Peers, campaigners, the media and the wider public understand the process and procedures that will shape the Bill's passage.

To support this, the Society produced a suite of resources explaining the mechanics of the legislative process. In the run-up to the Bill's publication, we produced a guide to the Private Member's Bill process, giving parliamentarians and observers alike a roadmap to understand the unique hurdles facing the legislation. We also launched a rolling news page to track each key procedural development as the Bill progressed, logging 24 updates by the end of the year. Once the Bill was introduced, we followed up with a briefing on the amendment process in Public Bill Committee. When debate in Committee turned to the delegated powers in the Bill, our specialist briefing on this issue was cited by MPs and directly informed the line of questioning and scrutiny applied to the delegated powers in the Bill.

Alongside these written resources, we convened an online webinar shortly before the Second Reading debate, featuring former Clerk of the House of Commons Sir David Natzler and academic expert Dr Daniel Gover. This event offered parliamentarians, practitioners, and interested members of the public expert insight into the rules, risks and opportunities of the Private Member's Bill process. This event not only demystified the Private Members' Bill process but also helped those engaging with the debate to focus on where influence could realistically be exercised.

Kim Leadbeater MP queues behind the Speaker's Chair to present her Private Member's Bill on assisted dying for its First Reading, 16 October 2024. Credit: House of Commons

By providing timely, accessible analysis and expert commentary, we have helped to equip MPs, the media and the public with the tools to understand the often-complex rules governing the Bill's progress. Our outputs turned technical parliamentary procedure into practical knowledge, directly influencing the scrutiny process and strengthening the debate.

Mock Elections

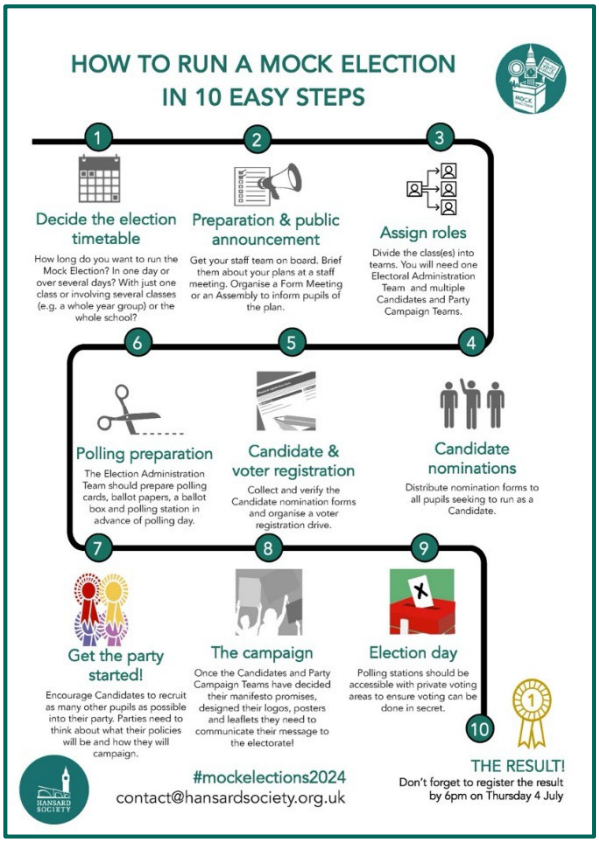
39,312 pupils from 111 schools across the country took part in our nationwide Mock Elections campaign – giving many their first taste of voting and a hands-on lesson in how our democracy works.

Run by the Hansard Society at every general election for more than 50 years, Mock Elections is one of the world's oldest and most enduring civic education projects. Our Mock Election resource pack enables teachers to recreate the excitement and drama of a real election in schools, engaging pupils of all ages with the democratic process and showing how politics shapes their everyday lives.

This year the resources for teachers and pupils included:

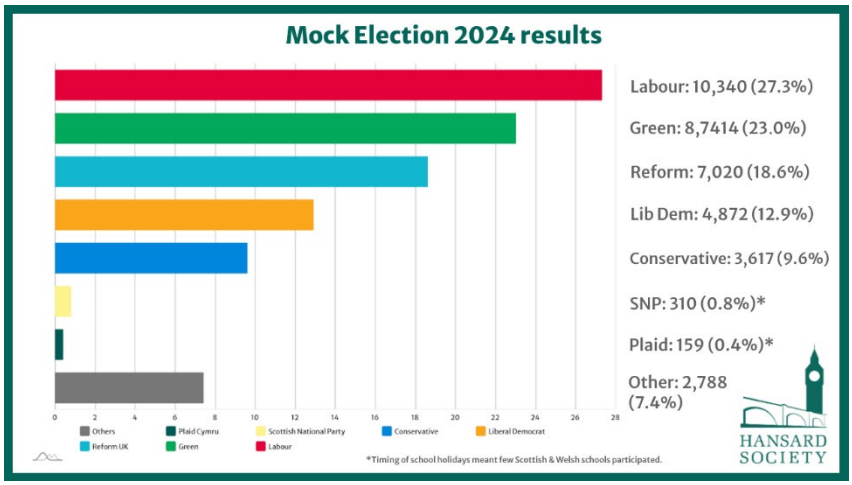
- **A toolkit for teachers** – a step-by-step guide to recreating the excitement of a real election in schools, adaptable for any timetable or class size.
- **Cue cards** – helping pupils explore different election roles, from candidates and campaigners to electoral administrators and vote counters.
- **A templates pack** – ready-to-use materials such as ballot papers, nomination forms, posters, rosettes, and even draft press releases.

Pupils gain hands-on experience of democracy in action: standing as candidates, writing manifestos, canvassing for support, designing campaign materials, and ultimately casting their votes. Others take responsibility for running the election itself – registering voters, managing the polling station and counting the ballot papers – ensuring the process is free and fair.



Mock Elections is more than a classroom exercise: it brings democracy to life. It equips young people with the knowledge and skills to participate fully in future elections and fosters critical thinking, research, debate, and the ability to weigh evidence and evaluate different perspectives.

Research shows its long-term impact: young people who take part in citizenship activities such as Mock Elections are more likely to develop positive attitudes toward political participation and to remain engaged in politics as adults – even when factors like education level are taken into account.



Parliament Matters podcast

Our weekly podcast has been a key part of our work throughout the year, with 51 episodes released during 2024.

Presented by former BBC parliamentary correspondent Mark D'Arcy and the Society's Director, Ruth Fox, and produced by former BBC radio producer Richard Townsend, our aim is for the podcast to inform, educate and entertain in keeping with the Society's historic role as Parliament's 'critical friend'. We want to help people understand how Westminster works, and how it could be better, explaining not just the political headlines but also the rules, procedures, history and traditions that shape parliamentary life.

Over the year, we had 44 guests, including 10 MPs, one former MP, five members of the House of Lords, two former parliamentary officials and 14 academics. We strive for balance and politicians appearing included members of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Scottish National Parties, as well as one Independent Social Democrat (Lord Owen) and the non-partisan Convenor of the Crossbench Peers (the Earl of Kinnoull) in the House of Lords.

January

We opened the year with a special episode on how Parliament makes laws, before looking ahead to what promised to be a momentous election year. In the wake of ITV's *Mr Bates vs The Post Office* drama, we interviewed long-time campaigner Lord Arbuthnot of Erdom, who shared his anger at the injustice faced by wrongly convicted sub-postmasters. Journalist Ian Dunt offered his diagnosis of Westminster's problems, while Dr James Strong discussed war powers and the Commons' role in decisions on armed intervention. We also examined accountability and scrutiny: Dame Karen Bradley MP, Chair of the Procedure Committee, reflected on how ministers in the Lords – including the newly appointed Foreign Secretary, Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton – can be held to account, and barrister Alexander Horne explained the growing significance of treaty scrutiny in light of the Lords' vote on the UK–Rwanda asylum treaty.

February

In *A potty-mouthed Parliament?* we explored MPs' use of foul language in the Commons and the Speaker's efforts to keep order. Theo Clarke MP gave a powerful interview about her cross-party campaign on birth trauma, drawing on her own personal experience and her work co-chairing an All Party Parliamentary Group.

Our "Urgent Questions" episodes tackled listener queries on e-petitions, party whipping, and Sinn Féin MPs' refusal to take their seats.

We also analysed the turmoil when Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle angered MPs with his handling of a Scottish National Party Opposition Day motion, later apologising in the Chamber. And Rob Burley, a key figure in political broadcasting, reflected on the decline of the political interview and what it means for democratic accountability.

March

In March we focused on civility, accountability, and the balance of power in Parliament. Lord Coaker and Baroness Bertin spoke about their cross-party leadership of the Jo Cox Civility Commission, while Alicia Kearns MP offered revealing insights into her role as Chair of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee.

In conversation with Alicia Kearns MP, Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee

During Budget week, Baroness Morgan of Cotes and Professor Henry Midgley explored how Parliament scrutinises the nation's finances, while David Howarth, law professor and former Liberal Democrat MP, addressed the role of controversial "Henry VIII powers" in legislation. We also hosted William Wragg MP, who candidly explained his loss of confidence in Speaker Hoyle and his work chairing the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. And Wayne David MP discussed his Private Member's Bill aimed at stopping 'SLAPPs' – legal tactics used to silence critics and stifle free speech.

April

April's episodes shone a light on hidden corners of parliamentary life and wider threats to democracy. We unravelled the mystery of the vanishing All-Party Parliamentary Groups. We interviewed Lord Owen shortly before his retirement from the Lords, reflecting on his pivotal role in reshaping British politics when he broke from Labour to found the SDP. Alison Thewliss MP gave us an insider's account of the little-known *Reasons Committee*, which became the stage for a dramatic procedural ambush during the passage of the Rwanda Bill. And Chris Morris, CEO of Full Fact, warned of the challenges that artificial intelligence poses to truth and trust in democratic debate.

May

We returned to the subject of the Post Office Horizon scandal with Justice Committee Chair Sir Bob Neill MP, before asking whether the Conservative Party was "falling apart" with historian Professor Tim Bale. We dissected former Prime Minister Theresa May's Churchill–Attlee Democracy Lecture and her stark warning that democracy is "in danger", while Wendy Chamberlain MP described her knife-edge success in passing an amendment to exclude MPs arrested for serious crimes from the parliamentary estate.

As Rishi Sunak called a rain-soaked general election, we examined the frantic "wash-up" period that sees Bills rushed through or abandoned before dissolution.

With regional devolution expanding, Dr Jack Newman discussed how MPs can hold powerful Metro Mayors to account. And Adam Wagner, a barrister and public law expert, reflected on lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic and the chaotic waves of emergency legislation that even police and prosecutors often struggled to interpret following publication of the final report of the Bingham Centre's Commission on UK Public Health Emergency Powers.

June

In anticipation of the general election, our focus turned to what would happen to the political landscape if the Labour Party returned to government. Professor Meg Russell of UCL's Constitution Unit and the Earl of Kinnoull, Convenor of the Crossbench Peers, reflected on the opportunities and risks for parliamentary reform. A follow-up episode explored the implications if Labour won a so-called *supermajority* – and the challenges that would face a weakened Conservative Party if it had to adjust to life in opposition.

July

With a new Parliament in place, we asked: who will be its rising stars? Veteran journalist Michael Crick shared insights from his *Tomorrow's MPs* project, which tracked candidates before the election. Ahead of the State Opening, parliamentary historian Daniel Brittain explained why the ceremony still matters, while former Conservative MP Paul Masterton offered candid advice to newly unseated MPs, reflecting on his own 2019 defeat.

The podcast team assembled on the Saturday after the general election to discuss the results with Michael Crick

We also spoke with Professor Philip Cowley, renowned for his work on parliamentary rebellions, about the paradoxes of governing with a mega-majority. And following the King's Speech debate, we examined Labour's early mini-rebellion, its impact on dissenting MPs, and accusations that the Government had overreacted.

August

As Parliament entered its Summer recess, we looked back on a turbulent week in which new Chancellor Rachel Reeves faced criticism over flawed departmental budgets pushed through the Commons Estimates process. Max Freedman, former chair of the Parliamentary Staff branch of Unite, joined us to reflect on the realities of working in Parliament – the pressures, pitfalls, and rewards of serving behind the scenes.

In a special episode, Nikki da Costa, former Director of Legislative Affairs at No. 10 under Theresa May and Boris Johnson, gave a rare insider's perspective on the King's Speech and the fierce competition between departments for coveted legislative slots.

September

Back from the Summer recess, attention turned to the Private Members' Bill ballot. Dr Daniel Gover explained the value of these bills and what to look out for in the months ahead. We also spoke with select committee specialist Dr Marc Geddes, who unpacked the politically charged elections for committee chairs.

October

As MPs returned from the Conference recess, we looked at the processes for electing party leaders: who should decide? And we previewed the assisted dying bill, which was set to be debated in the weeks ahead.

We also turned our attention to the House of Lords and Labour's plans to expel the remaining hereditary peers as MPs gave the Hereditary Peers Bill its Second Reading.

In advance of Labour's first Budget in 14 years, we took a frank look at the influence that MPs have over public finances. And the new Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, Liberal Democrat MP Layla Moran, gave us an insight into the challenge of leading a committee where most of the members were only elected a few months ago.

November

We returned to the increasingly common theme of ministers making policy announcements outside the House of Commons, as Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle condemned the Budget leaks. Former Lib Dem MP and Coalition minister David Laws reflected on a century of fraught relations between his party and Labour.

In another "Urgent Questions" edition, we tackled listener queries on parliamentary etiquette, the history of the Private Members' Bill ballot, and the role of select committees in scrutinising Northern Ireland under the post-Brexit Windsor Framework.

Building on this, Professor David Phinnemore analysed the Northern Ireland Assembly's upcoming consent vote, while political historian Dr Nigel Fletcher discussed the role of the Leader of the Opposition in shaping parliamentary debate.

Discussing the challenges facing the Leader of the Opposition with historian Dr Nigel Fletcher

December

We closed the year with a rich mix of history, insight, and behind-the-scenes perspectives. Kacper Surdy (@ringwiss), a UK student and Hansard Society member renowned for his expertise on the US Congress, shared how his online following has made him a transatlantic procedural authority.

At the 60th anniversary conference of the Study of Parliament Group, Ruth and Mark recorded a live episode with regular guest Paul Evans, the former Commons Clerk, on the quirks of parliamentary procedure.

As the assisted dying bill moved into Committee stage, we discussed its membership with our researcher Matthew England, while also reviewing the new Intelligence and Security Committee lineup and the Liaison Committee's first opportunity to question Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.

For the festive season, we explored Parliament's hidden past: Dr Mari Takayanagi discussed her new book *Necessary Women: The Untold Story of Parliament's Working Women*, while Dr John Cooper revealed how a royal chapel became the House of Commons in *The Lost Chapel of Westminster*.

Sam Freedman, a former ministerial adviser and now senior fellow at the Institute for Government, spoke about the erosion of parliamentary scrutiny, a theme of his bestselling book *Failed State*. We ended 2024 with the launch of *Whipping Yarns*, a new series of candid interviews about life in the whips' offices, beginning with Alistair Carmichael MP, who reflected on his time as Deputy Chief Whip during the 2010–2015 coalition government.

In conversation with historian and parliamentary archivist Dr Mari Takayanagi about her book *Necessary Women: The Untold Story of Parliament's Working Women*

Parliamentary Affairs **Journal**

In 2024, we published 39 articles across the four quarterly print editions of the Journal and 44 articles online in partnership with Oxford University Press.

Readership was strong, with over a quarter of a million article access requests recorded online during the year.

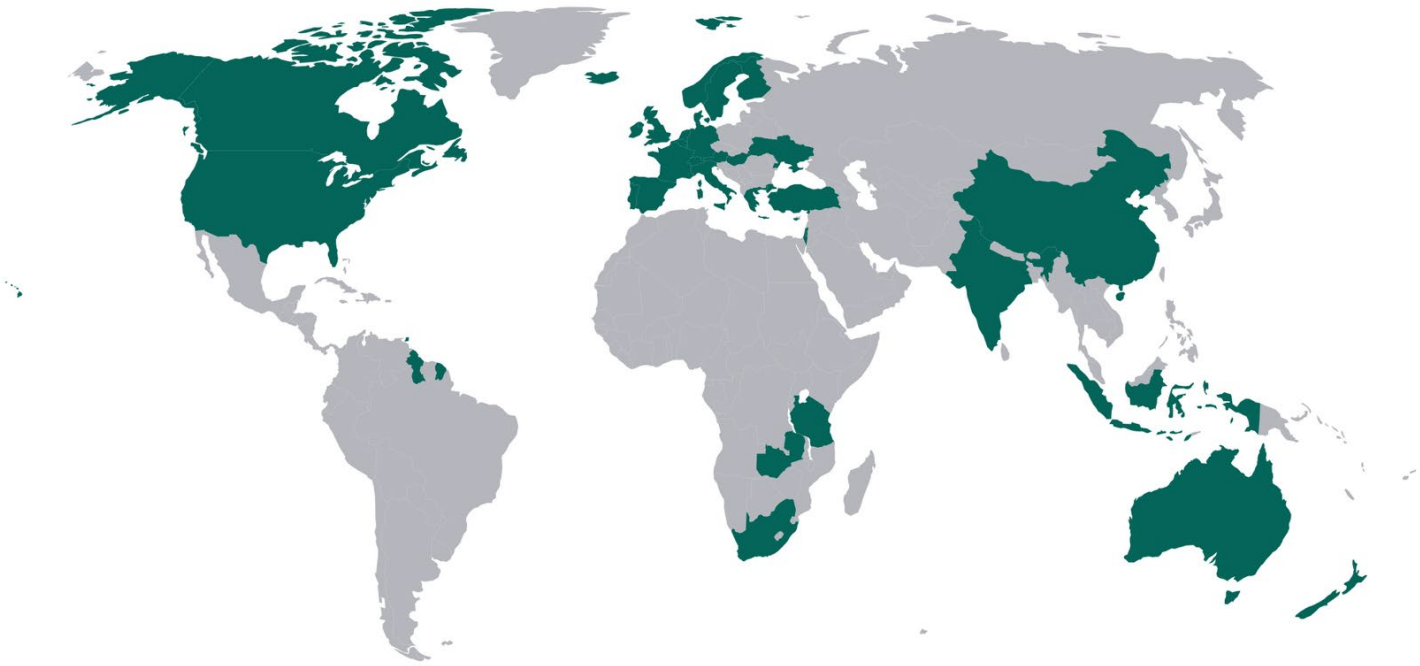
Journal rankings play an important role for researchers, university libraries and funding bodies in shaping publication choices, acquisitions and research support.

Thanks to the commitment of our editors – Professor Alistair Clark and Dr Louise Thompson – and the strength of their publishing strategy, *Parliamentary Affairs* continues to rise in international standing.

The Journal's Impact Factor has risen to its highest level in more than five years, ranking 92nd of 322 journals in political science.

The Journal's Cite Score also achieved its strongest performance in recent years, placing in the top 10% of law journals worldwide.

87 authors contributed to the print editions, covering the political and parliamentary landscape of 39 countries



Among the many distinguished contributors, we were honoured to publish an article by Professor Pippa Norris (Harvard University), one of the world's most influential and most cited political scientists. Her piece, *Big Little Election Lies: Cynical and Credulous Evaluations of Electoral Fraud*, examined how citizens' judgements about election integrity are shaped by their information environment and political institutions, drawing on over a decade of data from the World Values Survey.

Four articles stand out for readership and impact during the year.

The most-viewed article, originally published in 2021, examined the case for lowering the voting age to 16 – a debate brought sharply into focus by the new Labour Government's pledge to legislate on the issue.

The article with the highest Altmetric attention score (measuring online engagement across news, policy and social media) was published in December and produced by the research team leading the British Election Study. It analysed the implications of the Elections Act 2022, with a particular focus on the introduction of voter identification for UK elections.

Among the most-cited articles contributing to our improved Impact Factor ranking was Professor Matthew Flinders' *Democracy and the Politics of Coronavirus: Trust, Blame and Understanding*, which argued that the pandemic should not be understood solely as a public health crisis but also as a profound socio-political challenge.

A second highly cited article was authored by Professor Sarah Childs, a Hansard Society member, who examined the creation of the Women and Equalities Committee – a landmark development in parliamentary oversight and gender equality.

The 2024 general election

In response to the announcement of the general election, we curated a special online collection of articles examining how election campaign strategies have evolved over the last 15 years and how they continue to shape today's electoral and political landscape. The collection also highlighted the increasing sophistication and personalisation of both national and constituency-level campaigns. It also explored how political parties target key voter groups, use leader visits to constituencies for maximum electoral impact, and place growing reliance on digital campaigning.

Following the general election, where many of the country's pressing economic and social challenges were not discussed in detail by the main political parties, we published a special issue on 'Instability and inequality in the British state', guest-edited by Professor Patrick Diamond and Dr Jack Newman. The collection argues that the growing political instability of the past decade stems in part from the failure of British politics to confront deep-rooted structural inequalities, whether widening economic and regional divides or polarising debates over social justice. The articles highlight key dimensions of inequality in the UK, including gender, intersectional and geographical disparities, and call for meaningful political and policy reform to address them.

Work is now underway on the next edition of *Britain Votes*, our flagship general election special, which will appear in both journal and book form in 2025. We are delighted that it will feature contributions from an outstanding group of leading scholars, including Professors Tim Bale, Sir John Curtice, Philip Cowley, Rachel Gibson, Eunice Goes, James Mitchell, and Jonathan Tonge. This edition will chart how the Conservative Party squandered its political capital and how Labour regained electability. It will examine the record-breaking nature of the 2024 general election, highlighting both the volatility of the electorate and the far-reaching institutional changes preceding the vote, from constituency boundary reforms to new electoral and funding rules. The collection will provide in-depth analysis of the election results, rival party campaigns, and regional variations in competition and outcomes. It will also offer expert insight into key campaign themes, including women's representation, ethnic minority voters, the role of social and mainstream media, party finance, and the realities of the campaign trail.

Our plans for the future

We are focused on securing reform of Parliament to make it a more effective institution, particularly in relation to how it makes laws and scrutinises the raising and spending of public money.

Our current priorities

1. Improve the way we make laws and regulations

We are tackling one of the most urgent constitutional challenges facing the UK: the steady growth of government by diktat, fuelled by excessive reliance on delegated legislation. This problem – starkly exposed during both Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic – allows ministers to make significant policy and legal changes with minimal parliamentary scrutiny.

Through our Delegated Legislation Review, we have developed a clear, workable, cross-party solution to restore democratic oversight. Our plan would introduce more robust scrutiny procedures, address the democratic deficit and ensure Parliament can hold the Government to account for the regulations it proposes to make.

With our final recommendations and a comprehensive implementation plan in hand, our priority now, with so many new MPs in Parliament, is to build a fresh cross-party coalition of support to push for change.

We are working with parliamentarians from all sides, as well as civil society organisations, to maintain pressure on the Government and ensure that reform of delegated legislation remains high on the parliamentary agenda.

Our focus is on presenting a compelling "business case" to ministers, demonstrating how a well-structured package of reforms can benefit not just Parliament, but the Government as well.

2. Reform the language, customs and rules of the House of Commons

We are undertaking a comprehensive review of the language, customs and rules (Standing Orders) of the House of Commons. By modernising the language and rules of the House, we can make Parliament more accessible, more relevant, and more effective in serving the people it represents. Our goal is to demystify the way the Commons works so that its procedures are easier to communicate, understand, and engage with – for both MPs and the public. This work is being taken forward through engagement with the newly established House of Commons Modernisation Committee.

3. Support the next generation of MPs and candidates

The 2024 general election resulted in a significant intake of new MPs – many stepping into Westminster for the first time. The House of Commons is a complex institution, and new members face a steep learning curve.

To be effective legislators and scrutineers, they need practical guidance, procedural knowledge, and resources that will enable them to channel their skills and experience into meaningful parliamentary work on behalf of their constituents and the country.

We are creating tailored resources and training programmes to equip MPs and their staff with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel as legislators and scrutineers and to enhance their personal job satisfaction.

We will also pilot training for future parliamentary candidates, equipping them with a solid understanding of the constitution,

the legislative process, and how the House of Commons works before they ever take their seat.

4. Build a stronger financial future for the Hansard Society

Our independence is the foundation of our credibility, and we work hard to protect it. Unlike many think tanks and organisations focused on improving government effectiveness, our work on Parliament is not backed by multi-million-pound philanthropic donations or the security of an endowment. Each year, we must raise the funds anew to deliver our mission.

We achieve this through a diverse mix of income streams. Project grants from organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, and the Legal Education Foundation support specific initiatives. Alongside this, we generate core, unrestricted income from subscriptions to our journal *Parliamentary Affairs* and our Statutory Instrument Tracker®, as well as our membership and our training programmes.

Every pound we raise is reinvested directly into our research, education, and public engagement work. This model safeguards our financial independence, but it also makes funding the Society's work a constant challenge. That is why a key governance priority is to recruit new Trustees who can help us strengthen and diversify our income, building a secure and sustainable financial foundation for the future.

Governance and decision-making

Charitable status

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. It was incorporated on 30 November 2001 and registered as a charity on 25 March 2002. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. The company is governed under its Articles of Association.

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament serve as Co-Presidents of the Society. These are honorary positions reflecting the Society's unique 'critical friend' relationship with the Westminster Parliament, and the Society's commitment to non-partisanship. The Speakers are supportive of the work of the Society, but they have no formal role in or responsibility for the administration, governance or activities of the Charity.

Board of Trustees

Legal responsibility for the management and stewardship of the Hansard Society is vested in the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Director.

The Board of Trustees meets four times per year; additional meetings take place if required. The Society does not operate standing sub-committees but convenes these from time to time where additional Board oversight is required.

The Director of the Society attends meetings of the Board of Trustees and provides regular reports on the work of the Society. Other staff may attend Board meetings as appropriate depending on the agenda.

Recruitment

Trustees are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. The Chair and Treasurer are appointed on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. Other members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, after which they may put themselves forward for reappointment for a further three-year term. In some circumstances, Trustees may be co-opted for a further period.

New Trustees are recruited with the intention of securing a range of views, interests and perspectives. In addition to public advertisements for new Trustees, wide networks are consulted, including those of our stakeholders, who represent the public, private, statutory and charitable sectors, and all the major political parties. As with staff, we select potential Trustees for interview through a blind review of (i) responses to a series of questions relevant to the role and (ii) their CV. To minimise bias, our assessment process is anonymised up to and including the shortlisting stage.

Following their appointment, new Trustees have an induction meeting with the Chair and Director and then meet with other members of staff to discuss their particular areas of work. They are also provided with an induction pack containing information about the Society and their responsibilities as Trustees, including charity law and governance issues.

Conflicts of interest

Given the nature of the organisation, the Society's Board includes members who serve in Parliament, are involved in politics and government, and who are generally well-connected with many other organisations and individuals in wider civil society in both the private and public sectors.

This poses a conflict-of-interest risk that must be managed. The Society thus has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy governing the Board of Trustees.

All Trustees must make a declaration of interests annually, and new Trustees must make a declaration on their appointment to the Board and prior to attendance at their first meeting. Declaration of interests is a standing agenda item at all Board meetings.

Staff and volunteers

The senior management team of the Charity in 2024 comprised the Director, Dr Ruth Fox. The Society employed an average of 4.1 members of staff compared to 3.8 in 2023.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for deciding the staff remuneration policy which they review regularly at Board meetings. Its implementation is delegated to the Director.

Salary levels are set in relation to the skills and experience that are required to enable the Charity to carry out its work.

In addition to directly employed staff the Society employs freelancers on time-limited contracts to deliver certain projects, for example the co-host and producer of our Parliament Matters podcast.

Operational support

A range of core services are contracted externally. Most notably, accounting services are provided by JS2, IT support is provided by Cheeky Munkey, and HR advice is provided by HR Services. The Society also subscribes externally to provide an Employee Assistance Programme for all staff.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to members of the public, who can join as ordinary members or as members who in addition subscribe to our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. Members of Parliament can join as parliamentary patrons.

The Society offers a concessionary membership tier for under-30s, students, the unwaged receiving welfare benefits, and those who are retired on a low income. Recognising that some people face financial barriers to political engagement and participation, we hope this discounted membership will allow more people to support our work championing the cause of parliamentary democracy.

The audience, including journalist Andrew Marr, listens to the Rt Hon Theresa May MP give the inaugural Churchill–Attlee Democracy Lecture, Westminster Central Hall, 14 May 2024
Credit: Hansard Society / Roger Harris

Financial overview

The financial statements contained in this report are prepared in accordance with the FRS 102 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

Income

Total income for 2024 was £354,518, an increase of £81,103 on 2023. Income was derived predominantly from grants to support the Society's charitable activities, and publications, amounting to £340,215 in total (compared to £264,403 in 2023).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £297,684 (compared to £316,247 in 2023). The Society thus had a net surplus of £56,834 in the year, compared to a net deficit of £42,832 in 2023.

Balance sheet

The current funds position shows £28,629 held in restricted funds (compared to £34,403 last year) and a further £134,566 held in the general fund (compared to £71,958 in 2023). The net current assets are £163,195 (compared to £106,361 the previous year).

Reserves policy

The Society's Trustees ensure the overall health of the Charity by managing its free reserves to ensure the organisation can withstand short-term financial risks and adverse events that may damage some or all of the Society's areas of work.

With no endowment or substantial assets, the Society is dependent on income from project grants, membership subscriptions, Statutory Instrument Tracker® subscriptions, training programmes, publications, and donations. The Charity therefore needs to manage the financial risks inherent in a model in which income is subject to fluctuation from year to year.

The Society's reserves policy is currently set at a minimum of three months' core operational expenditure, or £76,002. The Society has spent down its reserves since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to support the transition to a new funding model following the closure of the Scholars Programme. The reserves policy is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Grant funding

We are grateful to the following grant bodies for their support.

The Legal Education Foundation (LEF) has continued to provide ongoing financial support for our research work on delegated legislation – in 2024 the Society received £49,091 in grant funding from them for this purpose.

The Society received £77,444 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust as the second tranche of a three-year restricted grant to support the case for parliamentary reform, and to support the training of new MPs in legislative and related procedures.

A further £19,067 was received from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust towards the work reviewing the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons.

Financial risks

The most significant financial risks facing the Society are:

- economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity;
- forecast income from our journal not realised;
- inadequate reserves and cashflow; and
- inadequate non-project-related funding.

The Board reviews the financial plans at each meeting and manages the significant risks accordingly through income generation

pipelines, budgetary controls, and management of reserves to ensure that the organisation lives within its means.

Financial outlook

The Hansard Society's overall financial position has been weaker in recent years due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the loss of our international Scholars Programme which for decades was a source of core, unrestricted income generation for the organisation.

Throughout 2024 regular financial monitoring and scenario planning was undertaken to identify measures that might be required to maintain a secure financial position while continuing to invest in core activities to meet the Society's charitable objectives.

A smaller surplus in 2025 has been budgeted for to facilitate cost of living salary increases for staff, investment to refresh our IT equipment and funding of core activities such as the Parliament Matters podcast which are not supported by project grants.

Going concern

Taking into account existing plans, the Society's reserves position, and confirmed income and expenditure, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities. They are therefore satisfied that the Charity is a financially viable organisation – a 'going concern' – that can continue operating for the next 12 months (from August 2025, when the assessment was made).

Fundraising

The Society is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with all the relevant standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. We did not undertake any work in the year with fundraising companies.

Key risks

Risk management

The Hansard Society maintains a comprehensive risk register to monitor and manage the key risks and uncertainties that could significantly affect its ability to deliver its charitable objectives.

While risk can never be eliminated entirely, the Board's priority is to reduce exposure to acceptable levels. At times, however, higher-risk options may arise that could advance the Society's mission. In such cases, the Board seeks to balance potential benefits with the risks involved.

The Board of Trustees formally reviews the full risk register at least twice a year. Between these reviews, any significant change – whether an increase or decrease in a risk rating – is reported to the Board for discussion and, where necessary, further action.

Risks are assessed across six categories:

(i) operational;
(ii) financial;
(iii) strategic;
(iv) reputational;
(v) occupational health; and
(vi) legal and regulatory matters.

Each risk is scored from 1 to 5 for both *impact* and *likelihood* (1 = minimal/remote; 5 = extreme/highly likely). The combined score (impact multiplied by likelihood) determines the overall rating:

- 21+ (an 'alarm bell' risk): requires immediate action; potential existential threat;
- 16–20 (a 'priority' risk): requires comprehensive mitigation and monthly monitoring;
- 11–15 (an 'important' risk): adequate mitigation in place; monitored quarter;
- 6–10 (a 'watchlist' risk): reviewed quarterly; mitigated if resources allow; and
- 0–5 (a 'managed' risk): reviewed quarterly for changes.

The Trustees confirm that, at present, no risks fall into the 'alarm bell' category.

Six risks are rated as a 'priority'. The principal risks and uncertainties remain unchanged from the previous year.

Key risks identified by the Society were:

Risk	Mitigation / Commentary
Operational	
Temporary loss of key staff	
In a small organisation the unplanned loss of key personnel, even for a short period of time, can have a significant impact on delivery of work.	The Society's staff work to ensure that processes are clearly structured and well documented, with cross-training provided wherever feasible. However, given the small size of the team, the risk of disruption from unplanned or unavoidable staff absences remains high.

Risk	Mitigation / Commentary
Financial	
Inadequate reserves and cashflow	
The Society's reserves policy stands at three months of core operational expenditure. This policy is kept under review by Trustees. Despite the difficulties and financial losses incurred in the years since the start of the pandemic the Society's reserves have been maintained at just above the three-month requirement.	Further progress is required to deliver the Society's financial turnaround plan in full, but the combination of cost-control measures and income generation activities is beginning to show results. 2024 marked the first year since the pandemic in which the Society achieved a year-end financial surplus. As a result, the general fund closed the year with reserves equivalent to 4.8 months of total expenditure. Cashflow pressures remain infrequent, as a significant proportion of the Society's income – most notably the contribution from Oxford University Press for *Parliamentary Affairs* – is received in advance. Certain grant income is also paid ahead of delivery, either quarterly or annually, which further supports liquidity.
Financial	
Health of the economy impacting on Society-wide activity	
The economic context (particularly inflation, the rising cost of living and a decline in business confidence) is not an ideal environment in which to generate discretionary income.	The Society's income generation strategy is focused on diversifying revenue streams, with particular emphasis on opportunities that can provide recurring annual income. Membership growth has begun to show progress, although subscriptions to the SI Tracker remained broadly unchanged in 2024. Work also continues to develop the Society's procedural training programmes. Efforts to engage high-net-worth individuals with an interest in politics and Parliament were initiated during the year but were disrupted by external events. A ministerial reshuffle required the cancellation of a planned fundraising lunch, while the earlier-than-expected general election led to the cancellation of another fundraising event involving two former party leaders.
Financial	
Forecast income from *Parliamentary Affairs* is not realised	
Two potential risks to *Parliamentary Affairs* journal income have been identified by the Society in discussions with our publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP): a reduction in institutional subscriptions arising from financial pressures on universities; and a reduction in income as a result of open access publishing over the next few years.	The journal retains a strong subscriber base, supported by its inclusion in OUP consortia sales. The continued growth of its Impact Factor strengthens this position and is expected to sustain demand. To date, the anticipated financial impact of open access publishing has not materialised. At the end of 2024, the Society agreed to renew its partnership with OUP on the same financial terms, securing this core income stream for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.

Risk	Mitigation / Commentary
Occupational health	
Health problems – e.g. flu, viruses – leading to loss of key staff at key moments	
Given the Society has a very small team, the potential impact of illness resulting in one or more members of staff being absent at short notice is disproportionately high.	Absence due to sickness remained low throughout 2024. However, in the first quarter of 2025 levels of illness increased significantly. Despite this, the Society was able to deliver almost all planned activities, except for public events. Staff are required not to attend the office if they – or members of their household – have Covid and are also discouraged from working onsite if experiencing cold or similar symptoms, to minimise the risk of transmission. All staff are equipped with the IT systems and software necessary to work remotely, and work planning considers the potential impact of staff absence on projects. To support resilience, processes are carefully structured and documented, and cross-training is implemented where feasible, particularly for key activities such as maintaining the SI Tracker and producing the weekly Bulletin and podcast.
Strategic	
Changes in membership of the Board leading to a loss of key skills / knowledge	
A loss of Trustees can have a detrimental impact on institutional knowledge but if unplanned and unexpected it can also give rise to unanticipated recruitment costs, with implications for staff time and wider Society resources.	Succession planning is a priority for the Board. Trustees' terms of office are reviewed considering their plans for the following 12–18 months. In exceptional circumstances, where the expiry of a Trustee's term would risk the loss of critical skills or institutional knowledge, the Board may co-opt that individual for a further period. Several Trustees are now approaching the end of their term in office. To ensure continuity and renewal, the Society has begun recruiting a pipeline of new Trustees to join over a managed transition period. Recruitment is focused on strengthening expertise in three priority areas identified through a skills audit: charitable fundraising (e.g. cultivating high-net-worth donors or running successful online small-donor campaigns); digital communications and engagement (especially through social media); or building stakeholder partnerships (e.g. securing sponsorships for events or projects).

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Hansard Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

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

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

Approval

Approved by the Trustees on 2 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Independent Examiner's report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hansard Society for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 34 to 48.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company 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 charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

Since the charity's income is in excess of £250,000, its examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of my membership of the Association of Accounting Technicians which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles 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).

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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

_____ 2 September 2025

Andrew M Wells FMAAT
Counterculture Partnership LLP
23 St Leonards Road, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN40 1HH

Financial statements

Statement of financial activities

Incorporating an income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	*Total Funds 2023 £*
INCOME					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	14,303	-	14,303	*9,008*
Charitable activities	4	194,613	145,602	340,215	*264,403*
Investments: bank interest		-	-	-	*4*
Other income		-	-	-	*-*
TOTAL INCOME		208,916	145,602	354,518	*273,415*
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		146,308	151,376	297,684	*316,247*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	146,308	151,376	297,684	*316,247*
Net (expenditure) and Net movement in funds		62,608	(5,774)	56,834	*(42,832)*
Balances brought forward		71,958	34,403	106,361	*149,193*
Balances carried forward		134,566	28,629	163,195	*106,361*

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

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities.

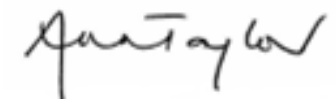
Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2024 – Company number 04332105

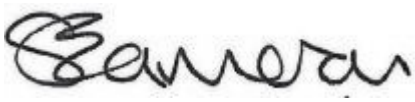
	Note	£	2024 £	£	*2023 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	8		-		-
Tangible assets	9		-		*879*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	47,791		*15,817*	
Cash at bank and in hand		164,033		*139,067*	
		211,824		*154,884*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(48,629)		*(49,402)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			163,195		*105,482*
NET ASSETS			163,195		*106,361*
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	12		28,629		*34,403*
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	12	-		*879*	
General fund	12	134,566		*71,079*	
			134,566		*71,958*
			163,195		*106,361*

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2024. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Directors on 2 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)



Shirley Cameron (Hon. Treasurer)

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024		*2023*	
	£	£	*£*	*£*
Cash (used in) / provided by operating activities				
Net movement in funds	56,834		*(42,832)*	
Add back depreciation and amortisation	879		*1,558*	
Less investment income	-		*(4)*	
Decrease in debtors	(31,974)		*71,435*	
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(773)		*23,900*	
Net cash (used in) operating activities		24,966		*54,057*
Cash flows (used in) / provided by investing activities				
Investment income	-		*4*	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-		*(1,758)*	
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities		-		*(1,754)*
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		24,966		*52,303*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		139,067		*86,764*
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		164,033		*139,067*

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Statutory information

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (Company number 04332105). The registered office address and principal place of business is 36-37 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TL.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the *Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Hansard Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company include the Trustees. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the 'going concern' basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Having reviewed our budget and projections in light of the current situation, the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Income

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

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts. Income is deferred only when the Society has to fulfil conditions before

becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified the income is to be expended into a future period. Where donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included as restricted income when receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates. Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Overheads and other salaries are allocated between the expenses headings on the basis of time spent.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include governance costs which are incurred in connection with enabling the Society to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

2.6 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. A full year of amortisation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Website development – 3 years straight line.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year of depreciation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Office and computer equipment – 2 years straight line.

2.8 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme: the Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the assets of which are administered by Scottish Widows. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the charity benefits from the employees' services. The charity has no further liability under the scheme.

2.9 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 at their settlement value.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 Accounting judgements and estimates

The key judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these Financial Statements are as follows:

- the depreciation rate of tangible fixed assets and amortisation rate of intangible fixed assets (as detailed above); and
- support costs are apportioned to direct activities based on the direct staff costs allocated to these activities (see Note 5).

There are no other key assumptions concerning the future and other key 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 financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	*Total Funds 2023 £*
Donations	14,303	-	14,303	*9,008*
	14,303	-	14,303	*9,008*

In the year to 31 December 2024, all income from donations and legacies was unrestricted.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	*Total Funds 2023 £*
The Legal Education Foundation	-	49,091	49,091	*24,545*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	77,444	77,444	*19,361*
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	-	19,067	19,067	*26,693*
Total grants	-	145,602	145,602	*70,599*
Other project income: research, education and events	4,404	-	4,404	*8,297*
Membership subscriptions	6,839	-	6,839	*4,125*
Publications	183,370	-	183,370	*181,382*
	194,613	145,602	340,215	*264,403*

5. Expenditure

CURRENT YEAR

	Direct staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £
Projects – research, education and events	110,428	71,314	115,742	297,484
Publications	-	200	-	200
Support costs (see Note 6)	22,862	92,880	(115,742)	-
	133,290	164,394	-	297,684

PRIOR YEAR

	Direct Staff costs £	*Direct costs £*	*Support costs £*	*Total 2023 £*
Projects – research, education and events	*143,288*	*24,727*	*145,618*	*313,633*
Publications	*53*	*2,507*	*54*	*2,614*
Support costs (see Note 6)	*37,515*	*108,157*	*(145,672)*	*-*
	180,856	*135,391*	*-*	*316,247*

6. Support costs

	2024 £	*2023 £*
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	1,440	*1,512*
Board expenses and meeting costs	-	*-*
	1,440	*1,512*
Other support costs		
Staff costs	22,862	*37,515*
Premises, equipment and depreciation	26,561	*44,001*
Stationery, post, phone and IT	19,291	*16,454*
Information, research and communications	3,652	*8,611*
Legal and professional	30,019	*27,483*
Other	11,917	*10,096*
	115,742	*145,672*

7. Employee and key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and Director. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions) were £61,561 (2023: £61,561).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the charity during the year. No Trustees were reimbursed any expenses in the year (2023: £58) relating to travel and subsistence.

There were no related party balances as at 31 December 2024 (2023: nil).

	2024 £	*2023* *£*
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	119,443	*158,323*
Social security costs	6,654	*12,302*
Employer pension contributions	7,193	*10,231*
	133,290	*180,856*

No employees had emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year or the previous year (exclusive of employer pensions and employer National Insurance contributions).

Particulars of employees:

The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:

2024 No.	*2023* *No.*
4.1	*3.8*

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	25,096
Additions in the year	-
At 31 December 2024	25,096
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2024	25,096
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2024	25,096
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	-
At 31 December 2023	-

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	18,293
Additions in the year	-
Disposals in the year	(8,628)
At 31 December 2024	9,665
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	17,414
Disposals in the year	(8,628)
Charge for the year	879
At 31 December 2024	9,665
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	-
At 31 December 2023	879

10. Debtors

	2024 £	*2023* *£*
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments	11,424	*6,619*
Accrued income	30,261	*3,679*
Other debtors	6,106	*5,519*
	47,791	*15,817*

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	*2023* *£*
Trade creditors	13,708	*6,274*
Taxes and social security	2,842	*3,830*
Pension contributions	957	*710*
Accruals	7,629	*7,665*
Other creditors	2,082	*2,105*
Deferred income	21,411	*28,818*
	48,629	*49,402*

Deferred income:

Balance brought forward	28,818	*4,013*
Amount released to income	(28,818)	*(4,103)*
Amount deferred in the year (see Note 2.4) all relating to services not performed until the following year		
Statutory Instrument Tracker income	640	-
The Legal Education Foundation	16,364	*20,455*
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	-	*7,627*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	4,407	*736*
	21,411	*28,818*

12. Statement of funds: current year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	26,693	19,067	(29,906)	-	15,854
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	10,447	77,444	(88,223)	-	(332)
The Legal Education Foundation	(2,737)	49,091	(33,247)	-	13,107
Total restricted funds	34,403	145,602	(151,376)	-	28,629

Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust: this relates to a grant to review the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons. Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust: this relates to a grant for our 'Building a Better Commons' work on parliamentary reform. The Legal Education Foundation: this relates to a grant to support our work on reform of the parliamentary scrutiny system for delegated legislation.

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Fixed assets	879	-	(879)	-	-
Total designated funds	879	-	(879)	-	-

Fixed asset fund – this represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Designated funds	879	-	(879)	-	-
General fund	71,079	208,916	(145,429)	-	134,566
	71,958	208,916	(146,308)	-	134,566
Restricted funds	34,403	145,602	(151,376)	-	28,629
Total funds	106,361	354,518	(297,684)	-	163,195

13. Statement of funds – prior year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2023 £*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	*19,361*	*(8,914)*	-	*10,447*
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	-	*26,693*	-	-	*26,693*
The Legal Education Foundation	-	*24,545*	*(27,282)*	-	*(2,737)*
Total restricted funds	-	*70,599*	*(36,196)*	-	*34,403*

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2023 £*
Fixed assets	*679*	-	*(1,558)*	*1,758*	*879*
Total designated funds	-	-	*(1,558)*	*1,758*	*879*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2023 £*
Designated funds	*679*	-	*(1,558)*	*1,758*	*879*
General fund	*148,514*	*202,816*	*(278,493)*	*(1,758)*	*71,079*
	149,193	*202,816*	*(280,051)*	-	*71,958*
Restricted funds	-	*70,599*	*(36,196)*	-	*34,403*
Total funds	*149,193*	*273,415*	*(316,247)*	-	*106,361*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

CURRENT YEAR	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	-	134,566	28,629	163,195
	-	134,566	28,629	163,195

PRIOR YEAR	*Designated funds*	*General funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Fixed assets	*879*	-	-	*879*
Net current assets	-	*71,079*	*34,403*	*105,482*
	879	*71,079*	*34,403*	*106,361*

15. Pension

The Society operates defined contribution schemes for its employees, making a contribution of 7% of gross salaries. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Society and amounted to £7,193 (2023: £10,231). Contributions totalling £957 (2023: £710) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date, the company had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for property) which fall due as follows:

	2024	*2023*
	£	*£*
Less than one year	33,593	*32,230*
Between two and five years	16,796	*55,988*
	50,389	*88,218*

17. Statement of financial activities – prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	*9,008*	*-*	*9,008*
Charitable activities	*193,804*	*70,599*	*264,403*
Investments: Bank interest	*4*	*-*	*4*
Other income	*-*	*-*	*-*
TOTAL INCOME	*202,816*	*70,599*	*273,415*
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	*280,051*	*36,196*	*316,247*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	*280,051*	*36,196*	*316,247*
Net (expenditure) / income and Net movement in funds	*(77,235)*	*34,403*	*(42,832)*
Balances brought forward	*149,193*	*-*	*149,193*
Balances carried forward	*71,958*	*34,403*	*106,361*

Hansard Society Ltd

Registered office

36-37 Albert Embankment

London

SE1 7TL

Tel: 020 3925 3979

E-mail: contact@hansardsociety.org.uk

Web: hansardsociety.org.uk

Company Registration Number (England and Wales): 04332105

Charity Registration Number: 1091364

80 YEARS 1944 2024

HANSARD SOCIETY

HANSARD SOCIETY LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1091364

Accounts

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Company Number: 04332105 Charity Number: 1091364

HANSARD SOCIETY

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Administrative and legal information

Trustees

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)
Jackie Ashley
Professor Roger Awan-Scully
Sir David Beamish KCB
Dianne Bevan
Shirley Cameron
The Lord Dunlop
Sue Inglish
Dr Rebecca Rumbul
The Lord Shamash
Sir Paul Silk KCB

Director

Dr Ruth Fox

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith

Registered address

36-37 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TL

Company registration number

04332105

Charity registration number

1091364

Independent Examiner

Counterculture Partnership LLP
Bank Chambers, Main Street
Hawes, North Yorkshire
DL8 3QL

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank plc
9 Brindley Place
Birmingham, B1 2HB

Scottish Widows plc
PO Box 12757, 67 Morrison Street
Edinburgh, EH3 8YJ

Chair's foreword

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Chair of the Board of Trustees

The last year has certainly been an interesting one for all of us who value parliamentary democracy and who believe that, for all its imperfections, it is still the best form of political decision-making available to us. It is a great privilege to chair the Board of Trustees of the Hansard Society at this juncture, particularly as we mark the milestone of our 80th anniversary.

After what has been a busy and challenging year for the Society, I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication and my fellow Trustees for their commitment and support.

In last year's report I expressed my deep concern about the tarnished reputation of Parliament, particularly the House of Commons, following a series of scandals. Since then, the political landscape has dramatically shifted: the Conservative Party endured a landslide defeat in the 2024 general election, and a generational change is reshaping the House of Commons, with more than half of MPs now newly elected.

However, the challenges Parliament faces cannot simply be solved by a change in Government or an influx of fresh faces. Public confidence in politicians' competence remains shaky, and doubts persist about the effectiveness of Parliament. These concerns are even more pronounced given the overwhelming majority enjoyed by the Government, raising questions about Parliament's capacity to scrutinise and hold the executive to account.

During my tenure as Chair of the Society, and in my former role as Chair of the House of Lords Constitution Committee, I have repeatedly called for a reset in the relationship between Government and Parliament – urging Ministers to respect parliamentary scrutiny rather than seeking ways to evade it.

Now, with the start of a new Parliament, we have a crucial opportunity to re-establish a more constructive and constitutionally sound relationship.

The new Government needs to avoid the pitfalls of the past: overreliance on broad delegated powers, skeleton bills, rushed scrutiny processes and the misuse of "urgency" to bypass proper legislative procedures and govern by fiat. We need a return to proper policy-making processes: increased consultation, green and white papers, draft bills and deeper engagement between Ministers, Select Committees and backbenchers.

But a shift in Government attitude alone is not enough to address Westminster's deep-rooted problems. There is widespread consensus among those who work within our parliamentary system that it is not functioning well. The problems lie not just with the people, but with the system itself. It would be naïve to assume that simply having "better" or "different" leaders will automatically lead to better governance.

Over the past decade, Brexit and Covid-19 have reshaped the country; yet these seismic constitutional changes, technological advances and new working practices have not translated into meaningful cultural or procedural changes within Parliament. The only lasting impact has been the steady increase in executive power, weakening Parliament's role. If this trend continues, our parliamentary system risks being permanently diminished.

While we welcome recent promises from the Attorney General and others in the new Government that they will not abuse the use of delegated (secondary) legislation, this commitment must be backed by action. Robust parliamentary scrutiny forces Ministers to justify their policies in a transparent way, improving the likelihood that the

policy will be both effective and perceived as legitimate by the public, even by those who may be adversely affected.

Ultimately, the quality of governance will only improve if Ministers understand that their decisions will face rigorous, evidence-based scrutiny in Parliament. Only then can we ensure that policies are shaped not just by political objectives, but also by the practical realities and expert insights that Parliament is uniquely positioned to provide.

The Society, true to its non-partisan ethos, will continue to closely monitor and report on the Government's commitment to upholding legislative standards, ensuring they meet the promises made by Ministers.

In the year ahead, much of our focus will be on advancing our proposals to reform the delegated legislation system. With the findings from our Delegated Legislation Review and a comprehensive implementation plan in hand, we will be working to generate cross-party and civil society support for these much-needed reforms.

With a significant number of new MPs entering Westminster, our second major focus will be on empowering them to fully understand and embrace their parliamentary roles. Thanks to a generous three-year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, we will be offering professional development to MPs and their staff over several years. Our aim is to enhance their knowledge of how Parliament works, helping them to become more effective in their roles while also improving their sense of job satisfaction.

Our third priority centres on advocating for reform of the customs, language, and rules of the House of Commons through engagement with the newly established Modernisation Committee. I established the first Modernisation Committee in 1997 when I was Leader of the House of Commons, so I know how vital this platform could be for driving strategic change in the Commons. There is no shortage of reform proposals for Parliament: the key is to present a compelling "business case" to Ministers, demonstrating how a well-structured package of reforms can benefit not just Parliament, but the Government as well.

To ensure the Society's long-term sustainability, building a strong financial foundation is also a key goal.

This year marks our 80th anniversary, a milestone we celebrated with former Prime Minister Theresa May MP, who delivered our inaugural Democracy Lecture to mark the occasion. At this event, we also launched our 80th Anniversary fundraising appeal – the first formal appeal in over 15 years. I am grateful to those – including some of my colleagues in the House of Lords – who have generously contributed to this effort so far.

Unlike other think tanks and organisations focused on governmental effectiveness, the Society does not have the security of support from significant philanthropists. Those organisations can plan confidently each year with multi-million-pound gifts and endowments, but we face annual uncertainty when raising money each year through a mix of short-term grants, membership, small donations and publication sales.

The new "class of 2024" MPs in the House of Commons chamber, July 2024
© House of Commons

Despite these challenges, the Society remains fully committed to its purpose. Our work is more important than ever as we navigate a rapidly evolving political landscape. With the support of our members, generous donors, and civil society partners, we are confident that we can continue to drive the debate about how to strengthen Parliament and make it a more effective institution for the future, in the interest of all our citizens.

Trustees' report

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law, present their annual report (pages 2-26) and accounts (pages 27-39) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, those of the governing documents, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trustees review the activities of the Charity on an ongoing basis and are satisfied that they continue to be directly related to the Society's core mission and objectives.

The Trustees would like to thank our members, supporters and partners with whom we have worked throughout 2023.

We would particularly like to thank the following:

For project grant funding:

- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust;
- The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust; and
- The Legal Education Foundation.

The first donors to our 80th Anniversary Appeal (1944-2024):

- Lord Smith of Kelvin and the Robert Haldane Smith Charitable Foundation (£10,000); and
- Lord Hollick and the Hollick Family Foundation (£5,000).

The Trustees would also like to thank the Hansard Society's hardworking and dedicated staff, particularly Dr Brigid Fowler, Dheemanth Vangimalla and Tom West who moved on to new roles during the course of the year.

However, we were pleased to welcome three new members to the team – Matthew England, Richard Greenhill and Chris Roberts – in Autumn 2023.

We are, as ever, grateful to the co-editors of our journal *Parliamentary Affairs* – Professor Alistair Clark and Dr Louise Thompson – for their sterling work throughout the year, and to the production team at Oxford University Press who ensure the journal appears each quarter.

Each year we work with academics, consultants and partner organisations to support our activities. We particularly thank the following contributors:

- Dame Harriett Baldwin MP
- Professor Tim Bale
- Professor Stuart Ball CBE
- Dr Stephen Holden Bates
- Mark D'Arcy
- Paul Evans CBE
- Professor Tom Hickman KC and Blackstone Chambers
- Dr Christoph Konrath
- Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira
- Professor Sophia Psarra
- Professor Stefanie Pywell and the Open University
- Dr James Strong
- Dr Melanie Sully
- Dr Sarah Whitmore

Those who have contributed to our Delegated Legislation Review and our new podcast, Parliament Matters, are numerous and are mentioned later in this report. We do greatly appreciate the time they have given up to support these projects.

If you would like further information or to discuss how you can support our work please email us at contact@hansardsociety.org.uk.

For information about membership or to make a donation please visit our website at hansardsociety.org.uk.

Selected highlights from 2023

6 February 2023
Our **Delegated Legislation Review** proposals are published for consultation

See pages 6-7

18 March 2023
Parliamentary Affairs **special edition** published marking **20 years since Parliament approved military action in Iraq**

See also page 16

14 April 2023

Will anyone stop Parliament from falling down? The Society's Director joined Alain Tolhurst, Dr Alex Meakin and Mark Tami MP to discuss the ongoing failure to fix the crumbling Palace of Westminster.

24 February 2023
A **new structure for inter-parliamentary relations** published jointly with the Study of Parliament Group.

See page 11

6 April 2023
Parliamentary Affairs special edition marking **25 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.**

See also page 16

15 October 2023

HS2 fiasco: What does it mean for Parliament? Our Researcher, Matthew England, calculated that **just over 1,300 hours of legislative time was spent on four HS2-related Bills** over nine Sessions in the last decade

28 November 2023

We **launch our weekly podcast** with the BBC's former parliamentary correspondent Mark D'Arcy.

See pages 14-15

28 November 2023

The Director joined journalist Isabel Hardman and former Black Rod, David Leakey, to **discuss the prorogation of Parliament.**

5 December 2023

Delegated legislation: What types are there and how are they made? This briefing was co-authored with Professor Stephanie Pywell and the Open University.

18 December 2023

We submit evidence to the **Procedure Committee** setting out how we think Secretaries of State in the House of Lords should be accountable to MPs in the House of Commons.

See page 10

Delegated Legislation Review

Legislative scrutiny is one of Parliament's core functions, but the delegated legislation system is no longer fit for purpose. It is now a growing source of political frustration across the political spectrum.

The problems with the system have long been known but Brexit and Covid-19 illuminated them starkly.

We believe that delegated legislation is a necessary feature of modern governance: it is not possible or even desirable to make legislative changes solely via primary legislation.

Since we are to have delegated legislation, it is essential that it is carefully prepared, properly evidenced, and subject to meaningful scrutiny.

Ultimately the price of poorly-conceived, poorly-drafted and poorly-scrutinised legislation is paid by citizens across the country who are subject to its detrimental effects.

There are problems with both the delegation of powers in Bills and the scrutiny of the Statutory Instruments (SIs) that arise from those powers.

The system undermines the constitutional balance between the executive and the legislature, damages the reputation of Parliament and squanders one of the most valuable commodities in politics: MPs' and Ministers' time, particularly that spent in pointless Delegated Legislation Committees in the House of Commons. Good scrutiny of Statutory Instruments is conducted in the House of Lords, but the inability of parliamentarians to amend an Instrument blunts the value and impact of this work.

In 2023 we continued with our Review of the problems with the system and considered how delegated legislation could be better scrutinised by both Houses. The work is generously funded by the Legal Education Foundation.

In February 2023 we published a Working Paper setting out 13 draft proposals to reform the system (these are set out on the next page).

We consulted on these extensively, holding meetings with MPs and Peers, Government drafters, lawyers and civil servants, academic and legal experts, regulatory bodies, business and civil society campaigners.

The response was positive and constructive, and we have undertaken further work to build on the evidence and ideas generated through the consultation. We will publish our final recommendations by the end of 2024.

In September 2023, in a speech about Net Zero, the Prime Minister himself, Rishi Sunak, expressed concern about the cursory scrutiny given to the Carbon Budget Order in 2021. We wrote to him to explain how our proposals for reform of the delegated legislation system are critical if his objective of ensuring better debate and scrutiny of significant policy proposals is to be achieved.

It will be necessary for party leaders to engage in this debate because, unless the problems with the system are addressed, public acceptance of the democratic legitimacy of delegated legislation will come under increasing strain.

Our Advisory Panel

We are very grateful to the members of our cross-party Panel who gave up so much of their time in 2022 and 2023 to help us develop our reform proposals.

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Paul Evans CBE

The Baroness Andrews OBE

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP (Sept-Nov 2022)

The Rt Hon Steve Baker MP (until Sept 2022)

Sir Jonathan Jones KCB KC

Sir David Beamish KCB

Professor Jeff King

Kirsty Blackman MP

The Lord Lisvane KCB DL

Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP

Professor the Lord Norton of Louth

Delegated Legislation Review

Our interim proposals on which we consulted throughout 2023:

1. A Concordat on Legislative Delegation should be agreed between Parliament and Government to reset the boundary between primary and delegated legislation.
2. A new Statutory Instruments Act should remove the existing scrutiny procedures applied by parent Acts to the use of delegated powers. In their place, a new single scrutiny procedure should apply to all Statutory Instruments (SIs), in which Parliament can calibrate the level of scrutiny to the content of the Instruments.
3. All SIs should be laid before Parliament in draft, other than in exceptional circumstances.
4. A Parliamentary Office for Statutory Instruments (POSI) should be established as a joint department of both Houses of Parliament to analyse and produce briefings on SIs for MPs and Peers.
5. A Joint Secondary Legislation Sifting Committee (JSLSC) should be established to determine which SIs require further scrutiny and approval by Parliament.
6. In the House of Commons, a set of permanent Regulatory Scrutiny Committees (RSCs) should be established to scrutinise, debate and, in some circumstances, approve SIs placed into 'Group B' by the JSLSC.
7. In the House of Commons, motions to approve SIs should be amendable so that MPs can propose changes to an SI before it is approved.
8. In the House of Lords, a new 'think again' procedure should be introduced so that Peers can ask the House of Commons to consider their concerns.
9. A 30-sitting-day 'safety window' should be introduced during which any parliamentarian could table a revocation motion against an SI after it had been made.
10. A new urgent procedure should be introduced for use only in exceptional circumstances when the Government needs an SI to be made and come into force more quickly than is possible under the new standard scrutiny procedure.
11. The UK's legislatures should agree a hierarchy of conditions that must be met before a UK Minister can make or lay an SI that engages a devolved competence.
12. The Joint Secondary Legislation Sifting Committee (JSLSC) should be able to delay Parliament's approval of an SI where the Parliamentary Office for Statutory Instruments (POSI) finds that important information or supporting documentation has not been provided by Ministers. POSI and the National Audit Office should report regularly on the relative performance of Government departments in relation to the preparation of SIs.
13. Parliament should publish draft SIs together with related materials on its website, bringing the SI publication process in line with that for primary legislation.

Case study

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill

The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill was a constitutionally significant framework Bill giving extensive powers to Ministers to decide whether to amend, retain or revoke any of the 2,000+ pieces of Retained EU Law (REUL) on the statute book.

Drawing on our expertise in delegated legislation we concluded that the Bill was fundamentally flawed.

We were concerned that the Bill would **sideline Parliament because it included a sunset provision** that would see any piece of REUL be revoked by default at the end of December 2023 unless Ministers actively decided to save it by that deadline. We argued that acceptance of the automatic expiry (sunset) of REUL would be an abdication of Parliament's scrutiny and oversight role. The decision about whether to let REUL expire would lie entirely with Ministers with no parliamentary input into or oversight of that decision. We were concerned that this process would create unnecessary legal, economic and political uncertainty in the REUL review process.

We were also concerned that the Bill would **give Ministers 'blank cheque' powers** to amend or replace REUL. Several powers were broadly construed and ambiguously worded to, for example, make '*alternative provision*' that Ministers considered *'appropriate'* across policy areas as diverse as animal welfare, consumer rights, data protection, employment, environmental protection, health and safety, and VAT. The exercise of these powers by Ministers would be subject to only limited parliamentary oversight.

We recommended that the Bill be amended to remove the 2023 cliff-edge sunset provision, tighten the wording and scope of several clauses to reduce the discretion conferred on Ministers, and extend the proposed parliamentary 'sifting' scrutiny procedure to more Regulations made under the Bill.

We appreciated the Government's concern that statutory deadlines – including the sunset – were needed to address concerns about bureaucratic inertia in Whitehall in relation to the REUL review programme. However, we argued this could be better achieved by re-structuring the Bill around statutory review provisions. **We said that the Government should engage Parliament as an ally in the process by requiring Departments to report to Parliament setting out their progress in reviewing REUL, stipulating their plans for the Regulations (whether to preserve, amend or revoke etc), and their implementation timetable for doing so.**

In May 2023, seven months after the Society first set out our evidence on the Bill, the Government announced it would abolish the automatic sunset deadline. It also accepted an amendment to introduce a process of statutory reporting to Parliament on progress with the REUL review. We were not the only organisation involved in securing this change in approach to the legislation, but we were one of the most prominent and influential, as the timeline opposite demonstrates.

A timeline of the key events in the parliamentary passage of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill and the Society's role in advocating for a different approach to this legislation

22 September 2022

The Bill was presented to the House of Commons for First Reading.

12 October 2022

The Hansard Society hosted the first public event to discuss the Bill's provisions. The online webinar was attended by over 500 people and chaired by the Society's Senior Researcher, Dr Brigid Fowler. Crossbench Peer, Lord Anderson of Ipswich and the former head of the Government Legal Service, Sir Jonathan Jones KC were panelists, as was the Society's Director, Dr Ruth Fox.

24 October 2022

We published a briefing for MPs: "Five problems with the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill". It analysed five areas of concern that needed to be addressed during the Bill's passage through Parliament.

25 October 2022

Second Reading in the House of Commons. Senior Labour MP Hilary Benn was one of the MPs that cited the Society's briefing paper in the debate.

8 November 2022

The Society's Director gave oral evidence at the first meeting of the Public Bill Committee, alongside Sir Jonathan Jones KC. Our accompanying written evidence was also published.

> **"This is what the Hansard Society had to say: '**The Bill…Sidelines Parliament because it proposed to let all REUL expire on the sunset deadline unless Ministers decide to save it, with no parliamentary input or oversight'."
>
> **Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP**
> **25 October 2022**

8 – 29 November 2022

MPs referred to the Society's written submission and oral evidence on several occasions during the Public Bill Committee meetings.

23 November 2022

The Society's Director appeared before the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee (SLSC) to discuss the five key problems the Society had identified in the Bill. She appeared again alongside Sir Jonathan Jones KC.

18 January 2023

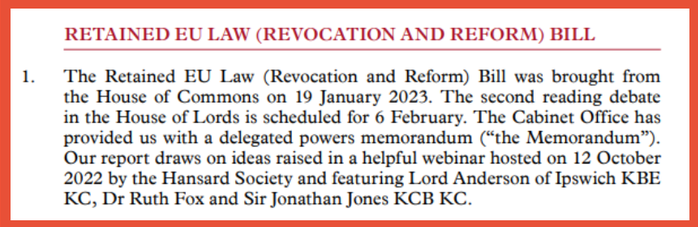
The Bill completed its passage in the House of Commons: Report Stage and Third Reading.

18 January 2023

The Bill received its First Reading in the House of Lords.

2 February 2023

The House of Lords Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee (DPRRC) published its report on the Bill. The Committee acknowledged that its report drew on ideas raised at the Society's webinar in October 2022.



RETAINED EU LAW (REVOCATION AND REFORM) BILL

1. The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill was brought from the House of Commons on 19 January 2023. The second reading debate in the House of Lords is scheduled for 6 February. The Cabinet Office has provided us with a delegated powers memorandum ("the Memorandum"). Our report draws on ideas raised in a helpful webinar hosted on 12 October 2022 by the Hansard Society and featuring Lord Anderson of Ipswich KBE KC, Dr Ruth Fox and Sir Jonathan Jones KCB KC.

The Society participated in a briefing for Peers organised by the environmental organisation Green Alliance. Our Director addressed the concerns around legal certainty and parliamentary scrutiny in the Bill. Representatives from the TUC and Greener UK outlined the perceived threats to rights, and academics from Cardiff University and Queen's University, Belfast highlighted the concerns regarding the Bill's impact on devolved matters.

6 February 2023

During the Second Reading debate in the House of Lords, several Peers cited the Society's evidence, arguing for changes to the Bill to address the five key problems highlighted in our briefing of October 2022, particularly the provision for the automatic expiry of Retained EU Law unless Ministers chose to preserve it by 31 December 2023.

23 February – 8 March 2023

During Committee stage consideration of the Bill, Peers referred to the Society's concerns, particularly in relation to Clause 15 of the Bill which the Society described in its briefings as a "do anything we want" power for Ministers.

10 May 2023

The new Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Kemi Badenoch MP, announced that the Government would replace the clause providing for the automatic sunset of REUL at the end of December 2023. This vindicated the position articulated early on by the Society and others, about the unnecessary risks posed by the legal uncertainty inherent in the original drafting of the Bill.

15 May 2023

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts, former Chair of the SLSC, urged the Government to agree to a further change at Report Stage: that the Committees that undertake the sifting procedure in each House to determine whether a proposed REUL SI should be upgraded from the negative to the affirmative scrutiny procedure should be given 15 rather than 10 sitting days to do their work. He relied on the Society's evidence that the Regulations to be scrutinised would be of a different order of legal and political importance in making his case and noted our endorsement of the scrutiny extension.

23 May 2023

Third Reading in the House of Lords: an amendment was accepted to impose a statutory reporting requirement on Ministers to update the REUL dashboard and update Parliament on its REUL reform programme. Imposing statutory reporting requirements to Parliament was first proposed by our Director in evidence to the SLSC and the House of Commons Public Bill Committee in November 2022.

12 June 2023

The Shadow Opposition spokesperson, Justin Madders MP, cited the Society's evidence in support of a Lords amendment to tackle the very broad Clause 15 provision in the Bill.

> "Lords amendment 42B tackles one of the most controversial clauses, the one that the Hansard Society referred to in its written evidence as the "do anything we want" powers for Ministers. **The Hansard Society is not prone to exaggeration and its comments have merit."**
>
> **Justin Madders MP, 12 June 2023**

21 June 2023

Justin Madders returned to the issue during further consideration of Lords amendments. Reinforcing the argument that Clause 15 should be restrained, he reminded Members that "the Hansard Society is a body whose opinion ought to mean something".

29 June 2023

The Bill received Royal Assent.

30 June 2023

The 'Retained EU Law' Act: Practitioners' Workshop

Less than 24 hours after the Act received Royal Assent the Society held an online training workshop on the parliamentary process for implementation of changes to REUL to equip campaigners and legal and public affairs professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate this legislation successfully.

Scrutiny of Secretaries of State

Should Secretaries of State in the House of Lords be more directly accountable to the House of Commons?

Following the appointment of the Rt Hon Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton to the role of Foreign Secretary on 13 November 2023, we submitted evidence to the House of Commons Procedure Committee inquiry into the options for MPs to effectively scrutinise Secretaries of State in the House of Lords and the work of their departments.

Ideally, Secretaries of State would not be appointed from the House of Lords, but in the absence of a prohibition on such appointments it is necessary to ensure that there is direct accountability to the elected House.

We recognise that there is also a risk that if provision is made for Secretaries of State in the House of Lords to appear before the House of Commons, then Prime Ministers may see this as a green light to recruit more of their Cabinet from the House of Lords. Structuring the scrutiny model must be done in such a way as to deter Prime Ministers from future such appointments.

It is a long-established practice that MPs and Peers speak and vote only in the Chamber of the House of which they are a member. Secretaries of State in the House of Lords can be held accountable by relevant House of Commons Select Committees.

Over the last four decades Westminster has become a more committee-focused legislature. However, it has not yet moved so decisively in the direction of committee-based activity that it can be reasonably said that committees are the main channel of accountability; that is still – not least in the public eye – the preserve of the Chamber.

After considering the options available, we concluded that the best solution – and the one that was least cumbersome and most logistically straight forward – would be for the Secretary of State to be invited into the Commons Chamber to speak from the Despatch Box to respond to certain types of business such as Urgent Questions and Ministerial Questions and debates.

However, the Procedure Committee's preferred solution was for Secretaries of State to be invited to speak at the bar of the House – an option we explicitly cautioned against.

Lord Cameron stood down as Foreign Secretary in July 2024. As we feared, he never appeared at the bar of the House of Commons.

Lord Cameron at the House of Lords European Affairs Committee
14 December 2023
© House of Lords / Roger Harris

> **"Precedent might see him or her invited to speak from a lectern at the bar of the House; however, this would risk making the House look ridiculous. If the Minister is to speak in the Chamber better that (s)he speak from the front bench."**
>
> Evidence to the House of Commons Procedure Committee

A new structure for interparliamentary relations

The emerging quasi-federal organisation of the UK is under new strain yet there are currently no formal mechanisms for the two Houses at Westminster and the devolved legislatures to engage with each other on devolution-related issues of mutual concern.

The situation of the four nations of the UK is now very different from that which existed at the start of the post-1997 devolution settlement.

Since 2010, governments in London have cohabited with governments in Scotland and Wales led by different parties, and, since the Scottish election of 2007, Scotland has been governed by a party committed to establishing an independent nation. Since 2021, Northern Ireland has had distinctive arrangements vis-à-vis the UK and the EU.

The UK's departure from the EU involved the repatriation from the EU to the UK of large areas of policy which engaged many areas which came under devolved competence.

The Covid-19 pandemic also raised awareness of the challenges of managing devolution. As public health was largely devolved each of the devolved jurisdictions had to make its own choices about the measures to be adopted to protect their populations.

The events of the last few years have brought with them an increasing focus on the failure of intergovernmental co-operation to keep pace with developments in devolution. But much less discussed has been the lack of interparliamentary co-operation.

Nice words about the desirability of better interparliamentary relations have not been matched by any real enthusiasm to do anything, especially in the House of Commons where the need and desirability of working with the devolved legislatures has been seen as a priority by too few MPs – even those who are strong advocates of the Union.

In January 2022, the Society organised a discussion about this problem at the Study of Parliament Group's conference in Oxford. Parliamentarians present from both Houses at Westminster and from each of the devolved legislatures encouraged us to produce concrete proposals to address the problem.

Chaired by Sir Paul Silk, a Trustee of the Society, and Paul Evans, a member of the Society, a study group of academics and officials from Westminster, the Scottish Parliament, the Senedd and the Northern Ireland Assembly, was formed to discuss ideas.

In Spring 2023 we published a report jointly with the Study of Parliament Group (SPG) based on the study group's deliberations which set out a proposal to develop and improve parliamentary relations.

Our objective is to stimulate discussion and move the debate forward. We hope it will be an issue that is picked up at Westminster by MPs in the new Parliament.

Commentary

Each year we invite academics and practitioners to set out ideas to stimulate debate and discussion about the way Westminster works and how it could be improved.

We also invite articles from authors who are experts in the work of other legislatures around the world where developments are relevant to contemporary debates in Westminster or are likely to be of general interest to our members and supporters.

The highlights presented here are a selection of some of our most popular submissions.

The 1922 Committee: What are its origins?

Professor Stuart Ball
Emeritus Professor of Modern British History, University of Leicester

The Austrian Parliament's successful renovation

Dr Melanie Sully
Professor of Political Science, Vienna

Rebels with a cause: Backbench groups in the parliamentary Conservative Party

Professor Tim Bale
Professor of Politics, Queen Mary University of London

Does Parliament decide on war? Revisiting the Syria vote ten years on

Dr James Strong
Senior Lecturer in British Politics and Foreign Policy, Queen Mary University of London

Holding the regulators to account: How is the Treasury Committee scrutinising financial services regulations after Brexit?

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP
Chair, Treasury Committee

Finding grace under pressure? Ukraine's Parliament at war

Dr Sarah Whitmore
Reader in Politics, Oxford Brookes University

How does a former Head of Government end up on trial for evidence given in Parliament? The case of Austria's Sebastian Kurz

Dr Christoph Konrath
Austrian Parliamentary Administration

Dr Melanie Sully
Professor of Political Science, Vienna

Events

Each year we organise events to inform our members and supporters about issues in Parliament that raise matters of constitutional or political concern.

We also participate in events organised by other organisations to draw attention to issues and provide insight in areas in which we specialise, such as delegated legislation or parliamentary procedure.

The highlights here were three of the most popular events in which we were involved.

More than just 'talking-shops'? The role of international inter-parliamentary assemblies

7 February 2023

The creation of the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) in 2022 saw the UK Parliament becoming a member of its first new international inter-parliamentary assembly for 30 years. But what do UK Delegations to such bodies do, how do they work and could the arrangements at Westminster for them be improved?

To discuss these issues our webinar brought together Sir Oliver Heald KC MP, Leader of the UK's Delegation to the new PPA, Lord Ricketts, a member of the PPA Delegation and a former diplomat and Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, and Sir Alec Shelbrooke MP, Leader of the UK Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The event was chaired by Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Professor of Politics at the University of Leeds, Chair of the International Parliament Engagement Network and a member of the Hansard Society.

'Serious Disruption': Parliament, Public Order Acts and protest Regulations – What's going on?

9 June 2023

At a time of heightened concern about public protests, the Government's legislative tactics were a source of constitutional concern when Ministers sought to lower the threshold of what constitutes "serious disruption" to community life caused by protestors through a late amendment to the Public Order Bill. The amendment was rejected by the House of Lords. But just weeks later the same proposal was repackaged by the Government and put to Parliament again in the form of a Statutory Instrument which cannot be amended by Parliament and generally attracts less parliamentary scrutiny than a Bill.

But there was much confusion about what had happened and what Parliament could do about it.

We teamed up with Tom Hickman KC, a barrister and Professor of Public Law to discuss the issues. Attendees at the event, hosted by Blackstone Chambers, included representatives from Liberty who subsequently challenged the Government's decision in court.

Our research on delegated legislation was extensively cited in written submissions in the case which Liberty won in 2024.

The future of the constitution: Parliament

28 June 2023

Our Senior Researcher Dr Brigid Fowler joined a distinguished panel at the Constitution Unit's annual online conference to discuss proper scrutiny roles of MPs and Peers, whether they have the opportunities and resources to fulfil these and, if not, what reforms might be needed. The other panelists were the then Shadow Leader of the House of Commons, Thangam Debonnaire MP, Professor the Lord Norton of Louth and Alexander Horne.

Parliament Matters

A podcast about the institution at the heart of our democracy

In November 2023, at the start of the new parliamentary Session, we launched Parliament Matters, co-hosted by the BBC's former parliamentary correspondent, Mark D'Arcy and our Director, Dr Ruth Fox.

There is no shortage of political podcasts, but none of them focus primarily on Parliament.

Parliament Matters seeks to go beyond the political horserace and House of Commons theatre to focus on the action in Westminster that touches all our lives: law-making and raising and spending our taxes.

No other political podcast discusses in detail the parliamentary Estimates process, the Private Members' Bill ballot or debates on Statutory Instruments.

Each week we analyse how laws are made and how Ministers are held accountable by the people we send to Westminster.

And we look at how these processes and procedures could be reformed to make Parliament more effective.

Ruth and Mark worked together in 2018 and 2019 providing analysis and commentary on the 'big Brexit votes' for BBC Parliament. Their coverage secured the highest audience figures in the channel's history.

So, when we heard Mark was planning to retire from the BBC, Ruth pitched the podcast idea and just a few weeks later the first episode was live thanks to the hard work of our founding producer, Luke Boga Mitchell.

By the end of the year 13 episodes had been recorded covering the King's Speech, changes on the Select Committee corridor, the appointment of a new Foreign Secretary based in the House of Lords, and the fate of the Rwanda Bill.

Parliament Matters

Professor the Lord Norton of Louth – a member of the Society – was our first guest, talking about his new book on the history of the Conservative Party's 1922 Committee. Crossbench Peer Lord Anderson of Ipswich KC provided prescient analysis of what would happen with the Rwanda Bill as it made its way through both Houses.

We talked to Conservative MP Nickie Aiken about how her Private Member's Bill to regulate pedicabs in London ended up as a Government Bill in the King's Speech.

Dame Meg Hillier, Labour Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, talked to us about the role and work of Parliament's financial watchdog. And former Clerk of the House of Commons Lord Lisvane discussed his worries about the state of the constitution and why he thinks the elected House has virtually resigned from the legislative process.

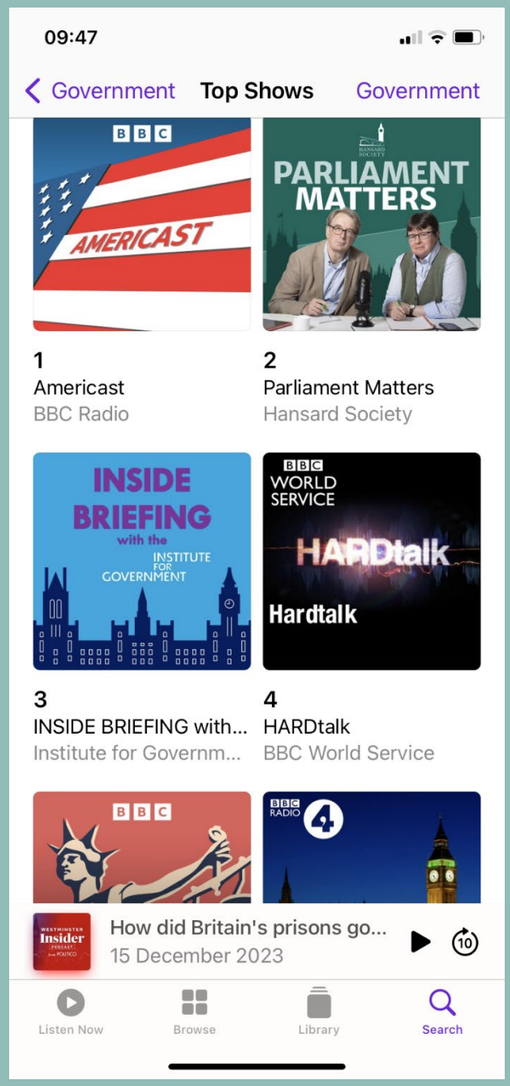
Tony Grew, doyen of the parliamentary press gallery, joined us to talk about how he monitors and reports on what's happening at Westminster, and columnist Rob Hutton explained how he practises one of Britain's oldest journalistic arts, sketching the proceedings of Parliament.

And in anticipation of the general election, we talked to legendary political journalist Michael Crick about the progress each party was making in selecting their candidates, and to academic Rebecca McKie about her new, groundbreaking study of MPs staff.

Ruth Fox, Michael Crick and Mark D'Arcy recording the podcast

Mark D'Arcy talks to Lord Anderson of Ipswich

At the end of 2023 Parliament Matters was No. 2 in the 'Government' chart on Apple Podcasts



Parliamentary Affairs **journal**

In 2023 we published 44 articles in 4 quarterly volumes by 85 authors comprising 967 pages of the latest research about the state of representative politics in the UK and around the world.

We are grateful to our co-editors, Professor Alistair Clark of Newcastle University and Dr Louise Thompson of the University of Manchester. They put together a journal that offers a rigorous but readable examination of a wide range of parliaments and political processes by authors from across the globe, on subjects which are of academic and practitioner interest and relevant to current policy debates.

The Journal looked at aspects of parliamentary democracy in 22 countries

1. Australia
2. Belgium
3. Brazil
4. Canada
5. Croatia
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. Germany
9. India
10. Indonesia
11. Ireland
12. Italy
13. Lesotho
14. Malawi
15. Malaysia
16. Mexico
17. Myanmar
18. Netherlands
19. Portugal
20. South Africa
21. Spain
22. United Kingdom

Our plans for the future

We are focused on securing reform of Parliament to make it a more effective institution, particularly in relation to how it makes laws and scrutinises the raising and spending of public money.

To achieve our objective, we will:

- **support new MPs to understand the different aspects of their parliamentary role and how they can make a difference;**
- **use research evidence to build the case for reform of parliamentary processes and procedures;**
- **advocate for reform, including working with partners where there are shared interests and concerns;**
- **promote wider public understanding of how Parliament works (and how and why it doesn't) through media and social media engagement, events, education and training; and**
- **build a solid financial foundation to sustain and expand the Society's work.**

Our priorities are:

1. Professional development support for new MPs

Following the general election in July 2024 there are a significant number of new MPs who have little experience of the processes and procedures of the House of Commons. We will be providing professional development support for them and their staff to help foster their knowledge and understanding of how Parliament works. The support will cover topics such as:

- tools to be an effective backbencher;
- understanding a Bill;
- understanding delegated legislation;
- scrutinising the Budget;
- what are the Estimates; and
- engaging the media.

2. Reform of the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons

The number of new MPs in the 2024 Parliament presents both a challenge and an opportunity in terms of engaging them in relation to parliamentary reform. They have little experience of how Parliament works but they may be more open to change. The establishment of the new Modernisation Committee in the House of Commons presents an opportunity for strategic consideration of reform and Government support for the Committee increases the prospect that some reforms will be implemented. The Society and our partners have developed a bank of reform proposals over the years. We will be focused on engaging with the Committee and with the wider body of MPs to develop a consensus for changes to make the House of Commons a more effective institution.

3. Reform of the delegated legislation system

Improving parliamentary scrutiny of, and accountability for, delegated powers and Statutory Instruments is one of the most significant constitutional challenges of our time. Legislative scrutiny is one of Parliament's core functions, but the delegated legislation system is no longer fit for purpose, and it is now a growing source of frustration across the political spectrum. Through our Delegated Legislation Review we have set out 13 areas for reform and following an extensive consultation we will be publishing the final recommendations in Autumn 2024, including a road-map and timeline for implementation. We are building a coalition of support across civil society in support of these changes and will utilise every tool at our disposal – inside and outside Parliament – to advocate for change.

Governance and decision-making

Charitable status

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. It was incorporated on 30 November 2001 and registered as a charity on 25 March 2002. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. The company is governed under its Articles of Association.

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament serve as Co-Presidents of the Society. These are honorary positions reflecting the Society's unique 'critical friend' relationship with the Westminster Parliament, and the Society's commitment to non-partisanship. The Speakers are very supportive of the work of the Society but they have no formal role in or responsibility for the administration, governance or activities of the Charity.

Board of Trustees

Legal responsibility for the management and stewardship of the Hansard Society is vested in the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Director.

The Board of Trustees meets four times per year; additional meetings take place if and when required. The Society does not operate standing sub-committees but convenes these from time to time where additional Board oversight is required.

The Director of the Society attends meetings of the Board of Trustees and provides regular reports on the work of the Society. Other staff may attend Board meetings as appropriate depending on the agenda.

Recruitment

Trustees are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. The Chair and Treasurer are appointed on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. Other members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, after which they may put themselves forward for reappointment for a further three-year term. In some circumstances, Trustees may be co-opted for a further period.

New Trustees are recruited with the intention of securing a range of views, interests and perspectives. In addition to public advertisements for new Trustees, wide networks are consulted, including those of our stakeholders, who represent the public, private, statutory and charitable sectors, and all the major political parties.

Following their appointment, new Trustees have an induction meeting with the Chair and Director and then meet with other members of staff to discuss their particular areas of work. They are also provided with an induction pack containing information about the Society and their responsibilities as Trustees, including charity law and governance issues.

Conflicts of interest

Given the nature of the organisation, the Society's Board includes members who serve in Parliament, are involved in politics and government, and who are generally well-connected with many other organisations and individuals in wider civil society in both the private and public sectors.

This poses a conflict of interest risk that must be managed. The Society thus has a Conflict of Interest Policy governing the Board of Trustees.

All Trustees must make a declaration of interests annually, and new Trustees must make a declaration on their appointment to the Board and prior to attendance at their first meeting. Declaration of interests is a standing agenda item at all Board meetings.

Staff and volunteers

The senior management team of the Charity in 2023 comprised the Director, Dr Ruth Fox. During 2023 the Society employed an average of 3.8 members of staff compared to 6 in 2022.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for deciding the staff remuneration policy which they review regularly at Board meetings. Its implementation is delegated to the Director.

Salary levels are set in relation to the skills and experience that are required to enable the Charity to carry out its work.

Governance and decision-making

Operational support

A range of core services are contracted externally. Most notably, accounting services are provided by JS2, IT support is provided by Cheeky Munkey, and HR advice is provided by HR Services. The Society also subscribes externally to provide an Employee Assistance Programme for all staff.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to members of the public, who can join as ordinary members or as members who in addition subscribe to our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. Members of Parliament can join as parliamentary patrons.

The Society offers a concessionary membership tier for under-30s, students, the unwaged receiving welfare benefits, and those who are retired on a low income. Recognising that some people face financial barriers to political engagement and participation, we hope this discounted membership will allow more people to support our work championing the cause of parliamentary democracy.

Financial overview

The financial statements contained in this report are prepared in accordance with the FRS 102 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

Income

Total income for 2023 was £273,415. This was almost exactly the same as the previous year, when income stood at £273,956. Income in 2023 was derived predominantly from grants to support the Society's charitable activities, and publications, amounting to £264,403 in total (compared to £271,221 in 2022).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £316,247 (compared to £425,999) in 2022). The Society thus had a net deficit of £42,832 in the year, compared to a net deficit of £152,043 in 2022.

Balance sheet

The current funds position shows £34,403 held in restricted funds (compared to nil last year) and a further £71,079 held in the general fund (compared to £148,514 in 2022) and £879 in designated funds (£679 in 2022). The net current assets are £106,361 (compared to £149,193 the previous year).

Reserves policy

The Society's Trustees ensure the overall health of the Charity by managing its free reserves to ensure the organisation can withstand short-term financial risks and adverse events that may damage some or all of the Society's areas of work.

With no endowment or substantial assets, the Society is dependent on income from project grants, membership subscriptions, Statutory Instrument Tracker® subscriptions, training programmes, publications (primarily our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*), and donations. The Charity therefore needs to manage the financial risks inherent in a model in which income is subject to fluctuation from year to year.

The Society's reserves policy is currently set at a minimum of three months core operational expenditure, or £76,002. The Society has spent down its reserves since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to support the transition to a new funding model following the closure of the Scholars Programme. The reserves policy is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Grant funding

We are grateful to the following grant bodies for their support.

The Legal Education Foundation (LEF) has continued to provide ongoing financial support for our research work on delegated legislation. In 2023 the Society received £24,545 in grant funding from LEF to support our ongoing work on delegated legislation.

The Society received £19,361 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust as the first tranche of a three-year restricted grant to support the case for parliamentary reform in the next Parliament following the general election and to support the training of new MPs in legislative and related procedures.

A one-year grant was also secured from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust to establish a Taskforce to review the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons. The Society received £26,693 of this grant in 2023.

Financial risks

The most significant financial risks facing the Society are:

- economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity;
- forecast income from our journal not realised;
- inadequate reserves and cashflow; and
- inadequate non-project-related funding.

The Board reviews the financial plans at each meeting and manages the significant risks accordingly through income generation pipelines, budgetary controls, and management of reserves to ensure that the organisation lives within its means.

Financial overview

Financial outlook

The Hansard Society's overall financial position has been weaker in recent years due to the pandemic and the loss of our international Scholars Programme which was a source of core, unrestricted income generation for the organisation.

Throughout 2023 regular financial monitoring and scenario planning was undertaken to identify measures that might be required to maintain a secure financial position while continuing to invest in core activities to meet the Society's charitable objectives.

A smaller deficit in 2023 compared to 2022 was planned for as we continue to support the Society's transition to a post-pandemic environment. Trustees are satisfied that the organisation remains viable.

Going concern

Taking into account existing plans, the Society's reserves position, and confirmed income and expenditure, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities. They are therefore satisfied that the Charity is a financially viable organisation – a 'going concern' – that can continue operating for the next 12 months (from September 2024, when the assessment was made).

Fundraising

The Society is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with all the relevant standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. We did not undertake any work in the year with fundraising companies.

In 2023, in advance of our 80th anniversary in 2024, we began development of a plan to engage high-net-worth individuals with an interest in politics and Parliament. This is a new area of fundraising for the Society and our approach is necessarily cautious given the high-level of potential risk in relation to conflicts of interest.

Stewardship of the Society's reputation in this area of work is paramount and the issues have been regularly discussed and reviewed by Trustees both at Board meetings and in one-to-one and small group meetings with the Director.

Most of our fund-raising initiatives were planned to fall in the months either side of the anniversary in August 2024. But informally we began fundraising for our 80th Anniversary Appeal in the Autumn of 2023 and received two early and generous donations from family foundations established by two members of the House of Lords: Lord Smith of Kelvin and Lord Hollick.

The Anniversary Appeal was subsequently launched publicly in May 2024 by the former Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Theresa May MP at a fund-raising event at which she delivered our inaugural Churchill-Attlee Democracy Lecture, named after our first members.

Key risks

Risk management

The Hansard Society maintains a detailed risk management register.

Key risks and uncertainties are those that could have a material impact on the Charity in carrying out its work.

Risks cannot be eliminated entirely but the Board's objective is to mitigate the Charity's exposure to risk beyond acceptable levels.

On occasion, however, higher risk options arise that would advance the Society's pursuit of its charitable objectives. These risks must be prudently balanced against the opportunities they offer.

The Board of Trustees formally reviews the organisation's risk register in full at Board meetings up to twice a year.

At other times, any proposed change in a risk rating – whether negative or positive – is reported to the Board and is reviewed and discussed further as necessary.

The Board of Trustees reviews the risks the Society faces in six categories:

- operational;
- financial;
- strategic;
- reputational;
- occupational health; and
- legal/regulatory matters.

The Trustees confirm that controls are in place to reasonably mitigate the risks identified.

In 2023 the principal risks and uncertainties identified by the Society were the same as those in the previous year.

In 2023 the key risks identified by the Society were

Risk	Mitigation
OPERATIONAL **Temporary loss of key staff** In a small organisation the unplanned loss of key personnel, even for a short period of time, can have a significant impact on delivery of work.	With the departure of Dr Brigid Fowler in October 2023 (after nearly seven years' service) and Luke Boga Mitchell early in 2024 (after over a decade at the Society) this exposure did increase. However, due to a significant investment of time in hand-over documentation and a detailed induction programme this has not had a detrimental impact on organisational performance. Nonetheless, with small staff numbers, the risk of disruption arising from unplanned and unavoidable absence remains high.
FINANCIAL **Inadequate reserves and cashflow** The Society's reserves policy stands at three months of core operational expenditure. This policy is kept under review by Trustees. Despite the difficulties and financial losses incurred in the years since the start of the pandemic the Society's reserves have been maintained at just above the three-month requirement.	This was upgraded to a 'priority' risk in 2021, after which mitigation measures in the form of a new multi-year income generation plan were agreed in January 2022 and are now being implemented. Cashflow concerns are rare as much of the Society's income – particularly from Oxford University Press for our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs* – is received in advance. Some grant income is also received in advance in quarterly or annual instalments
FINANCIAL **Health of the economy impacting on Society-wide activity** The Society's income has declined considerably since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in Spring 2020 and the related loss of our international Scholars programme. The economic context (particularly inflation, the rising cost of living and a decline in business confidence) is not an ideal environment in which to generate discretionary income.	To diversify the Society's income streams a new income generation plan was adopted in 2022 with a focus on those areas where there was the potential for recurring annual income. This included a plan to grow the Society's membership, SI Tracker subscriptions, and procedural training programmes. In 2023, in anticipation of the Society's 80th Anniversary in 2024, Trustees also began work on an embryonic plan to engage with high-net-worth individuals with an interest in politics and Parliament. Several early donations to our new 80th Anniversary Appeal were secured.

Risk	Mitigation
FINANCIAL **Forecast income from *Parliamentary Affairs* is not realised** Two potential risks to *Parliamentary Affairs* journal income have been identified by the Society in discussions with our publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP): i. institutional subscriptions arising from financial pressures on universities; and ii. a reduction in the financial implications of open access publishing over the next few years.	The journal continues to have a good subscriber base and is insulated to an extent by inclusion in OUP 'consortia' sales to university libraries. Providing the journal's Impact Factor is sustained, this position is likely to be maintained. To date the anticipated impact of open access publishing plans on the journal's finances has not been realised. However, this continues to be kept under review with OUP and possible mitigation measures are a matter of regular discussion.
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH **Health problems – e.g. flu, viruses – leading to loss of key staff at important moments** The ongoing concern about Covid-19 means this risk is still deemed a priority throughout the year as the loss of a staff member for days or even weeks may have a detrimental impact on delivery of work plans.	We continue to have low levels of absence due to sickness. Staff are asked not to work from the office if they (or members of their household) have Covid. To minimise the risk of transmission they are also discouraged from attending the office if they have a cold or similar symptoms. All staff have IT equipment and software to enable them to work remotely at any time and the implications of a loss of a staff member from projects are factored into our work planning.
STRATEGIC **Changes in membership of the Board leading to a loss of key skills/knowledge** A loss of Trustees can have a detrimental impact on institutional knowledge but if unplanned and unexpected it can also give rise to unanticipated recruitment costs, with implications for staff time and wider Society resources.	Succession planning is regularly considered by the Board. At the last quarterly Board meeting each year, the expiry date of each Trustee's term of office is reviewed in the context of their plans for the next 12-18 months. In exceptional cases, where a Trustee's term of office is due to expire, the Board can co-opt the Trustee for a further term if they believe that the loss of key skills/knowledge would be detrimental. A Trustee skills audit was undertaken in 2022 to assess where skills gaps exist at Board level, and this is used to guide future recruitment and will be subject to periodic review.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Hansard Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

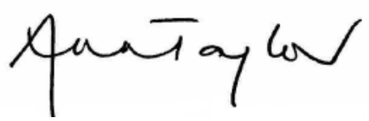
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

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

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

Approval

Approved by the Trustees on 25 September 2024 and signed on their behalf, by:



The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Independent Examiner's report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hansard Society for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 27-39.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company 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 charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

Since the charity's income is in excess of £250,000, its examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of my membership of the Association of Accounting Technicians which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles 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).

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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....

25 *September 2024*

Andrew M Wells FMAAT
Counterculture Partnership LLP
Bank Chambers, Main Street, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3QL

Financial statements

Statement of financial activities

Incorporating an income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	*Total Funds 2022 £*
INCOME					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	9,008	-	9,008	*1,941*
Charitable activities	4	193,804	70,599	264,403	*271,221*
Investments: Bank interest		4	-	4	*48*
Other income		-	-	-	*746*
TOTAL INCOME		202,816	70,599	273,415	*273,956*
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		280,051	36,196	316,247	*425,999*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	280,051	36,196	316,247	*425,999*
Net (expenditure) and Net movement in funds		(77,235)	34,403	(42,832)	*(152,043)*
Balances brought forward		149,193	-	149,193	*301,236*
Balances carried forward		71,958	34,403	106,361	*149,193*

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

All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities.

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023 - Company Number 04332105

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	*2022 £*	*2022 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	8		-		-
Tangible assets	9		879		*679*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	15,817		*87,252*	
Cash at bank and in hand		139,067		*86,764*	
		154,884		*174,016*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(49,402)		*(25,502)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			105,482		*148,514*
NET ASSETS			106,361		*149,193*
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	12		34,403		-
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	12	879		*679*	
General fund	12	71,079		*148,514*	
			71,958		*149,193*
			106,361		*149,193*

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Directors on 25 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Shirley Cameron (Hon Treasurer)

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023		*2022*
	£	£	*£*	*£*
Cash (used in) / provided by operating activities				
Net movement in funds	(42,832)		*(152,043)*	
Add back depreciation and amortisation	1,558		*679*	
Less investment income	(4)		*(48)*	
Decrease in debtors	71,435		*74,171*	
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	23,900		*(630)*	
Net cash (used in) operating activities		54,057		*(77,871)*
Cash flows (used in) / provided by investing activities				
Investment income	4		*48*	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,758)		*(1,358)*	
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities		(1,754)		*(1,310)*
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		52,303		*(79,181)*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		86,764		*165,945*
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		139,067		*86,764*

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Statutory information

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (company number 04332105). The registered office address and principal place of business is 36-37 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TL.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Hansard Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company include the Trustees. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the 'going concern' basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Having reviewed our budget and projections in light of the current situation, the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Income

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

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts. Income is deferred only when the Society has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified the income is to be expended into a future period. Where donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included as restricted income when receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities, they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates. Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Overheads and other salaries are allocated between the expenses headings on the basis of time spent.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include governance costs which are incurred in connection with enabling the Society to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

2.6 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. A full year of amortisation is charge on all assets in the year of purchase. Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Website development – 3 years straight line.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year of depreciation is charge on all assets in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Office and computer equipment – 2 years straight line.

2.8 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme: the Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the assets of which are administered by Scottish Widows. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the charity benefits from the employees' services. The charity has no further liability under the scheme.

2.9 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 at their settlement value.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 Accounting judgements and estimates

The key judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these Financial Statements are as follows:

- the depreciation rate of tangible fixed assets and amortisation rate of intangible fixed assets (as detailed above); and
- support costs are apportioned to direct activities based on the direct staff costs allocated to those activities (see Note 5).

There are other key assumptions concerning the future and other key 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 financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	*Total Funds 2022 £*
Donations	9,008	-	9,008	*1,941*
	9,008	-	9,008	*1,941*

In the year to 31 December 2023, all income from donations and legacies was unrestricted.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	*Total Funds 2022 £*
The Legal Education Foundation	-	24,545	24,545	*22,754*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	19,361	19,361	*60,000*
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	-	26,693	26,693	*-*
Total grants	-	70,599	70,599	*82,754*
Other project income: research, education and events	8,297	-	8,297	*(2,579)*
Membership subscriptions	4,125	-	4,125	*3,502*
Publications	181,382	-	181,382	*187,544*
	193,804	70,599	264,403	*271,221*

In the year to 31 December 2022, £45,000 from The Legal Education Foundation was restricted. All other income from charitable activities was unrestricted in the year to 31 December 2022.

5. Expenditure

Current year

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £
Study and Scholars programme	-	-	-	-
Projects - research, education and events	143,288	24,727	145,618	313,633
Publications	53	2,507	54	2,614
Support costs (see Note 6)	37,515	108,157	(145,672)	-
	180,856	135,391	-	316,247

Prior year

	Direct Staff costs £	*Direct costs £*	*Support costs £*	*Total 2022 £*
Study and Scholars programme	-	*5,790*	-	*5,790*
Projects - research, education and events	*228,653*	*12,726*	*177,185*	*418,564*
Publications	*927*	-	*718*	*1,645*
Support costs (see Note 6)	*47,010*	*130,893*	*(177,903)*	-
	276,590	*149,409*	-	*425,999*

6. Support costs

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	1,512	*1,440*
Board expenses and meeting costs	-	*143*
	1,512	*1,583*
Other support costs		
Staff costs	37,515	*47,010*
Premises, equipment and depreciation	44,001	*67,853*
Stationery, post, phone and IT	16,454	*16,039*
Information, research and communications	8,611	*13,011*
Legal and professional	27,483	*23,830*
Other	10,096	*8,577*
	145,672	*177,903*

7. Employee and key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and Senior Management Team. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions) were £61,561 (2022: £61,882).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the charity during the year. One trustee was reimbursed expenses of £58 (2022: £143) relating to travel and subsistence.

There were no related party balances as at 31 December 2023 (2022: nil).

	2023 £	*2022* *£*
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	158,323	*237,840*
Social security costs	12,302	*21,825*
Employer pension contributions	10,231	*16,925*
Redundancy	-	*-*
	180,856	*276,590*

No employees had emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year or the previous year (exclusive of employer pensions and employer National Insurance contributions).

Particulars of employees

The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:

2023 No.	*2022* *No.*
3.8	*6.0*

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	25,096
Additions in the year	-
At 31 December 2023	25,096
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2023	25,096
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2023	25,096
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	-
At 31 December 2022	-

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and Office Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	17,853
Additions in the year	1,758
Disposals in the year	(1,318)
At 31 December 2023	18,293
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2023	17,174
Disposals in the year	(1,318)
Charge for the year	1,558
At 31 December 2023	17,414
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	879
At 31 December 2022	679

10. Debtors

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Trade debtors	-	*22,050*
Prepayments	6,619	*12,562*
Accrued income	3,679	*30,095*
Other debtors	5,519	*22,545*
	15,817	*87,252*

11. Creditors:

Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Trade creditors	6,274	*7,131*
Taxes and social security	3,830	*5,309*
Pension contributions	710	*1,786*
Accruals	7,665	*6,437*
Other creditors	2,105	*826*
Deferred income	28,818	*4,013*
	49,402	*25,502*
Deferred income:		
Balance brought forward	4,013	-
Amount released to income	(4,013)	-
Amount deferred in the year (see Note 2.4) all relating to services not performed until the following financial year:		
Statutory Instrument Tracker income	-	*4,013*
The Legal Education Foundation	20,455	-
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	7,627	-
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	736	-
	28,818	*4,013*

12. Statement of funds – current year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	-	26,693	-	-	26,693
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	19,361	(8,914)	-	10,447
The Legal Education Foundation	-	24,545	(27,282)	-	(2,737)
Total restricted funds	-	70,599	(36,196)	-	34,403

Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust: this relates to a grant for a Taskforce to review the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust: this relates to a grant for our 'Building a Better Commons' work on parliamentary reform.

The Legal Education Foundation: this relates to a grant to support our work on reform of the parliamentary scrutiny system for delegated legislation.

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Fixed assets	679	-	(1,558)	1,758	879
Total designated funds	-	-	(1,558)	1,758	879

Fixed asset fund: this represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Designated funds	679	-	(1,558)	1,758	879
General fund	148,514	202,816	(278,493)	(1,758)	71,079
	149,193	202,816	(280,051)	-	71,958
Restricted funds	-	70,599	(36,196)	-	34,403
Total funds	149,193	273,415	(316,247)	-	106,361

13. Statement of funds – prior year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2022 £*
Delegated Legislation Review	*12,014*	*45,000*	*(57,014)*	*-*	*-*
Total restricted funds	*12,014*	*45,000*	*(57,014)*	*-*	*-*

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2022 £*
Fixed assets	*-*	*-*	*(679)*	*1,358*	*679*
Total designated funds	*-*	*-*	*(679)*	*1,358*	*679*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2022 £*
Designated funds	*-*	*-*	*(679)*	*1,358*	*679*
General fund	*289,222*	*228,956*	*(368,306)*	*(1,358)*	*148,514*
	289,222	*228,956*	*(368,985)*	*-*	*149,193*
Restricted funds	*12,014*	*45,000*	*(57,014)*	*-*	*-*
Total funds	*301,236*	*273,956*	*(425,999)*	*-*	*149,193*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

CURRENT YEAR	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	879	-	-	879
Net current assets	-	71,079	34,403	105,482
	879	71,079	34,403	106,361

PRIOR YEAR	*Designated funds*	*General funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total funds*
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	*679*	-	-	*679*
Net current assets	-	*148,514*	-	*148,514*
	679	*148,514*	-	*149,193*

15. Pension

The Society operates defined contribution schemes for its employees making a contribution of 7% of gross salaries. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension charge represents contributions

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the company had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for property) which fall due as follows:

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Less than one year	32,230	*10,406*
Between two and five years	55,988	-
	88,218	*10,406*

17. Statement of financial activities – prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	*Restricted Funds 2022*	*Total Funds 2022*
	£	*£*	*£*
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	*1,941*	*-*	*1,941*
Charitable activities	*226,221*	*45,000*	*271,221*
Investments: Bank interest	*48*	*-*	*48*
Other income	*746*	*-*	*746*
TOTAL INCOME	*228,956*	*45,000*	*273,956*
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	*368,985*	*57,014*	*425,999*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	*368,985*	*57,014*	*425,999*
Net (expenditure) / income and Net movement in funds	*(140,029)*	*(12,014)*	*(152,043)*
Balances brought forward	*289,222*	*12,014*	*301,236*
Balances carried forward	*149,193*	*-*	*149,193*

Hansard Society Ltd

Registered office

36-37 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TL

Tel: 020 3925 3979
E-mail: contact@hansardsociety.org.uk
Web: hansardsociety.org.uk

Company Registration Number (England and Wales): 04332105
Charity Registration Number: 1091364

HANSARD SOCIETY LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1091364

Accounts

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

Year to 31 December 2022

Company Number: 04332105
Charity Number: 1091364

HANSARD SOCIETY

Photo credit

The Lord Speaker, The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith, delivering the Hansard Society Parliamentary Affairs Anniversary Lecture, 7 December 2022

© House of Lords / Roger Harris

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year to 31 December 2022

The Hansard Society is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity

Company Number: 04332105
Charity Number: 1091364

Members stand to applaud the address to Parliament by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky

8 March 2022

© UK Parliament / Jessica Taylor

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The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law, present their annual report (pages 2-25) and accounts (pages 26-39) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, those of the governing documents, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) '*Accounting and Reporting by Charities*'.

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance, '*Charities and Public Benefit*'. The Trustees review the activities of the Charity on an ongoing basis and are satisfied that they continue to be directly related to the Society's core mission and objectives.

Public benefit

The Hansard Society is dedicated to supporting more informed public debate about Parliament and parliamentary democracy. Through our research we develop ideas to help improve the way Parliament works. And through education and public engagement we strive to improve knowledge of and interest in the UK's parliamentary system. Founded in 1944, the Society is known as the Westminster Parliament's 'critical friend'.

The Charity Commission guidance on public benefit identifies two key principles that must be met to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit: (i) there must be an identifiable benefit which is not outweighed by any detriment or harm; and (ii) the benefit must be to the public in general or a sufficient section of the public, and not give rise to more than incidental personal benefit.

The Trustees are satisfied that the objects and mission of the Society, and the activities to pursue them set out in this report, satisfy these principles of public benefit.

The Society's work supports the 'betterment of knowledge' about Parliament and the reforms needed to shape our democratic institutions for the 21st century. A research and education Society dedicated to expounding the principles, practices and challenges of parliamentary democracy, the Hansard Society is widely recognised as the Westminster Parliament's 'critical friend'.

Beneficiaries of the Society's work to support knowledge and understanding of Parliament include a wide range of groups drawn from across civil society and primarily, but not solely, based in the UK. They include parliamentarians, parliamentary officials, academics, journalists, diplomats, non-governmental organisations and the business sector, as well as students and teachers. Most of the Society's resources and publications are made freely available via our website. Membership of the Society is available at a low annual fee, and a discount is also available for our quarterly academic journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. The nature of the Society's work means that most events are held free of charge. Any private benefits are incidental as a necessary by-product of carrying out the Charity's aims. Staff are employed and remunerated in order that the Charity's aims are met.

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton, Chair of the Society's Board of Trustees, chairing the Parliamentary Affairs anniversary lecture by the Lord Speaker

7 December 2022

© House of Lords / Roger Harris

Reflections on 2022 and our plans for the future

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Chair of the Board of Trustees

2022 was a difficult year for Parliament, exposing the fragility of some aspects of our parliamentary democracy and bringing into sharp focus the need for reform.

I have spent five decades as a parliamentarian in both Houses of Parliament. I am a fierce believer in the profound importance of parliamentary democracy to our national way of life: I remain convinced that, for all its faults and imperfections, it is still the best form of political decision-making available to us.

Safeguarding parliamentary democracy: a cross-party endeavour

Next year will mark 80 years since the Society was founded by Sir Stephen King-Hall MP 'to promote knowledge of and interest in parliamentary government' because he believed, as I do, that the vitality of the institution of Parliament depends on people taking an interest in its proceedings and welfare.

Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee – who shared the same commitment to the safeguarding of parliamentary democracy – were the Society's first paying supporters in 1944. Eight decades later, I'm delighted that several of their successors as Prime Minister have agreed to support our work in a variety of ways over the course of the coming anniversary year. For, as we look towards this milestone in our history, the work of the Hansard Society remains as vital as ever: the challenges facing our democracy are different but no less important than those faced by our founders.

I had the privilege of sitting in the gallery of the House of Commons in March 2022 to watch Ukrainian President Zelensky's first address to an overseas legislature following the full-scale invasion of his country by Russia just a few weeks earlier. It was one of the most moving moments of all my time at Westminster.

It was also a reminder of how, for all its flaws, our Parliament – and particularly the Commons Chamber – stands as it did 80 years ago as an iconic symbol of democracy and liberty to many people across the world who do not enjoy our democratic and parliamentary freedoms.

So, it is a source of great regret that the reputation of Parliament – and particularly the House of Commons – has been sullied by the events of the last year. The scale and frequency of damaging incidents – too many to itemise here – have at times left me utterly dismayed.

The fact that we had three Prime Ministers and four Chancellors of the Exchequer was just one measure of the political and economic chaos to which Parliament and the country were subjected. Having sought previously to undermine the Standards Committee of the House of Commons, the Prime Minister then failed to apologise for misleading the House from the Despatch Box, in breach of his own Ministerial Code. Three years into this Parliament, nearly two dozen MPs from all sides of the House had lost the Whip for some form of misconduct, two-thirds of them in the calendar year 2022 alone.

Although the Conservative Party may suffer most immediately from this catalogue of events, Parliament has surely suffered collateral damage from the fallout and the public's attendant loss of confidence in the competence of politicians.

Meanwhile, the deteriorating physical fabric of the Palace of Westminster symbolises the corroded state of our political and parliamentary culture. The inability of politicians to settle on a course of action to restore the building entails immense risk and ever-rising costs.

I have reluctantly concluded that the Palace is no longer a suitable workplace for our national legislature. But I fear a blaze will engulf the building like Notre Dame, or a dreadful accident will result in serious injury or death, before the problem is resolved.

What role for the Hansard Society?

Given the array of democratic and parliamentary challenges the country faces, the Society could spread its resources thinly in trying to address them all. But we think it better to concentrate on key strategic challenges where we believe we can have the greatest impact in the next few years.

(i) Reforming Delegated Legislation

A long-running concern of the Society is the quality of legislative preparation and scrutiny. The House of Lords is sometimes criticised by Ministers for delaying legislation when in fact Peers are engaged in detailed scrutiny of a kind that is too often absent in the House of Commons. Scrutiny of delegated legislation is particularly weak in the elected House, as was brought to wider public attention throughout the pandemic.

Ultimately, the price of poorly conceived, poorly drafted and poorly scrutinised legislation is paid by citizens across the country who are subject to its detrimental effects. Unless the problems with the system are addressed, public acceptance of the democratic legitimacy of delegated legislation will come under increasing strain. It is one of the most critical constitutional challenges we face and is a growing source of frustration across the political spectrum.

Our Review of the delegated legislation system, kindly funded by the Legal Education Foundation, is near completion and our final recommendations will be published later in Autumn 2023. The Review has been assisted by colleagues from all parties but I would particularly like to thank the members of our Advisory Panel for their time and support with this important initiative: Steve Baker MP, Sir David Beamish, Kirsty Blackman MP, Dame Angela Eagle MP, Paul Evans CBE, Mark Harper MP, Sir Jonathan Jones KC, Professor Jeff King, Lord Lisvane, and Professor the Lord Norton of Louth.

The key to our approach is that the reform proposals we set out must improve the efficiency of government, but also better empower parliamentarians to scrutinise effectively, on behalf of their constituents, the hundreds of laws that are made each year via delegated legislation. In the run up to the next general election, we will be working to persuade frontbenchers on both sides of the House of the merits – and viability – of reforming this system.

(ii) Parliamentary reform

Looking ahead to the likely prospect of a general election in 2024, we have considered what strategic interventions - other than delegated legislation - might have most impact to help Parliament, and particularly the House of Commons, become a more effective legislative and scrutiny body.

Despite the seismic and turbulent nature of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, remarkably little institutional change has taken place in Parliament in the last few years. Indeed, there are some worrying signs of regression.

It is noticeable that the House of Commons is increasingly a two-and-a-half-day legislature. The parliamentary week often peters out after PMQs on a Wednesday afternoon as MPs head back to their constituencies. Thursdays are noticeably quiet days on the parliamentary estate.

Having been a constituency MP for nearly 30 years, I know how important it is to keep in touch with local concerns and how rewarding constituency work can be. But Parliament stands at the apex of the scrutiny system and MPs have a duty to hold the government of the day to account. The balance between constituency and parliamentary work has tipped too far in this Parliament.

The impact of the pandemic, and the subsequent virtual and hybrid parliamentary procedures established just months after the general election, go some way to explain the increasing shift in focus away from Parliament. Many of the 2017 and particularly the 2019 intake of new MPs have simply not experienced 'normal' parliamentary life of the kind I and my colleagues were exposed to in previous decades. Their understanding and appreciation of constitutional, legislative and parliamentary rules and procedures is less developed than it was for some of their predecessors at this stage of a Parliament.

We are therefore pleased to have secured a three-year grant from the

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) to undertake further work on parliamentary reform before and after the general election to 'build a better Commons'.

Importantly, the grant will also enable us to provide dedicated training and support for new MPs at the start of the next Parliament to help them make a good start in their role as legislators and scrutineers.

We are also launching a one-year Taskforce, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (JRRT), to review the customs, language and rules of the House of Commons.

It is difficult to engage the interest and participation of the wider public in proceedings that are not intelligible and are difficult to explain. Yet the use of language and terminology in Parliament is often unnecessarily complex and obscure. This inhibits the transparency of parliamentary proceedings and the ease with which they can be understood. The effectiveness of MPs (particularly newly-elected MPs) in carrying out their legislative and scrutiny responsibilities is then undermined if they do not understand the procedural customs, conventions and rules which govern the system in which they work.

A growing network of members

Organisationally the Society has limited resources, particularly since the pandemic-induced closure of our international Scholars programme which was a key source of income. Unlike many similar research organisations and think-tanks, we do not have a wealthy philanthropic founder or endowment, and contrary to popular belief we are not funded by Parliament or Government.

So, the support of our growing network of members and donors is crucial. We are pleased that the restructuring of our membership model has begun to bear fruit. Our members provide an invaluable network of supporters who care about Parliament and help to support our work through their own contacts, knowledge and skills. It is particularly pleasing that the number of our Parliamentary Patrons has grown, testament to the regard in which the Society's work is held by MPs and Peers.

I would like to thank the staff of the Society for their work and my fellow Trustees for their commitment and support during the last year. We look forward to working with as many supporters as possible in the months ahead to help ensure our 80th anniversary year is a productive and constructive one for the Society.

Photo credits

(Left) Sir David Butler with our current Chair, Ann Taylor, when she was Leader of the House of Commons, at a Hansard Society event in the late 1990s.
© Hansard Society

(Right) Baroness Howe of Idlicote
© UK Parliament [CC BY 3.0]

In memoriam

One of the sadder aspects of any review of the year is that it invites reflections on those who are no longer with us.

Queen Elizabeth II

Like the rest of the country, we were saddened by the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022.

In the speech she gave on the day of her Coronation in 1953, she reflected on the importance of parliamentary institutions as a 'precious part of our way of life and outlook'.

The Society was privileged to receive support from Her Majesty at various points in our history: she made generous personal donations to the Society on several occasions.

> *"Parliamentary institutions, with their free speech and respect for the rights of minorities, and the inspiration of a broad tolerance in thought and expression - all this we conceive to be a precious part of our way of life and outlook."*
>
> ***HM Queen Elizabeth II***
> ***Coronation Day speech, 1953***

Professor Sir David Butler

David died in November 2022 at the age of 98. He was one of our longest-serving members and was Chair of the Society between 1994 and 2001. To the wider public he was best known as the resident expert on the BBC's election night programmes and the inventor of the 'Swingometer'. But his interest in politics went much wider than elections: he was passionate about the role and work of politicians and Parliament. This, combined with his commitment to communicating in accessible terms for a mass audience, drew him to support the Hansard Society.

Baroness Howe of Idlicote

We are also indebted to the late Baroness Howe of Idlicote who died in March 2022. Elspeth Howe chaired our groundbreaking 'Women at the Top' Commission between 1988 and 2000 and was a staunch supporter of our work throughout her time in the House of Lords.

Our highlights of 2022

2022 was an extraordinarily turbulent political year. That the country had three Prime Ministers and four Chancellors of the Exchequer was a clear signal of the scale of political distress. War in Europe, turmoil in the financial markets, an energy, cost-of-living and climate crisis all posed challenges for our parliamentary system. A litany of political scandals continued to sap at what remains of public confidence in MPs and Parliament. In years from now we may look back on the past year as a turning point: when the realisation dawned among parliamentarians that the institution in which they serve is not as effective or efficient as it needs to be and that reform is greatly needed. The test will be whether one or both of the main parties commits to reforming Parliament - the Commons as well as the Lords - in their manifestos for the next general election. If not, then the problems of recent years are likely to live on.

1

Parliamentary Affairs Anniversary Lecture by the Lord Speaker

© Hansard Society

We were honoured that Lord McFall of Alcluith chose the Hansard Society as the platform for his first speech since his election as Lord Speaker, on reform of the House of Lords.

The speech, in December 2022, set out his thoughts on the future of the House of Lords, addressing concerns regarding the size of the Upper House, setting out the benefits of the House's scrutiny work, and considering the role of the House in our constitution and in society generally.

He first identified two 'unassailable truths' about the Lords, namely that the House 'adds significant value to parliamentary scrutiny and revision, distinct from and complementary to the House of Commons' and that, while the Lords is able to add value because its composition is different from the Commons, there are also issues around its composition which need to be resolved.

He then outlined three principles that he recommended should inform any reform agenda around the future composition of the Upper House.

First, that changing the composition of the House will inevitably change its role, even if there are no explicit changes in its powers.

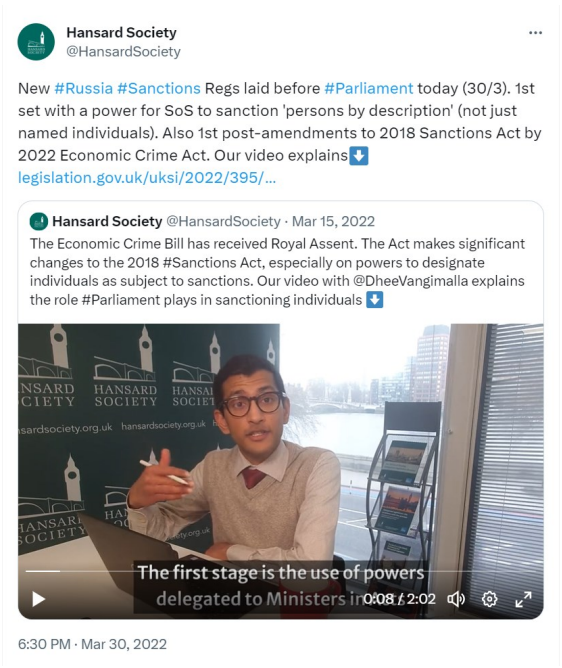
Secondly, that the more radical the change in composition, the more radical and unpredictable will be the resulting change in the role of the House.

And thirdly, that reform proposals need to secure the engagement of and endorsement from Government, political parties in Parliament and - not least - the increasingly diverse population of the UK.

2 The parliamentary implications of Russia's war against Ukraine

One of our most popular blogs during the year was '*Finding grace under pressure: Ukraine's Parliament at war*' by Dr Sarah Whitmore.

Published in May 2022, the blog set out how, after over 70 days of total war, the first 43 under the very direct threat of bombing, the role and work of Ukraine's Parliament, the *Verkhovna Rada* (Supreme Council), had been significantly transformed in terms of procedures, political orientation and constituency work by Members. The blog identified how, in the most extreme circumstances, deputies, factions and committees were able to scrutinise a huge volume of emergency legislation to put Ukraine on a war footing in areas ranging from security and medical care to tax and crime. However, it also highlighted the legitimate concerns being raised about the need to ensure checks and balances remain in place.



The Ukraine crisis also highlighted how delegated legislation is used to introduce sanctions regimes, and the challenges posed for parliamentary scrutiny of urgent measures.

Amidst media confusion about the role that Parliament would play in the imposition of sanctions on designated Russians, we produced a short video, blog posts and a steady stream of social media to explain the legal framework and its interaction with parliamentary procedures.

3 Marking the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

© @RoyalFamily

Parliament has a central role in the Demise and Accession of a Monarch - constitutionally, and as a site for, and participant in, public ceremonies of mourning, tribute and renewal.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, we produced a briefing exploring the procedural and ceremonial plans that would be implemented and their impact on parliamentary business.

4 The Delegated Legislation Review

Our Delegated Legislation Review generated several strands of work throughout the year. The Review's Advisory Panel was convened a number of times to advise on a range of procedural and legal questions arising from the development of our proposals. A **consultation paper setting out 13 interim recommendations** for consideration was then published in February 2023. Our proposed reforms concern both the delegation of power in Bills and the scrutiny of the Statutory Instruments that arise from the use of those delegated powers.

The scope and design of powers in any Bill affects the long-term balance of power between Parliament and Government. The House of Lords Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee (DPRRC) scrutinises all such delegation. Distilling standards for the delegation of powers from 101 of the Committee's reports in recent Sessions, we produced a **Compendium of Legislative Standards for Delegating Powers in Primary Legislation**.

By drawing the DPRRC's standards together into a single document, we hope the Compendium will prove a useful resource for all those involved in the production, scrutiny, interpretation and use of delegated powers.

MPs should be clear about the level of authority they are delegating to Government Ministers and be confident that they will not regret forgoing their ability to fully scrutinise future Government decisions.

But our research shows that it can be challenging for parliamentarians to scrutinise delegated powers in Bills effectively, particularly given the often-limited time available for scrutiny.

Alongside the Compendium we therefore produced a **Toolkit for Scrutinising Delegated Powers**, adopting a set of sequential questions and a 'traffic-light' system to categorise the answers.

We also produced a series of **briefings on the delegated powers in particular Bills** soon after they were presented to Parliament. Our analysis drew heavily on the legislative standards set out in the Compendium. A number of **blogposts** were also produced to help illuminate the problems with the delegated legislation system on matters of topical political and parliamentary interest. These ranged from coverage of the implications of a judicial review of children-in-care regulations, to regulations on genetically modified organisms, to regulations clarifying the circumstances in which the VAT costs of fees and disbursements could be recovered from a judgement debtor. We were not concerned with the policy details, but what these cases demonstrated about the inadequacies and risks associated with the delegated legislation system.

5 The Retained EU Law Bill

Much of Autumn 2022 was dedicated to work explaining the implications of the significant delegated powers in the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill.

We hosted the first public event on the Bill with the Society's Director, Dr Ruth Fox, joined by crossbench peer Lord Anderson of Ipswich and former head of the Government Legal Service Sir Jonathan Jones KC, to 'unpick' the Bill and explore what it would mean for Parliament.

The Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee in the House of Lords acknowledged drawing on ideas raised in this 'helpful webinar' for its own report on the Bill when the legislation arrived in the Upper House.

In advance of the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Commons, we also produced a briefing for MPs analysing five areas of particular concern that needed to be addressed during the Bill's passage through Parliament.

The briefing highlighted how the Bill would sideline Parliament because it proposed to let all REUL expire on the sunset date of the end of December 2023 unless Ministers decided to save it, with no parliamentary input or oversight.

The briefing noted that Ministers would be provided with a series of broad 'blank cheque' powers to amend or replace REUL across policy areas as diverse as animal welfare, consumer rights, data protection, employment,

environmental protection, health and safety, and VAT, and all subject to only limited parliamentary oversight.

The Society's research team gave evidence to the Public Bill Committee and to select committees in the Commons and Lords and the Scottish Parliament, making the case for significant changes to the legislative draft, many of which were subsequently made by the Government at a late stage of the Bill's scrutiny in the House of Lords in Summer 2023.

6 The UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA)

© European Union 2022. Source: EP

The UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) is the new inter-parliamentary body between the UK Parliament and the European Parliament (EP) that was established under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the treaty governing the two parties' post-Brexit relationship that was signed in December 2020.

It has two important roles: as a parliamentary 'forum to exchange views on the UK-EU partnership'; and as an interlocutor for, and scrutineer of, the UK-EU Partnership Council (the TCA's top decision-making body) – with powers to request and receive information from it, and potentially make recommendations to it.

To mark the first meeting of the PPA in May we published a briefing setting out what the PPA is, how it works and who its Members are.

7 The Northern Ireland Protocol Bill

The Northern Ireland Protocol Bill , introduced to Parliament un June 2022, was a skeleton or framework Bill containing some of the broadest powers a Government has ever proposed be given to Ministers. So numerous and so sweeping were the powers that the implementation of the Bill's policy objectives would have been left almost entirely to the discretion of Ministers once it received Royal Assent.

In a social media thread setting out our initial thoughts on the Bill shortly after it was published, we described the powers as 'breath-taking'. Shortly before its Second Reading we then published a more detailed briefing on the delegated powers, analysing six areas of particular concern and proposing ways they might be mitigated during the Bill's passage through Parliament. We gave evidence on the Bill to the Scottish Parliament and briefed civil society organisations in London and Belfast on the implications of the powers.

At a time when the democratic deficit in Northern Ireland was particularly acute with Stormont and the Assembly suspended, the Bill reinforced wider concerns about the lack of attentiveness in Whitehall and Westminster to the needs of the devolved nations.

"The Hansard Society, not an organisation known for hyperbole, has called the powers given to Ministers 'breathtaking'."

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP during the debate on the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, House of Commons, 27 June 2022

8 Our international visitors

It is an honour to welcome delegations from other Parliaments around the world when they visit London.

In June 2022, for example, we met with the Special Select Committee on International Affairs in the Malaysian Parliament. They were in London to discuss, amongst other things, how the Westminster Parliament undertakes scrutiny of international treaties and other agreements.

We also hosted a visit from members of the Canadian Parliamentary Internship Programme in Ottowa during their annual study tour to the UK.

© Hansard Society

9 Devolved but denied?

The increasing willingness on the part of the UK Government to regulate in areas of devolved competence was the central theme of our September webinar 'Devolved but denied? Regulations and consent beyond Westminster', with Welsh MS Huw Irranca Davies, Law Society Scotland's Michael Clancy, and Stephen Farry MP, Deputy Leader of the Alliance Party in Northern Ireland. We explored whether there is now a widening 'democratic deficit' or whether these powers are simply required for more effective and efficient government.

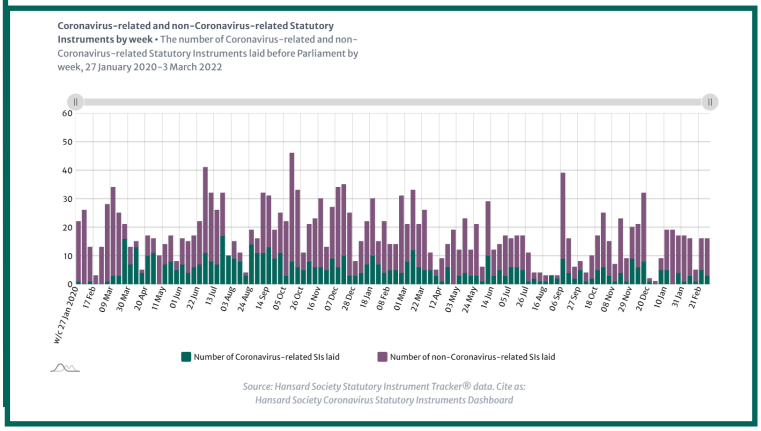
Democratic accountability for the new Common Frameworks which outline how the four administrations in the UK will work together on devolved policy areas that were previously harmonised under the EU – including areas such as food standards, health and safety, pesticides, and transport - was also the subject of a guest blog in October by Baroness Andrews, the Chair of the House of Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee. The post highlighted how the Lords Committee has worked closely with its devolved counterparts, a theme we would revisit in 2023 in a paper published jointly with the Study of Parliament Group, setting out a proposal to develop and improve UK interparliamentary relations.

10 Emergency regulations and the Coronavirus Statutory Instruments Dashboard

When we began collecting data on Covid-related SIs in March 2020, we did not anticipate that we would still be working on the project two years later.

But, as the pandemic receded, so too did the SIs and we concluded the project on 3 March 2022, having recorded and monitored the progress of 582 Covid-related SIs through Parliament since the very first measure to tackle the public health crisis was laid on 27 January 2020.

The Covid-related SIs amounted to 30% of the total number of SIs laid in this two-year period. They were laid using powers in 140 Acts of Parliament. Unsurprisingly, the Government department with the greatest legislative burden in terms of SIs was the Department of Health and Social Care.



In Autumn 2022 the Society's Director was invited to join the Bingham Centre's Independent Commission on UK Public Health Emergency Powers, taking the knowledge gleaned through this monitoring project to inform reform proposals for emergency legislative provisions in the event of another public health crisis.

GOVERNANCE, FINANCES AND RISK

Photo credit

Members stand for a minutes silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

House of Commons, Westminster, 9 September 2022

© UK Parliament / Jessica Taylor

Decision-making

Charitable status

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. It was incorporated on 25 August 1999 and registered as a charity on 17 December 1999. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. The company is governed under its Articles of Association.

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament serve as Co-Presidents of the Society. These are honorary positions reflecting the Society's unique 'critical friend' relationship with the Westminster Parliament, and the Society's commitment to non-partisanship. The Speakers are very supportive of the work of the Society but they have no formal role in or responsibility for the administration, governance or activities of the Charity.

Board of Trustees

Legal responsibility for the management and stewardship of the Hansard Society is vested in the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Director.

The Board of Trustees meets four times per year; additional meetings take place if and when required. The Society does not operate standing sub-committees but convenes these from time to time where additional Board oversight is required.

The Director of the Society attends meetings of the Board of Trustees and provides regular reports on the work of the Society. Other staff may attend Board meetings as appropriate depending on the agenda.

Recruitment

Trustees are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. The Chair and Treasurer are appointed on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. Other members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, after which they may put themselves forward for reappointment for a further three-year term. In some circumstances, Trustees may be co-opted for a further period. New Trustees are recruited with the intention of securing a range of views, interests and perspectives. In addition to public advertisements for new Trustees, wide networks are consulted, including those of our stakeholders, who represent the public, private, statutory and charitable sectors, and all the major political parties.

New Trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about the Society and their responsibilities as Trustees, including charity law and governance issues. New Trustees also have an induction meeting with the Chair and Director to discuss particular areas of work, and then follow up on those areas with other members of staff.

Conflicts of interest

Given the nature of the organisation, the Society's Board includes members who serve in Parliament, are involved in politics and government, and who are generally well-connected with many other organisations and individuals in wider civil society in both the private and public sectors. This poses a conflict of interest risk that must be managed. The Society thus has a Conflict of Interest Policy governing the Board of Trustees. All

Trustees must make a declaration of interests annually, and new Trustees must make a declaration on their appointment to the Board and prior to attendance at their first meeting. Declaration of interests is a standing agenda item at all Board meetings.

Staff and volunteers

The senior management team of the Charity in 2023 comprised the Director, Dr Ruth Fox. During 2022 the Society employed an average of 6 members of staff compared to 5 in 2021.

Two staff posts were supported in 2022 by grants from The Legal Education Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

We are grateful to Lauren Rhodes (Membership and Operations Manager) and Dheemanth Vangimalla (Researcher: Delegated Legislation) for their contribution to the Society's work in 2022. They both left the Society at the end of the year.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for deciding the staff remuneration policy which they review regularly at Board meetings. Its implementation is delegated to the Director.

Salary levels are set in relation to the skills and experience that are required to enable the Charity to carry out its work. More than half of our current staff members have doctorates or other professional qualifications.

Operational support

A range of core services are contracted externally. Most notably, accounting services are provided by JS2, IT support is provided by Cheeky Munkey, and HR advice is provided by HR Services. The Society also subscribes externally to provide an Employee Assistance Programme for all staff.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to members of the public, who can join as ordinary members or as members who in addition subscribe to our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. Members of Parliament can join as parliamentary patrons.

In 2022 the Society launched two new membership tiers. The new Concessionary tier is available for under-30s, students, the unwaged receiving welfare benefits, and those who are retired on a low income. Recognising that some people face financial barriers to political engagement and participation, we hope this discounted membership will allow more people to support our work championing the cause of parliamentary democracy.

Financial overview

Income

Total income for 2022 was £273,956. This was slightly lower than the previous year, when income stood at £296,569.

The decline in income since the start of 2020 is due to the Covid-19 pandemic-induced mothballing and subsequent closure of our international Scholars Programme.

Income in 2022 was derived predominantly from grants to support the Society's charitable activities, and publications, amounting to £271,221 in total (compared to £295,804 in 2021).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £425,999 (compared to £390,845 in 2021). This increase in expenditure reflected an investment in plans to support the Charity's transition to a new financial model based on more diverse streams of income following the demise of the Scholars Programme. Some expenditure was incurred in 2022 to ensure that our ongoing educational and immigration-related regulatory obligations in respect of the Programme were met.

The Society thus had a net deficit of £152,043 in the year, compared to a net deficit of £94,276 in 2021.

Balance sheet

The current funds position shows net assets of £149,193 (compared to £301,236 the previous year). There were no restricted funds in 2022 (compared to £12,014 in 2021). The balance on the general fund at the year-end was therefore £149,193 (compared to £289,222 in 2021).

Reserves policy

The Society's Trustees ensure the overall health of the Charity by managing its free reserves to ensure the organisation can withstand short-term financial risks and adverse events that may damage some or all of the Society's areas of work.

With no endowment or substantial assets, the Society is dependent on income from project grants, membership subscriptions, Statutory Instrument Tracker subscriptions, training programmes, publications (primarily our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*), and donations. The Charity therefore needs to manage the financial risks inherent in a model in which income is subject to fluctuation from year to year.

The Society's reserves policy is currently set at a minimum of three months core operational expenditure, or £81,906.

The Society has spent down its reserves since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 to support the transition to a new funding model following the closure of the Scholars Programme. The reserves policy is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Grant funding

The Society is grateful to The Legal Education Foundation (LEF) for providing ongoing support for its research work on delegated legislation. In 2022 the Society received £45,000 in grant funding from LEF to support our Delegated Legislation Review.

The Society also received an unrestricted grant of £60,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to support our transition through the pandemic to a new funding and operational model.

Financial risks

The most significant financial risks facing the Society are:

- continued economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity;
- forecast income from our journal is not realised;
- inadequate reserves and cashflow; and
- inadequate non-project-related funding.

The Board reviews the financial plans at each meeting and manages the significant risks accordingly through income generation pipelines, budgetary controls, and management of reserves to ensure that the organisation lives within its means.

Financial outlook

The Hansard Society's overall financial position is weaker than in recent years as a result of the pandemic.

Between 2017 and 2019 the Society built up its reserves considerably, with a view to investment in a range of development activities. This robust financial planning meant that the Charity was able to withstand the difficulties created by the damage to its financial model which was wreaked by the pandemic over the last three financial years. The Society continues to have more than three months of operational reserves in place.

Throughout 2022 regular financial monitoring, scenario planning and modelling was undertaken to identify measures that might be required to maintain a secure financial position while continuing to invest in core activities to meet the Society's charitable objectives.

A significant deficit was planned for 2022 to support the Society's transition to a post-pandemic environment and Trustees are satisfied that the organisation remains viable.

Taking into account existing plans, the Society's reserves position, and confirmed income and expenditure, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities. They are therefore satisfied that the Charity is a financially viable organisation - a 'going concern' - that can continue operating for the next 12 months (from September 2023, when the assessment was made).

Fundraising

For the first time in many years the Society did raise funds directly from the public in 2022.

As part of our income diversification plans, a new website was built to facilitate online payments and donations, and new operational systems - including the leading Beacon CRM (customer relationship management) tool for charities - were put in place. Membership income in 2022 was just over six times that in 2021 - a very early indicator of progress with our development plan.

The Society is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and complies with all the relevant standards set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. We did not undertake any work in the year with fundraising companies.

Key risks

The Hansard Society maintains a detailed risk management register. Key risks and uncertainties are those that could have a material impact on the Charity in carrying out its work.

Risks cannot be eliminated entirely but the Board's objective is to mitigate the Charity's exposure to risk beyond acceptable levels.

On occasion, however, higher risk options arise that would advance the Society's pursuit of its charitable objectives. These risks must be prudently balanced against the opportunities they offer.

The Board of Trustees formally reviews the organisation's risk register at Board meetings up to twice a year; at other times any change in a risk rating is reported to the Board and is reviewed and discussed further as necessary.

The Board of Trustees reviews the risks the Society faces in six categories:

- operational;
- financial;
- strategic;
- reputational;
- occupational health;
- legal / regulatory matters.

The Trustees confirm that controls are in place to reasonably mitigate the risks identified.

In 2022 the top 'priority' risks identified were the same as the year before.	
Operational: Temporary loss of key staff In a small organisation the unplanned loss of key personnel, even for a short period of time, can have a significant impact on delivery of work.	The recruitment of three new staff in 2021 enhanced overall capacity, particularly in relation to research projects, the SI Tracker and operational support to the Director. However, these were fixed-term contracts which were due to conclude in late 2022 and early 2023.
Continued economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity The Society's income has declined considerably since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in Spring 2020. It was recognised that the economic situation (particularly inflation, the rising cost of living and a decline in business confidence) was not an ideal environment in which to generate discretionary income from membership subscriptions, our SI Tracker legislative monitoring service and procedural training courses.	In order to diversify the Society's income streams a new income generation plan was adopted with a focus on those areas where there was the potential for recurring annual income.

Financial: Inadequate reserves and cashflow The Society's reserves policy stands at three months of core operational expenditure. Throughout the pandemic this policy has been kept under review by Trustees. Despite the difficulties of the last two years - and the financial loss incurred in 2020 and 2021 - the Society's reserves are still above the three-month requirement.	Mitigation measures were agreed in relation to income generation for 2022 when this risk was uprated from an 'important' to a 'priority' risk in December 2021. However, cashflow concerns are rare as much of the Society's income - particularly from the *Parliamentary Affairs* journal - is received in advance. Similarly, some grant income is received in advance in quarterly or annual instalments.
Financial: Forecast income from *Parliamentary Affairs* is not realised Two potential risks to *Parliamentary Affairs* journal income have been identified by the Society in discussions with our publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP): (i) a reduction in institutional subscriptions arising from financial pressures on universities post-pandemic; and (ii) the financial implications of open access publishing over the next few years.	The journal continues to have a good subscriber base and is insulated to an extent by its inclusion in OUP 'consortia' sales to university libraries. Providing the journal's Impact Factor is sustained, this position is likely to be maintained. To date the anticipated impact of open access publishing plans on the journal's finances has not been realised. However, this continues to be kept under review with OUP and possible mitigation measures are a matter of regular discussion.
Health problems - e.g. flu, viruses - leading to loss of key staff at important moments The ongoing concern about Covid-19 meant this risk was still deemed a priority throughout the year. The prospect of the loss of a staff member for potentially several days, at short notice, is now factored into work plans.	We have very low levels of absence due to sickness. Throughout 2022 staff actively wished to return to work in the office on a regular basis. Staff are required to work from home if they (or members of their household) have Covid. They are also encouraged to do so if they have the flu / a cold or other similar symptoms, in order to minimise the risk of transmission.
Governance - changes in membership of the Board leading to a loss of key skills / knowledge A loss of Trustees can have a detrimental impact on institutional knowledge but if unplanned and unexpected it can also give rise to unanticipated recruitment costs, with implications for staff time and wider Society resources.	Consideration is given regularly to succession planning. At each December Board meeting, Trustee term expiry dates for the next 12-18 months are discussed. In exceptional cases, where a Trustee's term of office is due to expire, the Board can co-opt the Trustee for a further term if they believe that the loss of key skills/knowledge would be detrimental. In Spring 2022 a Trustee skills audit was undertaken to assess where skills gaps exist at Board level.

Administrative & legal information

Honorary Co-Presidents	The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith
Trustees	Jackie Ashley Professor Roger Awan-Scully Sir David Beamish KCB Dianne Bevan Shirley Cameron The Lord Dunlop Sue Inglish Dr Rebecca Rumbul Gerald Shamash Sir Paul Silk KCB The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)
Director	Dr Ruth Fox
Company number Charity number Registered office	04332105 1091364 1st Floor Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP
Independent Examiner	*Counterculture LLP* Unit 115 Ducie House, Ducie Street, Manchester, M1 2JW
Bankers	*Unity Trust Bank* 9 Brindley Place Birmingham, B1 2HB *Scottish Widows* PO Box 12757, 67 Morrison Street Edinburgh, EH3 8YJ

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Hansard Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

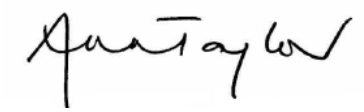
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

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

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

Approval

Approved by the Trustees on 13 September 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:



.....

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hansard Society for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 26-39.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company 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 charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

Since the charity's income is in excess of £250,000, its examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of my membership of the Association of Accounting Technicians which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles 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).

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.

13 September 2023

Andrew M Wells FMAAT
Counterculture Partnership LLP
Unit 115 Ducie House,
Ducie Street, Manchester, M1 2JW

Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities

Incorporating an income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	*Total Funds 2021 £*
INCOME					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,941	-	1,941	*716*
Charitable activities	4	226,221	45,000	271,221	*295,804*
Investments: Bank interest		48	-	48	*9*
Other income		746	-	746	*40*
TOTAL INCOME		228,956	45,000	273,956	*296,569*
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities		368,985	57,014	425,999	*390,845*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	368,985	57,014	425,999	*390,845*
Net (expenditure) and Net movement in funds		(140,029)	(12,014)	(152,043)	*(94,276)*
Balances brought forward		289,222	12,014	301,236	*395,512*
Balances carried forward		149,193	-	149,193	*301,236*

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities.

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2022 : Company Number: 04332105

	Note	£	2022 £	*£*	*2021* *£*
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	8		-		-
Tangible assets	9		679		-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	87,252		*161,423*	
Cash at bank and in hand		86,764		*165,945*	
		174,016		*327,368*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(25,502)		*(26,132)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			148,514		*301,236*
NET ASSETS			149,193		*301,236*
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	12		-		*12,014*
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	12	679		-	
General fund	12	148,514		*289,222*	
			149,193		*289,222*
			149,193		*301,236*

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2022. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Directors on 13 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

The Rt Hon the Baroness
Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Shirley Cameron
(Honorary Treasurer)

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2022

		2022		*2021*
	£	£	*£*	*£*
Cash (used in) / provided by operating activities				
Net movement in funds	(152,043)		*(94,276)*	
Add back depreciation and amortisation	679		*2,676*	
Less investment income	(48)		*(9)*	
Decrease in debtors	74,171		*31,186*	
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(630)		*(11,363)*	
Net cash (used in) operating activities		(77,871)		*(71,786)*
Cash flows (used in) / provided by investing activities				
Investment income	48		*9*	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,358)		*-*	
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities		(1,310)		*9*
(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(79,181)		*(71,777)*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		165,945		*237,722*
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		86,764		*165,945*

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Statutory information

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (Company No. 04332105). The registered office address and principal place of business is 1st Floor Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

The Hansard Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company include the Trustees. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the 'going concern' basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Having reviewed our budget and projections in light of the current situation, the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Income

All income, including funding from government, is recognised once the charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be

measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts. Income is deferred only when the Society has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified the income is to be expended into a future period. Where donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included as restricted income when receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates. Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Overheads and other salaries are allocated between the expenses headings on the basis of time spent.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity, and include governance costs which are incurred in connection with enabling the Society to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

2.6 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. A full year of amortisation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase.

Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Website development - 3 years straight line.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year of depreciation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Office and computer equipment - 2 years straight line.

2.8 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme: the Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the assets of which are administered by Scottish Widows. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the charity benefits from the employees' services. The charity has no further liability under the scheme.

2.9 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 at their settlement value.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 Accounting judgements and estimates

The key judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these Financial Statements are as follows:

- The depreciation rate of tangible fixed assets and amortisation rate of intangible fixed assets are as detailed above;
- Support costs are apportioned to direct activities based on the direct staff costs allocated to those activities (see Note 5).

There are no other key assumptions concerning the future and other key 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 financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	*Total Funds 2021 £*
Government grant: furlough scheme	-	-	-	*716*
Donations	1,941	-	1,941	-
	1,941	-	1,941	*716*

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	*Total Funds 2021 £*
Legal Education Foundation	(22,246)	45,000	22,754	*45,000*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	60,000	-	60,000	*60,000*
Total grants	37,754	45,000	82,754	*105,000*
Other project income: research, education and events	(2,579)	-	(2,579)	*1,457*
Membership subscriptions	3,502	-	3,502	*551*
Publications	187,544	-	187,544	*188,796*
	226,221	45,000	271,221	*295,804*

In the year to 31 December 2021, £45,000 from The Legal Education Foundation was restricted. All other income from charitable activities was unrestricted in the year to 31 December 2021.

5. Expenditure

Current Year

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £
Scholars Programme	-	5,790	-	5,790
Projects - research, education and events	228,653	12,726	177,185	418,564
Publications	927	-	718	1,645
Support costs (see Note 6)	47,010	130,893	(177,903)	-
	276,590	149,409	-	425,999

Prior Year

	Direct Staff costs £	*Direct costs £*	*Support costs £*	*Total 2021 £*
Scholars Programme	*48,751*	*11,274*	*38,939*	*98,964*
Projects - research, education and events	*151,979*	*15,449*	*121,388*	*288,816*
Publications	*1,672*	*58*	*1,335*	*3,065*
Support costs (see Note 6)	*49,749*	*111,913*	*(161,662)*	*-*
	252,151	*138,694*	*-*	*390,845*

6. Support costs

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	1,440	*2,370*
Board expenses and meeting costs	143	*-*
	1,583	*2,370*
Other support costs		
Staff costs	47,010	*49,749*
Premises, equipment and depreciation	67,853	*53,132*
Stationery, post, phone and IT	16,039	*14,079*
Information, research and communications	13,011	*9,830*
Legal and professional	23,830	*21,372*
Other	8,577	*11,130*
	177,903	*161,662*

7. Employee and key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and Senior Management Team. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employer's pension contributions) were £61,882 (2021: £85,897).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the charity during the year. Two Trustees were reimbursed expenses of £143 (2021: Nil) relating to travel and subsistence.

There were no related party balances as at 31 December 2022 (2021: Nil).

	2022 £	*2021* *£*
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	**237,840**	*200,441*
Social security costs	**21,825**	*17,493*
Employer pension contributions	**16,925**	*11,841*
Redundancy	**-**	*22,376*
	276,590	*252,151*

No employees had emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year or the previous year (exclusive of employer pensions and employer National Insurance contributions).

Particulars of employees:

The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:

	2022 **No.**	*2021* *No.*
	6.0	*5.0*

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	**25,096**
Additions in the year	**-**
At 31 December 2022	**25,096**
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2022	**25,096**
Charge for the year	**-**
At 31 December 2022	**25,096**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	**-**
At 31 December 2021	**-**

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and Office Equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	21,407
Additions in the year	1,358
Disposals in the year	(4,912)
At 31 December 2022	17,853
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2022	21,407
Disposals in the year	(4,912)
Charge for the year	679
At 31 December 2022	17,174
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	679
At 31 December 2021	-

10. Debtors

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Trade debtors	22,050	*40,440*
Prepayments	12,562	*9,060*
Accrued income	30,095	*97,098*
Other debtors	22,545	*14,825*
	87,252	*161,423*

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Trade creditors	7,131	*3,353*
Taxes and social security	5,309	*12,801*
Pension contributions	1,786	*1,504*
Accruals	6,437	*8,039*
Other creditors	826	*435*
Deferred income	4,013	-
	25,502	*26,132*

Deferred income:		
Balance brought forward	-	*550*
Amount released to income	-	*(550)*
Amount deferred in the year (see Note 2.4) all relating to services not performed until the following financial year		
SI Tracker income	4,013	-
	4,013	-

12. Statement of funds - current year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Delegated Legislation Review	12,014	45,000	(57,014)	-	-
Total restricted funds	12,014	45,000	(57,014)	-	-

Delegated Legislation Review fund: this relates to a grant from The Legal Education Foundation to support the Delegated Legislation Review initiative.

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Fixed assets	-	-	(679)	1,358	679
Total designated funds	-	-	(679)	1,358	679

Fixed asset fund: this represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Designated funds	-	-	(679)	1,358	679
General fund	289,222	228,956	(368,306)	(1,358)	148,514
	289,222	228,956	(368,985)	-	149,193
Restricted funds	12,014	45,000	(57,014)	-	-
Total funds	301,236	273,956	(425,999)	-	149,193

13. Statement of funds - prior year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2021 £*
Delegated Legislation Review	*-*	*45,000*	*(32,986)*	*-*	*12,014*
Total restricted funds	*-*	*45,000*	*(32,986)*	*-*	*12,014*

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2021 £*
Fixed assets	*2,676*	*-*	*(2,676)*	*-*	*-*
Total designated funds	*2,676*	*-*	*(2,676)*	*-*	*-*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2021 £*
Designated funds	*2,676*	*-*	*(2,676)*	*-*	*-*
General fund	*392,836*	*251,569*	*(355,183)*	*-*	*289,222*
	395,512	*251,569*	*(357,859)*	*-*	*289,222*
Restricted funds	*-*	*45,000*	*(32,986)*	*-*	*12,014*
Total funds	*395,512*	*296,569*	*(390,845)*	*-*	*301,236*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

CURRENT YEAR	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	679	-	-	679
Net current assets	-	148,514	-	148,514
	679	148,514	-	149,193

PRIOR YEAR	*Designated funds*	*General funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	-	*289,222*	*12,014*	*301,236*
	-	*289,222*	*12,014*	*301,236*

15. Pension

The Society operates defined contribution schemes for its employees, making a contribution of 7% of gross salaries. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Society and amounted to £16,925 (2021: £11,841). Contributions totalling £1,785 (2021: £1,504) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the company had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for property) which fall due as follows:

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Less than one year	10,406	*62,436*
Between two and five years	-	*10,406*
	10,406	*72,842*

17. Statement of financial activities - prior year

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME			
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	*716*	*-*	*716*
Charitable activities	*250,804*	*45,000*	*295,804*
Investments: Bank interest	*9*	*-*	*9*
Other income	*40*	*-*	*40*
TOTAL INCOME	*251,569*	*45,000*	*296,569*
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	*357,859*	*32,986*	*390,845*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	*357,859*	*32,986*	*390,845*
Net (expenditure) / income and Net movement in funds	*(106,290)*	*12,014*	*(94,276)*
Balances brought forward	*395,512*	*-*	*395,512*
Balances carried forward	*289,222*	*12,014*	*301,236*

Hansard Society

Registered office

1st Floor Millbank Tower,
21-24 Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0203 925 3979
E-mail: contact@hansardsociety.org.uk
Web: www.hansardsociety.org.uk

HANSARD SOCIETY

HANSARD SOCIETY LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1091364

Accounts

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

Year to 31 December 2021

Company Number: 04332105
Charity Number: 1091364

HANSARD SOCIETY

Front cover photo credit: © Adobe Stock / Big Ben and Westminster Bridge in London at sunset by Leonid Andronov

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year to 31 December 2021

The Hansard Society is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity

Company Number: 04332105
Charity Number: 1091364

Founder of the Hansard Society

Stephen King-Hall MP

The first members of the Hansard Society

Winston Churchill MP

and

Clement Attlee MP

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The Co-President of the Hansard Society, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

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Foreword

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Chair of Trustees

The last year has once again been marked by increasing concern about the expansion of executive power and the marginalisation of Parliament by Ministers. What follows in this report is just a snapshot of the Society's work to address this problem throughout 2021.

However, I particularly want to highlight the launch of the Society's Delegated Legislation Review with the support of The Legal Education Foundation. The Review is looking at proposals for reform of the system of delegated legislation which, as Brexit and the pandemic highlighted in stark terms, is now one of the most important constitutional challenges facing Parliament.

At the launch event in Westminster in November we brought together a cross-party group of MPs to talk about their concerns with delegated legislation, demonstrating that this problem is one that spans the party divide and unites Members across the political spectrum. The reforms we are considering will be significant but rooted in practical politics, with incentives for Government as well as Parliament to change the system.

Early in the year I was delighted that the Society was once again able to support the House of Lords by hosting two online hustings for the election of the new Lord Speaker. The events underscored the Society's role as Parliament's 'critical friend', a convenor trusted by all sides across the House to act fairly in delivering a key element in the election of one of the most important posts in our legislature.

Over the last few years politics and Parliament has been subject to considerable disruption with inevitable consequences for the Society's activities. But the team have worked tirelessly throughout to overcome the hurdles posed by the pandemic and ensure that our work remains focused on our priorities despite the wider political instability. One such priority is expanding our valuable network of members and supporters amidst increasing public concern about the state of politics and the strength of our constitution. With support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust we have been able to invest in our core operations to re-launch our membership scheme with ambitious plans to build-up our community of supporters in the years ahead.

Finally, I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees who continue to focus on strengthening the financial foundations of the Society and who provide essential support to me and the staff team.

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) present their annual report (pages 1-28) and the financial statements (pages 29-41) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, the Hansard Society's governing document, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) '*Accounting and Reporting by Charities*'.

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance, '*Charities and Public Benefit*'. The Trustees review the activities of the Charity on an ongoing basis and are satisfied that they continue to be directly related to the Society's core mission and objectives.

Public benefit

The Hansard Society is dedicated to supporting more informed public debate about Parliament and parliamentary democracy. Through our research we develop ideas to help improve the way Parliament works. And through education and public engagement we strive to improve knowledge of and interest in the UK's parliamentary system. Founded in 1944, the Society is known as the Westminster Parliament's 'critical friend'.

The Charity Commission guidance on public benefit identifies two key principles that must be met to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit: (i) there must be an identifiable benefit which is not outweighed by any detriment or harm; and (ii) the benefit must be to the public in general or a sufficient section of the public, and not give rise to more than incidental personal benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that the objects and mission of the Society, and the activities to pursue them set out in this report, satisfy these principles of public benefit.

The Society's work supports the 'betterment of knowledge' about Parliament and the reforms needed to shape our democratic institutions for the 21st century. A research and education Society dedicated to expounding the principles, practices and challenges of parliamentary democracy, the Hansard Society is widely recognised as the Westminster Parliament's 'critical friend'.

Beneficiaries of the Society's work to support knowledge and understanding of Parliament include a wide range of groups drawn from across civil society and primarily, but not solely, based in the UK. They include parliamentarians, parliamentary officials, academics, journalists, diplomats, non-governmental organisations and the business sector, as well as students and teachers. Most of the Society's resources and publications are made freely available via our website. Membership of the Society is available at a low annual fee, and a discount is also available for our quarterly academic journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. The nature of the Society's work means that most events are held free of charge. Any private benefits are incidental as a necessary by-product of carrying out the Charity's aims. Staff are employed and remunerated in order that the Charity's aims are met.

Our highlights

- **February:** A blogpost by former House of Commons Clerk Paul Evans explained legislative 'ping-pong' and 'packaging' after the government was accused of procedural trickery during scrutiny of the Trade Bill.
- **February:** We explained in a blogpost how Lord Frost's appointment as Minister of State in the Cabinet Office to lead on UK-EU relations raised challenges for parliamentary scrutiny. SEE PAGE 11
- **March:** BBC Parliamentary Correspondent Mark D'Arcy chaired the first online hustings for the election of the Lord Speaker. SEE PAGE 10
- **April:** The second online hustings for the election of the Lord Speaker was chaired by the former lobby correspondent Jackie Ashley. SEE PAGE 10
- **April:** We held a joint briefing with the Bingham Centre, the Constitution Unit and the Public Law Project, explaining how the House of Commons was marginalised during the pandemic, and why Parliament's role should urgently be restored. SEE PAGE 9
- **June:** After the House of Commons Privileges Committee recommended the creation of a new criminal offence to deal with recalcitrant select committee witnesses, former clerk Paul Evans set out the pros and cons of the proposal.
- **July:** To mark the start of the UEFA European Football Championship, we explained in a blogpost how major sporting events are managed in part by Statutory Instruments. SEE PAGE 12
- **August:** Following the announcement of regulations to require compulsory Covid-19 vaccination for workers in care homes, we set out in a blogpost how this controversial decision again exposed some of the longstanding problems with delegated legislation. SEE PAGE 12
- **September:** We published a briefing on the delegated powers in the Health and Care Bill.
- **October:** We published a briefing on the delegated powers in the Nationality and Borders Bill.
- **November:** We launched our Delegated Legislation Review, with speakers from across the political spectrum including Steve Baker MP, Thangam Debonnaire MP, Dame Angela Eagle MP, Patrick Grady MP, Mark Harper MP and Lord Judge. SEE PAGE 8

OUR WORK

Delegated Legislation Review

"The Society has a long and distinguished record of work on delegated legislation, raising concerns well before it became fashionable during Brexit and Covid."

Steve Baker MP

Launch of the Delegated Legislation Review, 2 November 2021 at Westminster Central Hall: Rt Hon Mark Harper MP (Con), Dr Ruth Fox (Director), Thangam Debonnaire MP (Lab), Patrick Grady MP (SNP)

© Hansard Society / Luke Boga Mitchell

In Autumn 2021 we publicly launched our Delegated Legislation Review with a half-day conference at Westminster Central Hall. To accompany the launch we published an introductory report "*Delegated legislation: the problems with the process*", which set out the key problems with the delegation of powers and the scrutiny of Statutory Instruments that the Review will address.

Members from across the political spectrum -Steve Baker MP (Con), Thangam Debonnaire MP (Lab), Dame Angela Eagle MP (Lab), Patrick Grady MP (SNP), Mark Harper MP (Con), and Lord Judge (Convenor of the Crossbench Peers) - all spoke about their own experiences in government and opposition of delegated powers and making and scrutinising Statutory Instruments (SIs).

The discussion made clear how the Review must engage fundamental constitutional questions about the relationship between government and Parliament and - as Steve Baker MP put it - of "the democratic control of political power", as well as practical questions about the time and resources available to MPs to undertake scrutiny of SIs day-to-day. Several MPs pointed to the extreme mismatch between the volume and importance of the delegated legislation that comes before the House and MPs' capacity to scrutinise it.

With support from the Legal Education Foundation, the Review will run for 12 months and be supported by an Advisory Panel of experts chaired by the Society's Chair, Baroness Taylor of Bolton. The members of the Panel are: Baroness Andrews, Sir David Beamish, Steve Baker MP, Dame Angela Eagle MP, Paul Evans CBE, Sir Jonathan Jones QC, Professor Jeff King, Lord Lisvane, and Professor the Lord Norton of Louth.

We plan to publish a report setting out our recommendations for reform of the delegated legislation system at the end of 2022. A draft new Statutory Instruments Act to replace the existing statute that has been in place since 1946, and draft Standing Orders for both Houses of Parliament, will also be published to demonstrate in practical terms how the proposals can be implemented.

Parliament and the pandemic

"Parliament traditionally sits at the heart of British politics. With lockdown hopefully now ending, it is essential to prioritise the full restoration of parliamentary democracy and MPs' participation rights."

Ruth Fox, Meg Russell, Ronan Cormacain and Joe Tomlinson

The Health Secretary, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, giving a statement to the House of Commons, 14 September 2021

© UK Parliament / Jessica Taylor

In April 2021, the Society published a joint briefing with the Bingham Centre, the Constitution Unit at University College London, and the Public Law Project, expressing concern about the marginalisation of Parliament during the pandemic.

The briefing highlighted that in a national emergency, when time for normal process is short, the gravity of the situation can require that parliamentary scrutiny be sacrificed temporarily in exchange for broader accountability. However, the government had not kept its side of the bargain, with few concessions to accountability. Ministers sought extraordinary powers - in relation to emergency legislation, regulations and finance - while consistently excluding MPs from participating in proper oversight. Unless MPs took a collective stand against Parliament's continued marginalisation, what was once considered extraordinary could become the norm.

When the emergency Coronavirus Act provisions again came up for renewal in the Autumn, we produced a briefing explaining the statutory process and why, contrary to much media and political comment, some of the provisions would remain on the statute book.

Internationally, there was interest in whether the pandemic had driven parliamentary modernisation. Former Clerk of the Parliaments and Trustee of the Society Sir David Beamish reflected on the impact of the pandemic on the House of Lords, concluding that while the House had moved away from 'virtual' and 'hybrid' proceedings, Covid-19 practices had left their mark in relation to self-regulation of the House and greater stage management of proceedings, particularly questions.

The devolved legislatures were also grappling with the challenges of legislating during a pandemic and towards the end of the year our Director appeared before the Scottish Parliament's Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee to discuss the use of the 'made affirmative' urgency procedure.

Lord Speaker Hustings

"I also take the opportunity on behalf of the House to thank all members of staff, and the Hansard Society, who made the election possible and ran the process so smoothly."

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park,
The Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords
Hansard, 21 April 2021

Hustings for the election of the Lord Speaker, held on Zoom on 13 April 2021. Clockwise from top left: Lord Alderdice, Jackie Ashley (Chair), Lord McFall of Alcluith and Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town

When the Lord Speaker, Lord Fowler, announced his retirement early in 2021, we were asked by the House of Lords authorities to assist with the election of his successor by hosting two online hustings for all the candidates.

We were pleased to host the first 'Zoom' hustings on 25 March 2021, chaired by the BBC's parliamentary correspondent Mark D'Arcy. The second hustings was due to take place on 12 April but was postponed for 24 hours following the announcement of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip. This second hustings was chaired by Jackie Ashley, former political correspondent and broadcaster.

All three candidates - Lord Alderdice, Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town and Lord McFall of Alcluith - took part in both events.

Hansard Society members as well as Peers were able to watch both events live online, but only Peers were permitted to take an active part in proceedings, submitting their questions to the Society in advance. The recording of each event was subsequently made available to the wider public via the Society's YouTube channel.

Questions from Members of the House which were put to the candidates across the two hustings covered a range of themes including governance and the role of the Speaker; membership of the House of Lords (including the position of hereditary Peers); the future of virtual proceedings after the pandemic; communications and public engagement; relations with the devolved legislatures; and the Restoration and Renewal of Parliament.

Voting took place immediately after the second hustings and on 21 April it was announced that Lord McFall had won the election and been elected as the next Lord Speaker.

These hustings events continued the Society's involvement in Speaker hustings, after we previously hosted the official hustings for the Lord Speaker in 2011 and 2016 and the first-ever public hustings for the Speaker of the House of Commons in 2009 and again in 2019 (jointly with the House Magazine).

Scrutiny under the microscope

"Regardless of MPs' positions or the merits of the various possible options, the problem as things stand is that there is no guarantee that the House as a whole will be able to hold a debate on the way in which it wishes to scrutinise EU-related matters in future."

Dr Brigid Fowler (Senior Researcher)

Lord Frost speaking at an EU negotiating mandate meeting

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The question of how the new UK-EU relationship would be scrutinised by Parliament now that the UK had left the European Union remained a live issue throughout the year and was a regular feature of work by our Senior Researcher, Brigid Fowler.

On Lord Frost's appointment to lead on UK-EU relations as Minister of State in the Cabinet Office and a full member of the Cabinet, we noted how this brought some welcome clarity but also raised scrutiny challenges, not least because the Minister was based in the House of Lords not the House of Commons.

We also blogged about how the contrasting post-Brexit fates of the two Houses' EU-focused select committees came about because of markedly different procedural processes in each House, reflecting the distinction between government control of business in the Commons, and the largely self-governing nature of the Lords.

Parliamentary scrutiny of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which was agreed at the end of 2020, and the possible role of the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly to be created under it, were the focus of a House of Commons International Trade Committee inquiry at which the Society gave evidence. And Brigid Fowler discussed these challenges with parliamentarians Hilary Benn MP, David Jones MP and Lord Kinnoull at an event hosted by the Institute for Government.

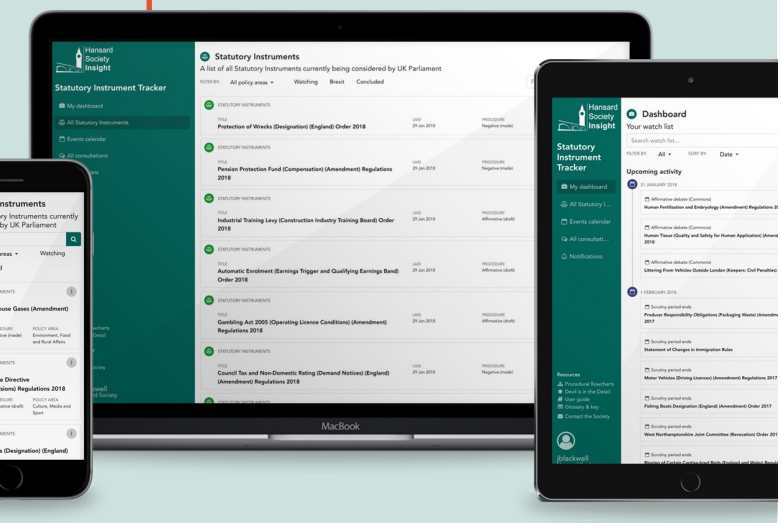
Before Brexit, mechanisms for inter-parliamentary relations and scrutiny of inter-governmental relations in the UK were unsatisfactory. Post-Brexit, the need for reform has also become more urgent.

In a blogpost, Trustee Sir Paul Silk and Hansard Society member Paul Evans set out in detail why a formal inter-parliamentary body is now needed, drawn from all five of the UK's legislative chambers, with responsibility for scrutiny of inter-governmental working.

Legislative monitoring

The Society's Statutory Instrument Tracker®

www.hansardsociety.org.uk/services/statutory-instrument-tracker



Throughout 2021 we continued to monitor the Coronavirus-related Statutory Instruments (SIs) laid before Parliament. Our Covid SI Dashboard remained an invaluable resource for MPs, Peers, journalists and researchers as they sought to follow the convoluted legislative changes being introduced by the government. It was particularly useful for external users trying to track legislative developments during the third national 'lockdown' in Spring 2021 and then the move through successive 'steps' out of lockdown during the Summer months. The Dashboard tracked, among other things, the powers used by Ministers to make and lay the Instruments, the scrutiny procedure which applied to each one, whether they complied with parliamentary scrutiny conventions, and which departments were responsible for laying the most SIs.

Throughout the year we used case study example SIs to explain the longstanding problems with delegated legislation. In July, for example, we marked the start of the UEFA European Football Championship with a blogpost explaining how this and other major sporting events were managed in part through SIs. A month later, we explored in detail the decision to introduce regulations to require compulsory Covid-19 vaccination for workers in care homes, and how the handling of this case revealed the longstanding problems with the SI system. At the end of the year we looked at how SIs were a key tool in the government's response to shortages of heavy goods drivers. As the 2020-21 parliamentary session came to a close in April we also used the sessional data to demonstrate the difficulties of securing parliamentary time to debate SIs.

To support our Delegated Legislation Review we also launched a new set of legislative briefings for MPs, focused on the delegated powers in government Bills. The briefings highlighted where and how MPs could seek to constrain delegated powers in the interests of parliamentary scrutiny and in line with the recommendations on legislative standards made over recent years by the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee in the House of Lords.

Parliamentary Affairs

The new editors of Parliamentary Affairs: Dr Alistair Clark and Dr Louise Thompson

In our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*, we published over 1,000 pages of original scholarly research by 86 different authors in 50 articles about politics and Parliaments in the UK and 15 other countries as diverse as Australia, Indonesia, Italy, Taiwan and Uganda.

The articles covered an array of research themes with special collections on the 'Votes at 16' debate in the UK and the role of opposition parties in Parliament. The last issue of the year looked at the impact of populist parties in government on the powers and practices of national parliaments. An underlying theme throughout the year was whether representative democracy is in danger from the electoral advance of such parties, the maintenance of excessive executive powers after the pandemic, and the threats posed by digital/social networks to the public trust in facts and information that is so vital in a democracy.

A number of articles explored the politics of Brexit and Coronavirus and their impact on the Westminster Parliament. Other articles covered themes such as the 'parliamentarisation' of national security policy, the appeal of political rhetoric, parental status among parliamentary representatives, the role that gender representation can play in legislative bill sponsorship and success, and the case for reform of the prorogation process.

At the end of the year we marked an important transition in the development of the journal as the editor, Professor Jon Tonge of Liverpool University, stepped down after a decade at the helm. During that time he edited over 40 issues of the journal and four editions of our 'Britain Votes' general election special collection, three of them in just five years. We are very grateful for all he's done for the journal and the support he's given to the Society.

The new editors are Dr Alistair Clark of Newcastle University and Dr Louise Thompson of Manchester University. We look forward to them putting their imprint on the journal in the years ahead.

"I do not say this lightly, but if we continue to allow the exercise of power by Ministers on this scale, with so little accountability and no serious scrutiny, then we are knowingly and willingly accepting a form of elective dictatorship by ministerial diktat."

Steve Baker MP

Speaking at the launch of the Delegated Legislation Review, 2 November 2021

© Hansard Society / Luke Boga Mitchell

GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND RISKS

Decision-making

Charitable status

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. It was incorporated on 25 August 1999 and registered as a charity on 17 December 1999. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. The company is governed under its Articles of Association.

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament serve as Co-Presidents of the Society. These are honorary positions reflecting the Society's unique 'critical friend' relationship with the Westminster Parliament, and the Society's commitment to non-partisanship. The Speakers are very supportive of the work of the Society but they have no formal role in or responsibility for the administration, governance or activities of the Charity.

Board of Trustees

Legal responsibility for the management and stewardship of the Hansard Society is vested in the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Director.

The Board of Trustees meets four times per year; additional meetings take place if and when required. The Society does not operate standing sub-committees but convenes these from time to time where additional Board oversight is required.

The Director of the Society attends meetings of the Board of Trustees and provides regular reports on the work of the Society. Other staff may attend Board meetings as appropriate depending on the agenda.

Recruitment

Trustees are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. The Chair and Treasurer are appointed on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. Other members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, after which they may put themselves forward for reappointment for a further three-year term. In some circumstances, Trustees may be co-opted for a further period. New Trustees are recruited with the intention of securing a range of views, interests and perspectives. In addition to public advertisements for new Trustees, wide networks are consulted, including those of our stakeholders, who represent the public, private, statutory and charitable sectors, and all the major political parties.

New Trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about the Society and their responsibilities as Trustees, including charity law and governance issues. New Trustees also have an induction meeting with the Chair and Director to discuss particular areas of work, and then follow up on those areas with other members of staff.

Conflicts of interest

Given the nature of the organisation, the Society's Board includes members who serve in Parliament, are involved in politics and government, and who are generally well-connected with many other organisations and individuals in wider civil society in both the private and public sectors. This poses a conflict of interest risk that must be managed. The Society thus has a Conflict of Interest Policy governing the Board of Trustees. All

Trustees must make a declaration of interests annually, and new Trustees must make a declaration on their appointment to the Board and prior to attendance at their first meeting. Declaration of interests is a standing agenda item at all Board meetings.

Staff and volunteers

The senior management team of the Charity in 2021 comprised the Director, Dr Ruth Fox, and Lisa George (until March 2021), the Director of the Scholars Programme. During 2021 the Society employed an average of 5 members of staff compared to 6.8 in 2020.

In Summer 2021, the Society's staff complement was augmented by the arrival of two new Researchers, Dr Tom West and Dr Dheemanth Vangimalla, and a Membership and Operations Manager, Lauren Rhodes, to help the Society take forward its research and development plans. These appointments were supported by grants from The Legal Education Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, respectively.

However, the Society had to say goodbye to four long-standing members of staff when it became clear in late Autumn 2020 that the Scholars Programme would not be able to resume operations for the foreseeable future due to problems posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly ongoing international travel restrictions and restricted access to Parliament. Towards the end of 2020, a decision was therefore made to mothball the Scholars Programme as it was not possible to bear the ongoing operational costs for at least a further 12 months with no balancing income. In Spring 2021 four members of staff, two full-time and two part-time, were therefore made redundant. We are deeply grateful to all four colleagues for their contribution to the success of the Scholars Programme and the wider Society.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for deciding the staff remuneration policy which they review regularly at Board meetings. Its implementation is delegated to the Director.

Salary levels are set in relation to the skills and experience that are required to enable the Charity to carry out its work. More than half of our current staff members have doctorates or other professional qualifications.

The Society continues to benefit from the University of Hull Department of Politics work placement programme.

Operational support

A range of core services are contracted externally. Most notably, accounting services are provided by JS2, IT support is provided by Cheeky Munkey, and HR advice is provided by HR Services. The Society also subscribes externally to provide an Employee Assistance Programme for all staff.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to members of the public, who can join as ordinary members or as members who in addition subscribe to our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. Members of Parliament can join as parliamentary patrons.

In September 2021 a new Membership and Operations Manager was appointed to oversee the development of a larger and more active and engaged membership community to support the Society's research and educational work in the years ahead.

Financial overview

Income

Total income for 2021 was £296,569, a significant decline on the previous year, when income stood at £660,654, and on income in 2019, prior to the pandemic, when income stood at just over £1 million.

The decline in income is largely accounted for by the mothballing of our international Scholars Programme for the duration of the pandemic. Without the Scholars Programme, income in 2021 was principally derived from grants to support the Society's charitable activities, and publications, all of which amounted to £295,804 (compared to £642,488 in 2020). Income for 2020 was significantly higher than in 2021 because the Scholars Programme did run in Spring 2020 prior to the implementation of the global Covid-19 lockdown.

A sum of £716 was derived from the government's pandemic-related furlough scheme (compared to £17,659 in 2020) prior to Scholars Programme staff being made redundant in early 2021.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year also decreased significantly to £390,845 (compared to £715,589 in 2020).

The decrease in expenditure is primarily accounted for by the pandemic-induced mothballing of the Scholars Programme.

The Society thus had a net deficit of £94,276 in the year, compared to a net deficit of £54,935 in 2020.

Balance sheet

The current funds position shows net assets of £301,236 compared to £395,512 the previous year. This includes restricted funds of £12,014 (of which there were none in 2020). The balance on the general fund at the year-end was therefore £289,222 compared to £392,836 in 2020.

Reserves policy

The Society's Trustees ensure the overall health of the Charity by managing its free reserves to ensure the organisation can withstand short-term financial risks and adverse events that may damage some or all of the Society's areas of work.

With no endowment or substantial assets, the Society is dependent on income from its research and education services (the Scholars Programme, the Statutory Instrument Tracker, and training), publications (particularly its journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*), project grants, and membership subscriptions. The Charity therefore needs to manage the financial risks inherent in a model in which income is subject to fluctuation from year to year.

The Society's reserves policy is currently set at a minimum of three months core operational expenditure, or £119,587.

Prior to the pandemic the Society's reserves had been built up above the minimum requirement to allow for strategic investment in planned development work in the period 2020-22. However, in light of the challenges posed by Covid-19, some plans for strategic investment in 2020 were delayed and the Society had to spend down some of its reserves in 2021 to support the transition to a new funding model. The reserves policy is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Grant funding

The Society is grateful to The Legal

Education Foundation (LEF) for providing ongoing support for its research work on delegated legislation. In 2021 the Society received £45,000 in grant funding from LEF to support our Delegated Legislation Review.

The Society also received an unrestricted grant of £60,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to support our transition through the pandemic to a new funding and operational model.

Financial risks

The most significant financial risks facing the Society are:

- continued economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity;
- forecast income from our journal is not met;
- inadequate reserves and cashflow; and
- inadequate non-project-related funding.

The Board reviews the financial plans at each meeting and manages the significant risks accordingly through income generation pipelines, budgetary controls, and management of reserves to ensure that the organisation lives within its means.

Financial outlook

The Hansard Society's overall financial position is weaker than in recent years as a result of the pandemic.

However, previous robust financial planning, and particularly the building-up of the Society's reserves in the period 2017-19, mean that we have been able to weather the challenges posed in the last two financial years and have emerged from the pandemic with more than three months of operational reserves still intact.

Throughout 2021, as in the year before, regular scenario planning was undertaken to identify measures that might be required to maintain a secure financial position while continuing to invest in future developments to meet the organisation's charitable objectives.

The Trustees planned for a significant deficit in 2021 to support the Society's transition to a post-pandemic environment and are satisfied that the organisation remains viable.

Taking into account existing plans, the Society's reserves position, and confirmed income and expenditure, the Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities. They are therefore satisfied that the Charity is a financially viable organisation - a 'going concern' - that can continue operating for the next 12 months (from June 2022, when the assessment was made).

Fundraising

The Society did not raise funds directly from the public in 2021.

However, as part of the organisation's efforts to diversify its income streams, the Society has developed a fund-raising plan that will be implemented with effect from Summer 2022. To this end, a new website has been built facilitating online payments (e.g. for membership and publication downloads) and donations.

The Society has therefore registered with the Fundraising Regulator and is incorporating all the necessary provisions of the fundraising code in its financial procedures.

Key risks

The Hansard Society maintains a detailed risk management framework. Key risks and uncertainties are those that could have a material impact on the Charity in carrying out its work.

Risks cannot be entirely eliminated but the Board's objective is to mitigate the Charity's exposure to risk such that the level of risk is deemed acceptable. At times, however, it is necessary to prudently balance the level of risk with the scale of potential gain provided by certain options and opportunities that would serve to advance the Society's pursuit of its charitable objectives.

The Board of Trustees formally reviews the organisation's risk register at Board meetings twice a year; at other times any change in a risk rating is reported to the Board and is reviewed and discussed further as necessary.

The Board of Trustees review the risks the Society faces in six categories:

- operational;
- financial;
- strategic;
- reputational;
- occupational health;
- legal / regulatory matters.

The Trustees confirm that controls are in place to reasonably mitigate the risks identified.

In 2021 the top 'priority' risks identified were:	
Operational: Temporary loss of key staff In a small organisation the unplanned loss of key personnel, even for a short period of time, can have a significant impact on delivery of work. Given Covid-19 this risk was upgraded in 2020 from an 'important' to a 'priority' risk and it remained at that level in 2021.	The recruitment of three new staff in 2021 enhanced overall capacity, particularly in relation to research projects, the SI Tracker and operational support to the Director.
Continued economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity Income declined by 43% in 2020 and has declined still further in 2021 following the mothballing of the Scholars Programme. The wider economic environment - particularly inflation driving up costs, and wider concerns about a loss of business confidence - may have implications for other areas of the Society's income generation activity, particularly the SI Tracker, where that activity would be discretionary for potential subscribers.	The Society adopted a new income generation plan in December 2021, alongside the budget for 2022, in order to diversify income streams and strengthen areas of existing activity such as the SI Tracker and the Membership programme. Implementation of the plans will take several months, with an expectation that an improvement in income will be realised in the second half of the year, with a particular focus on areas where there is the prospect of recurrent income generation year-on-year.

Financial: Inadequate reserves and cashflow The Society's reserves policy stands at three months of core operational expenditure. Throughout the pandemic this policy has been kept under review by Trustees. Despite the difficulties of the last two years - and the financial loss incurred in 2020 and 2021 - the Society's reserves are still above the three-month requirement.	This risk was uprated from an 'important' to a 'priority' risk in December 2021. Mitigation measures were agreed in relation to income generation for 2022. The continued mothballing of the Scholars programme means income and expenditure are currently more predictable as they are not subject to semester-driven peaks and troughs, thereby making planning a little easier. Cashflow concerns are rare, not least because *Parliamentary Affairs* journal income is received through an advance every six months, and some grant income is similarly paid up front.
Financial: Forecast income from *Parliamentary Affairs* is not met Two potential risks to *Parliamentary Affairs* journal income have been identified: (i) a reduction in institutional subscriptions arising from financial pressures on universities post-pandemic; and (ii) the financial implications of open access publishing over the next five years.	The journal continues to have a good subscriber base and is insulated to a degree by its inclusion in Oxford University Press (OUP) 'consortia' sales to university libraries. Providing the journal's Impact Factor is sustained, this position is likely to be maintained. However, the impact of open access publishing plans, while relatively small at present, is forecast to be significant by 2024 and beyond. We continue to engage with OUP about possible mitigation measures.
Health problems - e.g. flu, viruses - leading to loss of key staff at important moments The ongoing concern about Covid-19 means this risk is deemed a priority and the prospect of the loss of a staff member for potentially several days, at short notice, is now factored into work plans.	We have very low levels of absence due to sickness. Staff actively wished to return to work in the office in Summer 2021 when working from home and lockdown restrictions were lifted. Social distancing can be implemented if required, and staff are encouraged to get vaccinated and take a Covid test if they feel unwell. Staff work from home if they or family members have Covid, and are encouraged to work from home if they have flu/a cold.
Governance - changes in membership of the Board leading to a loss of key skills / knowledge A loss of Trustees can have a detrimental impact on institutional knowledge but if unplanned and unexpected it can also give rise to unanticipated recruitment costs, with implications for staff time and wider Society resources.	Consideration is given regularly to succession planning. At each December Board meeting, Trustee term expiry dates for the next 12-18 months are discussed. In exceptional cases, where a Trustee's term of office is due to expire, the Board can co-opt the Trustee for a further term if they believe that the loss of key skills/knowledge would be detrimental. A Trustee skills audit was also recently undertaken to assess where skills gaps exist at Board level.

Plans for the future

After a period of considerable volatility as a result of Brexit and Covid-19, there is increased political and media focus on constitutional matters and the wider health of our democracy. The Society's research to develop ideas to help improve the way Parliament works and to support more informed public debate about our parliamentary democracy therefore remains as relevant as ever.

What's working, what's not?

Through to the end of this Parliament the Society's priority is to focus its research on the overarching question, 'What's working in Parliament, what's not, why does it matter and how can we fix it?' The Society will be looking ahead to anticipate the new and different challenges that Parliament may face in the future given the changing nature of politics in the decades ahead. And it will be working with MPs to help them think strategically about what they are doing, why, and how to do it better. Parliament cannot work if the government does not play by the rules and respect conventions. But if the government won't play by the rules, how should Parliament push back? What are the opportunities and risks? To reinforce the Society's role as a trusted convening power, it will continue to provide a forum where difficult issues can be discussed, a frank exchange of views can take place, solutions can be explored, and advice and support can be provided.

Delegated Legislation Review

The Society's immediate research priority is its Delegated Legislation Review, supported by The Legal Education Foundation.

Towards the end of 2022 the Society will set out a comprehensive plan to reform the delegated legislation system, and publish a draft new Statutory Instruments Act and Standing Orders to deliver the changes proposed.

The Society is also delivering training about the delegation of powers in legislation to support a change in attitude among civil servants as well as Ministers in Whitehall towards the scrutiny needs of Parliament throughout the delegated legislation process.

The changing role of MPs

The Society is embarking on a major study of the changing role and function of MPs. Three-quarters of MPs were first elected in 2010 or later, and the half of MPs who have joined the House of Commons in the last five years did so during a very unusual period in the life of Parliament. MPs may not be as 'socialised' into ways of working as previous generations of Members. What might this mean for the future? The work will improve knowledge and understanding of the role and function of MPs, help the Society gauge priorities for parliamentary reform from MPs' perspectives, and inform its future thinking about what 'renewal' might mean for the Restoration and Renewal programme.

Holding the government to account

There are three fundamental areas where Parliament must hold the government to account: policy and legislation; public finances; and national security. The state of the public finances after Brexit and Covid-19 will be central to political decision-making in the years ahead. But are the procedures in place to facilitate effective scrutiny, and are MPs resourced to engage with the issues? Foreign and development policy, defence and national

security are the subject of the new Integrated Review and the government's 'global Britain' agenda. Are there ways to improve scrutiny in these areas?

Inter-parliamentary relations

The future of the Union looks set to be a constant theme of political debate in the years ahead. Relations between Westminster and the devolved legislatures are an important part of the constitutional jigsaw. The Society's research - particularly around delegated legislation - will therefore continue to explore how inter-parliamentary relations might be improved.

A new Scholars Programme?

The mothballing of the Scholars Programme has extended into a third academic year. The Society has reviewed its approach to international education and proposes, in principle, to try to resume programming in 2023, finances permitting.

At the heart of our education programming in future will be a fresh mission-oriented focus on the challenges facing parliaments and parliamentary democracy. The Society is looking at the potential for shorter programmes, hybrid models involving a mix of in-person and online teaching, virtual internships, and a more diverse mix of programming for different markets.

Enhancing our operational capacity

The Society has a new Membership and Operations Manager funded via a two-year unrestricted grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

This post supports the Director and staff team with operational matters but is also leading the effort to refresh our Membership programme.

There has rarely been a more important time to support the Society, given its singular commitment to studying, advocating for, defending and enhancing the role of Parliament. Through our new membership model we hope to build an invaluable network of people who care about Parliament, public life and politics and want our parliamentary institutions to prosper. The new model includes a Young Person (under 30) category of membership. Recognising that young people often face barriers to political engagement and participation, we hope this discounted membership will build a new generation of Hansard Society supporters who will champion parliamentary democracy in their future careers. A new category of International members has also been introduced to respond to the interest in and engagement with the Society's work outside the UK among people who are unable to attend many, if any, of our events.

Improving our communications

The Society launched a new website in 'Beta Preview' form in May 2022. When complete, the site will provide a better platform to showcase the Society's research and education outputs, offer far greater functionality, (particularly in relation to data visualisation), and allow better marketing and sales of our events, publications, and Statutory Instrument Tracker®, and other subscriptions.

The new site will also deliver performance improvements (for example, improved page load times and faster rendering), all of which will enhance the Society's ability to ensure its target audiences can find its research and education content.

The new site also integrates online payments, subscriptions, Gift Aid, event management and donations. Alongside the website we have adopted a new CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system to help improve our engagement and communications with new members, subscribers, and donors. Together these initiatives will all help support delivery of the income generation plan for 2022-23.

Administrative & legal information

Honorary Co-Presidents	The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP The Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith
Trustees	Professor Roger Awan-Scully Sir David Beamish KCB Dianne Bevan Shirley Cameron Sue Inglish The Rt Hon the Baroness Jay of Paddington (until March 2021) Amelia Knott (until December 2021) Dr Rebecca Rumbul Gerald Shamash Sir Paul Silk KCB The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)
Director	Dr Ruth Fox
Company number Charity number Registered office	04332105 1091364 1.17, 1st Floor Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP
Auditors	*Haysmacintyre LLP* 10 Queen Street Place London, EC4R 1AG
Bankers	*Unity Trust Bank* 9 Brindley Place Birmingham, B1 2HB *Scottish Widows* PO Box 12757, 67 Morrison Street Edinburgh, EH3 8YJ

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Hansard Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

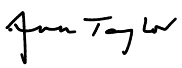
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

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

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

Approval

Approved by the Trustees on 28 June 2022 and signed on their behalf, by:



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The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hansard Society for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 29 to 41.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act"). The Trustees are satisfied that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company 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 charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

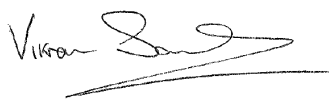
Independent Examiner's statement

Since the charity's income is in excess of £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in the 2011 Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles 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).

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.



Vikram Sandhu
Haysmacintyre LLP
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG

26 September 2022

Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities

Incorporating an income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	*Total Funds 2020 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	716	-	716	*17,734*
Charitable activities	4	250,804	45,000	295,804	*642,488*
Investments: Bank interest		9	-	9	*314*
Other income		40	-	40	*118*
TOTAL INCOME		251,569	45,000	296,569	*660,654*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		357,859	32,986	390,845	*715,589*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	357,859	32,986	390,845	*715,589*
Net (expenditure) / income and net movement in funds		(106,290)	12,014	(94,276)	*(54,935)*
Balances brought forward		395,512	-	395,512	*450,447*
Balances carried forward		289,222	12,014	301,236	*395,512*

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities. All movements in funds in 2020 were unrestricted.

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2021 : Company Number: 04332105

	Notes	£	2021 £	*£*	*2020 £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	8		-		-
Tangible assets	9		-		*2,676*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	161,423		*192,609*	
Cash at bank and in hand		165,945		*237,722*	
		327,368		*430,331*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(26,132)		*(37,495)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			301,236		*392,836*
NET ASSETS			301,236		395,512
FUNDS					
Restricted funds	12		12,014		-
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	12	-		*2,676*	
General fund	12	289,222		*392,836*	
			289,222		*395,512*
			301,236		*395,512*

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2021. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the Directors on 28 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Shirley Cameron (Honorary Treasurer)

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	£	2021 £	*£*	*2020* *£*
Cash (used in) / provided by operating activities				
Net movement in funds	**(94,276)**		*(54,935)*	
Add back depreciation and amortisation	**2,676**		*18,577*	
Less investment income	**(9)**		*(314)*	
Decrease in debtors	**31,186**		*485,121*	
(Decrease) in creditors	**(11,363)**		*(434,914)*	
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		**(71,786)**		*13,535*
Cash flows provided by / (used in)				
Investment income	**9**		*314*	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**-**		*(5,353)*	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		**9**		*(5,039)*
(Decrease) / Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(71,777)**		*8,496*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**237,722**		*229,226*
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**165,945**		*237,722*

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Statutory information

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (Company No. 04332105). The registered office address and principal place of business is Room 1.17, 1st Floor Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

The Hansard Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company include the Trustees. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the 'going concern' basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Having reviewed its budget and projections the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Income

All income, including funding from government, is recognised once the charity has entitlement to income, it is probable that income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be

measured reliably.

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts. Income is deferred only when the Society has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified the income is to be expended into a future period. Where donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included as restricted income when receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates. Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Overheads and other salaries are allocated between the expenses headings on the basis of time spent.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity, and include governance costs which are incurred in connection with enabling the Society to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

2.6 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. A full year of amortisation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase.

Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Website development - 3 years straight line.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year of depreciation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Office and computer equipment - 2 years straight line.

2.8 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme: the Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the assets of which are administered by Scottish Widows. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the charity benefits from the employees' services. The charity has no further liability under the scheme.

2.9 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 at their settlement value.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 Accounting judgements and estimates

The key judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these Financial Statements are as follows:

- The depreciation rate of tangible fixed assets and amortisation rate of intangible fixed assets are as detailed above;
- Support costs are apportioned to direct activities based on the direct staff costs allocated to those activities (see Note 5).

There are no other key assumptions concerning the future and other key 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 financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	*Total Funds 2020 £*
Government grant: furlough scheme	716	-	716	*17,659*
Donations	-	-	-	*75*
	716	-	716	*17,734*

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	*Total Funds 2020 £*
Legal Education Foundation	-	45,000	45,000	*33,369*
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	60,000	-	60,000	*-*
Total grants	60,000	45,000	105,000	*33,369*
Other project income: research, education and events	1,457	-	1,457	*23,894*
Scholars Programme	-	-	-	*389,809*
Membership subscriptions	551	-	551	*742*
Publications	188,796	-	188,796	*194,674*
	250,804	45,000	295,804	*642,488*

In the year to 31 December 2020, all income from charitable activities was unrestricted.

5. Expenditure

Current Year

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £
Scholars Programme	48,751	11,274	38,939	98,964
Projects - research, education and Publications	151,979	15,449	121,388	288,816
Support costs (see Note 6)	1,672	58	1,335	3,065
	49,749	111,913	(161,662)	-
	252,151	138,694	-	390,845

Prior Year

	Direct Staff costs £	*Direct costs £*	*Support costs £*	*Total 2020 £*
Scholars Programme	*102,241*	*205,402*	*102,575*	*410,218*
Projects - research, education and Publications	*111,558*	*68,333*	*111,923*	*291,814*
Support costs (see Note 6)	*6,638*	*259*	*6,660*	*13,557*
	62,165	*158,993*	*(221,158)*	*-*
	282,602	*432,987*	*-*	*715,589*

6. Support costs

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Governance costs:		
Independent examination	2,370	*2,500*
Board expenses and meeting costs	-	*186*
	2,370	*2,686*
Other support costs		
Staff costs	49,749	*62,165*
Premises, equipment and depreciation	53,132	*87,738*
Stationery, post, phone and IT	14,079	*13,010*
Information, research and communications	9,830	*10,223*
Legal and professional	21,372	*27,127*
Other	11,130	*18,209*
	161,662	*221,158*

7. Employee and key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and Senior Management Team. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £85,897 (2020: £126,970).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the charity during the year. No Trustees were reimbursed any expenses in the year.

There were no related party balances as at 31 December 2021 (2020: nil).

	2021 £	*2020* *£*
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	200,441	*243,490*
Social security costs	17,493	*21,889*
Employer pension contributions	11,841	*17,223*
Redundancy	22,376	-
	252,151	*282,602*

No employees had emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year or the previous year (exclusive of employer pensions and employer National Insurance contributions).

Particulars of employees:

The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:

	2021 No.	*2020* *No.*
	5.0	*6.8*

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost	
At 1 January 2021	25,096
Additions in the year	-
At 31 December 2021	25,096
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2021	25,096
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2021	25,096
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021	-
At 31 December 2020	-

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and Office Equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2021	21,407
Additions in the year	-
At 31 December 2021	21,407
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2021	18,731
Charge for the year	2,676
At 31 December 2021	21,407
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021	-
At 31 December 2020	2,676

10. Debtors

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Trade debtors	40,440	*47,500*
Prepayments	9,060	*6,157*
Accrued income	97,098	*124,952*
Other debtors	14,825	*14,000*
	161,423	*192,609*

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Trade creditors	3,353	*3,824*
Taxes and social security	12,801	*18,800*
Pension contributions	1,504	*1,816*
Accruals	8,039	*11,896*
Other creditors	435	*609*
Deferred income	-	*550*
	26,132	*37,495*

Deferred income:		
Balance brought forward	550	*394,064*
Amount released to income	(550)	*(394,064)*
Amount deferred in the year (see Note 2.4) all relating to services not performed until the following financial year		
SI Tracker income	-	*550*
	-	*550*

12. Statement of funds - current year

Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Delegated Legislation Review	-	45,000	(32,986)	-	12,014
Total restricted funds	-	45,000	(32,986)	-	12,014

Delegated Legislation Review fund: this relates to a grant from The Legal Education Foundation to support the Delegated Legislation Review initiative.

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Fixed assets	2,676	-	(2,676)	-	-
Total designated funds	2,676	-	(2,676)	-	-

Fixed asset fund: this represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Designated funds	2,676	-	(2,676)	-	-
General fund	392,836	251,569	(355,183)	-	289,222
	395,512	251,569	(357,859)	-	289,222
Restricted funds	-	45,000	(32,986)	-	12,014
Total funds	395,512	296,569	(390,845)	-	301,236

13. Statement of funds - prior year

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2020 £*
Fixed assets	*15,900*	-	*(18,577)*	*5,353*	*2,676*
Political Engagement polling	*60,000*	-	*(54,140)*	*(5,860)*	-
Visual identity review	*20,388*	-	-	*(20,388)*	-
Total designated funds	*96,288*	-	*(72,717)*	*(20,895)*	*2,676*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2020 £*
Designated funds	*96,288*	-	*(72,717)*	*(20,895)*	*2,676*
General fund	*354,159*	*660,654*	*(642,872)*	*20,895*	*392,836*
	450,447	*660,654*	*(715,589)*	-	*395,512*
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	*450,447*	*660,654*	*(715,589)*	-	*395,512*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

CURRENT YEAR	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	-	289,222	12,014	301,236
	-	289,222	12,014	301,236

PRIOR YEAR	*Designated funds*	*General funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Fixed assets	*2,676*	-	-	*2,676*
Net current assets	-	*392,836*	-	*392,836*
	2,676	*392,836*	-	*395,512*

15. Pension

The Society operates defined contribution schemes for its employees, making a contribution of 7% of gross salaries. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Society and amounted to £11,841 (2020: £17,223). Contributions totalling £1,504 (2020: £1,816) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the company had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for property) which fall due as follows:

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Less than one year	62,436	*14,000*
Between two and five years	10,406	-
	72,842	*14,000*

Hansard Society

Registered office

1.17, 1st Floor Millbank Tower,
21-24 Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0203 925 3979
E-mail: contact@hansardsociety.org.uk
Web: www.hansardsociety.org.uk

HANSARD SOCIETY

HANSARD SOCIETY LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1091364

Accounts

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

Year to 31 December 2020

Company Number: 04332105

Charity Number: 1091364

HANSARD SOCIETY

Front cover photo credit: © UK Parliament / Jessica Taylor

Hansard Society Ltd

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year to 31 December 2020

The Hansard Society is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity

Company Number: 04332105
Charity Number: 1091364

Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP, 'beamed' into the House of Commons Chamber via Zoom, 25 November 2020

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Honorary Co-President of the Hansard Society

The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP
Speaker of the House of Commons

2 September 2020
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Foreword

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton

Chair of Trustees

The year 2020 was an extraordinarily challenging one, during which every aspect of our work was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The year began optimistically as we welcomed 35 new Hansard Scholars to London. But barely half-way through the semester the Scholars had to return to their home countries as international travel and 'lockdown' restrictions were introduced across the world to tackle the pandemic. We are extremely grateful to the Scholars Programme staff, particularly the lecturers, who worked so hard in the weeks that followed to adapt the Programme for online learning and so ensure that all the Scholars could complete the course and secure academic credit for the semester.

It is, however, a source of great sadness that after 35 years of uninterrupted provision the Scholars Programme has been unable to resume operations. At the time of writing it remains unclear if or when it may be possible to restart the Programme.

The research team's long-standing focus on parliamentary scrutiny of delegated legislation meant we were uniquely positioned to monitor and highlight the government's use of emergency powers to tackle the pandemic. Tracking any Statutory Instrument (SI) which had among its purposes the addressing of Coronavirus -related issues, daily updates were provided via a new data dashboard on the Society's website. This unique dataset - the work for which was supported by grant funding from the Legal Education Foundation - was frequently cited in parliamentary debates, select committee reports, and media coverage.

Early on in the crisis the Society, in collaboration with the Constitution Unit, published proposals setting out how Parliament might operate 'virtually', using technology to facilitate remote working whilst also ensuring the government was subject to proper scrutiny. As the months went by we continued to monitor and critique the government's approach to virtual proceedings and the extent to which Parliament was able to hold Ministers to account for their use of some of the broadest legislative powers ever seen in peacetime.

Looking ahead, the next couple of years will be challenging as the Society refreshes its approach to educational programming. Our financial position remains robust and we are investing in new staff to support our research and strengthen our operational capacity. This annual report and the accompanying financial statements set out just a snapshot of our work in the last year. But the detailed study of Covid-19 SIs alone demonstrates the value of the Society's role as a trusted, impartial source of technical knowledge about how Parliament works. The Charity could not carry out this work without the support of our staff, members, partners and funders.

Thank you to all of you for your support.

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) present their annual report (pages 3 - 30) and the financial statements (pages 31 - 43) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, the Hansard Society's governing document, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trustees review the activities of the Charity on an ongoing basis and are satisfied they continue to be directly related to the Society's core mission and objectives.

Public benefit

Promoting knowledge and interest in parliamentary democracy

Founded in 1944, the Hansard Society exists to promote knowledge of and interest in the Westminster Parliament and its role in our democracy. It delivers its mission principally through rigorous research and high-quality education about parliamentary democracy.

The Charity Commission guidance on public benefit identifies two key principles that must be met to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit: (i) there must be an identifiable benefit which is not outweighed by any detriment or harm; and (ii) the benefit must be to the public in general or a sufficient section of the public, and not give rise to more than incidental personal benefit. The Trustees are satisfied that the objects and mission of the Society, and the activities to pursue them set out in this report, satisfy these principles of public benefit.

The Society's work supports the 'betterment of knowledge' about Parliament and the reforms needed to shape our democratic institutions for the 21st century. A research and education Society dedicated to expounding the principles, practices and challenges of parliamentary democracy, the Hansard Society is widely recognised as the Westminster Parliament's 'critical friend'.

Beneficiaries of the Society's work to support knowledge and understanding of Parliament include a wide range of groups drawn from across civil society and primarily, but not solely, based in the UK. They include parliamentarians, parliamentary officials, academics, journalists, non-governmental organisations and the business sector, as well as students and teachers. Most of the Society's resources and publications are made freely available via our website. Membership of the Society is available at a low annual fee, and a discount is also available for our quarterly academic journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. The nature of the Society's work means that most events are held free of charge. Any private benefits are incidental as a necessary by-product of carrying out the Charity's aims. Staff are employed and remunerated in order that the Charity's aims are met.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP, and former Prime Minister Theresa May MP, during the debate on the European Union (Future Relationship) Bill on 30 December 2020

© UK Parliament / Jessica Taylor

OUR WORK

Media highlights

What does healing the Brexit divide mean?

Mark Easton, BBC News

1 February 2020

Britain is fraying. Why did Boris Johnson get re-elected?

Helen Lewis, The Atlantic

3 February 2020

We need Parliament back at work, online

Comment, Evening Standard

14 April 2020

For the foreseeable future, UK Parliament may meet in cyberspace

Stephen Castle, New York Times

15 April 2020

Boris Johnson in 'jobs for the boys' row over plan to give top Commons post to ally

Paul Waugh, Huffington Post

17 April 2020

Parliament has been sidelined during the Covid crisis

Editorial, Daily Telegraph

17 June 2020

Conservatives worthy of the name cannot be cavalier with civil liberties

Steve Baker MP, The Times

22 July 2020

Where is the voice of the left as 'libertarians' annex the Covid-19 debate?

Kenan Malik, The Guardian

27 September 2020

Where is Parliament? If MPs cannot curb rule by decree, then they have little constitutional relevance

Lord Sumption, The Critic

8 November 2020

The good, the bad and the rowdy: what you need to know about PMQs

Tess de la Mare, Press Association

17 November 2020

What are the chances of Parliament being recalled?

Mark D'Arcy, BBC News

21 December 2020

UK lawmakers approve Brexit trade deal, cementing EU exit

Jason Douglas, Wall Street Journal

30 December 2020

Johnson to hail 'historic resolution' as Brexit bill comes before Commons

Simon Murphy & Lisa O'Carroll, The Guardian 30 December 2020

The Guardian view on the Brexit debate: no scrutiny, no choice

Editorial, The Guardian

30 December 2020

Our highlights

- **January:** 35 Hansard Scholars arrived from 11 colleges and universities in the USA for the Spring semester SEE PAGES 14-15
- **March:** Data - Coronavirus Statutory Instruments Dashboard launched to track Covid-related SIs laid before Parliament SEE PAGE 10
- **March:** Event - our Director, Dr Ruth Fox, spoke at the 'Parliament and Brexit' Conference convened by UK in a Changing Europe SEE PAGE 10
- **April:** Briefing - 'Proposals for a 'virtual' Parliament: how should parliamentary procedure and practices adapt during the Coronavirus pandemic?' published jointly with the Constitution Unit SEE PAGE 9
- **May:** Briefing - 'Who chooses the scrutineeer? Why MPs should resist the government's attempt to determine the Liaison Committee chair' SEE PAGE 13
- **June:** Oral evidence - House of Commons International Trade Committee inquiry into parliamentary scrutiny of UK trade negotiations SEE PAGE 8
- **June:** Blogpost - 'Where is the Intelligence and Security Committee and why does its absence matter?' SEE PAGE 12
- **July:** Oral evidence - House of Commons Procedure Committee inquiry exploring how the House adapted to Coronavirus restrictions SEE PAGE 9
- **August:** Briefing - 'What to look out for in Parliament in Autumn 2020'
- **September:** Book launch - *Britain Votes 2019* (the special general election edition of our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*) SEE PAGE 1
- **September:** Briefing - 'Building on the 'Brady amendment': how can Parliament scrutinise Coronavirus regulations more effectively?'
- **November:** Oral evidence - House of Lords Constitution Committee inquiry into emergency powers SEE PAGE 10
- **December:** Blogpost - 'Parliament's role in scrutinising the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement is a farce' SEE PAGE 8

Parliament & Brexit

Scrutiny of treaties, including trade agreements

The shortcomings in parliamentary scrutiny arrangements for treaties, including trade agreements, was a running theme throughout the year. The Society's Senior Researcher Dr Brigid Fowler gave evidence on the issue to the House of Commons International Trade Select Committee, and briefed MPs on the scrutiny value of proposed amendments to the Trade Bill. Yet, despite our efforts and those of others with similar concerns, MPs failed to insist on any ambitious provisions to improve scrutiny arrangements in the Commons.

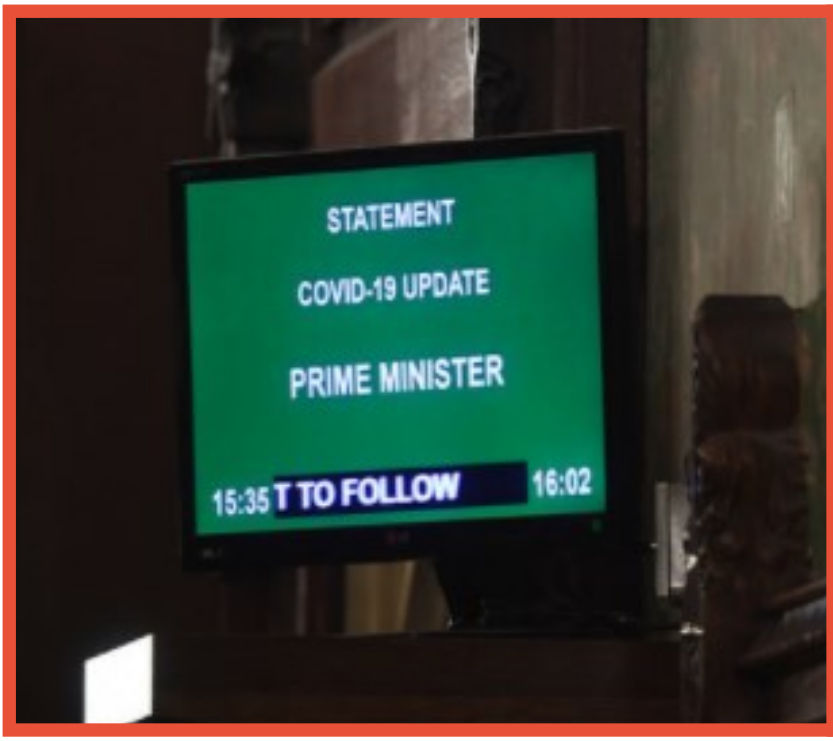
Parliament's scrutiny of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)

The inadequate nature of the existing scrutiny system was then brutally exposed at the end of the year when MPs had to consider the future relationship agreement with the EU. Parliament was recalled on 30 December 2020 to consider implementation of the TCA less than 48 hours before it was to be applied – so late as to make 'no-deal' the only possible alternative, and to be of extremely limited use to those directly affected by the treaty.

Parliament also had to pass the implementing Bill in a single day, less than one day after the legislation was published. This one day constituted Parliament's only formal scrutiny, before it was ratified by the UK and entered into force, of a 1,246-page treaty that will govern in international law the UK's relationship with its nearest neighbour and largest trading partner for years.

> ***"The UK Parliament's proceedings on the TCA are a farce. ...this process represents an abdication of Parliament's constitutional responsibilities to deliver proper scrutiny of the executive and of the law."***
>
> **DR BRIGID FOWLER**

At the point at which the UK was supposed to gain greater opportunity to do things differently, the process around the future relationship treaty displayed some of the worst extremes of arrangements for Parliament's scrutiny role, and its wider relationship with government, that long pre-date Brexit. One of the crowning moments in a process that was supposed to ensure that 'Parliament will make our laws' only exposed the deeply unsatisfactory way in which it does so.



Parliament and the pandemic

The Coronavirus pandemic posed significant political, procedural and technical challenges: how could MPs carry out their core constitutional duties when everyone needed to adopt rigorous social distancing and, wherever possible, work from home? At a time when the UK government had been granted emergency powers of a kind unparalleled in peacetime, democratic oversight was vital.

Proposals for a 'virtual' Parliament

In a briefing produced jointly with Professor Meg Russell of the Constitution Unit, the Society argued that Parliament should, in the interests of safety, and to set a national example, operate as far as possible virtually, rather than accommodating a continued physical presence at Westminster. We urged Parliament not to pursue 'business as usual' but to make some radical changes, identifying and prioritising essential business. We also argued that Parliament's crisis arrangements should be based on wide and transparent consultation with Members to maximise support, and any measures should be temporary and create no automatic precedent for the post-crisis era. And we stressed that the crisis should not become a pretext to shift power further towards the executive and party managers.

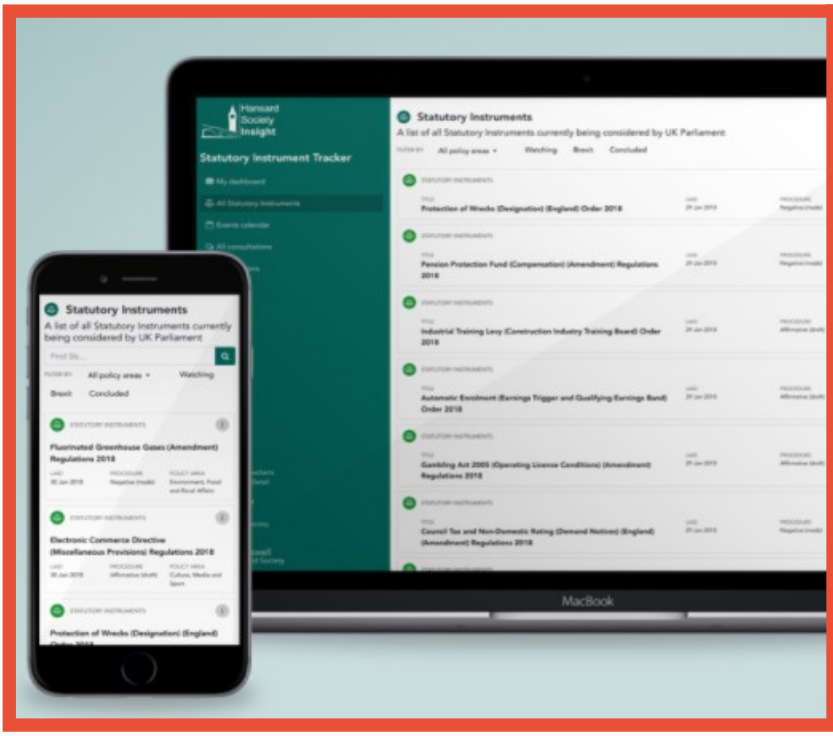
The virtual Parliament and the remote voting system was a great success. In evidence to the Commons Procedure Committee we thus lamented the decision by the Leader of the House to end hybrid proceedings and remote voting after just a few weeks of operation, and without any contingency plan should a further lockdown be necessary.

> *"Taking away, in such a cavalier fashion, the practical means that ensured all MPs could take part in proceedings and divisions in the middle of a pandemic crisis offends the principles of parliamentary democracy."*

The global response

In the early weeks of the pandemic we also monitored how other legislatures around the world were responding. Former Hansard Society staff member Andy Williamson, now working for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, provided early insight into how parliaments focusing on digital solutions had to address three key issues: access for all members; security of the system; and veracity of the process. We also had a series of guest blogposts exploring the early and ground-breaking responses of, for example, the Jersey States Assembly and the Irish Dail.

Monitoring Statutory Instruments



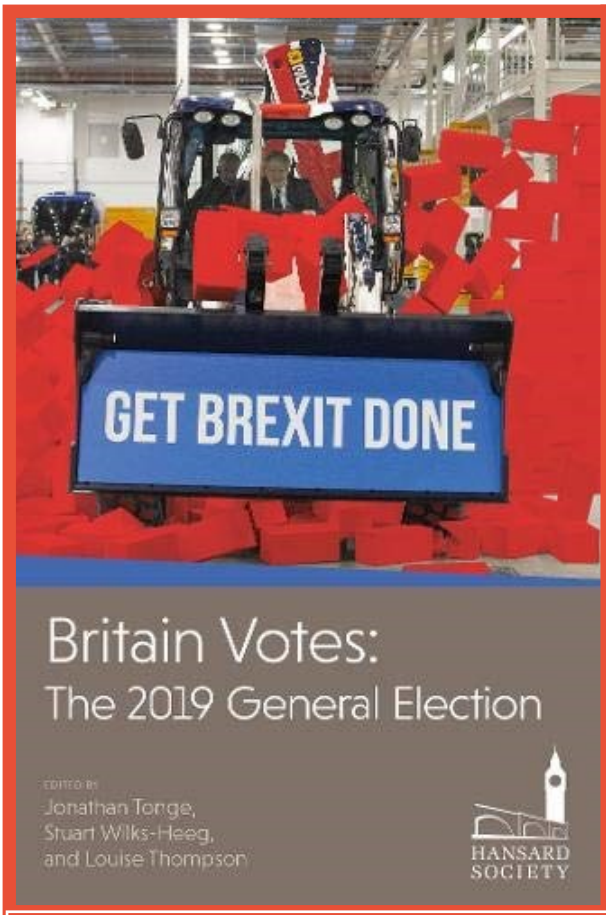
The Hansard Society has long argued that the system for parliamentary scrutiny of delegated legislation is flawed and is now one of the most significant constitutional challenges of our time. Since 2018, through Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, the conjunction of some of the broadest, most constitutionally-important powers ever seen on the statute book with inadequate scrutiny of the ways these powers might be exercised has driven a coach and horses through the core principle of the accountability of government to Parliament.

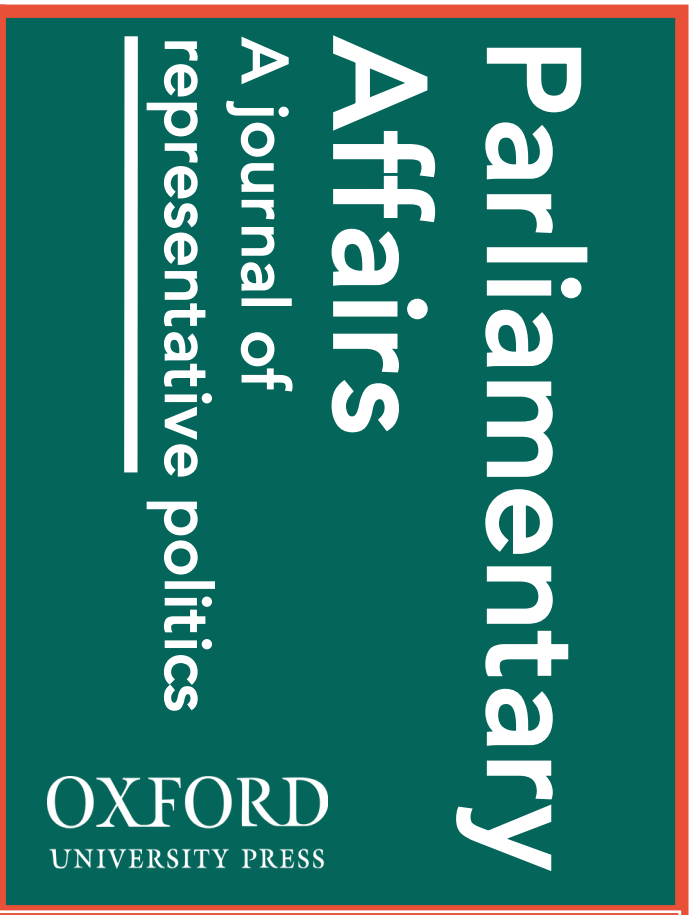
Brexit Statutory Instruments

Brexit posed a legislative challenge unique in nature and scale. The combination of the exit deadline and protracted uncertainty over the negotiations made it unavoidable that many of the legislative challenges required to prepare the statute book for the UK's departure from the EU would be made not through Acts of Parliament but through Statutory Instruments (SIs). In an essay published by UK in a Changing Europe in a publication, 'Parliament and Brexit' in Spring 2020, we made the point that the combination of broad delegated powers and inadequate scrutiny procedures limited, and will continue to limit parliamentarian's ability both to influence some of the UK's post-Brexit policy choices and to hold the government to account.

Covid-19 Statutory Instruments

The first Coronavirus-related SI was laid before Parliament on the 28 January 2020. After the 6th March around a third of all SIs laid in the year had among their purposes the addressing of Coronavirus-related issues. Using data compiled daily for our Statutory Instrument Tracker we monitored the publication of SIs and we were often the first organisation to highlight new regulations implementing lockdown or travel-restrictions on social media. We also tracked which powers were used by ministers to make and lay the SIs, which parliamentary scrutiny procedures applied to them, the extent to which the government complied with conventions about parliamentary scrutiny time, and which departments were responsible for laying the most instruments. When we launched the Covid SI Dashboard we imagined it would run for several months; we did not anticipate it would be needed for over 18-months. However, it proved to be an invaluable and unique resource, widely used by journalists, academics and civil society groups. It was also widely quoted in parliamentary debate and Select Committee reports, both in the UK and overseas, including the House of Lords Constitution Committee in its inquiry into emergency powers during the pandemic.





The 2019 general election was another extraordinary episode in a series of dramatic recent contests. In September 2020, just nine months after Britain went to the polls, we published *Britain Votes 2019* in partnership with Oxford University Press, providing a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the election.

How did Boris Johnson's Conservative Party turn a prolonged parliamentary stalemate into a decisive overall majority? The Conservatives victory saw the demolition of much of Labour's 'red wall' of seemingly impregnable seats. The latest in our series of general election-related special editions of our journal *Parliamentary Affairs* explains how and why this happened.

The volume was edited by Professor Jonathan Tonge, Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg and Dr Louise Thompson and brought together a team of 25 distinguished experts to analyse the campaign and the outcome. The election results are considered in depth by Professor Sir John Curtice and Professor David Denver. Detailed analysis of the performance of each party is provided, including chapters on the Conservative and Labour campaigns by Professor Tim Bale and Dr Eunice Goes, respectively. And there is dedicated coverage of the contests in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The campaign tactics of each party are considered, along with their financing and media strategies. As well as assessing the importance of the Prime Minister's promise to 'Get Brexit Done', the book analyses the problems confronting the Labour Party and the longer-term social and political trends underpinning electoral change.

In addition to the general election special edition, the editors published 45 research articles in the Journal throughout the year.

The research covered a diverse range of parliamentary systems including those in Australia, Chile, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, and Turkey. Topics ranged from candidate selection to parliamentary petitions to the mental wellbeing of politicians. There was also a special collection exploring party regulation and operations outside the boundaries of their country of origin.

Photo credit: MI6
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The appointment and role of the Intelligence and Security Committee after a general election

The reasons for and the implications of the unprecedentedly long delay in appointing the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) after the 2019 general election was explored in a blogpost by Dr Andrew Defty of the University of Lincoln. The delay in setting up the Committee meant important inquiries into terrorism were all held up. The delay also hindered timely publication of the Committee's long-awaited 'Russia report' and the continuation of its long-running inquiry into China.

> *This is not the first occasion on which there have been delays in appointing the Committee or clearing its reports for publication, but the government's insistence that recent examples of bad practice are the norm suggests a worrying disregard for democratic oversight of intelligence in the UK. Robust and continuous oversight of intelligence is a necessary feature of democracy, and is also vital to the preservation of national security.*
>
> **DR ANDREW DEFTY**

CASE STUDIES

How is the Petitions Committee representing the public amid the procedural and practical restrictions of the Covid crisis?

The UK Parliament petitions system is the most popular parliamentary initiative of its kind in the world. In an article for the Society, the Chair of the House of Commons Petitions Committee, Catherine McKinnell MP, explained why, in a time of national crisis, the role of the Petitions Committee was more important than ever. In the first six months of the Coronavirus pandemic, there were over 5.6 million signatures on petitions relating to the pandemic alone. But while Covid-19 significantly increased the public's use of e-petitions, the hybrid virtual Parliament had limited the House's ability to debate them. This prompted the Committee to innovate to ensure that petitioners' voices were heard during the crisis. As well as launching its own dedicated inquiries, it surveyed over one million petitioners, and held informal online evidence sessions with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Ministers.

Government interference in Parliament's Liaison Committee is a retrograde step

In an article for *Prospect* magazine in May 2020, our Senior Researcher, Dr Brigid Fowler, explained how, in asking the House of Commons to appoint Sir Bernard Jenkin MP as chair of Parliament's most senior committee, the government violated the principle that the scrutinised should not choose the scrutineer. The government's approach also ran counter to the spirit and practice of reforms strengthening the select committee system over the last decade. In naming its preferred chair in a motion, the government overturned precedent; the Committee had previously formally chosen its chair itself. The motion also rolled together two distinct issues: the process by which the chair should be appointed; and whether the chair should be a 'full-time' figure not simultaneously chairing a regular select committee, or a 'double-hatted' one holding the position on top of a regular select committee chairmanship. A regrettable aspect of the whole episode was that Bernard Jenkin is ideally placed to take on the role, having extensive prior experience of chairing a select committee.

CASE STUDIES

Post-legislative scrutiny and the independent review of judicial review

The government established an independent review of judicial review (the Independent Review of Administrative Law) - but post-legislative scrutiny had not yet been conducted on the previous reform of the system in the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015. Part 4 of the 2015 Act reformed arrangements for the funding of judicial reviews, changed the power of the court to refuse to hear claims, and made provision for the disclosure of information about individuals and organisations which fund judicial review.

Edward Chesterman, working with us on a three-month study placement from the University of Hull, explored how this situation was typical of the low priority given to post-legislative scrutiny by both government and Parliament. The blogpost also explored the different approaches taken to post-legislative scrutiny by the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Hansard Scholars

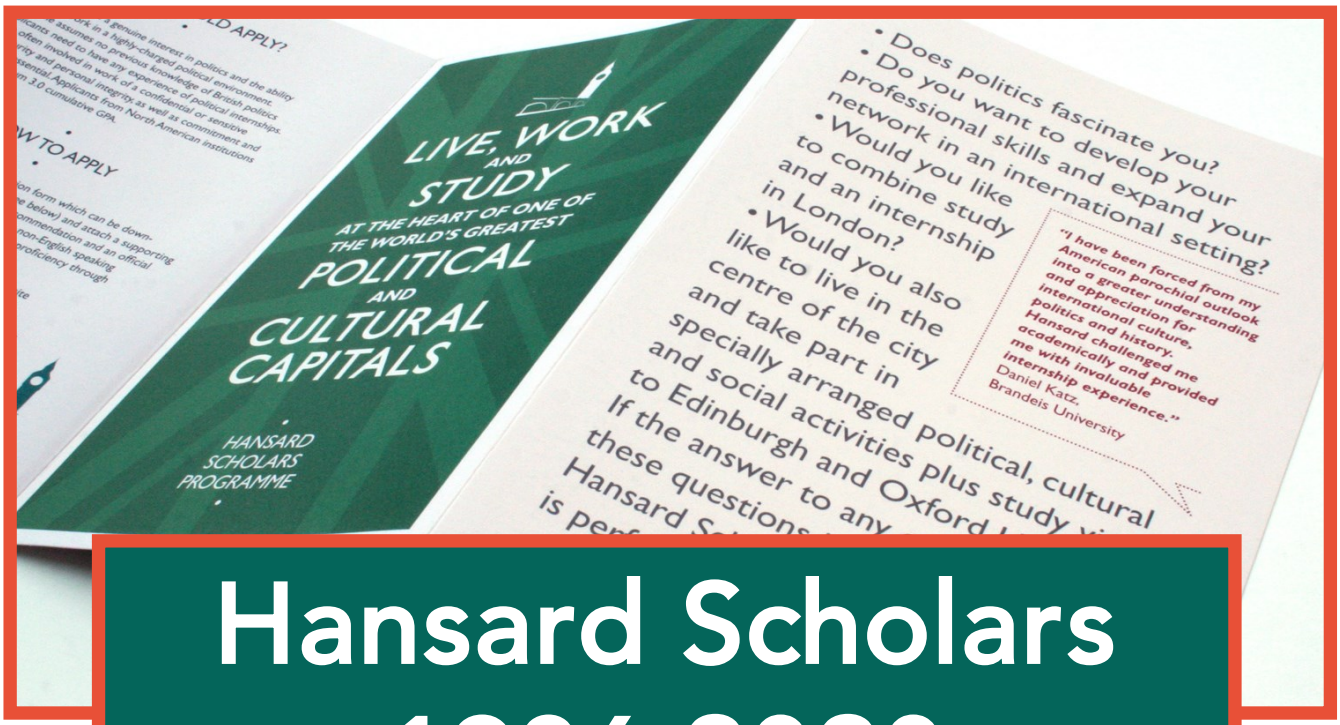
The Society welcomed 35 Scholars to London in January 2020. The Scholars, based at 12 colleges and universities across the United States, were due to stay for a 14-week semester but their studies were interrupted in mid-March by the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the course of four days, as the UK and USA went into lockdown, and travel restrictions were imposed worldwide, the Scholars were repatriated to their home countries across four continents. With the agreement of our feeder colleges and universities, the Programme was quickly adapted and delivered online for the remainder of the semester, enabling the Scholars to complete and obtain credit for the course and thus ensure they suffered no setback to their academic progression.

In addition to their taught courses, the Scholars were able to undertake study visits to Cardiff and Edinburgh before the Programme was so cruelly interrupted by the pandemic. They had also started their assessed internship work placements at Westminster but these came to an abrupt halt as pandemic-related restrictions were introduced. As ever, the Society is grateful to the 25 MPs, five Peers, two parliamentary committees, and five other parliamentary bodies and NGOs that offered work placements for the Scholars, enabling them to gain some experience of British democracy at the heart of Westminster.

It soon became clear that it would not be possible to resume the Programme in the Summer. Staff nonetheless hoped to resume operations in the Autumn. That too proved optimistic and in October 2020 the decision was made to cancel the Spring 2021 Programme as well.

Although the Programme was suspended, the Society was still subject to regulatory oversight by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, with its annual monitoring review conducted online rather than in-person. The resulting report, reflecting on the previous 12 months' activities, made no recommendations for improvement but highlighted four instances of good practice on the Programme, noting that these made a positive contribution to the management of academic standards and/or the quality of learning opportunities for the Society's Scholars.

At the end of 2020, with Covid-19 cases once again on the rise and the UK entering a third lockdown, Trustees reluctantly took the decision to suspend the Programme for the whole of 2021. With great sadness the Programme's staff were consequently made redundant in Spring 2021.



Hansard Scholars 1986-2020

Over its 35-year lifespan, the Hansard Scholars Programme welcomed 1,547 undergraduates and 239 postgraduate 'future leaders' from over 200 colleges and universities in over 60 countries.

The Programme was established in 1986 to promote international knowledge and understanding of the British model of parliamentary democracy, its constitutional development, form, function and influence around the globe. Combining academic study with a practical internship placement, the Programme's primary aim was for Scholars to gain direct experience of British democracy at the heart of Westminster, helping them to develop a nuanced appreciation of the complex challenges facing representative democracy in the contemporary world. As well as promoting the principles and practices of British democracy, the Programme offered substantive cross-cultural experiences and encouraged the creation of lasting relationships between UK decision-makers and future leaders from other countries.

Scholars were hosted by future Prime Ministers and party leaders: Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Michael Howard, Theresa May, Menzies Campbell and Jo Swinson all supported the Programme. So too did an eclectic group of leading Westminster figures, across all parties, such as Diane Abbott, Michael Cocks, Gwyneth Dunwoody, Teresa Gorman, Harriet Harman, Ian Paisley Jnr, George Robertson, Jack Straw, and Ann Widdecombe.

Amongst its alumni the Programme includes a former Democratic Governor of Montana (who was also a US Presidential aspirant); a US Solicitor General in the cabinet of President George W Bush; a General Counsel of the CIA during the Obama Administration; a Director of Cybersecurity Policy at the White House National Security Council; a US Ambassador to Singapore; a Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh; and a legislative analyst in the Brazilian House of Representatives.

The original Programme format remained remarkably unchanged throughout its 35-year history, a testament to both the appeal and durability of its original design - although there were many enhancements over the years, particularly in the last decade. The Programme built and maintained a reputation for excellence and intellectual rigor both at Westminster and across the international education sector.

Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer MP during Prime Minister's Questions on 1 July 2020

© UK Parliament / Jessica Taylor

Governance, finance and risks

Decision-making

Charitable status

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. It was incorporated on 25 August 1999 and registered as a charity on 17 December 1999. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company. The company is governed under its Articles of Association.

Honorary Co-Presidents

The Speakers of the two Houses of Parliament serve as Co-Presidents of the Society. These are honorary positions reflecting the Society's unique 'critical friend' relationship with the Westminster Parliament, and the Society's commitment to non-partisanship. The Speakers are very supportive of the work of the Society but they have no formal role in or responsibility for the administration, governance or activities of the Charity.

Board of Trustees

Legal responsibility for the management and stewardship of the Hansard Society is vested in the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Director.

The Board of Trustees meet four times per year; additional meetings take place if and when required. The Society does not operate standing sub-committees but convenes these from time to time where additional Board oversight is required.

The Director of the Society (and until June 2020 the Scholars Programme Director) attend meetings of the Board of Trustees and provide regular reports on the work of the Society. Other staff may attend Board meetings as appropriate depending on the agenda.

Recruitment

Trustees are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. The Chair and Treasurer are appointed on a yearly basis at the Annual General Meeting. Other members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for a term of three years, after which they may put themselves forward for reappointment for a further three-year term. In some circumstances, Trustees may be co-opted for a further period. New Trustees are recruited with the intention of securing a range of views, interests and perspectives. In addition to public advertisements for new Trustees, wide networks are consulted, including those of our stakeholders, who represent the public, private, statutory and charitable sectors, and all the major political parties.

New Trustees are provided with an induction pack containing information about the Society and their responsibilities as Trustees, including charity law and governance issues. New Trustees also have an induction meeting with the Chair and Director to discuss particular areas of work, and then follow up on those areas with other members of staff.

Conflicts of interest

Given the nature of the organisation, the Society's Board includes members who serve in Parliament, are involved in politics and government, and who are generally well-connected with many other organisations and individuals in wider civil society in both the private and public sectors. This poses a conflict of interest risk that must be managed. The Society therefore has a Conflict of Interest Policy governing the Board of Trustees. All

Trustees must make a declaration of interests annually, and new Trustees must make a declaration on their appointment to the Board and prior to attendance at their first meeting. Declaration of interests is a standing agenda item at all Board meetings.

Staff and volunteers

The senior management team of the Charity in 2020 was comprised of the Director, Dr Ruth Fox, and Lisa George, the Director of the Scholars Programme. During 2020 the Society employed an average of 6.8 members of staff compared to 8.3 in 2019.

As a result of the pandemic, changes had to be made to the staffing of the Scholars Programme and the planned recruitment of a vacant researcher position was delayed until 2021. The contract of the Deputy Director of the Scholars Programme, was not renewed in July 2020 when it was clear that the Programme would not be able to resume for at least a year and possibly longer. Sadly the remaining Scholars Programme staff all had to be made redundant in Spring 2021 when it became clear that the Programme would not be able to resume until Autumn 2022 at the earliest.

However, the Society's staffing complement has since been augmented by the arrival in 2021 of two new Researchers and a Membership and Operations Manager to help the Society take forward its future research and development plans.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for deciding the staff remuneration policy which they review regularly at Board meetings. Its implementation is delegated to the Director.

Salary levels are set in relation to the skills and experience that are required to enable the Charity to carry out its work. Half of our current staff members have doctorates or other professional qualifications.

The Society continued to benefit from the University of Hull Department of Politics work placement programme. In Autumn 2020 we were joined by Edward Chesterman, who worked with us for three months on a number of research projects.

Operational support

A range of core services are contracted externally. Most notably, accounting services are provided by JS2, IT support is provided by Cheeky Munkey, and HR advice is provided by HR Services. The Society also subscribes externally to provide an Employee Assistance Programme for all staff.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to members of the public, who can join as ordinary members or as members who in addition subscribe to our journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*. Members of Parliament can join as parliamentary patrons.

Financial overview

Income

Total income for 2020 was £660,654, compared with £1,160,518 in the previous year, a decrease of 43%.

Income was principally derived from the Scholars Programme (Spring 2020 semester only), various research projects, and publications, all of which amounted to £642,488 (compared to £1,106,267 in 2019). Exceptionally, a further £17,659 in income was derived from the government's pandemic-related furlough scheme; four of the five staff members on the Scholars Programme were furloughed for periods of time in 2020 as the pandemic prevented the Programme from running in the Summer and Autumn.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year decreased to £715,589, compared with £1,136,261 in 2019, a decrease of 37%.

The decrease in expenditure is primarily accounted for by the fact that the Scholars Programme had to cease operations for the Summer and Autumn semesters, due to the pandemic. There was also a reduction in core operational costs arising from the closure of the office for much of the period after mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic lockdown and introduction of working from home guidance.

The Society thus had a net deficit of £54,935 in the year, compared to a net surplus of £24,257 in 2019.

Balance sheet

The current funds position shows unrestricted funds of £395,512, compared to £450,447 the previous year. This includes designated funds of £2,676 compared to £96,288 in 2019. The balance on the general fund at the year end is therefore £392,836, compared to £354,159 in 2019.

Reserves policy

The Society's Trustees ensure the overall health of the Charity by managing its free reserves to ensure the organisation can withstand short-term financial risks and adverse events that may damage some or all of the Society's areas of work.

With no endowment or substantial assets, the Society is dependent on income from its research and education services (the Scholars Programme, the Statutory Instrument Tracker, and training), publications (particularly its journal, *Parliamentary Affairs*), project grants, and membership subscriptions. The Charity therefore needs to manage the financial risks inherent in a model in which income is subject to fluctuation from year to year.

The Society's reserves policy is currently set at a minimum of three months core operational expenditure, or £293,950. This figure is based on anticipated expenditure in a year when Scholars Programme income is not affected by Covid-19. At 31 December 2020, free reserves stood at £392,836.

In the last few years the reserves have been built up above the minimum requirement to allow for strategic investment in planned development work in the period 2020-2022. However, in light of the challenges posed by Covid-19, some plans for strategic investment in 2020 were delayed and the Society will have to spend down some of its reserves in 2021. The reserves policy is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Grant funding

The Society is grateful to the Legal Education Foundation (LEF) for providing ongoing support for its research work on delegated legislation. In 2020 the Society received £33,369 in grant funding from LEF.

The Society also received £4,875 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for the final stage of the 'Deepening democracy in extremely politically fragile countries' project.

Financial risks

The most significant financial risks facing the Society are:

- continued economic downturn impacting on Society-wide activity
- forecast income from our journal is not met
- inadequate non-project-related funding.

The Board reviews its financial plans at each meeting and manages the significant risks accordingly through income generation pipelines, budgetary controls, and management of reserves to ensure that the organisation lives within its means.

Financial outlook

The Hansard Society's overall financial position remains robust. The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity's future viability has not been irrevocably damaged by the pandemic. Throughout 2020 regular scenario planning was undertaken to identify measures that might be required to maintain a secure financial position while continuing to invest in future developments to meet the organisation's charitable objectives. Taking into account existing plans, the Society's reserves position, and confirmed income and expenditure, the Trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities. They are therefore satisfied that the Charity is a financially viable organisation - a 'going concern' - that can continue operating for at least the next 12 months.

Fundraising

The Society does not raise funds directly from the public. Nevertheless, it is mindful of the code issued by the fundraising regulator.

Key risks

The Hansard Society maintains a detailed risk management framework. Key risks and uncertainties are those that could have a material impact on the Charity in carrying out its work.

Risks cannot be entirely eliminated but the Board's objective is to mitigate the Charity's exposure to risk such that the level of risk is deemed acceptable. At times, however, it is necessary to prudently balance the level of risk with the scale of potential gain provided by certain options and opportunities that would serve to advance the Society's pursuit of its charitable objectives.

The Board of Trustees formally reviews the organisation's risk register at Board meetings twice a year; at other times any change in a risk rating is reported to the Board and is reviewed and discussed further as necessary.

The Board of Trustees review the risks the Society faces in six categories:

- operational;
- financial;
- strategic;
- reputational;
- occupational health;
- legal / regulatory matters.

The Trustees confirm that controls are in place to reasonably mitigate the risks identified.

In 2020 the top 'priority' risks identified were:	
Operational: Temporary loss of key staff In a small organisation the unplanned loss of key personnel, even for a short period of time, can have a significant impact on delivery of work. Given the risks to health around Covid-19 this risk was upgraded in 2020 from an 'important' to a 'priority' risk.	Improvements were made to foster internal knowledge- and information-sharing through enhancements to the IT system, and potential sources of temporary replacement staff have been identified should additional capacity ever be needed. The recruitment of three new staff in 2021 will enhance overall capacity,
Financial: Inadequate non-project related funding The Society's Statutory Instrument (SI) Tracker subscription service and a procedural training course provide core, unrestricted funding to invest in our research priorities. However, it was not possible to run our in-person training courses in 2020 and the financial pressures facing other organisations may have an impact on sales of the SI Tracker subscriptions, if this is deemed a discretionary purchase.	Plans for development of the SI Tracker and procedural training programme were reviewed. Despite the wider economic climate there remains considerable scope to expand this source of income in the future. Two priorities were identified to mitigate the risk: (i) recruit an Operations Manager in 2021 to provide greater operational support for client management and the logistical work involved in organising training sessions/events; (ii) invest in improving our communications and marketing to better support promotion of the SI Tracker and training, including via our website.

Financial: Economic downturn impacting on Scholar enrolments Previously the Society has been able to budget on the basis that a considerable portion of its income would be generated through its international education programmes. However, as a result of the pandemic, the Scholars Programme was unable to operate in 2020 and it remains unclear if or when it may be possible to restart the Programme.	Risks involved in running the Scholars Programme materialised during the pandemic on a scale which had never been envisaged and which no mitigation measures could have eased. Mitigation measures for cancellation of one or two semester programmes, or a decline in enrolments, had been anticipated. But cancellation of the programme across two academic years meant remedial action had to be taken to reduce costs. However, the Programme's logistical infrastructure remains in place and could therefore be reactivated in the future as and when the study abroad education sector recovers.
Financial: Premises - risk of rent or service charge increase or termination of contract The Society occupies serviced office space in Millbank Tower. The 12-month renewable lease expired in June 2020 and has since been renewed at a reduced rent level.	The office lease is the Society's second-biggest source of expenditure after staff costs. The future of the office was discussed regularly at Board meetings in 2020 as Trustees monitored the cost/benefits of maintaining an office during the pandemic. Having worked with the landlords to secure a suitably amended rental we have now extended the lease. This will provide stability in the coming months as we implement our future development and income generation plans.
Financial: Forecast income from *Parliamentary Affairs* is not met Two potential risks to *Parliamentary Affairs* journal income have been identified: (i) a reduction in institutional subscriptions arising from financial pressures on universities post-pandemic; and (ii) the financial implications of Plan S open access publishing over the next five years.	The journal continues to have a good subscriber base and is insulated to a degree by its inclusion in Oxford University Press (OUP) 'consortia' sales to university libraries. Providing the journal's Impact Factor is sustained, this position is likely to be maintained. However, the impact of open access publishing plans, while relatively small at present, is forecast to be significant by 2024 and beyond. We continue to engage regularly with OUP about possible mitigation measures.
Legal/regulatory: Changes in Home Office regulations governing international students Although the Scholars Programme did not operate in 2020 due to the pandemic, the Society continued to be subject to educational oversight by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and remained a Tier 4 licence holder. As such, it is subject to any regulatory changes.	The Society was subject to a review visit conducted online by QAA in Autumn 2020. The Society remains in regular touch with QAA officials about the long-term future of the Scholars Programme and will have a further desk-based review in Autumn 2021 with a view to maintaining its position so that it may re-start international education programmes in some form from Spring 2023 onwards.

Plans for the future

After a period of considerable volatility as a result of Brexit and Covid-19, there is increased focus on constitutional matters and the wider health of our democracy. The Society's mission to promote knowledge of and interest in the Westminster Parliament and its role in our democracy therefore remains as relevant as ever.

What's working, what's not?

Through to the end of this Parliament the Society's priority is to focus its research on the overarching question, 'What's working in Parliament, what's not, why does it matter and how can we fix it?' It will be looking ahead to anticipate the new and different challenges that Parliament may face in the future given the changing nature of politics in the decades ahead. And it will be working with MPs to help them think strategically about what they are doing, why, and how to do it better. Parliament cannot work if the government does not play by the rules and respect conventions. But if the government won't play by the rules, how should Parliament push back? What are the opportunities and risks? To reinforce the Society's role as a trusted convening power, it will continue to provide a forum where difficult issues can be discussed, a frank exchange of views can take place, solutions can be explored, and advice and support can be provided.

Delegated Legislation Review

The Society's immediate research priority is its Delegated Legislation Review, kindly supported by the Legal Education Foundation. The Society has long argued that the system for parliamentary scrutiny of delegated legislation is flawed and now represents one of the most significant constitutional challenges of our time. The problems have long been known but Brexit and Covid-19 have illuminated them in stark terms. The Review will lay out a comprehensive plan to address them. The Society will be holding events and publishing briefing papers on all aspects of the problem over the course of the next year, and anticipates publishing its full recommendations in Summer 2022.

The changing role of MPs

The Society will also undertake a major study of the changing role and function of MPs. Three-quarters of MPs were first elected in 2010 or later, and the half of MPs who have joined the House of Commons in the last five years did so during a very unusual period in the life of Parliament. MPs may not be as 'socialised' into ways of working as previous generations of Members. What might this mean for the future? The work will improve knowledge and understanding of the role and function of MPs, help the Society gauge priorities for parliamentary reform from the perspective of MPs, and inform its future thinking about what 'renewal' might mean for the Restoration and Renewal programme.

Holding the government to account

There are three fundamental areas where Parliament must hold the government to account: policy and legislation; public finances; and national security (defence of the realm). The state of the public finances after Brexit and Covid-19 will be central to political decision-making in the years ahead. But are the procedures in place to facilitate effective scrutiny, and are MPs resourced to engage with the issues? Foreign and development policy, defence and national security are the subject of the new Integrated Review and the

government's 'global Britain' agenda. Are there ways to improve scrutiny in these areas?

Inter-parliamentary relations

The future of the Union looks set to be a constant theme of political debate in the years ahead. Relations between Westminster and the devolved legislatures are an important part of the constitutional jigsaw. The Society's research will therefore continue to explore how inter-parliamentary relations might be improved.

A new Scholars Programme?

The mothballing of the Scholars Programme has now extended into a second academic year. It is clear that international education - particularly the study abroad sector - will take time to recover and will not be the same after the pandemic as it was before.

The Society is therefore rethinking its approach to international education, rather than just seeking to restart the Scholars Programme at the earliest opportunity.

At the heart of our education programming in future will be a fresh mission-oriented focus on the challenges facing parliaments and parliamentary democracy. The Society is looking at the potential for shorter programmes, for hybrid models involving a mix of in-person and online teaching, virtual internships, and a more diverse mix of programming for different markets. It is also exploring possible partnerships with other providers in a sector badly affected by the pandemic. As things stand, the Society does not anticipate offering any international education programmes for undergraduates before Spring 2023.

Enhancing our operational capacity

The Society has recently appointed a new Membership and Operations Manager funded via a two-year unrestricted grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This new post will support the Director and staff team with operational matters and will also be responsible for leading a membership drive to build on the Society's increasingly high profile among the legal community, public affairs professionals and campaign groups.

Improving our communications

In recent months the Society has been working to improve its external communications, most notably by upgrading its website. The new site, to be launched in Autumn 2021, will provide a better platform to showcase the Society's research and education outputs, offer far greater functionality, particularly in relation to data visualisation, and allow for better marketing and sales of our events, publications, and Statutory Instrument Tracker and other subscriptions. The new site will also deliver performance improvements (for example, improved page load times and faster rendering) all of which will enhance the Society's ability to ensure its target audiences can find its research and education content.

Administrative & legal information

Honorary Co-Presidents	The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP The Rt Hon the Lord Fowler
Trustees	Professor Roger Awan-Scully (appointed Oct 2020) Sir David Beamish KCB Dianne Bevan Shirley Cameron (Hon. Treasurer) Sue Inglish The Rt Hon the Baroness Jay of Paddington (resigned Dec 2020) Amelia Knott Lord Lexden OBE (resigned July 2020) Dr Rebecca Rumbul (appointed Oct 2020) Gerald Shamash Sir Paul Silk KCB The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)
Director	Dr Ruth Fox
Company number	04332105
Charity number	1091364
Registered office	1.17, 1st Floor Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP
Auditors	*Haysmacintyre LLP* 10 Queen Street Place London, EC4R 1AG
Bankers	*Unity Trust Bank* 9 Brindley Place Birmingham, B1 2HB *Scottish Widows* PO Box 12757, 67 Morrison Street Edinburgh, EH3 8YJ

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Hansard Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

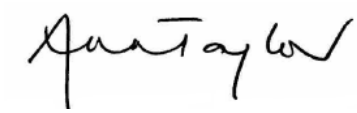
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. So far as each of the Trustees is aware at the time the report is approved:

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

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

Approved by the Trustees on 21 September 2021 and signed on their behalf, by:



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The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hansard Society for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 31 to 43.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act"). The Trustees are satisfied that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company 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 charitable company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's income is in excess of £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in the 2011 Act. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles 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).

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.

30 September 2021

Murtaza Jessa
Haysmacintyre LLP
10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1AG

Financial Statements

Statement of financial activities

Incorporating an income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	*Total Funds 2019 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	17,734	-	17,734	*53*
Charitable activities	4	642,488	-	642,488	*1,106,267*
Other trading activities: Rent receivable		-	-	-	*36,641*
Investments: Bank interest		314	-	314	*145*
Other income		118	-	118	*17,412*
TOTAL INCOME		660,654	-	660,654	*1,160,518*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities		715,589	-	715,589	*1,136,261*
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5	715,589	-	715,589	*1,136,261*
Net (expenditure)/ income and net movement in funds		(54,935)	-	(54,935)	*24,257*
Balances brought forward		450,447	-	450,447	*426,190*
Balances carried forward		395,512	-	395,512	*450,447*

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. All income and expenditure in each of the above two years derive from continuing activities. All movements in funds in 2019 were unrestricted.

Balance sheet

Company Number: 04332105

As at 31 December 2020

	Notes	£	2020 £	£	*2019* *£*
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	8		-		*8,532*
Tangible assets	9		2,676		*7,368*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	192,609		*677,730*	
Cash at bank and in hand		237,722		*229,226*	
		430,331		*906,956*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(37,495)		*(472,409)*	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			392,836		*434,547*
NET ASSETS			395,512		*450,447*
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	12	2,676		*96,288*	
General fund	12	392,836		*354,159*	
			395,512		*450,447*
			395,512		*450,447*

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2020. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements. The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. They were approved, and authorised for issue, by the directors on 21 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Chair)

Shirley Cameron (Honorary Treasurer)

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2020

		2020		2019
	£	£	£	£
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities				
Net movement in funds	(54,935)		*24,257*	
Add back depreciation and amortisation	18,577		*15,650*	
Less investment income	(314)		*(145)*	
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	485,121		*(1,511)*	
(Decrease) in creditors	(434,914)		*(144,317)*	
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		13,535		*(106,066)*
Cash flows (used in) / from investing activities				
Investment income	314		*145*	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(5,353)		*(14,736)*	
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(5,039)		*(14,591)*
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		8,496		*(120,657)*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		229,226		*349,883*
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		237,722		*229,226*

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Statutory information

The Hansard Society is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales (Company No. 04332105). The registered office address and principal place of business is Room 1.17, 1st Floor Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in 2015, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006.

The Hansard Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

2.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company include the Trustees. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the 'going concern' basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular, the Trustees have considered the continued impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. As a consequence of the pandemic, our Scholars Programme has been put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Having reviewed its budget and projections in light of the current situation, the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the 'going concern' basis in preparing its financial statements.

2.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4 Income

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

Donations and legacies income includes donations and gifts. Income is deferred only when the Society has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified the income is to be expended into a future period. Where donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included as restricted income when receivable.

2.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. The irrecoverable element of VAT is included within the item of expense to which it relates. Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the key strategic areas of activity. Overheads and other salaries are allocated between the expenses headings on the basis of time spent.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity, and include governance costs which are incurred in connection with enabling the Society to comply with external regulation, constitutional and statutory requirements and in providing support to the Trustees in the discharge of their statutory duties.

2.6 Intangible fixed assets and amortisation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less amortisation. A full year of amortisation is charged on all assets in the year of purchase. Amortisation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Website development - 3 years straight line.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. A full year of depreciation is charge on all assets in the year of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Office and computer equipment - 2 years straight line.

2.8 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits including holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Termination benefits are accounted for on an accrual basis and in line with FRS 102.

Pension scheme: the Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, the assets of which are administered by Scottish Widows. All contributed costs are accounted for on the basis of charging the cost of providing pensions over the period when the charity benefits from the employees' services. The charity has no further liability under the scheme.

2.9 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 at their settlement value.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 Accounting judgements and estimates

The key judgements and estimates used in the preparation of these Financial Statements are as follows:

- The depreciation rate of tangible fixed assets and amortisation rate of intangible fixed assets (as detailed above);
- Support costs are apportioned to direct activities based on the direct staff costs allocated to those activities (see Note 5).

There are no other key assumptions concerning the future and other key 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 financial year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	*Total Funds 2019 £*
Government grant: furlough scheme	17,659	-	17,659	-
Donations	75	-	75	*53*
	17,734	-	17,734	*53*

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	*Total Funds 2019 £*
Study and Scholars programme	389,809	-	389,809	*847,970*
Projects: research, education and events	57,263	-	57,263	*69,433*
Membership subscriptions	742	-	742	-
Publications	194,674	-	194,674	*188,864*
	642,488	-	642,488	*1,106,267*

In the year to 31 December 2019, all income from charitable activities was unrestricted.

5. Expenditure

Current Year

	Direct Staff costs £	Direct costs £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £
Scholars Programme	102,241	205,402	102,575	410,218
Projects - research, education and events	111,558	68,333	111,923	291,814
Publications	6,638	259	6,660	13,557
Support costs (see Note 6)	62,165	158,993	(221,158)	-
	282,602	432,987	-	715,589

Prior Year

	Direct Staff costs £	*Direct costs £*	*Support costs £*	*Total 2019 £*
Scholars Programme	*140,293*	*469,127*	*226,509*	*835,929*
Projects - research, education and events	*91,392*	*54,046*	*147,556*	*292,994*
Publications	*2,724*	*216*	*4,398*	*7,338*
Support costs (see Note 6)	*100,845*	*277,618*	*(378,463)*	*-*
	335,254	*801,007*	*-*	*1,136,261*

6. Support costs

	2020 £	*2019 £*
Governance costs:		
Independent examination (2020) / Audit (2019)	2,500	*11,500*
Board expenses and meeting costs	186	*1,090*
	2,686	*12,590*
Other support costs		
Staff costs	62,165	*100,845*
Premises, equipment and depreciation	87,738	*200,093*
Stationery, post, phone and IT	13,010	*17,306*
Information, research and communications	10,223	*10,542*
Legal and professional	27,127	*25,917*
Other	18,209	*11,170*
	221,158	*378,463*

7. Employee and key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees ("Directors" for the purposes of the Companies Act) and Senior Management Team. The total amounts paid in respect of the key management personnel of the Charity (including employer's National Insurance contributions and employers pension contributions) were £126,970 (2019: £124,311).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the charity during the year. No Trustees were reimbursed any expenses in the year (2019 - £1,090 to two Trustees for travel and subsistence).

There were no related party balances as at 31 December 2020 (2019: nil).

	2020 £	*2019* *£*
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	243,490	*288,854*
Social security costs	21,889	*28,027*
Employer pension contributions	17,223	*18,373*
	282,602	*335,254*

No employees had emoluments amounting to over £60,000 in the year or the previous year (exclusive of employer pensions and employer National Insurance contributions).

Particulars of employees:

The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:

	2020 No.	*2019* *No.*
	6.8	*8.3*

8. Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost	
At 1 January 2020	25,096
Additions in the year	-
At 31 December 2019	25,096
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2020	16,564
Charge for the year	8,532
At 31 December 2020	25,096
Net book value	
At 31 December 2020	-
At 31 December 2019	8,532

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer and Office Equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2020	16,054
Additions in the year	5,353
At 31 December 2020	21,407
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2020	8,686
Charge for the year	10,045
At 31 December 2020	18,731
Net book value	
At 31 December 2020	2,676
At 31 December 2019	7,368

10. Debtors

	2020	*2019*
	£	*£*
Trade debtors	47,500	*372,848*
Prepayments	6,157	*179,002*
Accrued income	124,952	*108,023*
Other debtors	14,000	*17,857*
	192,609	*677,730*

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	*2019*
	£	*£*
Trade creditors	3,824	*21,422*
Taxes and social security	18,800	*8,148*
Pension contributions	1,816	*1,886*
Accruals	11,896	*24,844*
Other creditors	609	*22,045*
Deferred income	550	*394,064*
	37,495	*472,409*
Deferred income:		
Balance brought forward	394,064	*516,034*
Amount released to income	(394,064)	*(516,034)*
Amount deferred in the year (see Note 2.4) all relating to services not performed until the following financial year		
Scholars income	-	*390,000*
SI Tracker income	550	*4,064*
	550	*394,064*

12. Statement of funds - current year

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Fixed assets	15,900	-	(18,577)	5,353	2,676
Political Engagement polling	60,000	-	(54,140)	(5,860)	-
Visual identity review	20,388	-	-	(20,388)	-
Total designated funds	96,288	-	(72,717)	(20,895)	2,676

Fixed asset fund: this represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets in use by the Society and therefore not available to meet future operational expenditure. A transfer is made each year to reflect the change in net book value.

Political Engagement Polling: a transfer of £60,000 was made into the fund in 2019 to cover the costs of the 17th annual Audit of Political Engagement opinion poll survey. £54,140 was spent in 2020. The balance on the fund has been transferred into the General fund.

Visual identity review: this fund was set up to cover the costs of investment in a communications and visual identity review in advance of the Society's 75th anniversary. However, the Autumn 2019 prorogation of Parliament, the subsequent general election and then the pandemic disrupted plans to mark the anniversary. The Board therefore agreed in October 2020 to un-designate this sum. The balance of the fund has been transferred to the General fund.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Designated funds	96,288	-	(72,717)	(20,895)	2,676
General fund	354,159	660,654	(642,872)	20,895	392,836
Total funds	450,447	660,654	(715,589)	-	395,512

13. Statement of funds - prior year

Designated funds

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2019 £*
Fixed assets	*16,814*	-	*(15,650)*	*14,736*	*15,900*
Political Engagement polling	*34,029*	-	*(34,029)*	*60,000*	*60,000*
Visual identity review	*20,388*	-	-	-	*20,388*
Total designated funds	*71,231*	-	*(49,679)*	*74,736*	*96,288*

SUMMARY OF FUNDS IN THE PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers £*	*Balance at 31 December 2019 £*
Designated funds	*71,231*	-	*(49,679)*	*74,736*	*96,288*
General fund	*354,959*	*1,160,518*	*(1,086,582)*	*(74,736)*	*354,159*
Restricted funds					
Total funds	*426,190*	*1,160,518*	*(1,136,261)*	-	*450,447*

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

CURRENT YEAR	Designated funds	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,676	-	-	2,676
Net current assets	-	392,836	-	392,836
	2,676	392,836	-	395,512

PRIOR YEAR	*Designated funds*	*General funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Fixed assets	*15,900*	*-*	*-*	*15,900*
Net current assets	*80,388*	*354,159*	*-*	*434,547*
	96,288	*354,159*	*-*	*450,447*

15. Pension

The Society operates defined contribution schemes for its employees making a contribution of 7% of gross salaries. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Society and amounted to £17,223 (2019: £18,373). Contributions totalling £1,816 (2019: £1,886) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the company had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases (all for property) which fall due as follows:

	2020	*2019*
	£	*£*
Less than one year	14,000	*46,742*
	14,000	*46,742*

Hansard Society

Registered office

1.17, 1st Floor Millbank Tower,
21-24 Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0203 925 3979
E-mail: contact@hansardsociety.org.uk
Web: www.hansardsociety.org.uk

HANSARD SOCIETY