BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1103852

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04307833
Registered	2004-05-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	University Of Bristol The Dorothy Hodgkin Building Whitson Street Bristol BS1 3NY
Phone	07584016279
Email	office@bna.org.uk
Website	www.bna.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT HEALTH AND ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEUROSCIENCES RELATED TO HEALTH AND DISEASE IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY) BY:(A) PROMOTING ON A MULTIDISCIPLINARY BASIS THE STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.(B) PROMOTING THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN THE NEUROSCIENCES AND RELATED DISCIPLINES BY MEANS OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS AND REPORTS FROM TIME TO TIME OBTAINED FROM SUCH RESEARCHERS.(C) ADVISING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ON ISSUES IN NEUROSCIENCES RELATED TO HEALTH AND DISEASE.(D) ENDEAVOURING TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.(E) ASSISTING IN THE TRAINING OF NEUROSCIENTISTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS ENGAGED IN NEUROSCIENCE TEACHING AND RESEARCH.(F) REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCHERS AND PROMOTING THE CASE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM TO GOVERNMENT, TO AGENCIES PROVIDING RESEARCH FUNDING AND TO BODIES ENGAGED IN SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION, REGULATION AND STANDARDS

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1103852

Activities: The British Neuroscience Association (BNA) is the largest UK organisation representing neuroscientists and neuroscience, from ion channels to human behaviour to applications in the clinic and beyond. We welcome everyone interested in neuroscience to join us, and help support research into the nervous system in both health and disease.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£342,772	£425,122	-	-
2024-09-30	£434,297	£409,476	-	-
2023-09-30	£322,934	£364,725	-	-
2022-09-30	£404,416	£319,236	-	-
2021-09-30	£163,497	£250,750	-	-
2020-09-30	£223,979	£233,414	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1103852

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
NARENDER RAMNANI	Chair	2023-04-26
Bethany Facer MSc		2025-09-01
Dr Dayne Beccano-Kelly BSc,PhD		2025-09-01
Dr Matthew Brown DPhil		2025-12-08
Dr Neil Dawson PhD, SFHEA		2026-05-12
Dr Sandrine Morawek		2025-09-01
Dr Sarah Louise King PhD		2023-04-23
Dr Talitha Kerrigan		2024-10-01
Professor Julie Williams		2025-04-29
Professor Tara Leigh Spires-Jones		2021-04-15
Sara Purdy		2025-09-01

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1103852

Accounts

Registered number: 04307833
Charity number: 1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1 - 2
Trustees' Report	3 - 17
Independent Examiner's Report	18 - 19
Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21 - 22
Notes to the Financial Statements	23 - 37

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Trustees

Professor N Ramnani, President
Dr M C Ashby (resigned 1 September 2025)
Dr D Beccano - Kelly (appointed 1 September 2025)
Dr M Berners (resigned 10 December 2025)
Professor C M Bird (resigned 1 September 2025)
Dr M Brown (appointed 8 December 2025)
Dr T J Bushell, Treasurer
Dr K P Cox (resigned 1 September 2025)
Ms B Facer (appointed 1 September 2025)
Professor R N A Henson (resigned 1 September 2025)
Dr T Kerrigan (appointed 1 October 2024)
Dr S L King
Dr S Willaime-Morawek (appointed 1 September 2025)
Professor A M Palmer (resigned 1 September 2025)
Ms S Purdy (appointed 1 September 2025)
Professor T L Spires-Jones
Dr M E Walton (resigned 10 December 2025)
Professor J Williams (appointed 29 April 2025)

Company registered number

04307833

Charity registered number

1103852

Registered office

Dorothy Hodgkin Building
Whitson Street
Bristol
BS1 3NY

Company Secretary

Dr L Ajram

Chief Executive Officer

Dr L Ajram

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor Arthur Stanley House
40-50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Our vision and purpose

The BNA is a membership organisation committed to preserve and protect health and advance public engagement in neuroscience, through supporting, promoting and representing neuroscientists and neuroscience research.

b. Our objects

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Articles of the Association (Article 4) and in the Rules of the Association (Rule 1.3), both documents coming into force in April 2017, are:

To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease, in particular but not exclusively, by:

a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis, the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease;
b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers;
c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease;
d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease;
e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research; and
f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

All trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers and duties on behalf of the charity.

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Our aims

We have three interconnected aims that are central to achieving our vision and purpose, and are the means by which we deliver our objectives: these are to **Inform, Connect, and Influence**. The aims to *Inform, Connect and Influence* were arrived at through a series of strategic workshops and engagement with members, and they help the BNA Council and Committee to direct activities throughout the year.

d. Message from the Chief Executive

YE2024-25 has been a milestone year for the British Neuroscience Association, marked by significant progress across all three of our strategic pillars - Inform, Connect, Influence.

In June, we implemented our new membership management system and website - a long-awaited transformation that is already changing the way we understand and engage with our members. This upgrade has made it easier for members to connect with the BNA, access resources, and stay involved with our activities, and it is providing us with rich insights to further enhance membership value in the years ahead.

A major highlight of the year was the hugely successful International Festival of Neuroscience, BNA2025, which brought together over 1,000 delegates in Liverpool. This flagship event showcased the breadth and strength of neuroscience across academia, industry, and clinical practice, and created countless opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

YE2024-2025 also saw the completion of our governance review, resulting in updated Articles of Association and Rules, as well as the establishment of a new Council, Committee, and Advisory Board structure. These changes will ensure greater member involvement in decision-making and a more representative, forward-looking governance model to guide the BNA’s future.

A key focus for the BNA over the past two years has been income diversification, ensuring we are financially sustainable and positioned for long-term growth. Our efforts in developing new initiatives, including the successful launch of the BNA Training Academy and expanding our membership offer through organisational membership, have already started to show promising results. These initiatives represent not only important new sources of income but also additional value and opportunities for members.

Finally, we are proud of our grant partnership successes, which saw us actively deliver as a grant partner on several national research grants. These projects allowed us to use the BNA’s networks to connect UK and international neuroscience communities, contribute expert input to high-impact initiatives, and further establish the BNA as a trusted and credible voice in the sector.

Looking ahead to YE2025-26, we will continue to build on this momentum, expanding the Training Academy offer, deepening member engagement through data-driven insights, and growing our role as a convener of neuroscience voices across the UK and globally. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more connected, and more financially resilient BNA, ensuring that neuroscience continues to thrive for the benefit of science, medicine, and society.

Achievements and performance

a. Aim 1: Inform

Scientific Journal:
The Association's scientific journal, Brain and Neuroscience Advances, remains the platform through which we inform the profession about the latest neuroscience research. In February 2025, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Claire Durrant (University of Edinburgh) who joined Dr Kate Baker as co-Editor-in-Chief.

This year we have increased the number of papers and articles published in the journal:

- 6 Original Research articles
- 9 BNA Insight articles
- 1 Journal Club article
- 3 Registered Reports
- 1 Review article
- 2 Editorials
- 2 Abstracts

These figures represent good growth compared to the previous year, demonstrating efforts by Drs. Baker and Durrant, along with the BNA Trustees and Executive Team, to increase submissions and publications. Our efforts will redouble in the coming year as we strive for an increase in original research and review articles to support our goal of achieving a consistent and sufficient number of published articles per year to enable consideration for impact factor.

External communications:

The website and the BNA's social media platforms are essential resources for connecting with both members and non-members.

In July, we launched a new BNA website and integrated membership management system - a major milestone in our efforts to modernise how we connect with and support our community. The new platform introduces a range of enhanced functionality, including automated renewals, a searchable member directory, improved group communications, and access to online training and CPD content.

These improvements have transformed the member experience, streamlining internal processes while making it easier for members to engage with our activities and access valuable resources. The website's more professional design and improved navigation have been paired with stronger search engine optimisation (SEO), resulting in noticeably higher engagement from current members and an increase in enquiries from prospective members and partners who can now more easily find and understand what the BNA does.

This successful launch represents a step-change in how we deliver value to members and positions us to further grow and strengthen the BNA community in the years ahead.

By the end of this reporting period, the BNA experienced a significant increase in followers across our social media channels. Although follower numbers on X are declining, we remain on the platform to uphold accurate, evidence-based neuroscience and help counter growing misinformation.

Channel	Followers at 30/09/2025	Change since last report
X/Twitter	38k	-0.2k
Facebook	16.7k	+3k
LinkedIn	22.8k	+3k
Instagram	5.8k	+1.8k
Bluesky	1k	+1k

Achievements and performance (continued)

Training:

In YE2024-25, the BNA proudly launched the BNA Training Academy, a major step forward in supporting the professional development of the neuroscience community. This structured programme provides high-quality training opportunities tailored to neuroscientists at all career stages, with a strong focus on employability and career progression.

The Training Academy offers a blend of in-person and online courses covering key areas such as research integrity, industry collaboration, communication skills, and neuroscience-specific professional development. Throughout 2025, we have delivered a successful first series of courses, with good uptake from members and non-members alike.

Course	Format	Date	Participants
Neuroscience imaging analysis	Online	Feb 2025	22
Introduction to neuroanatomy	Online	Feb 2025	18
BNA 2025 training taster session	In person	April 2025	22
Dementia Masterclass	In person	June 2025	28
Dementia Masterclass online	Online	June 2025	13
Publishing for a journal	Online	July 2025	22
Patient data in research and innovation	Online	July 2025	12
Tissue clearing workshop: approaches to fundamentals	Online	Sep 2025	9

To date, the Training Academy has generated £12,015 income. This represents a new and important income stream for the BNA, one which we expect to grow over time as we expand the programme and develop new training opportunities in response to member needs.

The launch of the Training Academy marks a key milestone in our mission to provide meaningful value to our members, support career development, and strengthen the neuroscience sector as a whole.

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Aim 2: Connect

Connecting the neuroscience community through BNA membership:

Over the course of YE2024-2025 we saw membership stabilise at around 3,000 members, and then experience an expected small decrease to 2,917 as the implementation of a new member database and subscription management system in summer 2025 allowed us to ensure that all members were on the appropriate membership grade and paying the current subscription rates (as updated several years ago). The table below shows membership trends over the past 3 years:

	YE 2023	YE 2024	YE 2025	Change from 2023 - 2025
Future Neuroscientist (Formerly counted within undergraduate)	-	-	7	+7
Undergraduate	771	1036	1003	+232
Postgraduate	640	781	820	+180
Career Starter	68	62	109	+41
Early career researcher	305	305	242	-63
Professional (Academic/charitable) " Full"	645	619	561	-84
Professional (Industry) "Full Industry"	64	43	48	-16
Professional (Clinical) (Formerly counted within "Full")	-	-	2	+2
Associate	95	93	80	-15
Retired	59	53	39	-20
Honorary	6	6	6	-
Total	2,653	2,992	2,917	+264

Organisational Membership:

The BNA's new organisational membership category offers a flexible framework to enable a broad range of organisations to strategically engage with BNA members. In this period, we have onboarded new members spanning industry and research funders, including MSD UK, and the PSP Association. We look forward to growing this important membership base and further developing opportunities to build long-term strategic relationships and further diversify income for the BNA.

BNA Local Groups:

The BNA has a national network of 44 Local Groups (LGs) each headed by one or more Local Group Representative (LGR) and/or Local Group Student Representative (LGSR). This year, Local Groups have been encouraged to engage and network with representatives from other local institutions to build more joined up regional neuroscience communities. Working as a team, Representatives across local departments, faculties and institutions aim to more effectively recruit and engage BNA members from within their respective neuroscience communities to better represent a breadth of interests. This "hub" model was pioneered in Cardiff with the goal of developing a framework to promote collaboration and research translation and to ensure the BNA is representative of the breadth of interests of the UK neuroscience community.

In YE2024–25, £11,832.26 was granted to 16 BNA Local Groups to deliver local interventions for and alongside their members. Instructed by the core BNA objectives of Inform, Connect and Influence, these projects address needs and priorities which have been identified by LGRs and LGSRs among their local neuroscience communities through surveys, meetings and 1:1 conversations.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Highlights of funded Local Group activities in this period include:

- **Leeds**: A biweekly "NeuroClub" seminar series and social hour held at the University of Leeds, bringing together researchers based in any faculty who are interested in neuroscience
- **Bristol, Bath and Exete**r: "Senseshift" public engagement stall at Glastonbury Festival, bringing together clinicians and researchers from across the South-west to address public awareness of disorders such as psychosis and autism spectrum disorder
- **Middlesex**: A launch event for the new Middlesex area BNA Local Group, bringing together students and staff from across departments in celebration of interdisciplinary potential
- **Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Durham**: BNA Northeast Neuroscience Meeting bringing together students and researchers from across the institutions making up the North-East region's BNA Local Groups, facilitating connections and collaborations and generating interest in the BNA

In September 2025, the LGRs and LGSRs met in London for the annual Local Group Forum (hosted by the Westminster area BNA Local Group), to evaluate and discuss the achievements of the year. The results and reception of the new "hub" model have been resoundingly positive, and the BNA looks forward to building on the success of this work in the year ahead.

BNA Meetings:

Bringing people together via events is essential for the BNA to fulfil its aim to connect. Through our meetings we enable neuroscientists to connect with each other, across disciplines and geographies, and goes towards meeting our object to "disseminate information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines".

During this reporting period we held a number of online and in person meetings during the reporting period, including:

- **10 October 2024** - Careers Panel & Networking Event (London)
- **18 November 2024 -**"The quest for new medicines to slow the progression of disability in neurodegenerative disorders", joint symposium with SMR (Cambridge)
- **10 Dec 2024** - BNA Festive Symposium:The Resilient Brain (Leeds)
- **27-30 April 2025** –International Festival of Neuroscience: BNA 2025 (Liverpool)
- **20 May 2025** – "Post-doc to PI: Navigating the Path to Success" (Webinar)
- **23 September 2025** – Dosing in Animal Models, joint symposium with British Pharmacology Society (Webinar)

The International Festival of Neuroscience BNA2025, Liverpool 27-30 April 2025

A total of 1,032 people took part in the conference, representing a wide range of career stages and research interests. Of the 723 delegates, 26% were mid- to senior-career, while 63% were students or early-career researchers. This breaks down as follows:

- **7%** Undergraduate students
- **39%** Postgraduate students
- **17%** Early-career researchers
- **13%** Mid-career researchers
- **13%** Senior researchers or clinicians
- **7%** worked in other neuroscience-related roles (e.g., science communication, science policy)
- **4%** were retired

Achievements and performance (continued)

Among in-person attendees, 37% identified as men, 61% as women, and 2% preferred not to disclose their gender.

A total of 164 speakers presented at the conference, 25% of whom were early career neuroscientists. In line with the BNA's requirement for gender-balanced panels, we achieved an approximately equal distribution of male and female presenters (46% identifying as men and 54% as women). BNA2025 demonstrated increased diversity among delegates, with more clinical and industry-focused sessions attracting senior professionals from these sectors. Notably, the number of clinicians attending rose by 5.52% between 2023 and 2025. As a result, the festival was more inclusive and more representative of the international neuroscience community than in previous years.

To support participation, £5,284.33 was awarded in travel grants for early-career researchers, and BNA Brain Carer Grants were provided to five individuals facing barriers related to caring responsibilities, totalling £1,500.
BNA2025 was supported by an award-winning Public Engagement programme that took place in the run up to the Festival. Led by Liverpool Neuroscience Group in partnership with local charities, museums and business the free to access public programme showcased a diverse range of events to engage members of the public with an interest in the brain.

Membership of societies:

The BNA is a member of three organisations which make sure the BNA membership is part of a larger voice. Membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) connects us with all the life sciences across the UK. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) enables the BNA and BNA members to be part of European neuroscience, and membership of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) connects the BNA with the global community.

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Aim 3: Influence

As the largest UK-based organisation representing neuroscience and neuroscientists, the BNA is in position to influence the sector, decision-makers, and neuroscientists themselves. Having influence is central in fulfilling two of the Association's objects: (c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease; and (f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards. Our main areas of activity in the area of 'influence' are listed below.

Our main areas of activity in the area of 'influence' are listed below.

Grant Partnerships:

In this period, we saw delivery begin on our grant partnerships. Key grant partners include the Gut Immune Brain Axis Network funded by BBSRC, an Oxford University MRC funded grant exploring public attitudes to pre-clinical neuroscience and the REPAIR project, a UKRI funded grant exploring structural inequalities in research funding. Grant delivery across these partnerships includes BNA representation on scientific advisory boards and steering committees, the delivery of workshops, convening the neuroscience community, co-developing policy papers, and disseminating grant outputs through our networks. Additionally, the BNA has promoted these grant activities to our members, ensuring that they directly benefit from the outputs, training and funding opportunities and knowledge generated. We look forward to developing our grant partnerships in the year ahead to further connect BNA membership and the wider UK and international neuroscience communities.

Our commitment to "support the neuroscience sector to increase the transparency, reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience research" remains as strong as ever. BNA2025 offered an important forum for our credibility activity in this period. Highlights included a symposium on the challenges and opportunities for reproducible neuroscience in a generative AI enabled world. 21% of the 340 poster submissions for BNA2025 were for pre-registered research. Finally, delegates in the main exhibition hall took part in interactive sessions to highlight challenges and opportunities in credible neuroscience from their perspective, further enabling the BNA to represent members' voices in this important area.

We were delighted to award the annual Credibility in Neuroscience Award to Dr Rob Wykes at the BNA2025 Welcome Reception (attended by over 500 guests). Dr Wykes from the University of Manchester and UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, is a leading figure in epilepsy research whose work exemplifies credibility, collaboration, and technical excellence. He has played a pivotal role in advancing long-term video telemetry in rodent models, a technique that has become foundational in epilepsy studies. Through hands-on training and direct support, Rob has helped establish these systems in over a dozen labs across the UK and internationally.

Our journal, Brain and Neuroscience Advances is one of only a handful of journals worldwide to cover the full range of open science practices, being Gold Open Access, offering Registered Reports, CRediT taxonomy, Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines and Badges for Open Practices.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience:

The role the BNA has in this space continues to grow, and the Association is committed to influencing and increasing EDI in our sector. Our most significant activity is the ongoing BNA Scholars Programme. In YE2025, the Programme welcomed a further 7 Scholars from under-represented groups in neuroscience. Eligibility criteria were revised this year to recognise socioeconomic factors, such as first-generation university attendance, alongside ethnicity. By embedding these changes at the start of the selection process, we are bringing greater consistency to how we consider intersectionality and ensuring support is targeted to individuals at most risk of leaving the field. Following this change, the ALBA Network has chosen independently to adopt these criteria as

Achievements and performance (continued)

part of their upcoming guidance on defining underrepresentation.

Over the course of this year, BNA Scholars have accessed a wide range of fully funded networking, training, and career development opportunities delivered with the support of academic and industry partners. Highlights included the 2024 Festive Symposium, where 160 researchers, clinicians, and students explored brain resilience, and the International Festival of Neuroscience (BNA2025), which brought together >1,000 global participants and enabled 11 Scholar (7 of whom presented posters) to engage with diverse scientific sessions and network with delegates across sectors and career stages. Career development activities included a workshop hosted by MSD that offered practical support on CV writing, personal branding, and insights into pharmaceutical roles, as well as a Scholar-led Symposium supported by Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry and Imperial College London an inclusive, hybrid event showcasing cutting-edge neuroscience and practical skills.

Additional opportunities included a Neuroscience and Neurodivergent Child Development workshop at London Metropolitan University, a careers panel and a lab visit to UCB offering first-hand views of pharmaceutical science. As well as a broad range of career development opportunities, Scholars have benefited from fully funded access to the BNA training programme to further support their professional development. We are grateful to our Supporters for their continued role in hosting and enabling these opportunities.

Beyond the Scholars Programme, the BNA has strengthened its role in national Equality Diversity and Inclusion advocacy. As part of our governance restructure, the BNA established a new EDI Advisory Board in September 2025. Comprised of senior leaders and key stakeholders from funding bodies, research institutions and partner organisations, this group is now well-positioned to further drive meaningful progress in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion across the neuroscience community.

A voice for BNA members - Governance review and restructure:

In YE2024-2025, the BNA completed a significant governance review and restructure - a process designed to strengthen member representation, improve transparency, and ensure that our governance model reflects best practice for a modern membership organisation.

At the April AGM, members approved updated Articles of Association and the proposed new governance structure. This marked the start of a smooth and inclusive transition to the new model, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities across the organisation.

Over the past year, we have:

- Updated eight Trustee positions, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to the Council.
- Engaged all Trustees and Committee Chairs to shape new committee roles and terms of reference, and advisory board frameworks.
- Implemented new committees, governance documents, and trustee onboarding processes to ensure consistency and clarity.
- Developed a comprehensive risk register, strengthening oversight and accountability.

Notable among these developments was the appointment of an Early Career Researcher (ECR) Trustee, ensuring that members at this critical stage of their career have a voice at Council and a position of authority in shaping the BNA’s direction.

This review was conducted with independent advice to guarantee a robust and objective process. The result is a governance model that enhances member involvement in decision-making and strengthens the connection between our leadership and the wider neuroscience community - ensuring that the BNA remains a trusted, representative, and forward-looking organisation.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Preclinical neuroscience:

The BNA continues to be committed to openness on the use of animals in research and is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. We are an active member of the Royal Society of Biology's Animal Science Group (a special interest group representing the broad spectrum of UK bodies actively involved in supporting, funding, or formulating policy on research involving animals), and the UK Bioscience Sector Coalition (which represents the collective views of the bioscience sector with an interest in the use of animals in research).

In February 2025, we published Under Pressure: UK Preclinical Neuroscience at a Crossroads - a comprehensive preclinical neuroscience report (co-authored by Mark Walton, BNA Trustee for Preclinical Neuroscience) together with an open letter to research funders.

The report, based on a survey of 122 researchers, highlights several critical challenges facing the preclinical neuroscience field in the UK:

- Under-funding of curiosity-driven foundational research.
- Insecure career pathways affecting early-career researchers.
- A growing burden of bureaucracy and inconsistent regulatory processes, particularly around animal-based research.

To address these issues, the report sets out ten actionable recommendations for funders, institutions, and government, including:

- Prioritising funding for preclinical research and simplifying application and funding streams.
- Improving career support and job security for researchers.
- Regulatory reform, to reduce delays and procedural inconsistencies while maintaining ethical rigor.

This initiative reinforces the BNA's role as an advocate for transparency, high standards, and the sustainability of preclinical work. Through reports like this, our ongoing contributions to policy forums, and our collaborations with funding bodies, we aim to safeguard the future of essential neuroscience research in the UK.

BNA prizes:

This year, the BNA launched the Brenda Walker Award for Neuroscience Communication, celebrating those who make neuroscience more accessible and inclusive. Our inaugural winner is Brenda Walker, Associate Member, recognizing her contributions to the public understanding of neuroscience.

Winners of the BNA's annual prizes in YE2024-2025 were as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience: Professor Sarah Tabrizi (University College London)
- Public Engagement of Neuroscience: The Liverpool Neuroscience Group for their Bring Your Own Brain programme (Liverpool John Moores University, Edge Hill University & University of Liverpool)
- Credibility in Neuroscience: Rob Wykes (University of Manchester)
- Postgraduate Award: Ieva Andrulyte (University of Liverpool)
- Undergraduate Award: Jaya Sharma (University of Leeds)

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial review

During the financial year ending 30th September 2025 the BNA's total income was £342,772 (2024: £434,297). Expenditure, which was wholly on charitable activities to advance education in neuroscience, was £425,122 (2024: £409,476); after taking account of net gains on investments, the net movement in funds was a deficit of £34,446 (2024: surplus of £73,618).

The net reserves carried forward was £625,112 (2024: £659,558). Of this, around £23,275 (2024: £103,294) is held in restricted funds, committed largely to (1) delivering activities associated with funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and (2) supporting the BNA's equity, diversity and inclusion work. Unrestricted and free reserves totalled £601,837 (2024: £556,264).

Funding has and will continue to be used to support the BNA Trustees' ten-year strategic plan, in particular the activities which meet the aims to 'Inform, Connect and Influence'.

The BNA is in a stable financial position to sustain itself and to meet its charitable objectives.

c. Reserves policy

The BNA's reserves policy states that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure, where one year's expenditure is calculated on the basis of:

- 12 months' overheads of British Neuroscience Association Ltd
- 12 months' direct expenses of British Neuroscience Association Ltd, where direct expenses include bursaries and grants, Bulletin production, subscriptions, and education/outreach work
- 12 months' overheads of BNA Events Ltd (averaged over a two-year period.)
- 12 months' direct expenses of BNA Events Ltd, where direct expenses relate to costs of the biennial Festival of Neuroscience (averaged over a two-year period.)

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in revenue, they will be able to continue the Association's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and/or costs can be reduced. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of each accounting year but this is reviewed annually.

d. Principal funding

The main sources of income for the BNA in YE2024-25 membership subscriptions of £114,525 (2024: £108,150) and grants and donations of £201,556 (2024: £213,478), which includes £160,000 from The Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

e. Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by Article 5 in the Articles of Association. This permits the Charity to deposit or invest funds in securities or property as may be thought fit in order to further its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

The Trustees' policy for YE2025-2026 will be to continue to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments and continue to manage the charity's investments in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Company is registered as a charity under the registration number 1103852.

The BNA is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and accompanying set of Rules. The governing articles were amended in April 2025 following a member vote at the Annual General Meeting.

b. Organisational structure

The British Neuroscience Association is a membership organisation, with seven membership categories (defined in the Rules), plus a number of Honorary members. With the exception of Associate members, all members have voting rights on the principle of "one member, one vote", which is exercised at the Annual General Meetings (detailed in Articles 15–27).

The Association has a network of 44 Local Groups (Rule 5) which facilitate connections between members across the various institutions and sectors within a particular geographical area, between those local densities of members, and between those local densities of members and the Association's governance team. Across the network, 84 volunteer Representatives from among local member densities hold community organising responsibilities to lead their own Local Groups.

The BNA is governed by a Council of Trustees, comprising between seven and twelve members of the Association (Article 29). The specific procedures for the appointment and retirement of the Trustees are detailed in the Articles (32–35).

Supporting all activities and needs of the Council, Committee, and general membership is the BNA Executive. During the year this consisted of three full time and three part-time staff members.

c. Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

To help with this the BNA has a Risk Register, Conflict of Interest (Rules 8 and 9) and a Register of Interests. BNA has a specific Declaration of Interests form, that is completed by all members of the Council and Committee of the BNA.

Plans for future periods

The strategic pillars of the BNA remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence'.

At the start of YE2025-26, key priorities are as follows:

1. CONNECT: Engaging our membership and connecting the community
We will continue to strengthen engagement with our members at both local and national levels through our Local Groups and Hubs, ensuring experience tangible value from their BNA membership and feel a strong sense of belonging within our community.

We will deepen the sense of community across UK neuroscience by creating even more opportunities for collaboration and exchange. Building on the momentum of BNA2025, we will expand our event programme, strengthen connections with industry and clinical partners, and use our growing grant partnership portfolio to unite sectors and catalyse ambitious, cross-disciplinary initiatives.

2. INFORM: Professionalising the sector
We will continue to transform how we engage and support our members, ensuring the BNA remains the go-to organisation for professional growth in neuroscience. The coming year will see the next evolution of our Training Academy, including the launch of a pioneering accreditation scheme that will set a new benchmark for neuroscience training in the UK. This will help strengthen career pathways, attract new members, and reinforce the value of BNA membership.

3. INFLUENCE: Policy, Advocacy and Credibility
Our priority for YE2025-26 is to embed and bring to life our new governance model, ensuring it delivers a stronger, more inclusive voice for members. By empowering Council, committees, and advisory boards to shape the future of the Association, we will create a more representative, transparent, and impactful organisation - one that speaks with authority for neuroscience in the UK and beyond. These activities will allow us to remain at the forefront of neuroscience advocacy and continue positioning the BNA as a key player in global neuroscience discussions and research advancements.

Reference and administrative details

Members of BNA Council

• Professor T Spires-Jones (Immediate Past President)	appointed April 2023
• Dr S King (Association Secretary and Officer)	elected April 2023
• Dr T Bushell (Treasurer and Officer)	elected May 2022
• Professor N Ramnani (President and Officer)	appointed April 2023
• Professor M Walton (Preclinical Neuroscience)	elected May 2022
• Dr M Berners (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
• Dr T Kerrigan (Local Group Representative)	elected September 2024
• Professor D Beccano-Kelly (Meetings Trustee)	appointed September 2025
• Dr S Williame-Morawek (Professional Development Trustee)	elected September 2025
• Ms B Facer (Early Career Research Trustee)	appointed September 2025
• Ms Sara Purdy (Independent Trustee)	appointed September 2025

Executive

- Dr L Ajram (Chief Executive)
- Mrs L Tratt (Head of Meetings and Events)
- Mrs C Shepherd (Head of Partnerships and Development)
- Mx D Wijesinghe (Membership and Communities Manager)
- Mrs F Parker (Marketing and Communications Manager)
- Ms L Bryan (Executive Officer)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity 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 law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Narender Ramnani
.....
Professor N Ramnani
President

Date: 27-03-26

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Neuroscience Association Limited ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Martin Bailey Dated: 27-03-26

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
1st Floor Arthur Stanley House
40-50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	**4,123**	**201,433**	**205,556**	*213,790*
Charitable activities	5	**129,526**	**4,170**	**133,696**	*116,624*
Investments	6	**3,520**	**-**	**3,520**	*103,883*
Total income		**137,169**	**205,603**	**342,772**	*434,297*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	**138,525**	**286,597**	**425,122**	*409,476*
Total expenditure		**138,525**	**286,597**	**425,122**	*409,476*
Net (expenditure)/income before net gains on investments		**(1,356)**	**(80,994)**	**(82,350)**	*24,821*
Net gains on investments		**47,904**	**-**	**47,904**	*48,797*
Net income/(expenditure)		**46,548**	**(80,994)**	**(34,446)**	*73,618*
Transfers between funds	15	**(975)**	**975**	**-**	*-*
Net movement in funds		**45,573**	**(80,019)**	**(34,446)**	*73,618*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**556,264**	**103,294**	**659,558**	*585,940*
Net movement in funds		**45,573**	**(80,019)**	**(34,446)**	*73,618*
Total funds carried forward		**601,837**	**23,275**	**625,112**	*659,558*

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04307833

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	Note		2025 £		*2024 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		**801**		*955*
Investments	12		**455,921**		*408,017*
			456,722		*408,972*
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**514**		*25,827*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**189,516**		*229,528*	
		190,030		*255,355*	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(21,640)**		*(4,769)*	
Net current assets			**168,390**		*250,586*
Total assets less current liabilities			**625,112**		*659,558*
Total net assets			**625,112**		*659,558*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	15		**23,275**		*103,294*
Unrestricted funds	15		**601,837**		*556,264*
Total funds			**625,112**		*659,558*

The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Narender Ramnani
.....
Professor N Ramnani
President

Date: 27-03-26

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. General information

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a Charitable Company Registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered the future plans of the Charity and expected income, and it is deemed that the Charity can meet its commitments and liabilities and can continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the 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 objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service. Membership fees are recongised in the period to which they relate.

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

Grants, including government grants, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

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

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. No estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year have been identified.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Donations	123	201,433	**201,556**	*213,790*
Grants	4,000	-	**4,000**	-
Total 2025	4,123	201,433	**205,556**	*213,790*
Total 2024	*9,405*	*204,385*	*213,790*	

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Subscriptions and Bulletin advertising	117,510	4,170	**121,680**	*116,624*
Training	12,016	-	**12,016**	-
Total 2025	129,526	4,170	**133,696**	*116,624*
Total 2024	*110,352*	*6,272*	*116,624*	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Dividend income	-	**-**	*100,000*
Bank interest	3,520	**3,520**	*3,883*
Total 2025	3,520	**3,520**	*103,883*
Total 2024	*103,883*	*103,883*	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	*Total 2024 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	138,525	286,597	**425,122**	*409,476*
Total 2024	*183,553*	*225,923*	*409,476*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	276,471	148,651	**425,122**	*409,476*
Total 2024	*256,701*	*152,775*	*409,476*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Staff costs	175,327	**175,327**	*127,230*
Bulletin production	-	**-**	*18,585*
Meeting expenses	7,727	**7,727**	*-*
Conference expenses	480	**480**	*1,172*
Bursaries and sponsorship	10,135	**10,135**	*8,805*
Gatsby project costs	32,689	**32,689**	*89,816*
Subscriptions and membership	-	**-**	*7,716*
Advertising	-	**-**	*6,877*
Journal production	-	**-**	*(3,500)*
Neuroscience in schools	50,113	**50,113**	*-*
Total 2025	276,471	**276,471**	*256,701*
Total 2024	*256,701*	*256,701*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Staff costs	79,832	**79,832**	*122,300*
Depreciation	154	**154**	*701*
Subscriptions and membership	7,161	**7,161**	*-*
Advertising	21,629	**21,629**	*1,875*
Travel	11,603	**11,603**	*6,264*
Printing, postage and stationery	241	**241**	*70*
Telephone	934	**934**	*819*
Website development	6,382	**6,382**	*4,162*
Professional fees	13,138	**13,138**	*8,693*
Insurance	2,153	**2,153**	*1,531*
Bank charges	2,882	**2,882**	*1,937*
Sundry	228	**228**	*2,155*
Governance	2,314	**2,314**	*2,268*
Total 2025	148,651	**148,651**	*152,775*
Total 2024	*152,775*	*152,775*	

Governance costs include independent examination fees of £2,500 (2024: £2,500).

9. Staff costs

	2025	*2024*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**232,582**	*225,518*
Social security costs	**17,438**	*18,993*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**5,139**	*5,019*
	255,159	*249,530*

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2025	*2024*
	No.	*No.*
Employees	**6**	*6*

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	*2024*
	No.	*No.*
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	**1**	*1*

Total remuneration, including employer's national insurance and pension contributions, in respect of key management personnel totalled £88,544 (2024: £82,571).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2024 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 30 September 2025, expenses totalling £1.979 were reimbursed or paid directly to 8 Trustees *(2024 - £1211 to 7 Trustees)* in regard to travel expenses.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2024	**5,360**
At 30 September 2025	**5,360**
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2024	**4,405**
Charge for the year	**154**
At 30 September 2025	**4,559**
Net book value	
At 30 September 2025	**801**
At 30 September 2024	*955*

12. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 October 2024	**100**	**407,917**	**408,017**
Revaluations	**-**	**47,904**	**47,904**
At 30 September 2025	**100**	**455,821**	**455,921**
Net book value			
At 30 September 2025	**100**	**455,821**	**455,921**
At 30 September 2024	*100*	*407,917*	*408,017*

Other investments comprise funds held with investment managers for capital growth and income generation.

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding
BNA Events Limited	07784689	Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
BNA Events Limited	**48,776**	**75,474**

13. Debtors

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**514**	*9,609*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**-**	*13,679*
Prepayments and accrued income	**-**	*2,539*
	514	*25,827*

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	*2024* *£*
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**15,599**	*-*
Other creditors	**1,861**	*2,269*
Accruals and deferred income	**4,180**	*2,500*
	21,640	*4,769*

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	**556,264**	**185,073**	**(138,525)**	**(975)**	**-**	**601,837**
Unallocated amounts	**-**	**(47,904)**	**-**	**-**	**47,904**	**-**
	556,264	**137,169**	**(138,525)**	**(975)**	**47,904**	**601,837**
Restricted funds						
Wolstencroft fund	**6,500**	**1,458**	**(8,310)**	**352**	**-**	**-**
Journal fund	**5,730**	**5,219**	**(10,677)**	**-**	**-**	**272**
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	**45,344**	**160,000**	**(205,967)**	**623**	**-**	**-**
Guarantors of Brain	**16,995**	**10,000**	**(18,018)**	**-**	**-**	**8,977**
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	**28,725**	**28,926**	**(43,625)**	**-**	**-**	**14,026**
	103,294	**205,603**	**(286,597)**	**975**	**-**	**23,275**
Total funds	**659,558**	**342,772**	**(425,122)**	**-**	**47,904**	**625,112**

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2023 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 30 September 2024* £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*466,980*	*224,040*	*(183,553)*	*48,797*	*556,264*
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	*6,500*	-	-	-	*6,500*
Journal fund	*196*	*7,534*	*(2,000)*	-	*5,730*
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	*78,174*	*160,000*	*(192,830)*	-	*45,344*
Guarantors of Brain	*11,995*	*5,000*	-	-	*16,995*
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	*22,095*	*37,723*	*(31,093)*	-	*28,725*
	118,960	*210,257*	*(225,923)*	-	*103,294*
Total funds	*585,940*	*434,297*	*(409,476)*	*48,797*	*659,558*

Restricted funds comprise the following:

Wolstencroft fund - for expenses in regard to a lecture on ‘Outstanding Neuroscience’ at the biennial BNA Festival. The transfers represent a shortfall on the event covered by general funds.

Journal fund - for editing and general running of the journal.

Gatsby Charitable Foundation - to support the implementation of the BNA's new strategic plan. The transfers represent a shortfall on an event covered by general funds.

Guarantors of Brain - funding for Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) - funding to support Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	801	-	**801**
Fixed asset investments	455,921	-	**455,921**
Current assets	166,755	23,275	**190,030**
Creditors due within one year	(21,640)	-	**(21,640)**
Total	601,837	23,275	**625,112**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	*Restricted funds 2024 £*	*Total funds 2024 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*955*	-	*955*
Fixed asset investments	*408,017*	-	*408,017*
Current assets	*152,061*	*103,294*	*255,355*
Creditors due within one year	*(4,769)*	-	*(4,769)*
Total	*556,264*	*103,294*	*659,558*

17. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £5,139 (2024: £5,019). Contributions of £1 (2024: £977) were owed to the fund at the balance sheet date.

18. Related party transactions

At the balance sheet date, the Charity was owed £15,599 (2024: £13,679) by BNA Events Limited.

Other than disclosed above or elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1103852

Accounts

Registered number: 04307833
Charity number: 1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 15
Independent Examiner's Report	16 - 17
Statement of Financial Activities	18
Balance Sheet	19 - 20
Notes to the Financial Statements	21 - 34

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Trustees

Professor T L Spires-Jones, President
Dr M C Ashby
Dr M Berners
Professor C M Bird
Dr T J Bushell, Treasurer
Dr K P Cox
Professor A C Dolphin (resigned 4 October 2023)
Professor R N A Henson, Immediate Past President
Dr T Kerrigan (appointed 1 October 2024)
Dr S L King
Professor Z Kourtzi (resigned 4 October 2023)
Professor A M Palmer
Professor N Ramnani, President-elect
Dr V Straub (resigned 1 September 2024)
Dr M E Walton

Company registered number

04307833

Charity registered number

1103852

Registered office

Dorothy Hodgkin Building
Whitson Street
Bristol
BS1 3NY

Company secretary

Dr L Ajram

Chief executive officer

Dr L Ajram

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
1st Floor Arthur Stanley House
40-50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Our vision and purpose

The BNA is a membership organisation committed to preserve and protect health and advance public engagement in neuroscience, through supporting, promoting and representing neuroscientists and neuroscience research.

b. Our objects

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Articles of the Association (Article 4) and in the Rules of the Association (Rule 1.3), both documents coming into force in April 2017, are:

To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease, in particular but not exclusively, by:

a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis, the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease;
b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers;
c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease;
d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease;
e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research; and
f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

All trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers and duties on behalf of the charity.

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Our aims

We have three interconnected aims that are central to achieving our vision and purpose, and are the means by which we deliver our objectives: these are to **Inform, Connect, and Influence**. The aims to *Inform, Connect and Influence* were arrived at through a series of strategic workshops and engagement with members, and they help the BNA Council and Committee to direct activities throughout the year.

d. Message from the Chief Executive

YE2023-24 has been a year of reshaping and strengthening the British Neuroscience Association to position us for future success. A key focus has been restructuring our Executive Team, enabling us to better execute our development plan and deliver greater value to our members and partners. We have welcomed new staff into pivotal roles, including Head of Partnerships and Development, Membership and Communities Manager, and Marketing and Communications Manager. With this new team in place, we are well-equipped to address the evolving needs of the neuroscience community and ensure meaningful support, resources, and opportunities for our members.

The year has been marked by positive progress, with membership numbers showing the largest annual increase in three years. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our team, Trustees, and most importantly, our members. As we look ahead, I am excited by the opportunities before us, and we are committed to continuing this momentum to make an even greater impact within the neuroscience sector.

In addition to our membership growth, we have been actively exploring new avenues to generate income and realise our potential to provide world-class support to our community. The development of our Training Programme, due to launch in YE2025, and the emerging Grant Partnership Programme, which has already seen success with our applications to national research grants this year, are key initiatives in this effort. These programmes will not only provide additional value to our members but also help ensure the continued sustainability and impact of the BNA.

The development plan for YE2025 is ambitious, and with the ongoing dedication of our team and the continued support of our members, I am confident we will keep growing, innovating, and enhancing the BNA’s role as a leader in neuroscience.

Achievements and performance

a. Aim 1: Inform

Scientific Journal: The Association's scientific journal, Brain and Neuroscience Advances, remains the platform through which we inform the profession about the latest neuroscience research. In November 2022, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Kate Baker (University of Cambridge) as co-Editor-in-Chief alongside Professor Jeff Dalley. This year, Professor Dalley stepped down after 8 years of exemplary leadership. Dr. Baker has since led the journal admirably, ensuring its continued relevance and value for BNA members. We extend our gratitude to Professor Dalley for his dedication and service.

This year we have maintained the number of articles published in the journal:

- 1 Original Research article
- 2 Journal Club articles
- 1 Registered Report
- 1 Review article
- 2 Short reports

These figures show consistent output compared to the previous year, maintaining the journal's reach and academic contributions. We remain dedicated to advancing the publication and dissemination of high-quality neuroscience research and look forward to the continued success of Brain and Neuroscience Advances. Dr. Baker, along with the BNA Trustees and Executive Team, has been working closely with our publisher, Sage, to increase submissions and publications. Although the numbers reflect stability rather than growth, this consistency underscores our commitment to maintaining a high standard of content while actively working to broaden the journal's future impact.

Informing members: Keeping our members informed is an essential role performed by the BNA, whether that's informing each other about the BNA community's 'internal' activities or informing them about external factors that are relevant to the field as a whole.

This year marked a significant milestone for the BNA as we published the 100th and final print issue of the BNA Bulletin. This strategic decision reflects our evolving approach to communications, transitioning from a seasonal print newsletter to more dynamic, online content that supports member engagement and offers greater opportunities for members to contribute. By focusing on digital platforms, we aim to make Brain and Neuroscience Advances our primary communication outlet, while also encouraging more member writing across multiple formats.

We are deeply grateful to all our members who have contributed over the years, particularly the ECR Brain Insights team, whom we will continue to work with to create engaging digital content. Special thanks also go to Ian Jones, our BNA Bulletin Editor since 2012.

External communications: The website and the BNA's social media platforms are essential resources for connecting with both members and non-members.

This year, the BNA Council approved a long-overdue upgrade to the BNA website and integrated membership management system. The new website is set to launch in May 2025 and is designed to boost member engagement with key BNA activities.

By the end of this reporting period, the BNA experienced a significant increase in followers across our social media channels. This growth is largely attributed to the recruitment of a Marketing and Communications Manager (0.6 FTE) in March 2024, who has dedicated considerable time and effort to our communications strategy. A consistent and professional brand identity across all platforms has played a pivotal role in increasing visibility and enhancing engagement with our online audience.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Channel	Followers at 30/9/2024	Change since last report
X/Twitter	38.3k	+1.5k
Facebook	15.4k	0
LinkedIn	19.9k	+1.2k
Instagram	4.3k	+0.4k

Training: In YE2024, the BNA made significant progress in developing a structured training programme to support the neuroscience community. Building on our commitment to professional development, we have been working behind the scenes to create the BNA Training Academy, set to launch in YE2025.

This initiative will offer high-quality training opportunities tailored to neuroscientists at all career stages, with a particular focus on skills that support employability and career progression. The academy will include a mix of in-person and online training, covering topics such as research integrity, industry collaboration, communication skills, and neuroscience-specific professional development.

Throughout 2024, we have worked closely with members, industry partners, and training experts to design a programme that is relevant, accessible, and impactful. We are excited to bring this vision to life in 2025, ensuring BNA members and the wider neuroscience community have access to the skills and knowledge they need to thrive.

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Aim 2: Connect

Connecting the neuroscience community through BNA membership: Over the course of YE2024 we saw membership make a significant increase from 2,653 to 2,992 (+339). This is a huge improvement on our small growth of +32 members from YE2022-23. The table below shows membership trends over the past 3 years:

	YE2022	YE2023	YE2024	Change from 2022-24
Full	592	645	619	+27
Early Career Researcher	307	305	305	-2
Career Starter	29	68	62	+33
Postgraduate	623	640	781	+158
Student/Undergraduate	894	771	1036	+142
Industry	50	64	43	-7
Associate	70	95	93	+23
Retired	50	59	53	+3
Honorary	6	6	6	0
TOTAL	2,621	2,653	2,992	+371

In 2024, we saw significant growth in our student and postgraduate membership categories, with many new members joining the BNA for the first time. To support this momentum, our Executive team now includes a dedicated Membership and Communities Manager, as well as a Marketing and Communications Manager. These roles are focused on implementing targeted recruitment and retention strategies, ensuring sustained membership growth and engagement across all categories.

BNA Local Groups: The BNA has a national network of 44 Local Groups (LGs) each headed by a Local Group Representative (LGR). Many groups also have one or more Local Group Student Representatives (LGSRs).

LGRs provide a point of contact for members of a Local Group to access a number of member benefits within the BNA. In 2023-24, £13,660 was granted to 14 BNA Local Groups to deliver local events for their members.

A selection of LG activities for which funding was awarded during YE2024 are listed below:

- Leeds: 'NeuroClub' biweekly seminar series and social hour for neuroscience researchers at the University of Leeds
- Liverpool: Liverpool Neuroscience day – bringing together researchers and clinicians across Liverpool
- Lancaster: Public engagement event – connecting the public with local dementia research
- London: 'NeuroArt' – a science and art collaboration to showcase student art focusing on neurodiversity
- Glasgow: Student Neuroscience Society Careers Event

In September 2024, the LGRs and LGSRs met in Birmingham for the annual Local Group Forum, and the online monthly meetings of LGRs have also continued. The connection to members via the Local Groups scheme remains a valuable way of engaging with our members to explore opportunities that are of value to the community.

BNA Meetings: Bringing people together via events is essential for the BNA to fulfil its aim to connect. Through our meetings we enable neuroscientists to connect with each other, across disciplines and geographies, and goes towards meeting our object to "disseminate information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines".

Achievements and performance (continued)

During this reporting period we held a number of online and in person meetings during the reporting period, including:

- 10 October 2023 - Debate on depression and serotonin (Webinar)
- 5 Dec 2023 - 3D imaging of entire brains with light sheet microscopy (Webinar)
- 11 Dec 2023 - 2023 BNA Festive Symposium: Unwrapping the Neuroscience of Emotions (Leeds)
- 6 Feb 2024 – Overcoming the challenges of patch clamping (Webinar)
- 20 Feb 2024 – Global disease-associated glial changes chronically after focal stroke (Webinar)
- 22 Feb 2024 – BNA Careers and Talent Recruitment Fair (London)
- 24-25 April 2024 – BNA Members Meeting (Online)
- 12 June 2024 – BNA Annual General Meeting (Online)
- 19 June 2024 – Planning and delivery of credible neuroscience research projects (Bristol)
- 17 September 2024 – Neuroscience and Mental Health Research: Spotlight on Wales – Cardiff

The BNA delivered sessions and represented our members at 2 international conferences: RCPsych International Congress (Edinburgh - June 2024), FENS Forum 2024 (Vienna - June 2024).

The BNA was successful is our bid to host the prestigious FENS Forum in Glasgow in 2028. Organised by the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), this major international event will bring together thousands of neuroscientists from across the globe to explore the latest breakthroughs in brain research. The BNA is proud to have led this effort, securing the opportunity to showcase the UK's neuroscience community on the global stage and foster international collaboration.

Membership of societies: The BNA is a member of three organisations which make sure the BNA membership is part of a larger voice. Membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) connects us with all the life sciences across the UK. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) enables the BNA and BNA members to be part of European neuroscience, and membership of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) connects the BNA with the global community.

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Aim 3: Influence

As the largest UK-based organisation representing neuroscience and neuroscientists, the BNA is in position to influence the sector, decision-makers, and neuroscientists themselves. Having influence is central in fulfilling two of the Association's objects: (c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease; and (f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards. Our main areas of activity in the area of 'influence' are listed below.

Grant Partnerships: In YE2024, as part of our ongoing efforts to redefine and strengthen our value proposition to partners, the BNA developed a comprehensive Grant Partnership Offer. This new initiative positions us to partner, co-deliver, and advise on research grant proposals, further amplifying our influence in the sector and creating new opportunities for collaboration. Over the course of the review period, we played a key role in 9 grant applications, ranging from UKRI grants to internal university funding and government initiatives, including the Office for Life Sciences.

Of the 9 applications submitted, 4 were successful, 2 were unsuccessful, and 3 are still pending decision. The total value of grants applied for, with funding directed to the BNA, amounted to £246,811. From these successful applications, £92,776 has been approved, which will be allocated over the next five years, providing an additional annual income of approximately £10,000.

Grant delivery will officially begin in YE2025 and will include a variety of impactful activities such as BNA representation on scientific advisory boards and steering committees, the delivery of workshops, convening the neuroscience community, co-developing policy papers, and disseminating grant outputs through our networks. Additionally, we will promote these grant activities to our members, ensuring that they directly benefit from the outputs and knowledge generated.

All grant-related initiatives align with the BNA's core mission and purpose, ensuring that we continue to support and represent the neuroscience community while driving forward the advancement of neuroscience research and policy.

Credibility in Neuroscience: We are now five years into our campaign to "support the neuroscience sector to increase the transparency, reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience research".

In June 2024, we held training workshop in Bristol to bring together researchers at PhD or postdoc level to learn how they should plan to ensure their projects are as reproducible as possible, and how they can deliver this by making their research data and code open.

Our journal, Brain and Neuroscience Advances is one of only a handful of journals worldwide to cover the full range of open science practices – being Gold Open Access, offering Registered Reports, CRediT taxonomy, Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines and Badges for Open Practices.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience: The role the BNA has in this space continues to grow, and the Association is committed to influencing and increasing EDI in our sector.

Our most significant activity is the ongoing management and growth of the BNA Scholars Programme. In YE2024, the programme welcomed a further 7 Scholars to support a total of 28 students and Early Career Researchers from under-represented ethnic groups to flourish in neuroscience. Notably, in July 2024, we funded the attendance of seven Scholars to the FENS Forum in Vienna, where they joined nearly 8,000 neuroscientists; three of them presented their research during conference poster sessions. We are grateful to our Supporters for hosting and enabling these events and career development opportunities.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Beyond the Scholars Programme, the BNA has actively engaged in national EDI advocacy. In November 2023, we issued an open letter to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) expressing disappointment over the suspension of the Research England EDI Expert Advisory Group. We highlighted concerns that this action could disrupt UKRI's initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion within the research sector and urged for the group's prompt reinstatement. Following an independent investigation, UKRI found no evidence of misconduct and reinstated the EDI Expert Advisory Group in March 2024.

In recognition of our leadership's dedication to EDI, we are proud to announce that in July 2024, our President-Elect, Professor Narender Ramnani of Royal Holloway, University of London, was awarded the 2024 ALBA-FKNE Diversity Prize. This prestigious award, jointly presented by the ALBA Network and the FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence, honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to promoting diversity and inclusion in brain research. Professor Ramnani's efforts include challenging the diversity of UKRI's Research Council Committees and playing a pivotal role in establishing the BNA Scholars Programme.

A voice in UK Parliaments: The BNA is a member of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (P&SC). This committee is an interface between scientists and parliamentarians and provides opportunities for the BNA to inform decision-making that takes place in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and enables us to raise awareness of issues that we feel are important for neuroscientists. The BNA was represented at P&SC meetings throughout the year.

In September 2024, the BNA held its first event at the Welsh Parliament. The event, sponsored by Hefin David MS (Caerphilly), emphasized the significance of Welsh neuroscience and the contributions of Welsh Higher Education Institutions among Welsh policymakers. This gathering united academics, clinicians, politicians, research funders, charities, and industry representatives to showcase the breadth of neuroscience research in Wales. Discussions highlighted the collaborative culture and extensive networks among Welsh research institutions, the NHS, charities, and industry, which facilitate the translation of research from bench to bedside. The event underscored Wales' leadership in mental health and neuroscience, showcasing collaboration and innovation at the forefront of research.

Strengthening leadership and representation in neuroscience: In the past year, the British Neuroscience Association (BNA) has significantly enhanced its influence through notable appointments and engagements:

- **President's Fellowship**: In May 2024, BNA President Professor Tara Spires-Jones was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, recognizing her exceptional contributions to neurodegeneration research.
- **CEO's Board Appointment**: In September 2024, the BNA announced the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer, Dr Laura Ajram, to the Board of ELRIG UK, strengthening ties across the life sciences sector.
- **Royal Engagement**: In March 2024, at the invitation of Her Majesty The Queen, BNA President Professor Tara Spires-Jones attended a reception at Clarence House to discuss the effects of reading on the brain. This event highlighted the BNA's role in bridging neuroscience research with broader societal interests.

These developments underscore the BNA's growing leadership and representation within the neuroscience community and beyond.

Animals in Research: The BNA continues to be committed to openness on the use of animals in research and is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. We are an active member of the RSB's Animal Science Group (a special interest group representing the broad spectrum of UK bodies actively involved in supporting, funding, or formulating policy on research involving animals), and the UK Bioscience Sector Coalition (which represents the collective views of the bioscience sector with an interest in the use of animals in research).

Achievements and performance (continued)

BNA prizes: This year, the BNA launched the Green Neuroscience prize. The prize is awarded for efforts by neuroscience researchers in making positive steps to reduce the environmental impact of their own research activities. Our inaugural winner is Nick Souter, University of Sussex.

Winners of the BNA's annual prizes in YE2024 were as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience: Professor Julie Williams (University of Cardiff)
- Public Engagement of Neuroscience: Phoebe Reynolds (Kings College London)
- Postgraduate Award: Lydia Hickman (University of Birmingham)
- Undergraduate Award: Alex Voce (Kings College London)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (student): Josefina Weinerova (University of Nottingham)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (researcher): Lei Zhang (University of Birmingham)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (Team): CODECHECK project team

This year, we launched the **Neuroscience Nominations Network** to champion BNA members for international prizes, awards, and leadership positions. The network comprises individuals with strong connections across the UK neuroscience community, including those with past or present roles in BNA governance and local group networks. The group submits nominations for prestigious international awards such as FENS, SfN, and The Brain Prize. Through this initiative, we aim to elevate the global profile of our members and further celebrate and support our community.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial review

During the financial year ending 30 September 2024, the BNA's total income was £434,297 (2023: £322,934). Expenditure, which was wholly on charitable activities to advance education in neuroscience, was £409,476 (2023: £364,725); after taking account of net gains on investments, the net movement in funds was a surplus of £73,618 (2023: deficit of £11,791).

The net reserves carried forward was £659,558 (2023: £585,940). Of this, £103,294 (2023: £118,960) is held in restricted funds, committed largely to (1) delivering activities associated with funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and (2) supporting the BNA's equity, diversity and inclusion work.

Funding has and will continue to be used to support the BNA Trustees' ten-year strategic plan, in particular the activities which meet the aims to 'Inform, Connect and Influence'.

The BNA is in a stable financial position to sustain itself and to meet its charitable objectives.

c. Reserves policy

The BNA's reserves policy states that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure, where one year's expenditure is calculated on the basis of:

- 12 months' overheads of British Neuroscience Association Ltd
- 12 months' direct expenses of British Neuroscience Association Ltd, where direct expenses include bursaries and grants, Bulletin production, subscriptions, and education/outreach work
- 12 months' overheads of BNA Events Ltd (averaged over a two-year period)
- 12 months' direct expenses of BNA Events Ltd, where direct expenses relate to costs of the biennial Festival of Neuroscience (averaged over a two-year period)

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in revenue, they will be able to continue the Association's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and/or costs can be reduced. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of each accounting year.

d. Principal funding

The main sources of income for the BNA in 2024 were membership subscriptions of £116,624 (2023: £106,391) and grants and donations of £213,790 (2023: £215,144), which includes £160,000 from The Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

e. Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by Article 5 in the Articles of Association. This permits the Charity to deposit or invest funds in securities or property as may be thought fit in order to further its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

The Trustees' policy for YE2025 will be to continue to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments, and continue to manage the Charity's investments in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Company is registered as a charity under the registration number 1103852.

The BNA is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and accompanying set of Rules. No changes have been made to governing articles since 2017.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Organisational structure

The British Neuroscience Association is a membership organisation, with seven membership categories (defined in the Rules), plus a number of Honorary members. With the exception of Associate members, all members have voting rights on the principle of "one member, one vote", which is exercised at the Annual General Meetings (detailed in Articles 15-27).

The Association has 44 Local Groups (Rule 5), that provide for a national network between members and the Association's governance team.

The BNA is governed by a Council of Trustees, comprising between seven and twelve members of the Association (Article 29). Non-Trustee positions on the Council include the Meetings Secretary, other co-opted members for specific functions and other invited observers or advisors. The specific procedures for the appointment and retirement of the Trustees are detailed in the Articles (32-35).

To help with discharging the activities of the Association, the BNA has also a National Advisory Committee (formerly "The National Committee") whose role is to represent different demographics and interests within the Association's membership (Rule 4).

Supporting all activities and needs of the Council, Committee, and general membership is the BNA Executive. During the year this consisted of two full time and three part-time staff members.

c. Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

To help with this the BNA has a Risk Register. Conflict of Interest (Rules 8 and 9) and a Register of Interests. BNA has a specific Declaration of Interests form, that is completed by all members of the Council and Committee of the BNA.

Plans for future periods

The strategic pillars of the BNA remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence'.

At the start of YE2025, key priorities are as follows:

1. CONNECT: Engaging our membership and connecting the community
In 2025, we will continue to strengthen engagement with our members at both local and national levels, ensuring they experience tangible value from their BNA membership and feel a strong sense of belonging within our community.

Building on the progress made in YE2024 with the recruitment of a Marketing and Communications Manager and a Membership and Communities Manager, we will implement our new membership management system and website. This long-overdue upgrade will enhance the member experience, making it easier for members to engage with our activities, access resources, and stay connected.

A major highlight of the year will be the delivery of The International Festival of Neuroscience, BNA2025, our flagship international conference, taking place in Liverpool. This event will provide a unique opportunity to bring together neuroscientists from across sectors and around the world, further cementing the BNA's role as a leading force in neuroscience collaboration and knowledge exchange.

2. INFORM: Professionalising the sector
A key highlight of 2025 will be the launch of the BNA Training Academy, which will provide a comprehensive suite of training courses for neuroscientists at all career stages. These courses will offer opportunities to enhance professional skills, with content aimed at both members and non-members, including clinicians and industry professionals. This initiative will not only deliver value to our members but also provide a new avenue to engage non-member sectors and generate additional revenue for the organisation.

We will also continue to focus on career development, offering targeted opportunities for our early career and student members. By offering these resources, we aim to support the next generation of neuroscientists in their career progression and ensure they are equipped with the skills necessary for success in a rapidly evolving field.

3. INFLUENCE: Policy, Advocacy and Credibility
In 2025, the BNA will continue to strengthen its policy and advocacy efforts across the UK, building on the successes of our engagements in the devolved nations. Following our events in Scotland and Wales, we will host an event in England, further connecting with our members and engaging with the UK Parliament. This will allow us to continue advocating for the importance of neuroscience research and to elevate the voices of our members within national policy discussions.

We will also continue to champion our members by strategically positioning them for international roles, prizes, and recognition. This will increase connectivity across organisations and countries, enhancing the global visibility and influence of BNA members. By working with partners worldwide, we aim to open new doors for collaboration and ensure that UK neuroscientists are well-represented on the international stage.

Additionally, we will further develop our Grant Partnerships programme, which has proven to be an important avenue for both revenue generation and enhancing our credibility within the neuroscience sector. In 2025, we aim to begin delivery of our confirmed grant partnership efforts, ensuring BNA members are directly involved in the delivery of high-impact research, policy development, and cross-sector workshops. By leveraging our growing influence, we will continue to build collaborative relationships.

These activities will allow us to remain at the forefront of neuroscience advocacy and continue positioning the BNA as a key player in global neuroscience discussions and research advancements.

Reference and administrative details

Members of BNA Council

- *Professor T pires-Jones (President and Officer) appointed April 2023
- *Dr S King (Association Secretary and Officer) elected April 2023
- *Dr T Bushell (Treasurer and Officer) elected May 2022
- *Professor N Ramnani (President Elect) appointed April 2023
- *Professor R Henson (Immediate Past President) appointed April 2023
- *Professor C Bird (Research Policy) elected May 2022
- *Professor M Walton (Preclinical Neuroscience) elected May 2022
- *Dr M Ashby (Credibility in Neuroscience) elected May 2022
- *Dr M Berners (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Dr K P Cox (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Professor A M Palmer (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Dr TKerrigan (Local Group Representative) elected September 2024
- Professor D Beccano-Kelly (Meetings Secretary) appointed October 2021
- Dr D Tse (Meetings Secretary) appointed September 2023

* Trustee position

Members of the National Committee

- Dr S Willaime-Morawek (Education & Outreach Secretary) elected April 2023
- Dr V Subramanian (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative) elected March 2023
- Professor S Abrahams (Clinical Scientist Rep for Psychology) appointed May 2022
- Dr L Sinclair (Clinical Scientist Representative for Psychiatry) appointed May 2022
- Ms B Facer (Student & Early Career Representative elected September 2024)

Executive

- Dr L Ajram (Chief Executive)
- Mrs L Tratt (Head of Meetings and Events)
- Mrs L Shepherd (Head of Partnerships and Development)
- Mx D Wijesinghe (Membership and Communities Manager)
- Mrs F Parker (Marketing and Communications Manager)
- Ms L Bryan (Executive Officer)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

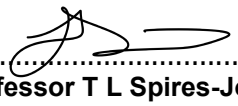
The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Professor T L Spires-Jones
President

Date: 1 April 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Neuroscience Association Limited ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Martin Bailey Dated: 01-04-25

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
1st Floor Arthur Stanley House
40-50 Tottenham Street
London
W1T 4RN

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	**9,405**	**204,385**	**213,790**	*215,144*
Charitable activities	5	**110,752**	**5,872**	**116,624**	*106,391*
Investments	6	**103,883**	**-**	**103,883**	*1,399*
Total income		**224,040**	**210,257**	**434,297**	*322,934*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	**183,553**	**225,923**	**409,476**	*364,725*
Total expenditure		**183,553**	**225,923**	**409,476**	*364,725*
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments		**40,487**	**(15,666)**	**24,821**	*(41,791)*
Net gains on investments		**48,797**	**-**	**48,797**	*30,000*
Net movement in funds		**89,284**	**(15,666)**	**73,618**	*(11,791)*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**466,980**	**118,960**	**585,940**	*597,731*
Net movement in funds		**89,284**	**(15,666)**	**73,618**	*(11,791)*
Total funds carried forward		**556,264**	**103,294**	**659,558**	*585,940*

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 21 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04307833

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	Note		2024 £		*2023 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		**955**		*1,656*
Investments	12		**408,017**		*359,220*
			408,972		*360,876*
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**25,827**		*20,509*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**229,528**		*215,993*	
		255,355		*236,502*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(4,769)**		*(11,438)*	
Net current assets			**250,586**		*225,064*
Total assets less current liabilities			**659,558**		*585,940*
Total net assets			**659,558**		*585,940*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	15		**103,294**		*118,960*
Unrestricted funds	15		**556,264**		*466,980*
Total funds			**659,558**		*585,940*

The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

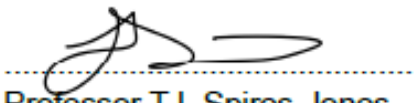
The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Professor T L Spires-Jones
Director

Date: 1 April 2025

The notes on pages 21 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

1. General information

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a Charitable Company Registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered the future plans of the Charity and expected income, and it is deemed that the Charity can meet its commitments and liabilities and can continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the 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 objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service. Membership fees are recongised in the period to which they relate.

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

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

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

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.12 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. No estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year have been identified.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	**Restricted funds 2024 £**	**Total funds 2024 £**	*Total funds 2023 £*
Donations	9,405	204,385	**213,790**	*215,144*
Total 2023	*16,376*	*198,768*	*215,144*	

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	**Restricted funds 2024 £**	**Total funds 2024 £**	*Total funds 2023 £*
Subscriptions and Bulletin advertising	110,752	5,872	**116,624**	*106,391*
Total 2023	*106,391*	*-*	*106,391*	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Dividend income	100,000	**100,000**	-
Bank interest	3,883	**3,883**	*1,399*
Total 2024	103,883	**103,883**	*1,399*
Total 2023	*1,399*	*1,399*	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	*Total 2023 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	183,553	225,923	**409,476**	*364,725*
Total 2023	*199,415*	*165,310*	*364,725*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	256,701	152,775	**409,476**	*364,725*
Total 2023	*203,948*	*160,777*	*364,725*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Staff costs	127,230	**127,230**	*115,164*
Bulletin production	18,585	**18,585**	*27,860*
Conference expenses	1,172	**1,172**	*-*
Bursaries and sponsorship	8,805	**8,805**	*-*
Gatsby project costs	89,816	**89,816**	*33,031*
Subscriptions and membership	7,716	**7,716**	*10,103*
Advertising	6,877	**6,877**	*4,790*
Travel	-	**-**	*7,256*
Printing, postage and stationery	-	**-**	*45*
Telephone	-	**-**	*675*
Journal production	(3,500)	**(3,500)**	*5,024*
Total 2024	256,701	**256,701**	*203,948*
Total 2023	*203,948*	*203,948*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	*Total funds 2023 £*
Staff costs	122,300	**122,300**	*111,711*
Depreciation	701	**701**	*701*
Advertising	1,875	**1,875**	*3,622*
Travel	6,264	**6,264**	*7,682*
Printing, postage and stationery	70	**70**	*123*
Telephone	819	**819**	*816*
Website development	4,162	**4,162**	*1,992*
Professional fees	8,693	**8,693**	*7,637*
Insurance	1,531	**1,531**	*1,161*
Bank charges	1,937	**1,937**	*16,842*
Sundry	2,155	**2,155**	*4,472*
Governance	2,268	**2,268**	*3,888*
Bad debt	-	**-**	*130*
Total 2024	152,775	**152,775**	*160,777*
Total 2023	*160,777*	*160,777*	

Governance costs include independent examination fees of £2,500 (2023: £2,500).

9. Staff costs

	2024 £	*2023* *£*
Wages and salaries	**225,518**	*201,553*
Social security costs	**18,993**	*16,025*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**5,019**	*9,297*
	249,530	*226,875*

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	*2023* *No.*
Employees	**6**	*5*

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024 No.	*2023* *No.*
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	**1**	*-*

Total remuneration, including employer's national insurance and pension contributions, in respect of key management personnel totalled £82,571 (2023: £57,524).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2023 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 30 September 2024, Trustee expenses have been incurred of £1,211 *(2023 - £NIL* to 0 Trustees*)* in respect of 7 trustees for travel expenses.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2023	**5,360**
At 30 September 2024	**5,360**
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2023	**3,704**
Charge for the year	**701**
At 30 September 2024	**4,405**
Net book value	
At 30 September 2024	**955**
At 30 September 2023	*1,656*

12. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 October 2023	**100**	**407,917**	**408,017**
At 30 September 2024	**100**	**407,917**	**408,017**
Net book value			
At 30 September 2024	**100**	**407,917**	**408,017**
At 30 September 2023	*100*	*407,917*	*408,017*

Other investments comprise funds held with investment managers for capital growth and income generation.

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding
BNA Events Limited	07784689	Ordinary	100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
BNA Events Limited	**(31,566)**	**26,698**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

13. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**9,609**	*(256)*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**13,679**	*14,254*
Prepayments and accrued income	**2,539**	*6,511*
	25,827	*20,509*

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	**2,269**	*3,438*
Accruals and deferred income	**2,500**	*8,000*
	4,769	*11,438*

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**466,980**	**224,040**	**(183,553)**	**48,797**	**556,264**
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	**6,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,500**
Journal fund	**196**	**7,534**	**(2,000)**	**-**	**5,730**
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	**78,174**	**160,000**	**(192,830)**	**-**	**45,344**
Guarantors of Brain	**11,995**	**5,000**	**-**	**-**	**16,995**
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	**22,095**	**37,723**	**(31,093)**	**-**	**28,725**
	118,960	**210,257**	**(225,923)**	**-**	**103,294**
Total funds	**585,940**	**434,297**	**(409,476)**	**48,797**	**659,558**

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2022 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 30 September 2023* £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*512,229*	*124,166*	*(199,415)*	*30,000*	*466,980*
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	*6,500*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*6,500*
Journal fund	*300*	*4,920*	*(5,024)*	*-*	*196*
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	*51,077*	*160,000*	*(132,903)*	*-*	*78,174*
Guarantors of Brain	*9,792*	*5,000*	*(2,797)*	*-*	*11,995*
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	*17,833*	*28,848*	*(24,586)*	*-*	*22,095*
	85,502	*198,768*	*(165,310)*	*-*	*118,960*
Total funds	*597,731*	*322,934*	*(364,725)*	*30,000*	*585,940*

Restricted funds comprise the following:

Wolstencroft fund - for expenses in regard to a lecture on ‘Outstanding Neuroscience’ at the biennial BNA Festival.

Journal fund - for editing and general running of the journal.
Gatsby Charitable Foundation - to support the implementation of the BNA's new strategic plan.

Guarantors of Brain - funding for Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) - funding to support Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	955	-	**955**
Fixed asset investments	408,017	-	**408,017**
Current assets	152,061	103,294	**255,355**
Creditors due within one year	(4,769)	-	**(4,769)**
Total	556,264	103,294	**659,558**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	*Restricted funds 2023 £*	*Total funds 2023 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*1,656*	-	*1,656*
Fixed asset investments	*359,220*	-	*359,220*
Current assets	*117,542*	*118,960*	*236,502*
Creditors due within one year	*(11,438)*	-	*(11,438)*
Total	*466,980*	*118,960*	*585,940*

17. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £5,019 (2023: £9,297). Contributions of £977 (2023: £968) were owed to the fund at the balance sheet date.

18. Related party transactions

During the year, the Charity received an amount totalling £100,000 (12023: £nil) from BNA Events Limited, its wholly-owned subsidiary, in respect of distribution of profits for the year ended 30 September 2023. At the balance sheet date, the Charity was owed £13,679 (2023: £14,254) by BNA Events Limited.

Other than disclosed above or elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1103852

Accounts

Registered number: 04307833
Charity number: 1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 16
Independent Examiner's Report	17 - 18
Statement of Financial Activities	19
Balance Sheet	20 - 21
Notes to the Financial Statements	22 - 34

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Trustees

Professor T L Spires-Jones, Chair
Dr M C Ashby, Trustee
Dr M Berners, Trustee
Professor C M Bird, Trustee
Dr T J Bushell, Trustee
Dr K P Cox, Trustee
Professor A C Dolphin, Trustee (resigned 4 October 2023)
Professor R N A Henson, Trustee
Dr S L King, Trustee (appointed 23 April 2023)
Professor Z Kourtzi, Trustee (resigned 4 October 2023)
Professor A M Palmer, Trustee
Professor N Ramnani, Trustee (appointed 26 April 2023)
Dr V Straub, Trustee
Dr M E Walton, Trustee (appointed 20 May 2022)

Company registered number

04307833

Charity registered number

1103852

Registered office

Dorothy Hodgkin Building
Whitson Street
Bristol
BS1 3NY

Company secretary

Dr L Ajram

Chief executive officer

Dr L Arjam (from June 2023)

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Objectives and activities

a. Our vision and purpose

The BNA is a membership organisation committed to preserve and protect health and advance public engagement in neuroscience, through supporting, promoting and representing neuroscientists and neuroscience research.

b. Our objects

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Articles of the Association (Article 4) and in the Rules of the Association (Rule 1.3), both documents coming into force in April 2017, are:

To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease, in particular but not exclusively) by:

a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease;
b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings, and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers;
c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease;
d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease;
e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research; and
f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

All trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers and duties on behalf of the Charity and in determining the activities of the Charity.

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Our aims

We have three interconnected aims that are central to achieving our vision and purpose, and are the means by which we deliver our objectives: these are to **Inform, Connect, and Influence**. The aims to Inform, Connect and Influence, were arrived at through a series of strategic workshops and engagement with members, and they help the BNA Council and Committee to direct activities throughout the year.

d. Overview of the year

2022/23 has been a year of significant change for the British Neuroscience Association following the transition of leadership and appointment of a new Chief Executive and President midway through the year.

With the support of the BNA Executive Team, Trustees and BNA members, the handover of both roles has been a success and we are taking advantage of new leadership to accelerate our growth and enter a new phase of the organisation.

Despite the inevitable disruption that change brings, the year has plenty of activities to report. Highlights include the highly successful International Festival of Neuroscience in Brighton, the BNA's first event in the Scottish Parliament, and the continued growth and success of the BNA Scholars Programme.

As described in the following report, the impact of our activities across the year is clear and our value within the sector is increasingly recognised by the neuroscience community. This recognition is reflected in the successful growth of our network, which is now primed for engagement in activities that will hopefully drive revenue for the BNA in years to come.

The development plan for YE2024 is an ambitious plan that aims to explore new avenues of income, value for members and opportunities for the BNA to embed progress made to date, and lead us into the next phase of creating 'an exciting and sustainable future for 21st century neuroscience'.

Achievements and performance

a. Aim 1: Inform

Scientific Journal: The Association's scientific journal, Brain and Neuroscience Advances, is the platform through which we inform the profession about the latest neuroscience research. In November 2022, we were delighted to welcome Dr Kate Baker (University of Cambridge) to join Professor Jeff Dalley as co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal. Together with the international editorial board, their leadership and expertise continue to support our aims of widening the scope and readership of the journal.

In our ongoing commitment to fostering academic mentorship, this year we introduced a new article type called "Journal Club." This exciting addition is designed to encourage graduate students and post-doctoral researchers to actively engage with our journal by submitting their review of a recently published article. We believe this initiative will create a supportive platform for emerging scholars to contribute to the academic discourse within our field.

The number of articles published in the journal between 1st Oct 2022 – 30th Sept 2023 was as follows:

- 2 Original Research articles
- 1 Journal Club article
- 1 Registered Report
- 2 Review articles
- 2 Editorials
- 1 Book of abstracts (BNA2023)

Informing members: Keeping our members informed is an essential role performed by the BNA, whether that's informing each other about the BNA community's 'internal' activities or informing them about external factors that are relevant to the field as a whole.

Our printed members' newsletter, *The BNA Bulletin*, is sent out three times a year and informs members about events, prizes, news from the BNA, funders or regulators, and activities across the BNA community, as well as highlighting research undertaken by UK neuroscientists. *Brain Insights* is a section within the *Bulletin* written by and for students and Early Career Researchers, offering a valuable opportunity for early career scientists to gain writing experience.

Alongside the *Bulletin* members receive a monthly email newsletter, the eBulletin. This provides more frequent updates on BNA activities, jobs, events and funding.

External communications: The website and the BNA's social media platforms are essential resources for connecting with both members and non-members. These digital communication channels make the BNA readily accessible to members of the public, and the office often receives enquiries from journalists, patients and prospective students.

During 2022–2023 the website attracted 97.4k users and 354k page views. This compares to 161.6k users and 459k page views in the period 2021–2022. The website needs upgrading to improve the user-friendly credentials e.g. rendering well on mobile devices. This will increase the engagement and traffic to the BNA website.

By the end of this reporting period, the BNA had 36.8k (X / Twitter), 15.4k (Facebook), 18.7k (LinkedIn), 3.9k (Instagram) and 3.4k (YouTube) followers, respectively. This represents an overall increase in our followers across our social media channels.

Public engagement of neuroscience: 'Bring Your Own Brain' (BYOB), our public engagement partner programme to the International Festival of Neuroscience, took place over two months (March-–April 2023) in and

Achievements and performance (continued)

around Brighton. Organised by the University of Sussex, BYOB comprised over 20 events and activities for all age groups, including:

- **Sussex Brain Bus** – The ARUK sponsored bus with dementia and brain facts saw 54,000 weekly passengers, 30,000 online views and 18,000 exhibition visitors. The bus continues to tour the UK and has been highlighted in 4 media interviews (print and radio).
- **School activities** – Over 220 children from 5 local schools participated in neuroscience classes
- **Mental Health Photography Exhibition** – 50 local photographers submitted photos to be featured in a public exhibition along Brighton beachfront which reached 1000s of passers-by daily. The exhibition was on display for ~6 months.
- **Two public lectures** were embedded into the Festival programme which attracted over 200 members of the public.

Achievements and performance (continued)

b. Aim 2: Connect

Connecting the neuroscience community through BNA membership: over the course of YE2023 we saw membership make a modest but important increase from 2,621 to 2,653 (+32). To put this increase in context, the table below shows membership trends over the previous 3 years:

	YE2021	YE2022	YE2023	Change
Full	594	592	645	+51
Early Career Researcher	311	307	305	-6
Career Starter	19	29	68	+49
Postgraduate	615	623	640	+25
Student/Undergraduate	749	894	771	+22
Industry	47	50	64	+17
Associate	73	70	95	+22
Retired	52	50	59	+7
Honorary	6	6	6	0
TOTAL	2,466	2,621	2,653	+187

In 2023 we saw modest increases across all membership types (with the exception of Early Career Researchers). The increases in Full and Full (Industry) members come as a result of the efforts both of the local recruitment efforts of Local Group Representatives in institutions across the country (see below) and the Building Bridges Between (BBB) initiative which is successfully beginning to position the BNA as the organisation through which neuroscientists from academia, industry, and the clinic can connect and collaborate. The increases in Associate and Retired members reflects the success of the 2023 Festival of Neuroscience's public engagement programme (see above), as well as the continued strengthening of the BNA's wider reputation as an authority on neuroscience.

BNA Local Groups: The BNA has a national network of Local Groups (LGs) each headed by a Local Group Representative (LGR). Many groups also have one or more Local Group Student Representatives (LGSRs). In YE2023, the number of Local Groups increased from 39 to 44.

LGRs provide a point of contact for members of a Local Group to access a number of member benefits within the BNA. For example, any applications for Local Group funding are made through the LGRs. In 2022-23, £8,294 was granted to 20 BNA Local Groups to deliver local events for their members. 11 of these Local Groups took advantage of additional funding via a 'post-COVID booster' scheme, implemented in 2023 to encourage uptake of the funding following reduced in person events during the COVID period.

LG activities for which funding was awarded during YE2023 are listed below – some of these events will take place in YE2024:

- Cambridge: Events for early career researchers (facilitated by CamBRAIN)

Achievements and performance (continued)

- Dundee: Neuro Dundee (public engagement event connecting the local community to Dundee academics)
- Glasgow: Support for University of Glasgow Student Neuroscience Society careers event
- Imperial: Meeting of the Minds Conference 2024 (connecting medics and neuroscientists)
- Keele: Day of neuroscience activities, connecting neuroscientists normally based in disparate locations across the university
- Teesside: Dementia Research Partnership event, bringing together clinicians, academics, students, charity representatives and people with lived experience
- Westminster: Events facilitated by the student neuroscience society Brain Matter(s), including a World Stroke Day event, an event on Mental Health and Climate Change, a collaborative event with the Brain Tumour Charity, and training and career development talks

In September 2023, the LGRs and LGSRs met in Manchester for the annual Local Group Forum (featuring a special session on teaching priorities led by LGSRs), and the online monthly meetings of LGRs have also continued. The connection to members via the Local Groups scheme remains a valuable way of engaging with our members to explore opportunities that are of value to the community.

Connecting with industry ('Building Bridges Between: Industry and Academia' (BBB)): The BNA's sustained efforts in cultivating relationships with the commercial sector have yielded substantial financial gains and impactful partnerships. Going into YE2024, we now have access to a broad network of organisations and influential figures who can contribute to BNA activities, engage in collaborative projects, and invest in our events, including the International Festival of Neuroscience. We have elevated awareness of the critical role industry plays in advancing neuroscience in the UK, broadened the scope of activities to our membership and supported meaningful scientific exchange.

The BNA is now primed to play a pivotal role in convening different sectors under a common goal. In November 2022 the joint symposium, 'New treatments in pain and how to meet them' brought together key players from Industry (Eli Lilly), Medical Research Charity (Versus Arthritis), and Academia (University of Sheffield). Through our annual theme (Artificial Intelligence), we led a Hackathon together with Arca Blanca and DDM Health to convene our academic members with digital health companies to drive new ways of enhancing healthcare and digital education interventions.

BNA Meetings: Bringing people together via events is essential for the BNA to fulfil its aim to connect. Through our meetings we enable neuroscientists to connect with each other, across disciplines and geographies, and goes towards meeting our object to "disseminate information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines".

During this reporting period we held the 6th International Festival of Neuroscience at the Brighton Centre on the UK's south-eastern coast. Following an online festival in 2021 (due to Covid-19) this was the first in-person festival in four years (since Dublin, 2019).

22 Partner Organisations joined the BNA to deliver a highly successful festival, which attracted 1,216 participants from 32 countries (75% of delegates were from the UK and Ireland). 65 organisations supported the festival through partnerships and exhibitions.

The BNA awarded **£13,308.60** in bursaries and awards at the festival, the highest number to date. Awards included:

- 44 bursaries to students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs), total £11,593.60.
- 4 BNA-Brain Carer Grants, supported by the Guarantors of Brain, total £990.00.
- 11 poster prizes awarded to students and ECRs, total £725.00.

In addition to the festival, we held a number of online and in person meetings during the reporting period,

Achievements and performance (continued)

including:

- 9th November 2022 – New Treatments for Pain (in collaboration with Versus Arthritis, The University of Sheffield, Lily) – Sheffield
- 30th November 2022 – Arca Blanca Hackathon – London
- 12th December 2022 – Festive Symposium, 'Have your mental health a merry little Christmas' – University of Edinburgh
- 16th December 2022 – Vision and Mind: A Symposium in honour of Horace Barlow in Cambridge – University of Cambridge
- 6th February 2023 – The Next Step: Science Administration careers webinar with SiSTEM – Online webinar
- 28th June 2023 – Neuroscience Matters: Research for Future Health – Special reception at the Scottish Parliament

In addition to a series of credibility in neuroscience events (see Aim 3 below).

Membership of societies: The BNA is a member of three organisations which make sure the BNA membership is part of a larger voice. Membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) connects us with all the life sciences across the UK. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) enables the BNA and BNA members to be part of European neuroscience, and membership of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) connects the BNA with the global community.

Of the three organisations, the BNA is most actively involved in FENS. The BNA is a member of the FENS Governing Council, and was represented at FENS meetings through the year.

Achievements and performance (continued)

c. Aim 3: Influence

As the largest UK-based organisation representing neuroscience and neuroscientists, the BNA is in position to influence the sector, decision-makers, and neuroscientists themselves. Having influence is central in fulfilling two of the Association's objects: (c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease; and (f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

Our main areas of activity in the area of 'influence' are listed below.

Credibility in Neuroscience: We are now four years into our core campaign to, "support the neuroscience sector to increase the transparency, reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience research". Some key achievements during the reporting period include:

Westminster enquiry into research reproducibility: In May 2023, the BNA's proposed recommendations from the previous year were notably incorporated into the final report of the Commons Science, Innovation, and Technology Committee's reproducibility inquiry. Specifically, the Committee endorsed several of our suggestions, recommending that:

- institutions should incorporate mandatory reproducibility training and professional development plans for researchers across the course of their career, *responding to the BNA's evidence highlighting the need for this to support researchers*;
- UKRI should implement a trial funding programme with an emphasis on 'slower' science, *reflecting the BNA's evidence that highlighted that fewer, more reproducible studies may ultimately result in faster progress through a reduction in research waste*;
- the recently established UK Committee on Research Integrity should set up a sub-committee focusing on reproducibility in research to assess and address existing research integrity challenges, *referencing the BNA's suggestion*.

Credibility in Neuroscience events: Credibility was a key theme of the BNA2023 Festival of Neuroscience, with an opening plenary panel session and the announcement of the 2023 Credibility Prize Winners. Pre-registration posters also featured prominently at the Festival, with an increased proportion compared against the last in-person BNA festival (BNA2019). Additionally, for the first time, poster submitters were able to apply for 'Open Science badges' and a new 'Open Science Poster Prize' was awarded alongside our existing poster prizes, to acknowledge open science practices.

Additional Credibility in Neuroscience events in YE2023 included -

- 1st December 2022: Workshop: How can we shift research culture to drive Credibility in Neuroscience?
- 31st January 2023: Preregistration in neuroimaging
- 7th February 2023: Data privacy in neuroimaging
- 14th February 2023: Research Data Management in neuroimaging
- 23rd April 2023: The change-makers (and how to keep up with them): Credibility in practice across neuroscience settings

BNA journal, Brain and Neuroscience Advances: Our journal is one of only a handful of journals worldwide to cover the full range of open science practices – being Gold Open Access, offering Registered Reports, CRediT taxonomy, Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines and Badges for Open Practices.

Promoting credibility: We continue to encourage our network of research funders and neuroscience organisations to promote Credibility in Neuroscience and implement credible practices into their activities and are beginning to see uptake of this by the community – for instance, at our recommendation, preregistration

Achievements and performance (continued)

posters were introduced for the first time at the 2023 Scottish Neuroscience Group annual meeting.

Contributing our expertise externally: We are now recognised as pivotal advocate for changes in practice to promote credibility. As a result, we were invited to join as a stakeholder member the iRISE project, funded by Horizon Europe to understand, investigate and guide strategies to address irreproducibility in research. We attended the project's kick-off meeting at the Berlin Institute for Health in September 2023.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience: The role the BNA has in this space continues to grow, and the Association is committed to influencing and increasing EDI in our sector.

Our most significant activity is the ongoing management and growth of the BNA Scholars Programme. In YE2023, the programme welcomed a further 7 Scholars to support a total of 21 students and Early Career Researchers from under-represented ethnic groups to flourish in neuroscience. Support for the programme also grew and we welcomed ABPI, MSD and the University of Sussex's School of Neuroscience to our Scholar Supporters Network. Our growing network enabled us to provide a diverse range of career development opportunities for the Scholars. Scholars attended 11 events over the reporting period, including conferences, site visits to labs and headquarters and CV surgeries. We are grateful to our Supporters for hosting and enabling these events and career development opportunities.

Additionally, to ensure our events are accessible to all, we continue to award 'Carer Grants' (supported by the Guarantors of Brain) which enable those with caring responsibilities to participate in neuroscience activities by e.g. paying for childcare or help for elderly relatives.

A voice in UK Parliaments: The BNA is a member of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (P&SC). This committee is an interface between scientists and parliamentarians and provides opportunities for the BNA to inform decision-making that takes place in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and enables us to raise awareness of issues that we feel are important for neuroscientists. The BNA was represented at P&SC meetings throughout the year.

In June 2023, the BNA held its first event at the Scottish Parliament. The event, sponsored by Daniel Johnson MSP, highlighted the importance of neuroscience research in addressing Scotland's health challenges of the future. Attended by MSPs from various political parties, the event spurred a motion in Holyrood which was signed by 29 MSPs, including Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar MSP. The event facilitated new connections with influential organisations such as the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Neurological Alliance of Scotland, and the Neurosciences Foundation. Moreover, it served as an initial platform to engage with MSPs for future collaborations.

The BNA also highlighted the role of Scottish neuroscience in a Westminster inquiry into Science and Scotland held by the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee, submitting written evidence in September 2023.

Green neuroscience: In December 2022, we introduced a new 'Train over Plane' grant to reduce the carbon footprint of travel to BNA events – further supporting our members to engage with our Green Neuroscience campaign. Our efforts to deliver sustainable events is now recognised globally – Louise Tratt, Head of Meetings and Events, was selected as the winner of the '2023 C&IT Corporate A-lister Award' and invited to give talks on BNA sustainability in events in York (UK) and Boston (USA).

Animals in Research: The BNA continues to be committed to openness on the use of animals in research and is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. We are an active member of the RSB's Animal Science Group (a special interest group representing the broad spectrum of UK bodies actively involved in supporting, funding, or formulating policy on research involving animals), and the UK Bioscience Sector Coalition (which represents the collective views of the bioscience sector with an interest in the use of animals in research). In November 2022, the BNA responded to a consultation by the Animals in Science

Achievements and performance (continued)

Committee (ASC) on the Forced Swim Test (FST). Our response highlighted the important role of the FST in the development of new treatments for mental health conditions and understanding behavioural responses to stress. In July 2023, the ASC's final report recommended against discontinuing the FST but advised it should not serve as a model of depression. This mirrored our stance and there are indications our input directly influenced the ASC's recommendations, affirming the tangible impact of our policy and advocacy work.

BNA prizes: Winners of the BNA's annual prizes in YE2023 were as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience 2022: Professor Dame Pamela Shaw (University of Sheffield)
- Public Engagement of Neuroscience 2022: Sophie Sanford
- Postgraduate award 2022: Andrija Sente (University of Cambridge)
- Undergraduate Award 2022: Catherine Whittle (Durham University)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize 2023 (student): Maria Korochkina (Royal Holloway, UoL)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize 2023 (researcher): Roni Tibon (University of Nottingham)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize 2023 (Team): #EEGManyLabs project team

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial review

During the financial year ending 30th September 2023 the BNA's total income was £322,934 (2022: £407,416). Expenditure, which was wholly on charitable activities to advance education in neuroscience, was £364,725 (2022: £319,236); after taking account of net gains on investments, the net movement in funds was a deficit of £11,791 (2022: £54,121 surplus).

The net reserves carried forward was £585,940 (2022: £597,731). Of this, around £118,960 (2022: £85,502) is held in restricted funds, committed largely to (1) delivering activities associated with funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and (2) supporting the BNA's equity, diversity and inclusion work.

Funding has and will continue to be used to support the BNA Trustees' ten-year strategic plan, in particular the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' campaign, but also other activities which meet the aims to 'Inform, Connect and Influence'.

The BNA remains is in a stable financial position to sustain itself and to meet its charitable objectives.

c. Reserves policy

The BNA's reserves policy states that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure, where one year's expenditure is calculated on the basis of:

- 12 months' overheads of British Neuroscience Association Ltd
- 12 months' direct expenses of British Neuroscience Association Ltd, where direct expenses include bursaries and grants, Bulletin production, subscriptions, and education/outreach work
- 12 months' overheads of BNA Events Ltd (averaged over a two-year period.)
- 12 months' direct expenses of BNA Events Ltd, where direct expenses relate to costs of the biennial Festival of Neuroscience (averaged over a two-year period.)

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in revenue, they will be able to continue the Association's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and/or costs can be reduced. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of each accounting year.

The reserves policy will be reviewed in YE2024.

d. Principal funding

The main sources of income for the BNA in 2023 were membership subscriptions of £106,391 (2022: £101,222) and grants and donations of £215,144 (2022: £207,701), which includes £160,000 from The Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

e. Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by Article 5 in the Articles of Association. This permits the Charity to deposit or invest funds in securities or property as may be thought fit in order to further its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

The Trustees' policy for YE2024 will be to continue to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments, and continue to manage the Charity's investments in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Company is registered as a charity under the registration number 1103852.

The BNA is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and accompanying set of Rules. No changes have been made to governing articles since 2017.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Organisational structure

The British Neuroscience Association is a membership organisation, with seven membership categories (defined in the Rules), plus a number of Honorary members. With the exception of Associate members, all members have voting rights on the principle of “one member, one vote”, which is exercised at the Annual General Meetings (detailed in Articles 15-27).

The Association has 44 Local Groups (Rule 5), that provide for a national network between members and the Association’s governance team.

The BNA is governed by a Council of Trustees, comprising between seven and twelve members of the Association (Article 29). Non-Trustee positions on the Council include the Meetings Secretary, other co-opted members for specific functions and other invited observers or advisors. The specific procedures for the appointment and retirement of the Trustees are detailed in the Articles (32-35).

To help with discharging the activities of the Association, the BNA has also a National Advisory Committee (formerly “The National Committee”) whose role is to represent different demographics and interests within the Association’s membership (Rule 4).

Supporting all activities and needs of the Council, Committee, and general membership is the BNA Executive. During the year this consisted of two full time and three part-time staff members.

c. Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

To help with this the BNA has a Risk Register. Conflict of Interest (Rules 8 and 9) and a Register of Interests. BNA has a specific Declaration of Interests form, that is completed by all members of the Council and Committee of the BNA.

Plans for future periods

The strategic pillars of the BNA remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence', with the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' continuing as our core 5-10 year commitment underlying all our activities.

At the start of YE2024, key priorities are as follows:

CONNECT: Engaging our membership and connecting the community
In 2024, we will engage our members at the local and national levels and communicate the value of BNA membership. We will invest in our membership management systems, our team and our marketing and communications activities to ensure the membership and our Local Groups are supported and that our brand and communications are professional and targeted to our members interests.

To reflect our ambition to connect the wider neuroscience community, we will expand our 'Building Bridges Between Industry and Academia' activities to encompass all sectors, including research charities, foundations, patient groups, clinicians, small and large industry, biotech and medtech. We will explore value propositions for each group, to better understand how the BNA can support each sector and develop activities that will drive engagement with new groups.

INFORM: Professionalising the sector
We will continue to explore opportunities to set the standard of neuroscience higher education in the UK via the accreditation of taught neuroscience courses. Additionally, we will explore the potential of running our own, BNA-led training courses to provide value for our members, an opportunity to engage non-members in other sectors (in particular clinicians) and an additional income stream for the organisation.

For our early career and student members in particular, we will provide career development opportunities and connections to support those embarking on their professional careers in neuroscience.

INFLUENCE: Policy, Advocacy and Credibility
As a British organisation, we recognise the importance of working with members across the British Isles and not focusing our policy and advocacy efforts on Westminister. Following the success of our event in the Scottish Parliament in 2023, we will host an event in Wales in 2024, to engage with our Welsh members and the Welsh Parliament.

Initiatives under the Credibility in Neuroscience campaign will continue, and we will begin to explore our next campaign with our members. The BNA has built a strong reputation with our Credibility work, we will leverage this to create opportunities to engage with new groups of stakeholders, potential members, and supporters.

Reference and administrative details

Members of BNA Council

- *Professor T. Spires-Jones (President and Officer) appointed April 2021
- *Dr S. King (Association Secretary and Officer) elected March 2023
- *Dr T. Bushell (Treasurer and Officer) elected May 2022
- *Professor T. Spires-Jones (President Elect) appointed April 2021
- *Professor R. Henson (Immediate Past President) appointed April 2021
- *Dr V. Straub (Local Groups Co-ordinator) elected May 2020
- *Professor C. Bird (Research Policy) elected May 2022
- *Professor M. Walton (Preclinical Neuroscience) elected May 2022
- *Dr M. Ashby (Credibility in Neuroscience) elected May 2022
- *Dr M Berners (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Dr K P Cox (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Professor A M Palmer (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- Professor D Beccano-Kelly (Meetings Secretary) appointed October 2021
- Dr Dorothy Tse (Meetings Secretary) appointed September 2023

* Trustee position

Members of the National Committee

- Dr S. Willaime-Morawek (Education & Outreach Secretary) Elected April 2023
- E. Soopramanien (Students & Early Career Representative) Elected June 2020
- Dr V. Subramanian (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative) Elected March 2023
- Professor S. Abrahams (Clinical Scientist Rep for Psychology) Appointed May 2022
- Dr L. Sinclair (Clinical Scientist Representative for Psychiatry) Appointed May 2022
-

Executive

- Dr Laura Ajram (Chief Executive)
- Joseph Clift (Head of Policy and Campaigns)
- Sophie Jerrold (Development Director)
- Louise Tratt (Head of Meetings and Events)
- Dani Wijesinghe (Community and Inclusion Officer)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Charity 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 law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Tara Spires-Jones
.....
Professor T L Spires-Jones
Chair

Date: 28-05-24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Neuroscience Association Limited ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Signed: Martin Bailey Dated: 28-05-24

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	**16,376**	**198,768**	**215,144**	*207,701*
Charitable activities	5	**106,391**	**-**	**106,391**	*101,222*
Investments	6	**1,399**	**-**	**1,399**	*98,493*
Total income		**124,166**	**198,768**	**322,934**	*407,416*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	**199,415**	**165,310**	**364,725**	*319,236*
Total expenditure		**199,415**	**165,310**	**364,725**	*319,236*
Net (expenditure)/income before net gains/(losses) on investments		**(75,249)**	**33,458**	**(41,791)**	*88,180*
Net gains/(losses) on investments		**30,000**	**-**	**30,000**	*(34,059)*
Net movement in funds		**(45,249)**	**33,458**	**(11,791)**	*54,121*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**512,229**	**85,502**	**597,731**	*543,610*
Net movement in funds		**(45,249)**	**33,458**	**(11,791)**	*54,121*
Total funds carried forward		**466,980**	**118,960**	**585,940**	*597,731*

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 22 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04307833

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Note		2023 £		*2022* *£*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		**1,656**		*1,353*
Investments	12		**359,220**		*329,220*
			360,876		*330,573*
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**20,509**		*57,722*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**215,993**		*229,129*	
		236,502		*286,851*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(11,438)**		*(19,693)*	
Net current assets			**225,064**		*267,158*
Total assets less current liabilities			**585,940**		*597,731*
Total net assets			**585,940**		*597,731*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	15		**118,960**		*85,502*
Unrestricted funds	15		**466,980**		*512,229*
Total funds			**585,940**		*597,731*

The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Tara Spires-Jones
.....
Professor T L Spires-Jones
Chair

Date: 28-05-24

The notes on pages 22 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. General information

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a Charitable Company Registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered the future plans of the Charity and expected income, and it is deemed that the Charity can meet its commitments and liabilities and can continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the 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 objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service. Membership fees are recongised in the period to which they relate.

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

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

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

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.12 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. No estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year have been identified.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Donations	16,376	198,768	**215,144**	*207,701*
Total 2022	*4,558*	*203,143*	*207,701*	

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Subscriptions and Bulletin advertising	106,391	**106,391**	*101,222*
Total 2022	*101,222*	*101,222*	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Dividend income	-	**-**	*98,275*
Bank interest	1,399	**1,399**	*218*
Total 2023	1,399	**1,399**	*98,493*
Total 2022	*98,493*	*98,493*	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	*Total 2022 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	199,415	165,310	**364,725**	*319,236*
Total 2022	*149,939*	*169,297*	*319,236*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	203,948	160,777	**364,725**	*319,236*
Total 2022	*209,517*	*109,719*	*319,236*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Staff costs	115,164	**115,164**	*126,108*
Bulletin production	27,860	**27,860**	*24,513*
Bursaries and sponsorship	-	**-**	*8,151*
Gatsby project costs	33,031	**33,031**	*34,692*
Subscriptions and membership	10,103	**10,103**	*7,556*
Advertising	4,790	**4,790**	*1,600*
Travel	7,256	**7,256**	*1,653*
Printing, postage and stationery	45	**45**	*768*
Telephone	675	**675**	*-*
Journal production	5,024	**5,024**	*4,476*
Total 2023	203,948	**203,948**	*209,517*
Total 2022	*209,517*	*209,517*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	*Total funds 2022 £*
Staff costs	111,711	**111,711**	*82,735*
Depreciation	701	**701**	*450*
Advertising	3,622	**3,622**	*866*
Travel	7,682	**7,682**	*6,727*
Printing, postage and stationery	123	**123**	*110*
Telephone	816	**816**	*600*
Website development	1,992	**1,992**	*3,872*
Professional fees	7,637	**7,637**	*7,693*
Insurance	1,161	**1,161**	*1,090*
Bank charges	16,842	**16,842**	*2,825*
Sundry	4,472	**4,472**	*751*
Governance	3,888	**3,888**	*2,000*
Bad debt	130	**130**	-
Total 2023	160,777	**160,777**	*109,719*
Total 2022	*109,719*	*109,719*	

Governance costs include independent examination fees of £2,500 (2022: £2,000).

9. Staff costs

	2023 £	*2022 £*
Wages and salaries	**201,553**	*185,282*
Social security costs	**16,025**	*14,850*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**9,297**	*8,711*
	226,875	*208,843*

9. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	*2022* *No.*
Employees	**5**	*6*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total remuneration, including employer's national insurance and pension contributions, in respect of key management personnel totalled £57,524 (2022: £58,717).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2022 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 30 September 2023, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2022 - £NIL* to 0 Trustees*)*.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2022	**4,355**
Additions	**1,005**
At 30 September 2023	**5,360**
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2022	**3,002**
Charge for the year	**702**
At 30 September 2023	**3,704**
Net book value	
At 30 September 2023	**1,656**
At 30 September 2022	*1,353*

12. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 October 2022	**100**	**329,120**	**329,220**
Revaluations	**-**	**30,000**	**30,000**
At 30 September 2023	**100**	**359,120**	**359,220**
Net book value			
At 30 September 2023	**100**	**359,120**	**359,220**
At 30 September 2022	*100*	*329,120*	*329,220*

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
BNA Events Limited	07784689	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
BNA Events Limited	**116,643**	**158,264**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

13. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**(256)**	*13,342*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**14,254**	*41,742*
Other debtors	**-**	*11*
Prepayments and accrued income	**6,511**	*2,627*
	20,509	*57,722*

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	**-**	*5,962*
PAYE and social security	**-**	*1*
Other creditors	**3,438**	-
Accruals and deferred income	**8,000**	*13,730*
	11,438	*19,693*

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**512,229**	**124,166**	**(199,415)**	**30,000**	**466,980**
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	**6,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,500**
Journal fund	**300**	**4,920**	**(5,024)**	**-**	**196**
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	**51,077**	**160,000**	**(132,903)**	**-**	**78,174**
Guarantors of Brain	**9,792**	**5,000**	**(2,797)**	**-**	**11,995**
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	**17,833**	**28,848**	**(24,586)**	**-**	**22,095**
	85,502	**198,768**	**(165,310)**	**-**	**118,960**
Total funds	**597,731**	**322,934**	**(364,725)**	**30,000**	**585,940**

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2021 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 30 September 2022* £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*491,954*	*204,273*	*(149,939)*	*(34,059)*	*512,229*
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	*6,500*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*6,500*
Journal fund	*-*	*4,776*	*(4,476)*	*-*	*300*
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	*35,364*	*150,000*	*(134,287)*	*-*	*51,077*
Guarantors of Brain	*9,792*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*9,792*
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	*-*	*48,367*	*(30,534)*	*-*	*17,833*
	51,656	*203,143*	*(169,297)*	*-*	*85,502*
Total funds	*543,610*	*407,416*	*(319,236)*	*(34,059)*	*597,731*

Restricted funds comprise the following:

Wolstencroft fund - for expenses in regard to a lecture on ‘Outstanding Neuroscience’ at the biennial BNA Festival.

Journal fund - for editing and general running of the journal.
Gatsby Charitable Foundation - to support the implementation of the BNA's new strategic plan.

Guarantors of Brain - funding for Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) - funding to support Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education.

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,656	-	**1,656**
Fixed asset investments	359,220	-	**359,220**
Current assets	117,542	118,960	**236,502**
Creditors due within one year	(11,438)	-	**(11,438)**
Total	466,980	118,960	**585,940**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	*Restricted funds 2022 £*	*Total funds 2022 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*1,353*	-	*1,353*
Fixed asset investments	*329,220*	-	*329,220*
Current assets	*198,488*	*88,363*	*286,851*
Creditors due within one year	*(16,832)*	*(2,861)*	*(19,693)*
Total	*512,229*	*85,502*	*597,731*

17. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £9,297 (2022: £8,711). Contributions of £968 (2022: £nil) were owed to the fund at the balance sheet date.

18. Related party transactions

At the balance sheet date, British Neuroscience Association Limited was owed £14,254 (2022: £41,742) by BNA Events Limited, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Other than disclosed above or elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1103852

Accounts

Registered number: 04307833
Charity number: 1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 17
Independent Examiner's Report	18 - 19
Statement of Financial Activities	20
Balance Sheet	21 - 22
Notes to the Financial Statements	23 - 37

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Trustees

Professor R N A Henson, Chair
Dr M C Ashby, Trustee (appointed 20 May 2022)
Dr M Berners, Trustee
Professor C M Bird, Trustee (appointed 20 May 2022)
Dr T J Bushell, Trustee (appointed 20 May 2022)
Dr K P Cox, Trustee
Professor A C Dolphin, Trustee
Professor C J Harmer, Trustee (Resigned 20 May 2022)
Professor A R Isles, Trustee (resigned 20 May 2022)
Professor Z Kourtzi, Trustee
Professor A R Lingford-Hughes, Trustee (resigned 20 May 2022)
Professor A M Palmer, Trustee
Professor N Ramnani, Trustee (resigned 20 May 2022)
Professor T L Spires-Jones, Trustee
Dr V Straub, Trustee
Dr M E Walton, Trustee (appointed 20 May 2022)

Company registered number

04307833

Charity registered number

1103852

Registered office

Dorothy Hodgkin Building
Whitson Street
Bristol
BS1 3NY

Company secretary

Dr A Cooke

Chief executive officer

Dr A Cooke

Accountants and Independent Examiner

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

Trustees

Professor R. Henson (President, and Officer)	appointed April 2021
Professor Z. Kourtzi (Association Secretary, and Officer)	elected January 2019
Professor C. Harmer (Treasurer and Officer)	elected June 2017 – term of office ended May 2022
Dr T. Bushell (Treasurer and Officer)	Elected May 2022
Professor Tara Spires-Jones (President Elect)	Appointed May 2021
Professor A. Dolphin (Immediate Past President)	Appointed May 2021
Dr V. Straub (Groups Co-ordinator)	elected May 2022
Professor N. Ramnani (Research Policy)	Elected June 2017 – term of office ended May 2022
Professor C. Bird (Research Policy)	Elected May 2022
Professor A. Lingford-Hughes (Professional Liaison)	Elected June 2017 – term of office ended May 2022
Professor A. Isles (Communications)	Elected June 2017 – term of office ended May 2022
Professor M.Walton (Preclinical Research)	elected May 2022
Dr M. Ashby (Credibility in Neuroscience)	elected May 2022
Dr M Berners, (Independent Trustee)	Appointed April 2017. Re-appointed May 2022
Dr K P Cox, (Independent Trustee)	Appointed April 2017. Re-appointed May 2022
Professor A M Palmer, (Independent Trustee)	Appointed April 2017. Re-appointed May 2022

Company registered number: 04307833
Charity registered number: 1103852

Registered office: The BNA Office, Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY

Accountants: Goodman Jones LLP, Chartered Accountants, 29/30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the Charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the Strategic Report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Our vision and purpose:

The BNA is a membership organisation committed to preserve and protect health and advance public engagement in neuroscience, through supporting, promoting and representing neuroscientists and neuroscience research.

Our objects:

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Articles of the Association (Article 4) and in the Rules of the Association (Rule 1.3), both documents coming into force in April 2017, are:

To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease, in particular but not exclusively) by:

(a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease;

(b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers;

(c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease;

(d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease;

(e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research;

(f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

All trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising powers and duties on behalf of the charity.

Our aims:

We have three interconnected aims that are central to achieving our vision and purpose, and are the means by which we deliver our objectives: these are to **Inform, Connect, and Influence.** The aims to *Inform, Connect and Influence*, were arrived at through a series of strategic workshops and engagement with members, and they help the BNA Council and Committee to direct activities throughout the year.

Message from the Chair and Chief Executive October 2021-September 2022

Entering into October 2021, the BNA community had substantially returned to 'normal' life in labs, schools and offices, having spent the previous 18 months navigating different levels of precautions and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many people, including many of the BNA members, this had been a very mixed time. Some embraced greater time at home, others struggled with isolation or separation from family, and the consequences of school closures, illness, mental wellbeing and bereavement continue to reverberate today.

Given the previous period of restrictions, the BNA's year therefore started with optimism and plans to recommence in-person meetings and embrace a post-COVID world. Before barely two months had passed, the Omicron variant put much of the UK back in lock-down. Even though this turned out to be the final lock-down, this inevitably meant that our YE2022 reporting period continued to be affected by the uncertainty and disruption experienced in YE2020 and YE2021.

Regardless, the year has plenty of activities to report. Highlights include the growth of the BNA Scholars Programme; bringing together the European neuroscience community to keep European neuroscience collaboration open post-Brexit; and even launching a podcast. As described in the following report, our meetings included both in-person and online, with a high degree of responsiveness and flexibility continuing to be the norm.

A major panacea to any uncertainty was receiving a second substantial grant from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. The first grant allowed us to significantly expand the BNA's activities and impact. With the grant coming to an end during YE2022, securing further funding was a top priority for the year. We are very grateful to the Gatsby for awarding another three year grant, taking us to September 2025. This will enable us to embed progress made to date, and lead us into the next phase of creating 'an exciting and sustainable future for 21st century neuroscience'.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Aim 1: Inform

Scientific Journal: The Association's scientific journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*, is the platform through which we inform the profession about the latest neuroscience research. Following the Journal's successful indexing in PubMed Central (PMC) in April 2020, all articles are included on PMC's searchable database, giving wide visibility and availability worldwide. In addition, the fact that the Journal is Gold Open Access means all content is completely accessible by readers free of charge. The journal is published by Sage and wholly owned by the BNA, and continues to benefit from excellent leadership by Editor-in-Chief Jeff Dalley along with an international editorial board.

Highlights over the reporting period include:

- Publication of 'Climate crisis and ecological emergency: Why they concern (neuro)scientists, and what we can do' by (https://doi.org/10.1177/23982128221075430)do' by Charlotte L Rae, Martin Farley, Kate J Jeffery and Anne E. Urai (https://doi.org/10.1177/23982128221075430), an important paper for the neuroscience community on how to respond to the climate crisis
- A special collection on 'Negative Urgency as a Driver for Psychopathology' (Guest Editors: Donald R. Lynam and Jeffrey W. Dalley)
- In October 2021, the journal became a member of the 'Peer Community In Registered Reports' initiative.

The number of articles published in the journal between 1st Oct 2021 – 30th Sept 2022 was as follows:

- 12 Original Research articles
- 4 Review articles
- 1 Editorial

Informing members: Keeping our members informed is an essential role performed by the BNA, whether that's informing each other about the BNA community's 'internal' activities or informing them about external factors that are relevant to the field as a whole.

Our printed members' newsletter, The *BNA Bulletin*, is sent out three times a year and informs members about events, prizes, news from the BNA, funders or regulators, and activities across the BNA community, as well as highlighting research undertaken by UK neuroscientists. *Brain Insights* is a section within the *Bulletin* written by and for students and Early Career Researchers, offering a valuable opportunity for early career scientists to gain writing experience. The Bulletin now also includes a regular feature on policy, written by the BNA's Head of Policy and Campaigns, which ensures members are kept up to date with issues such as European Union funding negotiations, and changes in UK government that impact science.

Alongside the *Bulletin* members receive a monthly email newsletter, the eBulletin. This provides more frequent updates on BNA activities, jobs, events and funding.

Social media platforms are also now very important ways to keep our members informed, as they enable immediate, specific and direct interaction between the BNA office and our wider community (see more below).

During this reporting period a new communications route was launched for BNA members, namely a BNA 'Slack' group. This was established due to the desire of members to have an easy and instant way to contact each other and keep each other informed about research, jobs, teaching or anything else relevant to their roles in neuroscience. The Slack group is exclusive to BNA members, creating another membership benefit.

External communications: The website and the BNA's social media platforms are increasingly well-used resources for informing people about neuroscience, reaching both members and non-members. These digital communication channels make the BNA readily accessible to members of the public, and the office is kept busy answering enquiries from journalists, patients, prospective students and anyone else wanting to know about neuroscience.

During 2021-2022 the website attracted 161.6k users and 459k page views. This compares to 154k users and 486k page views in the period 2020-2021. Pages with information on jobs, careers and courses consistently remains the most visited of the site, showing how the BNA is used as a way to find out how to study and pursue a career in neuroscience.

By the end of this reporting period, the BNA had 34k (Twitter), 13.3k (Facebook), 14.6k (LinkedIn), 2.8k (Instagram) and 3.4k (YouTube) followers across social media channels.

Public engagement of neuroscience: The BNA's main public engagement activity takes place every other year, via the Festivals of Neuroscience. This reporting period does not include a Festival, but a number of public-facing activities still took place.

The BNA's annual Festive symposium is always designed to be accessible by members of the public as well as neuroscientists. Due to ongoing travel restrictions and disruption caused by COVID-19, the 2021 event was held online for the second year running. However, being online has the benefit of increasing accessibility to a wider audience, both geographically and to those working outside of neuroscience.

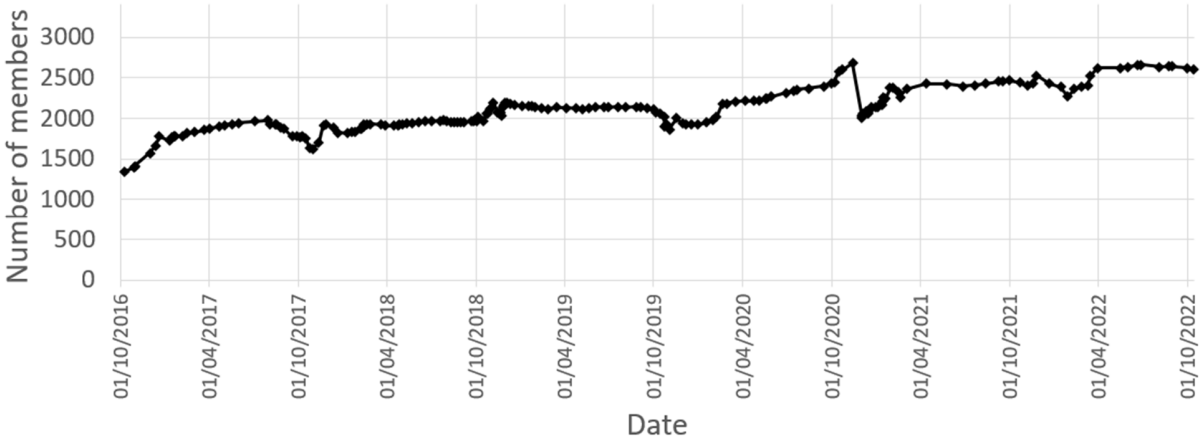
This year's Festive symposium was entitled "Ding Dong Merrily on AI", launching the BNA's annual theme for 2023 - the neuroscience of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

During the global 'Brain Awareness Week' campaign (March 2022) we again picked up on the AI theme, via a series of articles and social media posts.

In a first for the BNA, we also forayed into podcasts. 'Embodied AI' is a podcast developed and run by one of the BNA's placement students, featuring interviews with leading researchers in the field. It hosted three episodes during the reporting period, bringing a new audience to the BNA.

Aim 2: Connect

Connecting the neuroscience community through BNA membership: over the course of YE2022 we saw membership make a modest but important increase from 2,466 to 2,621 (+155). To put this increase in context, the graph below shows total membership over the previous six years (total increase 1,344 to 2,621, or 195%).



The membership types with greatest percentage increase growth over YE2022 were those at earlier career stages, particularly student/undergraduate (119%) and career starter (153%, see table below). Having a growing community of early career members is one reason why the Association is making career development one of its priority areas, as this is clearly an area of need for our members and one where the BNA can have a positive impact on developing the sector.

	YE2021	YE2022	Change	%
Full Members	594	592	-2	100%
Early Career Researchers	311	307	-4	99%
Career starter	19	29	+10	153%
Postgraduate	615	623	+8	101%
Student/Undergraduate	749	894	+145	119%
Industry member	47	50	+3	106%
Associate member	73	70	-3	96%
Retired member	52	50	-2	96%
Honorary member	6	6	0	100%
TOTAL	2,466	2621	+155	106%

BNA Local Groups: The BNA has a national network of Local Groups (LGs) each headed by a Local Group Representative (LGR). Many groups also have one or more Local Group Student Representatives (LGSRs). This network enables two-way communication between members and the BNA Council, provides local hubs for members, and an important way for members to connect with colleagues near and far. The LGRs do a great deal to help the BNA connect and support neuroscientists, and the Association is very grateful for their work.

During YE2022, the LG network received a boost thanks to appointing a new full time member of staff as 'BNA Community and Inclusion Officer', with a particular focus on supporting the BNA community of members. In September 2022, the LGRs and LGSRs met in Leicester for a Local Group Forum, the first time they were able to meet in-person for since before the pandemic. Amongst other activities, the day enabled a discussion on the teaching of neuroscience, something which has changed radically over the last two years. sharing experience and best practice in this way is hugely valuable for the community. aAlongside the in-person meeting, the online monthly meetings of LGRs have also continued.

LGs can apply for BNA funding to support local activities which help promote the aims and objectives in the BNA. LG activities taking place during YE2021 included:

- Cambridge: Science communication workshop
- Imperial College London: Online seminar series 'Corpus Curiosum'
- Liverpool: Christmas symposium 'The gut-brain axis'
- Nottingham: Special meeting held at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Forum in Paris, France
- Open University: Seminar funding
- Strathclyde: European Neuroscience Conference by Doctoral Students

In addition, special funding was made available to LGs in this reporting period, following the last-minute cancellation of the large Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in the United States. This meeting is extremely important for, in particular, students and early career neuroscientists, and its late cancellation was detrimental for them both financially and for career development. The BNA therefore made funds available so that LGs could hold group gatherings and enable those who had been affected by the cancellation to at least have a local audience for posters and talks. A number of these special meetings were held across the UK and proved very popular, with some LGs in Northwest England now planning to hold a regional meeting annually.

Connecting with industry ('Building Bridges Between: Industry and Academia' (BBB)): Our strategic programme to increase connections between neuroscience in these two sectors continues to strengthen and grow. Four highlights of this programme of work during the reporting period are as follows:

1) Improving translation in neuroscience workshop – 11th May 2022 | London, UK
   This was the first in-person event held by the BNA since March 2020. In a quirk of circumstance, both last and first meetings were held in the same place: the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre in London, with whom the BNA has a strong collaboration.
   The workshop saw over 100 people come together to discuss how to build bridges that enable successful translation of research between industry and academia. Talks, breakout sessions, chaired panel discussion and all-important socialising facilitated valuable interaction of research neuroscientists at all career stages with people working in the commercial sector, as well as funders such as Wellcome and the UK Dementia Research Institute.

2) Webinar series: Building bridges along the psychiatric drug discovery pipeline
   Held in collaboration with The Psychiatry Consortium, this series of five online webinars looked at how to make psychiatric drug discovery a truly collaborative process. All too often industry and academia work in isolation of each other and only building alliances at a later stage when necessary. Building cross-disciplinary partnerships earlier in the process can take a project in a whole new direction. The series brought together multiple different voices and perspectives to explore how to do this better.

3) Publication of 'Guiding Principles for Robust Target Validation in Psychiatry'
   Published in partnership with the Psychiatry Consortium, this seven-page document helps people navigate the early stages of drug discovery - target identification and target validation –

and improve understanding of, and treatment of, psychiatric disorders.

4) Annual partnership models
During YE2022, the BNA built on learnings from the previous year about how best to work with commercial partners, and both developed and launched an 'annual partnership' model. Annual partnerships consist of bespoke packages of promotional opportunities, joint webinars and other activities that are mutually beneficial for BNA members and the specific partner, such as career development events or data hackathons. Importantly, the annual partnerships have also generated a new income stream for the BNA.

BNA Meetings: Bringing people together via events is essential for the BNA to fulfil its aim to connect. Through our meetings we enable neuroscientists to connect with each other, across disciplines and geographies, and goes towards meeting our object to "disseminate information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines".

YE2022 continued to be affected by COVID-19, and so all but one of the meetings in the reporting period were held online. However, the first post-pandemic in-person meeting was held in May 2022 at the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre in London (the 'BBB' workshop on improving translation in neuroscience, see above).

The largest meeting of the year was also a first for the BNA: a members-only event, intentionally exclusive to BNA members to encourage open sharing in a supportive and safe online environment. Held over two days, an astonishing 42 speakers took part, talking about everything rom learning in worms to gambling addiction, and from brain organoids to developing drugs for migraines. There was also a special session on women in neuroscience. The Members' Meeting was warmly received, and we plan to hold again in years between the biennial Festival of Neuroscience.

A list of all meetings held through the reporting period is as follows:

- 6th October 2021 – Embracing digital transformation without alienating the membership
- 12th October 2021 - Brain Gain: How world-leading UK neuroscience research can meet tomorrow's societal challenges (an event held for the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee)
- 9th and 23rd November 2021; 22nd February, 8th and 22nd March - Building bridges along the psychiatric drug discovery pipeline (a series of five webinars for the BBB initiative – see more above)
- 10th December 2021 – FORUM Networking event: Understanding chronic pain - a joint event that brought together researchers, clinicians, regulators, and people with lived experience. Recommendations from the event were subsequently written up as report by the Academy of Medical Sciences.
- 13th December 2021 – Festive symposium, 'Ding dong merrily on AI'
- 27th-28th April 2022 – BNA Members' Meeting
- 11th May 2022 – Improving translation in neuroscience (a BBB workshop, see above)
- 25th May 2022 – Using stem cells to explore the genetics underlying brain disease (joint with Biotechne/Tocris)
- 9th June 2022 – Introduction to multicell patch clamp recordings (joint with Scientifica)
- 16th June 2022 - Introduction to in vivo multiphoton microscopy (joint with Scientifica)

- 17th June 2022 – Careers for neuroscientists in AI (with Arca Blanca)
- 14th , 20th, and 28th July - Credibility lunchbox: in vivo neuroscience (series of webinars)

Membership of societies: The BNA is a member of three organisations which make sure the BNA membership is part of a larger voice. Membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) connects us with all the life sciences across the UK. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) enables the BNA and BNA members to be part of European neuroscience, and membership of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) connects the BNA with the global community.

Of the three organisations, the BNA is most actively involved in FENS. The BNA is a member of the FENS Governing Council, and was represented at FENS meetings through the year. This included attendance of the 2022 FENS Forum, in Paris, France. The BNA president and president-elect both took part and a large gathering of BNA members got together for a members' social. BNA CE represented the Association at the Governing Council and spoke on the BNA Scholars Programme (see more in Aim 3).

Aim 3: Influence

As the largest UK-based organisation representing neuroscience and neuroscientists, the BNA is in position to influence the sector, decision-makers, and neuroscientists themselves. Having influence is central in fulfilling two of the Association's objects: (c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease; and (f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

Our main areas of activity in the area of 'influence' are listed below.

Credibility in neuroscience: We are now three years into our core campaign to, "support the neuroscience sector to increase the transparency, reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience research". The credibility in neuroscience campaign requires the BNA to influence both ways: to influence neuroscientists and how neuroscience is done, but also to influence the organisations and environment in which neuroscientists operate, so that the way neuroscience is done is able to change. Some key achievements during the reporting period:

- Parliamentary enquiry on the Future Research Assessment Programme (FRAP): This piece of work was initiated at the request of government ministers and funding bodies in order to 'explore possible approaches to the assessment of uk higher education research performance'. The current approach is via REF (Research Excellence Framework) which has been widely criticised for how it can set up goals and rewards that work to counter credible practices. It was therefore key to our credibility in neuroscience campaign to provide evidence for FRAP. Views were sought and data collected through the summer of 2022 and submitted to the enquiry late in the reporting period.
- Westminster enquiry into research reproducibility: The BNA credibility campaign responded to this enquiry by highlighting some of the reproducibility challenges within neuroscience, and made recommendations on tackling them with practices such as preregistering studies, creating new publishing models so that the emphasis moves away from novel results and more towards

complete reporting free from biases, changing incentive structures in research, and changing hiring practices so that they value reproducibility and Open Science.

- Credibility in neuroscience events: In YE2022 these included -
    - 12th April 2021: Workshop 'Using R'
    - 13th April 2021: BeIncredible with the Credibility prize winners
    - 14th April 2021: Factor Friction – How do we move away from Journal Impact Factor whilst it remains valued by neuroscientists?
    - 8th July 2021: Reproducible research using stem cell derived neurons and organoids
    - 15th July 2021: How we can make 3D models more reproducible
    - 21st July 2021: Careers in neuroscience (and beyond!)
    - 22nd July 2021: Human stem cell models of neurodegeneration: complex, relevant and robust
- Awarding Credibility in Neuroscience prizes: One way to change how neuroscience is done is to change what is recognised and celebrated in neuroscience, and for this purpose we run the BNA Credibility in Neuroscience prizes. The prize has three categories: student, researcher and team.
- BNA journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*: Our journal is one of only a handful of journals worldwide to cover the full range of open science practices – being Gold Open Access, offering Registered Reports, CRediT taxonomy, Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines and Badges for Open Practices - in addition to being open access itself. In October 2021, the journal also became a memer of the 'Peer Community In Registered Reports' initiative.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience: The role the BNA has in this space continues to grow, and the Association is committed to influencing and increasing EDI in our sector.

The most significant piece of work in terms of resources (financial, staff, and volunteer time) is running the BNA Scholars Programme. Going into its second year during YE2022, the programme welcomed a further seven scholars meaning that it supported fourteen students and Early Career Researchers from under-represented ethnic groups to flourish in neuroscience. With more momentum, supporters and being able to meet in person, activities for the scholars were able to expand and included: a bespoke careers day at COMPASS Pathways; attendance of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Forum in Paris; one-to-one mentorship of all scholars.

It is important to also advocate for change in the institutions and systems that can continue to discriminate against individuals due to sex, ethnicity, disability, wealth, background or other characteristics that make up who we are, and the BNA will continue to contribute to change in neuroscience wherever it can. In response to an inquiry of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, asking about the implications of a lack of diversity in research and considering measures taken to improve diversity within the field thus far, the BNA therefore submitted in which we presented data collected in recent years on diversity within neuroscience research. These were particularly informed by our 2021 Festival which, having been held online, gave us a much larger and comprehensive snapshot sample of the neuroscience research community.

The data we presented indicate an underrepresentation of black groups in neuroscience research compared to the general population, and that representation of ethnic minority groups, women and people who identify as non-binary decreases with seniority of research role. We also supported evidence submitted by our Trustee for Research Policy, Narender Ramnani, in which data from Freedom

of Information requests enabled a deep and thorough analysis of ethnic minority representation on Research Councils' committees, revealing persistent underrepresentation over the last five years.

Other EDI activities included a spotlight on 'Women in Neuroscience' at the Members' Meeting via a dedicated panel session, and we have continued to award 'Carer Grants' (supported by the Guarantors of Brain) which enable those with caring responsibilities to participate in neuroscience activities by e.g. paying for childcare or help for elderly relatives.

A voice in Parliament: The BNA is a member of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (P&SC). This committee is an interface between scientists and parliamentarians and provides opportunities for the BNA to inform decision-making that takes place in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and enables us to raise awareness of issues that we feel are important for neuroscientists. The BNA was represented at P&SC meetings throughout the year.

A highlight of the year was holding an event for parliamentarians, members, funders and other stakeholders. Entitled, "Brain Gain: How world-leading UK neuroscience research can meet tomorrow's societal challenges" the online event raised the profile of neuroscience, and highlighted to decision-makers its importance in helping tackle the UK's big health challenges. The event was very well-attended and subsequently reported in the publication for MPs 'Science in Parliament'.

Post-Brexit neuroscience - bringing together the European neuroscience community on UK membership of Horizon Europe: In response to the ongoing delays in the UK and EU agreeing UK associate membership of the EU's world-leading research and innovation Horizon Europe programme, the BNA coordinated a letter from 34 presidents of member organisations of FENS urging the President of the European Commission, Dr Ursula von der Leyen, to confirm UK membership to help keep European neuroscience collaboration open. This represented a united message highlighting concerns the European neuroscience community have over the current delay of UK association to Horizon Europe. The letter, while not resolving the UK Horizon Europe issue, helped add to the pressure exerted by the research sector around Horizon Europe during a period of significant political uncertainty at a UK level.

Green neuroscience: A new policy area for the BNA is that of the environmental sustainability of neuroscience research, or 'green neuroscience'. Following discussions at the BNA*2021* Festival of Neuroscience, a new Green Neuroscience Working Group was formed with four main areas of activity: (1) making sure the way the BNA itself is as environmentally responsible as possible; (2) reducing the impact of neuroscience research;(3) encouraging change at institutional level and (4) supporting individuals to make changes to reduce their own environmental impact.

Animals in Research: The BNA continues to be committed to openness on the use of animals in research and is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. We are an active member of the RSB Animal Science Group, a special interest group representing the broad spectrum of UK bodies actively involved in supporting, funding, or formulating policy on research involving animals.

BNA prizes: Last but by no means least, another way of influencing neuroscience is by recognising and celebrating its achievements. Winners of the BNA's annual prizes in YE2022 were as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience 2021: Professor Joanna Wardlaw at the UK Dementia Research Institute at University of Edinburgh.

- Public Engagement of Neuroscience 2021: The BrainBus team, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge
- Postgraduate award 2021: Alberto Lazari, University of Oxford
- Undergraduate Award 2021: Sioned Williams, University of Leeds
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (student): Fiona Ramage (University of Dundee)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (researcher): Matthew Grubb (King's College London)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (Team): Experimental Design Assistant development team (NC3Rs)
- Honorary Membership: Awarded to Professor Narender Ramnani, in recognition of his many years of service to the BNA

Plans for 2022/23 (YE2023)

The strategic pillars of the BNA remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence', with the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' continuing as our core 5-10 year commitment underlying all our activities.

At the start of YE2023, priorities are as follows:

1. Appointing a new Chief Executive (CE): At the time of writing, the current CE (Anne Cooke) will leave the position after 7.5 years in the role. A major priority for the BNA is therefore managing the transition to the new CE (who has recently been identified) and taking advantage of new leadership to capitalise on the BNA's secure position to facilitate greater growth and success.

2. Professionalising the sector: At present, there are no agreed, universal standards for undergraduate or postgraduate neuroscience courses to meet, making the quality of courses range widely and meaning future neuroscientists have no way of identifying ones that will provide a good grounding for their career. As the leading professional organisation for neuroscience, we plan to establish a way of assessing and endorsing neuroscience courses.

3. Including and catering for clinical neuroscientists: We wish to improve how we include those individuals who are both clinically trained and have research interests in neuroscience, across the three main specialities of neurology, psychiatry and psychology.

4. Providing career development advice and opportunities: with an ever-growing membership of students and early career researchers, the BNA is in a unique position to provide them with connections and opportunities beyond their own institutions and across the sector.

5. Reaching a wider audience: We know from surveys and anecdotally that many people who could be a member of the BNA, do not know about the Association nor what we do. We will seek to address this by investing in marketing and communications during YE2023.

6. Further strengthening collaboration between academic and commercial sectors: The BNA has taken great strides in building links between the sectors via its 'BBB' programme. It is now poised and ready to take this to the next level, as well as broaden into more medtech as well as pharmaceutical areas of industry.

Review of financial position

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial review

During the financial year ending 30th September 2022 the BNA's total income was £407,416. Expenditure, which was wholly on charitable activities to advance education in neuroscience, was £319,236; after taking account of net losses on investments, the net movement in funds was a surplus of £54,121.

The net reserves carried forward was £597,731. Of this, around £85,000 is held in restricted funds, committed largely to (1) delivering activities associated with funding from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and (2) supporting the BNA's equity, diversity and inclusion work.

Funding has and will continue to be used to support the BNA Trustees' ten-year strategic plan, in particular the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' campaign, but also other activities which meet the aims to 'Inform, Connect and Influence'.

The BNA remains in a stable financial position to sustain itself and to meet its charitable objectives.

.c. Reserves policy

The BNA's reserves policy states that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure, where one year's expenditure is calculated on the basis of:

- 12 months' overheads of British Neuroscience Association Ltd
- 12 months' direct expenses of British Neuroscience Association Ltd, where direct expenses include bursaries and grants, Bulletin production, subscriptions, and education/outreach work
- 12 months' overheads of BNA Events Ltd (averaged over a two-year period.)
- 12 months' direct expenses of BNA Events Ltd, where direct expenses relate to costs of the biennial Festival of Neuroscience (averaged over a two-year period.)

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in revenue, they will be able to continue the Association's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and/or costs can be reduced. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of each accounting year.

d. Principal funding

The main sources of income for the BNA in Year End 2022 were membership subscriptions (£100k), dividend received from the BNA's subsidiary company, BNA Events Ltd (£98.5k) and grants and donations (£207.7k, with £150k of this from The Gatsby Charitable Foundation). Overall, around half the BNA's principal funding is from membership and events, and half from donations.

e. Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by Article 5 in the Articles of Association. This permits the Charity to deposit or invest funds in securities or property as may be thought fit in order to further its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

During YE2022, the Trustees made the decision that the BNA should not invest in activities associated with gambling. This is in addition the previous year's decision to not hold more than a total of 5% investments in tobacco, alcohol, or firearms (combined). The target is to reduce such investments to 0%.

The Trustees' policy for YE2022 will be to continue to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments, and continue to manage the charity's investments in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Company is registered as a charity under the registration number 1103852.

The BNA is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and accompanying set of Rules. These were revised during the period of the previous report, and the new documents approved by the Charity Commission in June 2017. No changes have been made to governing articles since then.

b. Organisational structure

The British Neuroscience Association is a membership organisation, with seven membership categories (defined in the Rules), plus a number of Honorary members. With the exception of Associate members, all members have voting rights on the principle of "one member, one vote", which is exercised at the Annual General Meetings (detailed in Articles 15-27).

The association has 39 Local Groups (Rule 5), that provide for a national network between members and the Association's governance team.

The BNA is governed by a Council of Trustees, comprising between seven and twelve members of the Association (Article 29). Non-Trustee positions on the Council include the Meetings Secretary, other co-opted members for specific functions and other invited observers or advisors, for example the Neurology Advisor. The specific procedures for the appointment and retirement of the Trustees are detailed in the Articles (32-35).

To help with discharging the activities of the Association, the BNA has also a National Advisory Committee (formerly "The National Committee") whose role is to represent different demographics and interests within the Association's membership (Rule 4).

Supporting all activities and needs of the Council, Committee, and general membership is the BNA Executive. During the year this consisted of one full time and three part-time staff members.

c. Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

To help with this the BNA has a Risk Register. Conflict of Interest (Rules 8 and 9) and a Register of Interests. BNA has a specific Declaration of Interests form, that is completed by all members of the Council and Committee of the BNA.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of British Neuroscience Association Limited 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 law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reference and administrative details

Members of BNA Council (on 30th September 2022)

- *Professor R. Henson (President, and Officer) appointed April 2021
- *Professor Z. Kourtzi (Association Secretary, & Officer) elected January 2019
- *Dr T.Bushell (Treasurer and Officer) elected May 2022
- *Professor T. Spires-Jones (President Elect) appointed April 2021
- *Professor A. Dolphin (Immediate Past President) appointed April 2021
- *Dr V. Straub (Groups Co-ordinator) elected May 2020
- *Professor C.Bird (Research Policy) elected May 2022
- *Professor M.Walton (Preclinical neuroscience) elected May 2022
- *Dr M.Ashby (Credibility in Neuroscience) elected May 2022
- *Dr M Berners, (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Dr K P Cox, (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Professor A M Palmer, (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- Professor S Guthrie (Meetings Secretary) appointed October 2019
- Professor D Beccano-Kelly (Meetings Secretary) appointed October 2021

* Trustee position

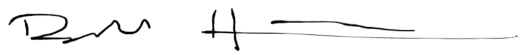
Members of the National Committee

- Dr C Winlove (Education & Outreach Secretary) Elected Sept 2018
- E Soopramanien (Students & Early Career Representative) Elected June 2020
- Dr E Yhnell (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative) Elected February 2019
- Dr C. Carroll - Clinical Scientist Representative for Neurology Appointed May 2022
- Professor S Abrahams - Clinical Scientist Rep for Psychology Appointed May 2022
- Dr L Sinclair - Clinical Scientist Representative for Psychiatry Appointed May 2022

Executive

- Alex Campbell (Head of Marketing and Communications)
- Joseph Clift (Head of Policy and Campaigns)
- Anne Cooke (Chief Executive)
- Sophie Jerrold (Development Director)
- Hannah Thurgur (Executive Officer) – resigned January 2022
- Louise Tratt (Head of Meetings and Events)
- Dani Wijesinghe (Community and Inclusion Officer) – appointed March 2022

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



……

Professor R N A Henson
Chair

Date: 04-05-23

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Neuroscience Association Limited ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Signed: Martin Bailey Dated: 04-05-23

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	**4,558**	**203,143**	**207,701**	*65,046*
Charitable activities	5	**101,222**	**-**	**101,222**	*98,224*
Investments	6	**98,493**	**-**	**98,493**	*227*
Total income		**204,273**	**203,143**	**407,416**	*163,497*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	**149,939**	**169,297**	**319,236**	*250,750*
Total expenditure		**149,939**	**169,297**	**319,236**	*250,750*
Net income/(expenditure) before net (losses)/gains on investments		**54,334**	**33,846**	**88,180**	*(87,253)*
Net (losses)/gains on investments		**(34,059)**	**-**	**(34,059)**	*62,111*
Net movement in funds		**20,275**	**33,846**	**54,121**	*(25,142)*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**491,954**	**51,656**	**543,610**	*568,752*
Net movement in funds		**20,275**	**33,846**	**54,121**	*(25,142)*
Total funds carried forward		**512,229**	**85,502**	**597,731**	*543,610*

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04307833

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Note		2022 £		*2021* *£*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		**1,353**		*1,803*
Investments	12		**329,220**		*363,279*
			330,573		*365,082*
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**57,722**		*82,895*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**229,129**		*106,995*	
		286,851		*189,890*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(19,693)**		*(11,362)*	
Net current assets			**267,158**		*178,528*
Total assets less current liabilities			**597,731**		*543,610*
Total net assets			**597,731**		*543,610*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	15		**85,502**		*51,656*
Unrestricted funds	15		**512,229**		*491,954*
Total funds			**597,731**		*543,610*

The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Professor R Henson
President

Date: 04-05-23

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

1. General information

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a Charitable Company Registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered the future plans of the Charity and expected income, and it is deemed that the Charity can meet its commitments and liabilities and can continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the 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 objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service. Membership fees are recongised in the period to which they relate.

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

Grants, including government grants, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset’s use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

2.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.13 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. No estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year have been identified.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Donations	4,558	203,143	**207,701**	*63,312*
Government grants	-	-	**-**	*1,734*
	4,558	203,143	**207,701**	*65,046*
Total 2021	*44,880*	*20,166*	*65,046*	

Government grants in the prior year represents monies received under the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Support Scheme.

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Subscriptions and Bulletin advertising	101,222	**101,222**	*98,224*
Total 2021	*98,224*	*98,224*	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Dividend income	98,275	**98,275**	-
Bank interest	218	**218**	*227*
	98,493	**98,493**	*227*
Total 2021	*227*	*227*	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	*Total 2021 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	149,939	169,297	**319,236**	*250,750*
Total 2021	*115,690*	*135,060*	*250,750*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	209,517	109,719	**319,236**	*250,750*
Total 2021	*170,347*	*80,403*	*250,750*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Staff costs	126,108	**126,108**	*122,302*
Bulletin production	24,513	**24,513**	*27,797*
Bursaries and sponsorship	8,151	**8,151**	*2,436*
Gatsby project costs	34,692	**34,692**	*4,407*
Subscriptions and membership	7,556	**7,556**	*5,054*
Advertising	1,600	**1,600**	*1,750*
Travel	1,653	**1,653**	*1,153*
Printing, postage and stationery	768	**768**	*811*
Journal production	4,476	**4,476**	*4,637*
	209,517	**209,517**	*170,347*
Total 2021	*170,347*	*170,347*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	*Total funds 2021 £*
Staff costs	82,735	**82,735**	*67,390*
Depreciation	450	**450**	*450*
Advertising	866	**866**	*605*
Travel	6,727	**6,727**	*72*
Printing, postage and stationery	110	**110**	*131*
Telephone	600	**600**	*635*
Website development	3,872	**3,872**	*(1,870)*
Professional fees	7,693	**7,693**	*7,267*
Insurance	1,090	**1,090**	*707*
Bank charges	2,825	**2,825**	*3,086*
Sundry	751	**751**	*355*
Governance	2,000	**2,000**	*2,000*
Bad debt	-	**-**	*(425)*
	109,719	**109,719**	*80,403*
Total 2021	*80,403*	*80,403*	

Governance costs represent accountancy and independent examination fees.

9. Staff costs

	2022 £	*2021 £*
Wages and salaries	**185,282**	*169,913*
Social security costs	**14,850**	*12,158*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**8,711**	*7,621*
	208,843	*189,692*

9. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	*2021* *No.*
Employees	**6**	*6*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total remuneration, including employer's national insurance and pension contributions, in respect of key management personnel totalled £58,717 (2021: £56,546).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2021 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 30 September 2022, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2021 - £NIL* to 0 Trustees*)*.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2021	**4,355**
At 30 September 2022	**4,355**
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2021	**2,552**
Charge for the year	**450**
At 30 September 2022	**3,002**
Net book value	
At 30 September 2022	**1,353**
At 30 September 2021	*1,803*

12. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 October 2021	**100**	**363,179**	**363,279**
Revaluations	**-**	**(34,059)**	**(34,059)**
At 30 September 2022	**100**	**329,120**	**329,220**
Net book value			
At 30 September 2022	**100**	**329,120**	**329,220**
At 30 September 2021	*100*	*363,179*	*363,279*

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
BNA Events Limited	07784689	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
BNA Events Limited	**41,304**	**41,621**

13. Debtors

	2022 £	*2021* *£*
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**13,342**	*32,409*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**41,742**	*48,376*
Other debtors	**11**	*496*
Prepayments and accrued income	**2,627**	*1,614*
	57,722	*82,895*

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	*2021* *£*
Trade creditors	**5,962**	*601*
PAYE and social security	**1**	*-*
Accruals and deferred income	**13,730**	*10,761*
	19,693	*11,362*

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**491,954**	**216,873**	**(149,939)**	**(34,059)**	**524,829**
Unallocated amounts	**-**	**(12,600)**	**-**	**-**	**(12,600)**
	491,954	**204,273**	**(149,939)**	**(34,059)**	**512,229**
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	**6,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,500**
Journal fund	**-**	**4,776**	**(4,476)**	**-**	**300**
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	**35,364**	**150,000**	**(134,287)**	**-**	**51,077**
Guarantors of Brain	**9,792**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**9,792**
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	**-**	**48,367**	**(30,534)**	**-**	**17,833**
	51,656	**203,143**	**(169,297)**	**-**	**85,502**
Total funds	**543,610**	**407,416**	**(319,236)**	**(34,059)**	**597,731**

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2020 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 30 September 2021* £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*402,202*	*143,331*	*(115,690)*	*62,111*	*491,954*
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	*6,500*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*6,500*
Journal fund	*3,104*	*4,637*	*(7,741)*	*-*	*-*
Society for Neuroscience	*506*	*-*	*(506)*	*-*	*-*
Roche Products	*5,855*	*-*	*(5,855)*	*-*	*-*
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	*150,585*	*-*	*(115,221)*	*-*	*35,364*
Guarantors of Brain	*-*	*10,000*	*(208)*	*-*	*9,792*
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	*-*	*5,529*	*(5,529)*	*-*	*-*
	166,550	*20,166*	*(135,060)*	*-*	*51,656*
Total funds	*568,752*	*20,166*	*(250,750)*	*62,111*	*543,610*

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Wolstencroft fund - for expenses in regard to a lecture on 'Outstanding Neuroscience' at the biennial BNA Festival.

Journal fund - for editing and general running of the journal.

Society for Neuroscience - for the Core Concepts education project.

Roche Products - to support the continued teaching of neuroscience in UK schools.

Gatsby Charitable Foundation - to support the implementation of the BNA's new strategic plan.

Guarantors of Brain (2021) - funding for Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education

Guarantors of Brain (2020) - funding for BNA's Brain Carer grants programme. The transfer represents expenditure incurred in the prior year in advance of the income being received but originally allocated to unrestricted funds.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) - funding to support Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education from IBRO, MSD, and Wellcome.

Thriplow Trust

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,353	-	**1,353**
Fixed asset investments	329,220	-	**329,220**
Current assets	211,088	75,763	**286,851**
Creditors due within one year	(16,832)	(2,861)	**(19,693)**
Difference	(12,600)	12,600	**-**
Total	512,229	85,502	**597,731**

16. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	*Restricted funds 2021* £	*Total funds 2021* £
Tangible fixed assets	*1,803*	*-*	*1,803*
Fixed asset investments	*363,279*	*-*	*363,279*
Current assets	*133,334*	*56,556*	*189,890*
Creditors due within one year	*(6,462)*	*(4,900)*	*(11,362)*
Total	*491,954*	*51,656*	*543,610*

17. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £8,711 (2021: £7,621). Contributions of £nil (2021: £nil) were owed to the fund at the balance sheet date.

18. Related party transactions

At 30 September 2022, British Neuroscience Association Limited was owed £41,742 (2021: £48,376) by BNA Events Limited, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Other than disclosed above or elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1103852

Accounts

Registered number: 04307833
Charity number: 1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 15
Independent Examiner's Report	16
Statement of Financial Activities	17
Balance Sheet	18 - 19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 - 33

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

Trustees

1.	Professor R. Henson (President, and Officer)	appointed April 2021
2.	Professor Z. Kourtzi (Association Secretary, and Officer)	elected January 2019
3.	Professor C. Harmer (Treasurer and Officer)	elected June 2017
4.	Professor Tara Spires-Jones (President Elect)	appointed April 2021
5.	Professor A. Dolphin (Immediate Past President)	appointed April 2021
6.	Dr V. Straub (Groups Co-ordinator)	elected May 2020
7.	Professor N. Ramnani (Research Policy)	elected June 2017
8.	Professor A. Lingford-Hughes (Professional Liaison)	elected June 2017
9.	Professor A. Isles (Communications)	elected June 2017
10.	Dr M Berners, (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
11.	Dr K P Cox, (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
12.	Professor A M Palmer, (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
13.	Professor S L Lightman,(Independent Trustee)	resigned April 2021

Company registered number
04307833

Charity registered number
1103852

Registered office

The BNA Office
Dorothy Hodgkin Building
Whitson Street
Bristol BS1 3NY

Accountants
Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London W1T 6LQ

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)
TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2021. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Our vision and purpose:

The BNA is a membership organisation committed to preserve and protect health and advance public engagement in neuroscience, through supporting, promoting and representing neuroscientists and neuroscience research.

Our objects:

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Articles of the Association (Article 4) and in the Rules of the Association (Rule 1.3), both documents coming into force in April 2017, are:

To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease, in particular but not exclusively) by:

(a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease;

(b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers;

(c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease;

(d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease;

(e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research;

(f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our aims:

We have three interconnected aims that are central to achieving our vision and purpose, and are the means by which we deliver our objectives: these are to **Inform, Connect, and Influence.** The aims to *Inform, Connect and Influence*, were arrived at through a series of strategic workshops and engagement with members, and they help the BNA Council and Committee to direct activities throughout the year.

Message from the Chair and Chief Executive October 2020-September 2021

If the previous Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) for the year ending 2020 was unprecedented, then this report for the year ending 2021 is unprecedented as well. Last year (YE2020) we reported on how the global pandemic of COVID19 had disrupted our plans for a full six months of the twelve-month period: this year, in a way that no-one could have fully predicted, it has impacted all twelve months of the year. Nevertheless, we are relieved and proud to say that the British Neuroscience Association (BNA) has not only shown resilience but in fact risen to the challenge and grown in new ways.

As in previous reports, below we review each of our overarching aims in turn – Inform, Connect, Influence – and how we have worked to meet them. Delivering all three of these aims when travel restrictions and working lives have prevented meeting in person has required flexibility and fully embracing online tools at our disposal.

The major challenge for the BNA during YE2021 was creating a successful Festival of Neuroscience. This biennial event would, in normal times, would be the focal point for delivering all three of our aims as well as a key source of income. It was therefore imperative to convert a four-day, in-person event to an online one instead. With a lot of hard work, creativity, and the support of the whole BNA community behind it, we're pleased to report that the 2021 Festival turned out to be a resounding success. We are very grateful to all those who took part and helped us to continue influencing, informing and connecting.

Although the Festival dominates the BNA year, there were plenty of other activities as well. Highlights amongst them were the launch of a new 'BNA Scholars Programme', establishing a strong and flourishing partnership with 'The Psychiatry Consortium', having the first 'Registered Report' published in the BNA journal, and running the inaugural BNA 'Credibility in Neuroscience' prizes.

At the end of the current reporting period (September 2021), after a whole year of socially distanced and online life, it remains uncertain when the BNA will be able to hold in-person activities again. Moreover, when that time does come, it will inevitably bring yet another new challenge of how to maintain the benefits of online (greater accessibility, wider reach, lower impact on climate change) alongside benefits to be had from meeting in person (career opportunities for our early career members being especially important here). However, if nothing else, the previous two years have demonstrated that the BNA is adept at embracing change! We're confident that the Association is in a strong position and will always find a way to deliver the charity's mission and aims.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Aim 1: Inform

Scientific Journal: Our scientific journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*, is the platform through which we inform the profession about the latest neuroscience research. Following the Journal's successful indexing in PubMed Central (PMC) in April 2020, all articles are included on PMC's searchable database, giving wide visibility and availability worldwide. In addition, the fact that the Journal is Gold Open Access means all content is completely accessible by readers free of charge. The journal is published by Sage and wholly owned by the BNA, and continues to benefit from excellent leadership by Editor-in-Chief Jeff Dalley along with an international editorial board.

Highlights over the reporting period include:

1. The publication of the journal's first Registered Report (RR). This is a new publishing format, having been proposed in 2012 and the first RRs published in 2014, and is designed to reduce bias and improve reproducibility of research. With the BNA's Journal being integral to our commitments for 'Credibility in Neuroscience' (see 'influence', below) having RR included in its archive is a key milestone.
2. Publication of 'Ratlas', an atlas of the rat brain that was developed to revolutionise and support experiments on the health and disorders of brain function. Unlike other rat brain atlases, Ratlas represents a close likeness to the brains of the rats most commonly used in UK neuroscience research, the Lister hooded rat. It is also in a digital and user-friendly format. Because the BNA journal hosts this as a freely accessible resource, Ratlas is helping to minimise duplication of laborious pilot work across different laboratories, and helping reduce the number of animals used for such work.

The number of articles published in the journal between 1st Oct 2020 – 30th Sept 2021 was as follows:

- 1 Registered Report
- 8 Original Research articles
- 8 Review articles
- 1 Editorial
- 1 Book of abstracts

Informing members: As a membership organisation, keeping our members informed is essential.

Our printed members' newsletter, The *BNA Bulletin*, is sent out three times a year and informs members about events, prizes, news from the BNA, funders or regulators, and activities across the BNA community, as well as highlighting research undertaken by members. *Brain Insights* is a section within the *Bulletin* written by and for students and Early Career Researchers. During this reporting period, there has been particular focus on developing *Brain Insights* as a valuable opportunity for early career scientists to gain writing experience, and is an increasingly important part of the BNA membership offering.

Alongside the *Bulletin* members receive a monthly email newsletter, the eBulletin. Social media platforms are also now very important ways to keep our members informed, as they enable immediate, specific and direct interaction between the BNA office and our wider community (see more below).

Online communications: The website continues to be a well-used resource for informing visitors about neuroscience, particularly information about neuroscience training, jobs and careers. The BNA's social media platforms also continue to prove very useful in communicating, informing and engaging with both neuroscientists and members of the public.

Both the website and social media makes the BNA readily accessible to members of the public, and the office receives enquiries from journalists, patients, prospective students and more.

During 2020-2021 the website attracted 154,000 users and 486,000 page views. This compares to 151,000 users with 488,000 page views in the period 2018-2019. Information on careers consistently remains the most used section of the site, showing how the BNA is used as a way to find out how to study and pursue a career in neuroscience, although the 2021 Festival also attracted a significant amount of traffic. As anticipated, most visitors are from the UK (53%), with the next highest countries being United States (15%), India (3%), and Canada, the Netherlands, China and Germany all around 2%.

By the end of this reporting period, the BNA had 30k (Twitter), 14.8k (Facebook), 10.8k (LinkedIn), 2.4k (Instagram) and 2.4k (YouTube) followers across social media channels.

Public engagement of neuroscience: Our main public engagement activity during this reporting period was the 'Bring Your Own Brain' (BYOB) programme held in April 2021. This was a set of eight different online activities, engaging with a range of audiences, exploring different aspects of neuroscience. Of particular note was the webinar 'Behind the scenes of a primate lab', for which an analysis of audience views was undertaken and subsequently published in Nature Neuroscience (Mendez, J.C., Perry, B.A.L., Heppenstall, R.J. et al. Openness about animal research increases public support. Nat Neurosci 25, 401–403 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-022-01039-z)

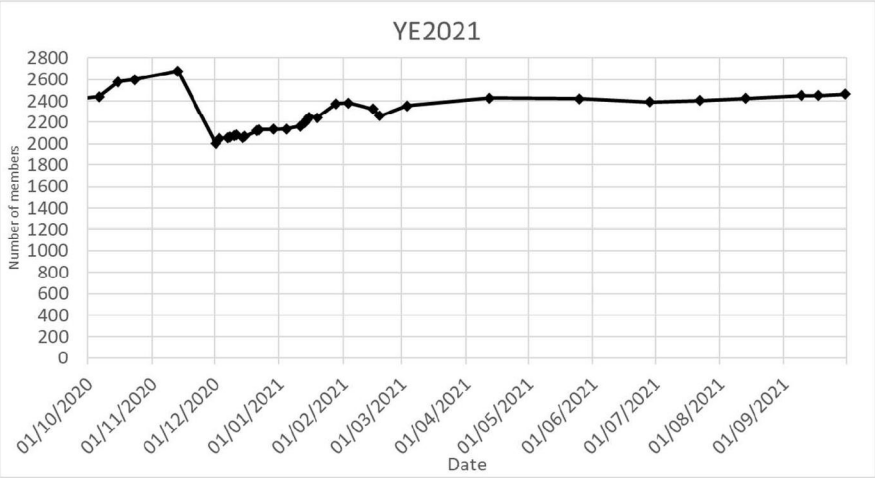
- Webinar for kids: Make your own neuron!
- Detangling the knots: an exhibition and talk about dementia where science and art meet
- Music Consciousness: what synaesthesia tells us about emotions and visualisation of senses?
- The neuroscience of mindfulness, with Ruby Wax and Ash Ranpura
- My depression, your depression - same name, different stories
- Behind the scenes of a primate lab
- 'The Sensational Brain!' with Sai Pathmanathan
- Claudia Hammond on 'The art and neuroscience of rest'

The BNA's 2020 annual Festive symposium was always designed to be accessible by members of the public as well as neuroscientists. The 2020 event was the first time this was held online, which further widened the audience: over 400 people tuned in from around the world to hear about 'The Seven Ages of (Hu)man', marking the launch of our annual theme for 2021 of the neuroscience of ageing. Furthermore, a number of speakers were interviewed by BBC Radio 4 for 'All in the mind', extending the reach even wider.

A number of activities were focused around Brain Awareness Week in March 2021. Picking up on our annual theme, we ran a series of communications, "Tips for a healthy ageing brain" throughout the week.

Aim 2: Connect

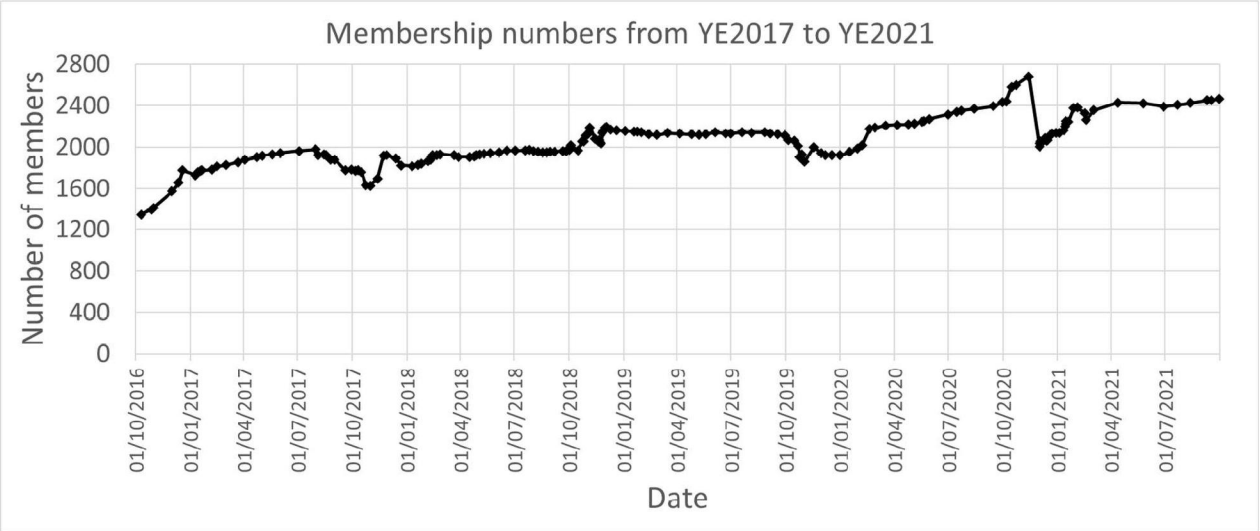
Connecting the neuroscience community through BNA membership: over the course of YE2021 we saw membership hold steady, with a change from 2,432 to 2,466 members over the course of the year (see below). Unfortunately, a technical fault with our third-party membership management provider meant that numbers recorded during September and October 2020 were incorrect, and that around 400 members failed to receive renewal reminders. Correcting this fault caused a seemingly steep fall in membership in early December 2020. We're pleased to report that, once the fault was identified and addressed, membership numbers recovered within around two months. We have also implemented internal processes to detect such errors more swiftly in future.



This growth in total membership number was largely driven by an increase in student/undergraduate members (see table below). Although this is of course welcomed, it was a concern that numbers of Postgraduate members dropped by 142. This may have been due to the lack of in-person meetings held during the reporting period, which would normally be a major reason for postgraduates to join.

	Sept 2020	Sep-21	Change	%
Full Members	583	594	+11	102%
Early Career Researchers	311	311	0	100%
Career starter	n/a	19	+19	
Postgraduate	757	615	-142	81%
Student/Undergraduate	634	749	+115	118%
Industry member	27	47	+20	174%
Associate member	67	73	+6	109%
Retired member	46	52	+6	113%
Honorary member	7	6	-1	86%
TOTAL	2,432	2,466	+34	101.4%

To put these numbers in context, the graph below shows total membership over the previous five years.



BNA Local Groups: The BNA has a national network of Local Groups (LGs) each headed by a Local Group Representative (LGR). In YE2021, the number of LGs grew from 39 to 41. This network enables two-way communication between members and the BNA Council, provides local hubs for members, and an important way for members to connect with colleagues near and far. LGRs, in some cases supported by LG Student Representatives (LGSRs), do a great deal to help the BNA connect and support neuroscientists.

During YE2021, to facilitate more frequent interaction and support amongst LGRs, a monthly online meeting was introduced. Although prompted by the inability to meet in-person, these new meetings have proved a useful contribution to the BNA and will likely continue in future.

We were delighted to see our first Northern Ireland LG established during the reporting period, based at Ulster University.

LGs can apply for BNA funding to support local activities which help promote the aims and objectives in the BNA. YE2021 saw the following LG activities take place:

- Bristol: CNS seminar series
- Cambridge: 'How to' Credibility guide
- Kings College London: Neuroscience conference
- Liverpool: Seminar and networking series, 'Starting and developing your own research group'
- Oxford: Neuroscience book club
- Strathclyde: European Neuroscience Conference by Doctoral Students
- Sussex: *In Silico* film screening
- University of Central Lancashire: 'Training Your Brain' public neuroscience activity

Connecting with industry ('Building Bridges Between: Industry and Academia'): Our strategic programme to increase connections between neuroscience in these two sectors, launched during the previous reporting period, really started to take off during YE2022. The most visible aspect of this was the high-profile events held during the 2021 Festival of Neuroscience; a workshop on how to improve translation between industry and academia in neuroscience, and a panel discussion on translational

neuroscience for mental health research, featuring well-known names in academia and in industry. Less visible but perhaps more important was the deepening of connections and trust between commercial neuroscience organisations and the BNA over this period. These connections are beginning to reap rewards in many ways, for instance expanding the careers advice and opportunities for our members, improving understanding between sectors, and creating a safe space to discuss and address challenges of translation from university laboratories to the commercial sector.

BNA Meetings: Bringing people together via events is essential for the BNA to fulfil its aim to connect. Through our meetings we enable neuroscientists to connect with each other, across disciplines and geographies, and goes towards meeting our object to "disseminate information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines".

YE2021 featured the BNA's main meeting, the Festival of Neuroscience (12-15 April 2021) which, with the ongoing pandemic situation, was held entirely online. Although challenging, the online format also opened new opportunities such as video poster presentations, ability to search for attendees with shared interests, and having talks recorded so that they could be watched at a later date. We were delighted that the online Festival attracted a very high number of attendees (1,615) and also generated a healthy profit, essential for supporting the BNA during non-Festival years.

Alongside the Festival, the following meetings were also held. All of these were online events.

- 2nd November 2020: The role of pharmaceutical science in the public eye - Credibility and the Coronaverse
- 14th December 2020: The BNA Festive symposium, 'The seven ages of (hu)man'
- 30th June 2021: Multiphoton imaging with next-generation indicators (Sponsored event)
- 8th July 2021: Reproducible research using stem cell derived neurons and organoids
- 15th July 2021: How we can make 3D models more reproducible
- 21st July 2021: Careers in neuroscience (and beyond!)
- 22nd July 2021: Human stem cell models of neurodegeneration: complex, relevant and robust

Membership of societies: The BNA is a member of three organisations which make sure the BNA membership is part of a larger voice. Membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) connects us with all the life sciences across the UK. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) enables the BNA and BNA members to be part of European neuroscience, and membership of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) connects the BNA with the global community.

Of the three organisations, the BNA is most actively involved in FENS. The BNA is a member of the FENS Governing Council, and was represented at FENS meetings through the year.

Aim 3: Influence

In YE2020 the BNA saw a step-change in its ability to influence by appointing a full-time staff member to the role of 'Head of Policy and Campaigns'. With YE2021 being the first full year with them in post, we again saw a further increase in our ability to influence the sector, decision-makers, and neuroscientists themselves. Our main areas of activity are listed below.

Credibility in neuroscience: In summary, this campaign is to, "support the neuroscience sector to increase the transparency, reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience research". It

requires the BNA to influence both ways: to influence neuroscientists and how neuroscience is done, but also to influence the organisations and environment in which neuroscientists operate, so that the way neuroscience is done is able to change. Achievements during the reporting period:

- Adoption of 'Credibility' as one of the three core values by the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS): To our knowledge, this is the first time outside of the BNA that the term 'credibility' has been used to refer to reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience, and demonstrates how the work of the BNA is influencing across the sector.
- Launch of Credibility in Neuroscience prizes: One way to change how neuroscience is done is to change what is recognised and celebrated in neuroscience, and for this purpose we launched, in January 2021, the BNA Credibility in Neuroscience prizes. The prize has three categories: student, researcher and team. All prize winners went on to take part in the Festival, talking about their work and influencing others.
- Pioneering the use of preregistration posters: Having introduced preregistration posters - a completely new way of presenting research at a science conference – at our 2019 Festival, we featured them again at the 2021 Festival. Around 20% of poster submissions chose this new format for their presentation. We have also been actively campaigning for other organisations to adopt the format, and have seen a number do so (e.g. British Association for Cognitive Neuroscience, and the International Conference of Cognitive Neuroscience).
- BNA journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*: Our journal is one of only a handful of journals worldwide to cover the full range of open science practices – being Gold Open Access, offering Registered Reports, CRediT taxonomy, Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines and Badges for Open Practices - in addition to being open access itself.
- Publication of first Registered Report: Registered Reports are an important way to support credibility, but are still very new to neuroscience. Publishing our first RR should help lead the way for others to follow.
- Cited as 'best practice' of the Hong Kong Principles for assessing researchers: These principles were formulated at the 6th World Conference on Research Integrity, and are designed to 'explicitly recognise and reward researchers for behaviour that leads to trustworthy research by avoiding questionable research practices'. The BNA is one of just three institutions used as examples of 'Best Practice' out of the 23 institutions signed up to date.
- Journal Impact Factor consultation and report: We conducted and subsequently published a survey of the neuroscience community for their views on Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and peer review. The findings showed that, despite recognition that JIF is highly problematic, there's an ongoing view that it's needed for career progression. This evidence is important in showing how cultural change underway in neuroscience, and how much more change is still required.
- Submitted evidence do Parliamentary enquiry on reproducibility in research: We submitted the evidence our JIF survey (above) to this Parliamentary enquiry, thus providing solid evidence to influence the environment in which research takes place. We also urged the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee to adopt, promote and invest in preregistration, new publishing models, training, and reforming the Research Excellence Framework.
- Credibility in neuroscience events: In YE2021 these included -
    - 12th April 2021: Workshop 'Using R'
    - 13th April 2021: BeIncredible with the Credibility prize winners

- 14th April 2021: Factor Friction – How do we move away from Journal Impact Factor whilst it remains valued by neuroscientists?
- 8th July 2021: Reproducible research using stem cell derived neurons and organoids
- 15th July 2021: How we can make 3D models more reproducible
- 21st July 2021: Careers in neuroscience (and beyond!)
- 22nd July 2021: Human stem cell models of neurodegeneration: complex, relevant and robust

COVID-19 advocacy: The BNA continued to campaign on behalf of UK neuroscientists about the impact of COVID-19 on neuroscience research and neuroscientists. In November 2020, we urged UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to reconsider its position where only limited support was extended to PhD students impacted by COVID-19. Having collected data during early months of the pandemic, we were able to advocate for neuroscientists to funders and policy makers such as UKRI.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience: The BNA has always sought to be welcoming and inclusive to all. However, following a period of consultation and research during YE2020, our positive action with respect to widening ethnic diversity has increased greatly over the reporting period, highlights of which are listed below. We are committed to continuing this work to influence and increase EDI in our sector.

- January 2021: Launch of the BNA Scholars Programme, a scheme committed to supporting students from under-represented ethnic groups to flourish in neuroscience. Seven scholars were selected in this first year.
- January 2021: Endorsed the new 'ALBA Declaration on Equity and Inclusion' in neuroscience.
- February 2021: Submitted evidence to an All-Party Parliamentary Group inquiry on diversity and inclusion within science, technology, engineering and maths. The BNA's evidence was subsequently used in the final report (published July 2021).
- July 2021: Announced our Founding Supporters for EDI – a collaborative group of commercial, charity and academic organisations across neuroscience, coming together to support EDI
- September 2021: Launched 'Carer Grants' (supported by the Guarantors of Brain) which enable those with caring responsibilities to participate in neuroscience activities by e.g. paying for childcare or help for elderly relatives.

A voice in Parliament: The BNA is a member of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (P&SC). This committee is an interface between scientists and parliamentarians and provides opportunities for the BNA to inform decision-making that takes place in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and enables us to raise awareness of issues that we feel are important for neuroscientists. The BNA was represented at P&SC meetings throughout the year.

Animals in Research: The BNA continues to be committed to openness on the use of animals in research and is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. We are an active member of the RSB Animal Science Group, a special interest group representing the broad spectrum of UK bodies actively involved in supporting, funding, or formulating policy on research involving animals. We also developed teaching materials that enable discussion around the use of animals in research, particularly neuroscience, in schools.

Other activities: Further activities that show how we 'influenced' during YE2020 include:

- February 2021: Supported neuroscientists at the University of Leicester campaigning against the disinvestment in neuroscience at the university.
- March 2021: Supported the Australasian Neuroscience Society, campaigning against closure of the Eccles Institute of Neuroscience in Australia.
- July 2021: the BNA endorses new 'Scottish Brain Health and Dementia Research Strategy'.

BNA prizes: Last but by no means least, another way of influencing neuroscience is by recognising and celebrating its achievements. Winners of the BNA's annual prizes in YE2021 were as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience 2020: Professor Karen Duff, Associate Director (Professor in Dementia and Neurodegeneration) at the UK Dementia Research Institute at University College London.
- Public Engagement of Neuroscience 2020: Matt Eagles, Patient advocate and public speaker on Parkinson's Disease
- Postgraduate Award 2020: Alexander Bates, University of Cambridge
- Undergraduate Award 2020: Tahnee Mackensen, University of Edinburgh
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (student): Marta Topor (University of Surrey)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (researcher): Amy Orben (University of Cambridge)
- Credibility in Neuroscience Prize (Team): CAMARADES (University of Edinburgh)

Plans for 2021/22 (YE2022)

The strategic pillars of the BNA remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence', with the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' continuing as our core 5-10 year commitment underlying all our activities.

At the start of YE2022, members of the BNA Council, Committee and Executive met together in Cambridge, UK and held a day long meeting discussing the short- and longer-term priorities of the Association in order to meet the strategic pillars of 'Inform, Connect, Influence' as well as secure ongoing financial self-sustainability. Priorities identified at this meeting included:

1. Securing ongoing funding from the Gatsby Foundation: The BNA has benefited greatly over the previous 3-4 years from financial support from the Gatsby Foundation. With the current grant due to finish at YE2022, a priority is to secure ongoing support from the Foundation, or seek alternatives from elsewhere.

2. Professionalising the sector: At present, there are no agreed, universal standards for undergraduate or postgraduate neuroscience courses to meet, making the quality of courses range widely and meaning future neuroscientists have no way of identifying ones that will provide a good grounding for their career. As the leading professional organisation for neuroscience, we plan to establish a way of assessing and endorsing neuroscience courses.

3. Including and catering for clinical neuroscientists: We wish to improve how we include those individuals who are both clinically trained and have research interests in neuroscience, across the three main specialities of neurology, psychiatry and psychology.

4. Reaching a wider audience: We know from surveys and anecdotally that many people who could be a member of the BNA, do not know about the Association nor what we do. We will seek to address this by investing in marketing and communications during YE2022.

Our target membership number by September 2022 is 2,636.

Review of financial position

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial review

During the 2021 financial year, BNA total income was £163,497. This income was largely received from grants and donations (£65,046) as well as membership subscriptions/bulletin advertising (£98,224). The total expenditure on charitable activities and education was £250,750 leaving a small deficit of £25,142. At year end 2021, the net reserves were £543,610. This funding has and will continue to be used to support the BNA Trustees' ten-year strategic plan, in particular the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' campaign, but also other activities which meet the aims to 'Inform, Connect and Influence'. The BNA is in a stable financial position to sustain itself and to meet its charitable objectives

c. Reserves policy

The BNA's reserves policy states that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure, where one year's expenditure is calculated on the basis of:

- 12 months' overheads of British Neuroscience Association Ltd
- 12 months' direct expenses of British Neuroscience Association Ltd, where direct expenses include bursaries and grants, Bulletin production, subscriptions, and education/outreach work
- 12 months' overheads of BNA Events Ltd (averaged over a two-year period.)
- 12 months' direct expenses of BNA Events Ltd, where direct expenses relate to costs of the biennial Festival of Neuroscience (averaged over a two-year period.)

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in revenue, they will be able to continue the Association's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and/or costs can be reduced. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of each accounting year.

d. Principal funding

The main sources of income for the BNA in Year End 2021 were membership subscriptions, advertising in the BNA bulletin, donations and grant funding (from the Gatsby Foundation). Since 2020 was a non-festival year, there was no dividend payment from BNA events in 2021.

e. Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by Article 5 in the Articles of Association. This permits the Charity to deposit or invest funds in securities or property as may be thought fit in order to further

its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

In February 2020, following extensive consideration by members of the Investment Committee, the BNA decided to disinvest in M&G (where it had held reserves for at least 5 years) and re-invest in funds held and managed by St James's Place Wealth Management (SJP). During YE2022, the value of the investments held by SJP increased significantly, giving confidence that this was a good decision.

During YE2021, the Trustees made the decision that the BNA should not hold more than a total of 5% investments in tobacco, alcohol, or firearms (combined), and conveyed this decision to SJP. By the end of YE2021, the amounts invested in these three areas were reduced to less than 5%, and a new target was set of reducing to 0 %.

The Trustees' policy for YE2021 will be to continue to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments, and continue to manage the charity's investments in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Company is registered as a charity under the registration number 1103852.

The BNA is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and accompanying set of Rules. These were revised during the period of the previous report, and the new documents approved by the Charity Commission in June 2017. No changes have been made to governing articles since then.

b. Organisational structure

The British Neuroscience Association is a membership organisation, with seven membership categories (defined in the Rules), plus a number of Honorary members. With the exception of Associate members, all members have voting rights on the principle of "one member, one vote", which is exercised at the Annual General Meetings (detailed in Articles 15-27).

The association has 39 Local Groups (Rule 5), that provide for a national network between members and the Association's governance team.

The BNA is governed by a Council of Trustees, comprising between seven and twelve members of the Association (Article 29). Non-Trustee positions on the Council include the Meetings Secretary, other co-opted members for specific functions and other invited observers or advisors, for example the Neurology Advisor. The specific procedures for the appointment and retirement of the Trustees are detailed in the Articles (32-35).

To help with discharging the activities of the Association, the BNA has also a National Advisory Committee (formerly "The National Committee") whose role is to represent different demographics and interests within the Association's membership (Rule 4).

Supporting all activities and needs of the Council, Committee, and general membership is the BNA Executive. During the year this consisted of one full time and three part-time staff members.

c. Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

To help with this the BNA has a Risk Register. Conflict of Interest (Rules 8 and 9) and a Register of Interests. BNA has a specific Declaration of Interests form, that is completed by all members of the Council and Committee of the BNA.

Reference and administrative details

Members of BNA Council

- *Professor R. Henson (President, and Officer) appointed April 2021
- *Professor Z. Kourtzi (Association Secretary, & Officer) elected January 2019
- *Professor C. Harmer (Treasurer and Officer) elected June 2017
- *Professor T. Spires-Jones (President Elect) appointed April 2021
- *Professor A. Dolphin (Immediate Past President) appointed April 2021
- *Dr V. Straub (Groups Co-ordinator) elected May 2020
- *Professor N. Ramnani (Research Policy) elected June 2017
- *Professor A. Lingford-Hughes (Professional Liaison) elected June 2017
- *Professor A. Isles (Communications) elected June 2017
- *Dr M Berners, (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Dr K P Cox, (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- *Professor A M Palmer, (Independent Trustee) appointed April 2017
- Professor Hugh Piggins, (Meetings Secretary) appointed October 2017
- Professor Sarah Guthrie (Meetings Secretary) appointed October 2019

* Trustee position

Members of the National Committee

- Dr Crawford Winlove (Education & Engagement Secretary) Elected Sept 2018
- Emma Soopramanien (Students & Early Career Representative) Elected June 2020
- Dr Emma Yhnell (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative) Elected February 2019

Executive

- Ms Alex Campbell (Head of Marketing and Communications)
- Mr Joseph Clift (Head of Policy and Campaigns)
- Dr Anne Cooke (Chief Executive)
- Mrs Sophie Jerrold (Development Director)
- Dr Hannah Thurgur (Executive Officer)
- Mrs Louise Tratt (Executive Officer)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of British Neuroscience Association Limited 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 law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Henson

Richard Henson (May 27, 2022 17:31 GMT+1)

.....

Professor R N A Henson

Chair

Date: May 27, 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Neuroscience Association Limited ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Martin Bailey Dated: 31-05-22

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	4	**44,880**	**20,166**	**65,046**	*14,796*
Charitable activities	5	**98,224**	**-**	**98,224**	*95,307*
Investments	6	**227**	**-**	**227**	*113,876*
Total income		**143,331**	**20,166**	**163,497**	*223,979*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	**115,690**	**135,060**	**250,750**	*233,414*
Total expenditure		**115,690**	**135,060**	**250,750**	*233,414*
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		**27,641**	**(114,894)**	**(87,253)**	*(9,435)*
Net gains/(losses) on investments		**62,111**	**-**	**62,111**	*(14,099)*
Net movement in funds		**89,752**	**(114,894)**	**(25,142)**	*(23,534)*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**402,202**	**166,550**	**568,752**	*592,286*
Net movement in funds		**89,752**	**(114,894)**	**(25,142)**	*(23,534)*
Total funds carried forward		**491,954**	**51,656**	**543,610**	*568,752*

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 20 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04307833

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Note		2021 £		*2020 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		**1,803**		*2,253*
Investments	12		**363,279**		*301,168*
			365,082		*303,421*
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**82,895**		*56,677*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**106,995**		*265,766*	
		189,890		*322,443*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(11,362)**		*(57,112)*	
Net current assets			**178,528**		*265,331*
Total assets less current liabilities			**543,610**		*568,752*
Total net assets			**543,610**		*568,752*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	15		**51,656**		*166,550*
Unrestricted funds	15		**491,954**		*402,202*
Total funds			**543,610**		*568,752*

The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Henson
Richard Henson (May 27, 2022 17:31 GMT+1)

.....

Professor R Henson
President

Date: May 27, 2022

The notes on pages 20 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. General information

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a Charitable Company Registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered the impacts that the Covid-19 pandemic may have for the Charity and it is deemed that the Charity can meet its commitments and liabilities and can continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the 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 objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service. Membership fees are recongised in the period to which they relate.

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

Grants, including government grants, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

2.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.13 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. No estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year have been identified.

4. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Donations	43,146	20,166	**63,312**	*14,796*
Government grants	1,734	-	**1,734**	-
	44,880	20,166	**65,046**	*14,796*
Total 2020	*293*	*14,503*	*14,796*	

Government grants represents monies received under the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Support Scheme.

5. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Subscriptions and Bulletin advertising	98,224	**98,224**	*95,307*
Total 2020	*95,307*	*95,307*	

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Dividend income	-	-	*113,435*
Bank interest	227	**227**	*441*
	227	**227**	*113,876*
Total 2020	*113,876*	*113,876*	

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	115,690	135,060	**250,750**	*233,414*
Total 2020	*124,800*	*108,614*	*233,414*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	170,347	80,403	**250,750**	*233,414*
Total 2020	*137,460*	*95,954*	*233,414*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Staff costs	122,302	**122,302**	*72,420*
Bulletin production	27,797	**27,797**	*26,746*
Bursaries and sponsorship	2,436	**2,436**	*8,486*
Gatsby project costs	4,407	**4,407**	*7,509*
Subscriptions and membership	5,054	**5,054**	*5,967*
Advertising	1,750	**1,750**	*8,976*
Travel	1,153	**1,153**	*517*
Printing, postage and stationery	811	**811**	*1,827*
Telephone	-	**-**	*512*
Journal production	4,637	**4,637**	*4,500*
	170,347	**170,347**	*137,460*
Total 2020	*137,460*	*137,460*	

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	*Total funds 2020 £*
Staff costs	67,390	**67,390**	*65,771*
Depreciation	450	**450**	*900*
Advertising	605	**605**	*9,693*
Travel	72	**72**	*1,381*
Printing, postage and stationery	131	**131**	*133*
Telephone	635	**635**	*589*
Website development	(1,870)	**(1,870)**	*3,312*
Professional fees	7,267	**7,267**	*7,213*
Insurance	707	**707**	*1,414*
Bank charges	3,086	**3,086**	*2,285*
Sundry	355	**355**	*644*
Governance	2,000	**2,000**	*2,000*
Bad debt	(425)	**(425)**	*619*
	80,403	**80,403**	*95,954*
Total 2020	*95,954*	*95,954*	

Governance costs represent accountancy and independent examination fees.

9. Staff costs

	2021 £	*2020 £*
Wages and salaries	**169,913**	*122,102*
Social security costs	**12,158**	*8,035*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**7,621**	*8,054*
	189,692	*138,191*

9. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	*2020* *No.*
Employees	**6**	*5*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total remuneration, including employer's national insurance and pension contributions, in respect of key management personnel totalled £56,546 (2020: £55,719).

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2020 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 30 September 2021, no Trustee expenses have been incurred *(2020 - £421* to 2 Trustees*)*.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2020	**4,355**
At 30 September 2021	**4,355**
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2020	**2,102**
Charge for the year	**450**
At 30 September 2021	**2,552**
Net book value	
At 30 September 2021	**1,803**
At 30 September 2020	*2,253*

12. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 October 2020	**100**	**301,068**	**301,168**
Revaluations	**-**	**62,111**	**62,111**
At 30 September 2021	**100**	**363,179**	**363,279**
Net book value			
At 30 September 2021	**100**	**363,179**	**363,279**
At 30 September 2020	*100*	*301,068*	*301,168*

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Holding	Included in consolidation
BNA Events Limited	07784689	100%	No

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
BNA Events Limited	**103,527**	**98,592**

13. Debtors

	2021 £	*2020* *£*
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**32,409**	*1,149*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**48,376**	*53,860*
Other debtors	**496**	*-*
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,614**	*1,668*
	82,895	*56,677*

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	*2020* *£*
Trade creditors	**601**	*2,782*
PAYE and social security	**-**	*3,850*
Other creditors	**-**	*39,063*
Accruals and deferred income	**10,761**	*11,417*
	11,362	*57,112*

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	**402,202**	**143,331**	**(115,690)**	**62,111**	**491,954**
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	**6,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,500**
Journal fund	**3,104**	**4,637**	**(7,741)**	**-**	**-**
Society for Neuroscience	**506**	**-**	**(506)**	**-**	**-**
Roche Products	**5,855**	**-**	**(5,855)**	**-**	**-**
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	**150,585**	**-**	**(115,221)**	**-**	**35,364**
Guarantors of Brain	**-**	**10,000**	**(208)**	**-**	**9,792**
Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)	**-**	**5,529**	**(5,529)**	**-**	**-**
	166,550	**20,166**	**(135,060)**	**-**	**51,656**
Total funds	**568,752**	**163,497**	**(250,750)**	**62,111**	**543,610**

Wolstencroft fund - for expenses in regard to a lecture on 'Outstanding Neuroscience' at the biennial BNA Festival.

Journal fund - for editing and general running of the journal.

Society for Neuroscience - for the Core Concepts education project.

Roche Products - to support the continued teaching of neuroscience in UK schools.

Gatsby Charitable Foundation - to support the implementation of the BNA's new strategic plan.

Guarantors of Brain (2021) - funding for Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education

Guarantors of Brain (2020) - funding for BNA's Brain Carer grants programme. The transfer represents expenditure incurred in the prior year in advance of the income being received but originally allocated to unrestricted funds.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) - funding to support Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience education from IBRO and MSD

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2019 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Transfers in/out* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 30 September 2020* £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	*326,004*	*209,476*	*(124,800)*	*5,621*	*(14,099)*	*402,202*
Restricted funds						
Wolstencroft fund	*6,500*	-	-	-	-	*6,500*
Journal fund	*3,101*	*4,503*	*(4,500)*	-	-	*3,104*
Society for Neuroscience	*506*	-	-	-	-	*506*
Roche Products	*14,342*	-	*(8,486)*	-	-	*5,856*
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	*241,833*	-	*(91,249)*	-	-	*150,584*
Guarantors of Brain	-	*10,000*	*(4,379)*	*(5,621)*	-	-
	266,282	*14,503*	*(108,614)*	*(5,621)*	-	*166,550*
Total funds	*592,286*	*14,503*	*(233,414)*	-	*(14,099)*	*568,752*

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,803	-	**1,803**
Fixed asset investments	363,279	-	**363,279**
Current assets	138,234	51,656	**189,890**
Creditors due within one year	(11,362)	-	**(11,362)**
Total	491,954	51,656	**543,610**

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	*Restricted funds 2020 £*	*Total funds 2020 £*
Tangible fixed assets	*2,253*	-	*2,253*
Fixed asset investments	*301,168*	-	*301,168*
Current assets	*130,606*	*191,837*	*322,443*
Creditors due within one year	*(31,825)*	*(25,287)*	*(57,112)*
Total	*402,202*	*166,550*	*568,752*

17. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £7,621 (2020 - £8,054). Contributions of £nil (2020: £284) were owed to the fund at the balance sheet date.

18. Related party transactions

At 30 September 2021, British Neuroscience Association Limited was owed £48,376 (2020: £53,860) by BNA Events Limited, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Other than disclosed above or elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other transactions with related parties requiring disclosure.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1103852

Accounts

Registered number: 04307833
Charity number: 1103852

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS

Trustees

1.	Professor A. Dolphin (President, and Officer)	appointed April 2019
2.	Professor Z. Kourtzi (Association Secretary, and Officer)	elected January 2019
3.	Professor C. Harmer (Treasurer and Officer)	elected June 2017
4.	Professor R. Henson (President Elect)	appointed April 2019
5.	Professor S L Lightman (Immediate Past President)	appointed April 2019 resigned April 2021
6.	Dr V. Straub (Groups Co-ordinator)	elected May 2020
7.	Professor N. Ramnani (Research Policy)	elected June 2017
8.	Professor A. Lingford-Hughes (Professional Liaison)	elected June 2017
9.	Professor A. Isles (Communications)	elected June 2017
10.	Dr M. Berners, (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
11.	Dr K P Cox, (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
12.	Professor A M Palmer (Independent Trustee)	appointed April 2017
13.	Professor T L Spires-Jones (Trustee)	appointed April 2021
14.	Dr R F Langston (Trustee)	resigned May 2020

Company registered number
04307833

Charity registered number
1103852

Registered office

The BNA Office
Dorothy Hodgkin Building
Whitson Street
Bristol BS1 3NY

Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary
Dr A. Cooke

Independent Examiner and Accountants
Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
Chartered Accountants
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London W1T 6LQ

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2020. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' Report and a Directors' Report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Our vision and purpose:

The BNA is a membership organisation committed to preserve and protect health and advance public engagement in neuroscience, through supporting, promoting and representing neuroscientists and neuroscience research.

Our objects:

The Association's objects (The Objects), as formulated in the Articles of the Association (Article 4) and in the Rules of the Association (Rule 1.3), both documents coming into force in April 2017, are:

To preserve and protect health and advance public education in neurosciences related to health and disease, in particular but not exclusively) by:

(a) Promoting on a multidisciplinary basis the study of the development structure and function of the nervous system in health and disease;

(b) Promoting the dissemination of information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines by means of lectures, discussions, meetings and reports from time to time obtained from such researchers;

(c) Advising as far as possible on issues in neurosciences related to health and disease;

(d) Endeavouring to increase public awareness and understanding of neuroscience research in health and disease;

(e) Assisting in the training of neuroscientists and other professionals engaged in neuroscience teaching and research;

(f) Representing the interests of neuroscience researchers and promoting the case for the advancement of neuroscience research in the United Kingdom to government, to agencies providing research funding and to bodies engaged in science administration, regulation and standards.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our aims:

We have three interconnected aims that are central to achieving our vision and purpose, and are the means by which we deliver our objectives: these are to **Inform, Connect, and Influence.** The aims to *Inform, Connect and Influence*, were arrived at through a series of strategic workshops and engagement with members, and they help the BNA Council and Committee to direct activities throughout the year.

Message from the Chair and Chief Executive October 2019-September 2020

Our closing words in the report preceding this one were, *"..we look forward to the coming year's activities, and hope the words here will prove to be as prescient."* Little did we know that much of the coming year's activities – the year reported here - would in fact be derailed by a global pandemic that would cease all in-person meetings, prove hugely disruptive for our members' lives, research and teaching, and for some bring illness and bereavement.

Needless to say, this Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) is therefore somewhat different from all its predecessors, and – hopefully – all its successors too. Never before have global events affected the BNA in this way, and the key take-home message is perhaps simply that the BNA has so far ridden the storm.

In some ways it is a report in two halves: from October 2019 to March 2020, before the first UK-wide lockdown, and then from March to September 2020, during which time COVID-19's restrictions and impact had a major impact on the BNA and our activities. That said, although many of the organisation's activities changed beyond recognition, the aims and purpose of the BNA remained unchanged throughout. The structure of the report is therefore the same as previous years, looking at each of our overarching aims in turn – Inform, Connect, Influence – and how we have worked to meet them.

One highlight from the last year is the launch of our 'Credibility in Neuroscience' campaign in the House of Commons in the Palace of Westminster, London. Held in November 2019, the occasion was significant not only in marking this campaign as critically important for neuroscience but also in the BNA's journey to being relevant and influential at the highest levels.

In contrast to the public ceremony and panache of the House of Commons, another highlight falls firmly into the post-lockdown part of the year. This was the series of online neuroscience webinars for children, launched in response to the needs of families across the UK to educate their children at home – and taking the opportunity to capture curious minds about the wonders of neuroscience. At first glance complete opposites, but both activities helping to deliver the vision and aims of the BNA.

At the end of the current reporting period (September 2020) we are preparing for our first ever online Festival of Neuroscience, facing ongoing uncertainty about how neuroscience teaching and research will take shape in the coming months, the BNA office continues to work from home, and the BNA as a whole is continuing to support members as much as possible. We are nervous of adding words here that predict what will happen in the year ahead. The previous year has shown us how foolish that can be! To end on a positive note though; if nothing else the past year has shown the importance of community and support, and that is something the BNA will always strive to deliver.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Aim 1: Inform

Neuroscience in schools – In order to both inform children and young people about neuroscience and increase the 'science capital' of UK schools, and meet the request from BNA members to have materials for school visits, during the year 2019-2020 the BNA developed a number of sessions designed to take neuroscience into the classroom. This was a continuation of the project initially started in 2017-18 thanks to funding from Roche.

We added to the number of previously developed flexible 'tool-kits' - consisting of presentations, written information and activities – to include topics such as the use of animals in research, drug development, and the neuroscience of addiction. We also ran sessions in schools to test out the toolkits, and undertook an evaluation to assess their effectiveness. This evaluation showed that the neuroscience outreach sessions significantly increased the neuroscience topic-specific knowledge of 14-18 year olds (Figure1, n=36), and that they significantly increased how much 14-18 year olds like learning about the brain (Figure 2, n=36 for each bar).

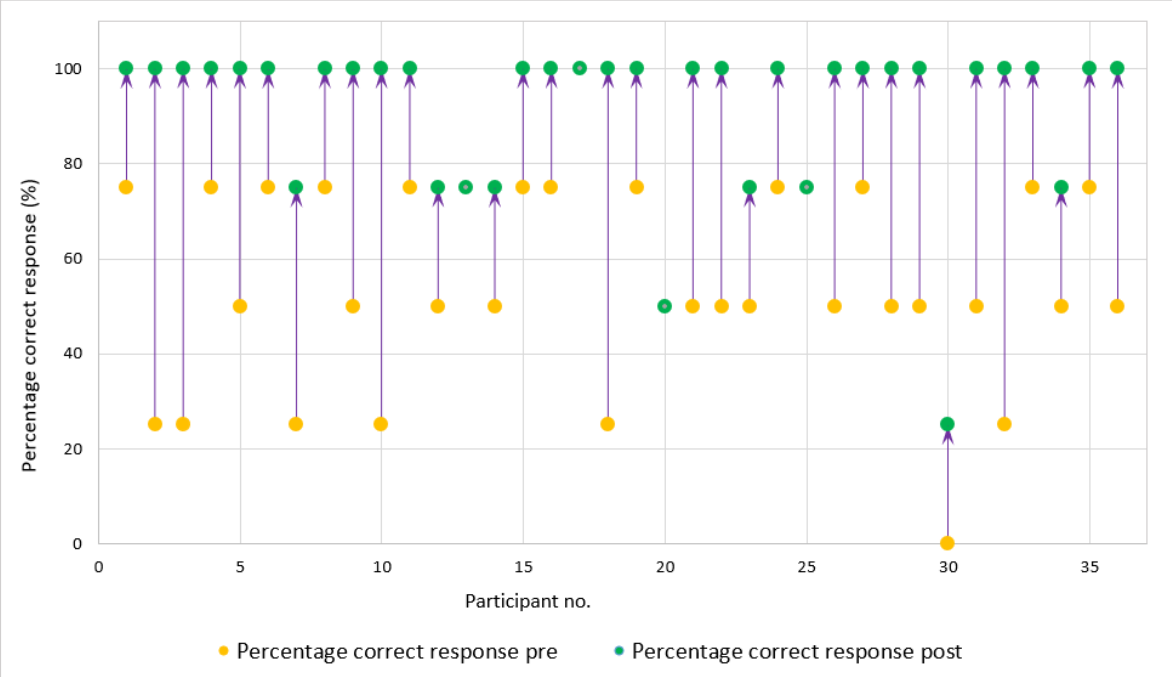


Figure 1: Neuroscience outreach sessions significantly improved the neuroscience topic-specific knowledge of 14-18 year olds (n=36). The x axis represents the participant number, while the y axis shows the percentage correct responses on the knowledge section of the pre and post-outreach surveys. Yellow dots represent the pre-survey neuroscience knowledge as a percentage of correct responses. Green dots show the post-survey neuroscience knowledge as a percentage of correct responses. Purple arrows show the movement, and direction (arrow head), between the pre and post-survey percentage of correct responses. 32/36 participants' knowledge did increase following the outreach session, and no change in the knowledge of 4/36 participants.

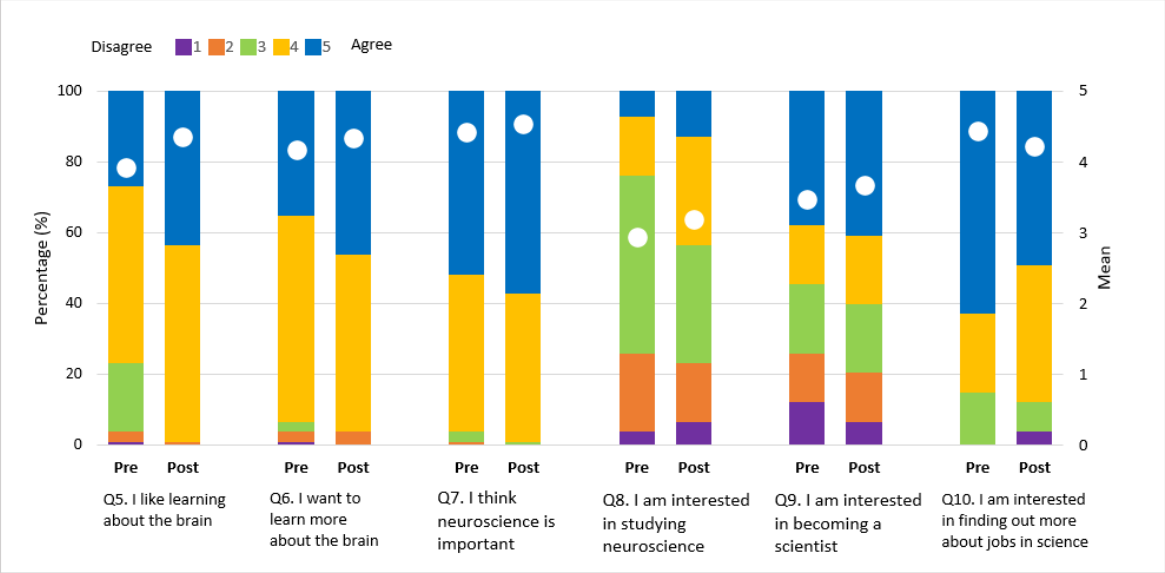


Figure 2: Neuroscience outreach sessions significantly increased how much 14-18 year olds like learning about the brain (n=36 for each bar). Questions 5-10 made up the 'Interest' section of the pre and post-surveys, comprised of 5-point Likert scale questions and can be found on the x axis. Stacked percentage columns show the percentage of response for each point on the 5-point Likert scale on the left y axis. The right y axis corresponds to the white dots on each column, representing the mean response from the 5-point Likert scale so that the direction of movement of the mean can be observed between the pre and post-surveys for each question.

Webinars for kids: In response to the first UK lockdown in March 2020, and accompanying closure of schools, we converted the neuroscience in schools programme into a series of online webinars. These were free to attend and directed towards either reception, Key stages 1 and 2 (primary school) or Key stages 3 and 4 (secondary school). All were fully interactive with live quizzes and activities, plus open Q&A with neuroscientists. We were thrilled to have children attend these sessions from all over the world, and have the unexpected opportunity to increase our reach when informing about neuroscience.

Public engagement of neuroscience: The BNA's annual Festive symposium was again covered by BBC Radio 4 this year, meaning we were able to disseminate information about neuroscience to a wide audience. Focusing on the neuroscience of pain (our theme for 2020), both the symposium and the Radio 4 broadcast discussed important topics such as the placebo effect, chronic pain, and how pain includes both psychological and physiological components.

A number of activities were focused around Brain Awareness Week (BAW), 16-22 March 2020. Again picking up on our annual theme, we ran a series of communications called, "A short journey on pain" throughout the week, informing people about pain facts, research and quotations. The BNA also co-ordinated the 2020 BAW calendar for the UK and Ireland, although unfortunately most events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Scientific Journal: Our scientific journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*, is the most important means by which we inform the profession about the latest neuroscience research. The journal is published by Sage and wholly owned by the BNA, with excellent leadership from Editor-in-Chief Jeff Dalley along with an international editorial board.

The journal reached a major milestone this year by being indexed in PubMed Central (PMC), in April 2020. For a journal to be indexed in PMC it needs to meet a list of set criteria and hurdles, so a significant achievement to reach this point in just a few years. Although the BNA Journal has always been fully Open Access and therefore freely open to everyone, being indexed in PMC means all content is easily found and much more visible, worldwide.

The number of articles published between 1st Oct 2019 – 30th Sept 2020 was as follows:

Articles published between 1st October 2019 – 30th September 2020:

- 12 Original Research articles
- 7 Review articles
- 2 Short Report articles

Four Special Collections were opened:

- "Emerging Experimental Methodologies in Translational Neuroscience"
- "Within and Beyond the Temporal Lobe: Brain Circuits and Mechanisms of Recognition and Place Memory"
- "Neuroimmunology and Brain Disorders"
- "Ketamine and Fast Acting Anti-Depressants"

Informing members: As a membership organisation, keeping our members informed is essential.

Our printed members' newsletter, The *BNA Bulletin*, is sent out three times a year and informs members about events, prizes, news from the BNA, funders or regulators, and activities across the BNA community, as well as highlighting research undertaken by members. *Brain Insights* is a section within the *Bulletin* written by and for students and Early Career Researchers. During this year we extended the reach of the *Bulletin* to all our undergraduate and postgraduate members, who had previously only had access to the online pdf version, in recognition that having a printed copy is valued by our students.

Alongside the *Bulletin* members receive a monthly email newsletter, the eBulletin. This provides more frequent way to keep members updated with relevant information.

Social media platforms are also now very important ways to keep our members informed, as they enable immediate, specific and direct interaction between the BNA office and our wider community (see more below).

Online communications: The website continues to be a well-used resource for informing visitors about neuroscience, particularly information about neuroscience training, jobs and careers. The BNA's social media platforms also continue to prove very useful in communicating, informing and engaging with both neuroscientists and members of the public.

Both the website and social media makes the BNA readily accessible to members of the public, and the office receives enquiries from journalists, patients, prospective students and more.

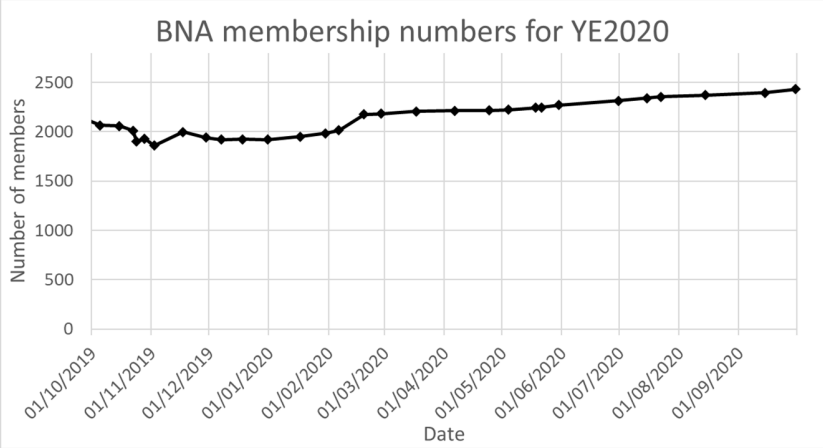
During 2019-2020 the website attracted 151,000 users and 488,000 page views. This compares to 140,000 users with 466,000 page views in the period 2018-2019. Information on careers consistently

remains the most used section of the site, showing how the BNA is used as a way to find out how to study and pursue a career in neuroscience.

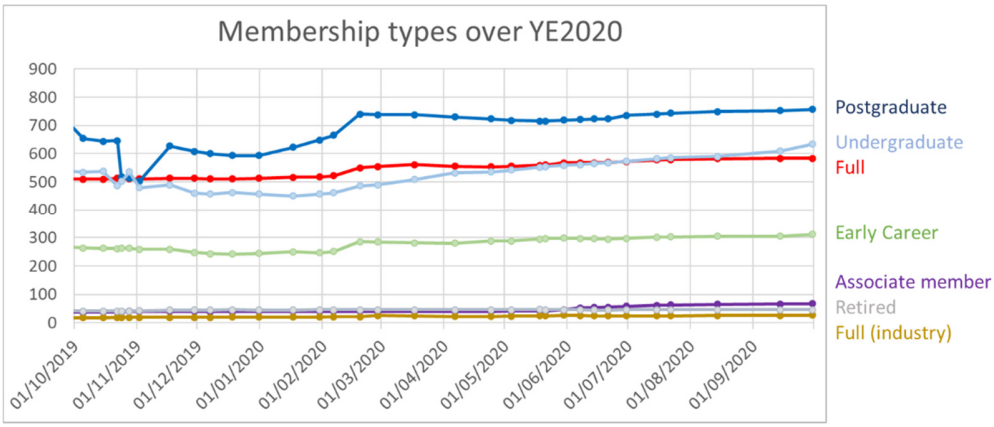
By the end of this reporting period, the BNA had 25k (Twitter), 13.7k (Facebook), 6.7k (LinkedIn), 1.9k (Instagram) and 1.2k (YouTube) followers across social media channels.

Aim 2: Connect

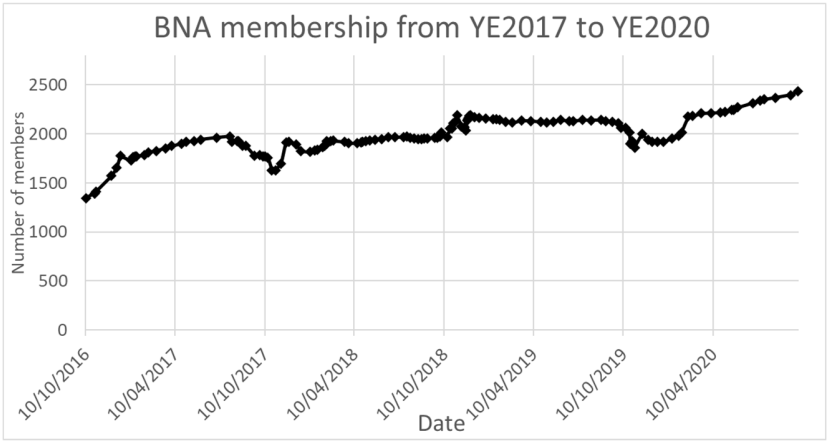
Connecting the neuroscience community through BNA membership: We are pleased to report an increase in membership from 2,065 to 2,432 over the course of the year (see below).



This growth in total membership number is reflected within each membership type, as shown in the graph below. Most of the rise occurred in February 2020 which is likely to be associated with the FENS 2020 Forum, reported below. The number of Full members rose to a record high of 583 by September 2020. Although a much smaller number in total, there were significant increases in the number of Associate members (from 37 to 67, associated with a special offer reduced membership fee), and Full Industry members (from 17 to 27).



To put these numbers in context, the graph below shows total membership over the previous four years.



During YE2019 we identified that we have poor membership retention rate, relying on constant recruitment to maintain and grow numbers. During YE2020 we therefore carried out a member re-engagement campaign which involved contacting lapsed members by telephone and/or email to ascertain why they had left the BNA, update them on recent developments, and encouraging them to re-join. Using an external provider we made contact with 176 members, had 147 surveys completed and 9 members re-joined. Although only a small number re-joined we gained valuable information which will help us connect better with members during the coming year.

BNA Local Groups: The BNA has a national network of ~40 Local Groups (LGs) each headed by a Local Group Representative (LGR). This network enables two-way communication between members and the BNA Council, provides local hubs for members, and an important way for members to connect with colleagues near and far. LGRs, in some cases supported by LG Student Representatives (LGSRs), do a great deal to help the BNA connect and support neuroscientists.

In order to strengthen the LG network, in March 2020 the BNA held a dedicated full-day event for LGRs and LGSRs, kindly hosted by London's Sainsbury Wellcome Centre and with funding provided for travel. Although similar Forums are held each year, previously these have been shorter and held in parallel to Council meetings, meaning the BNA Council and Committee members and BNA Executive team have not been able to join the LG(S)Rs. The 2020 LG Forum was very successful, although unfortunately many of the plans made at the event were derailed by COVID-19.

LGs can apply for BNA funding to support local activities which help promote the aims and objectives in the BNA. In YE2020 the LG activities were greatly impacted by COVID-19, with many having to be postponed. However, the limitations on meeting up also led to more creative use of LG funding, for example Imperial College launched an online webinar series entitled 'Corpus Curiosum'.

- Leicester - Brain, Behaviour and Beyond - £500
- Liverpool – Liverpool Neuroscience Day - £500
- Oxford-KCL-Cambridge – One-day symposium led by students and ECRs - £1,500
- Imperial – Corpus Curiosum webinar series - £200

Connecting with industry ('Building Bridges Between: Industry and Academia'): Our strategic programme to increase connections between neuroscience in these two sectors was officially launched in September 2020 with a high-profile event featuring Sir Mene Pangalos, Executive Vice-President and President Biopharmaceuticals R&D, AstraZeneca. Held as an interactive, online discussion and Q&A, *'When industry meets academia',* provided a pharmaceutical industry perspective on how to improve translation and collaboration between industry and academia. Sir Mene argued for the benefits of close collaboration between academia and industry. For young scientists in particular, it provided an opportunity to taste both worlds, with the freedom to pursue a career in either sector.

The BNA's 'Building Bridges' initiative aims to foster collaboration between neuroscientists in industry and academia for information exchange through events and networking opportunities, and is linked to the BNA's core theme of 'credibility in neuroscience'. Having built momentum over the last two years, we look forward to reporting further development and successes of this initiative in the coming year.

BNA Meetings: Of course a major way for the BNA to fulfil its core aim to connect is through meetings. With the arrival of COVID-19 in March 2020 it became impossible to continue meeting in person, making a radical difference in the BNA meeting calendar and prompting us to connect via other means.

5 November 2019: Never the twain shall meet? A lunchtime seminar held at London's Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, discussing how to both strive for open, reproducible and credible science practices, and meet the demands of the Research Excellence Framework and its association with high Impact Factor publications (part of the Credibility in Neuroscience campaign).

16 December 2019: BNA Festive Symposium - Pain, pleasure and the agony of Christmas. Since introducing annual themes in 2018, we use the opportunity of December's Festive Symposium to launch the forthcoming year's theme – which, for 2020, was the neuroscience of pain. We were fortunate enough to have access to London's iconic Bush House to hold the event, and welcome over 300 people to discuss neuroscience, meet colleagues and make new connections. As mentioned above, BBC Radio 4 also covered the event, putting out a half hour programme dedicated to the topic.

20 May 2020: BNA and Credibility in Neuroscience – A webinar held in partnership with the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (part of the Credibility in Neuroscience campaign)

11-15 July 2020: FENS Forum**.** The major event of the year was the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Forum, for which the BNA was host society. FENS Forums are the largest neuroscience event held in Europe, typically bringing together 6,000+ neuroscientists. Being the host nation therefore entailed extensive preparation by the BNA, led by a group (the Host Society Committee) convened specifically for the Forum in order to organise special events, workshops, a public programme and a lab placement scheme. It was therefore very disappointing that the Forum was unable to come to the UK due to COVID-19. It was particularly disappointing to neuroscientists in Glasgow, where FENS would have been held, and members of the Host Society Committee, and we would like to acknowledge here the hard work they put into events which ultimately could not take place.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 FENS Forum was therefore held as an online meeting. This included the full programme of talks, posters and a virtual exhibition hall, as originally planned, and saw thousands of neuroscientists able to connect together online.

4 August 2020: Open Science in Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation (NIBS) – Webinar held in partnership with The Brainbox Initiative to help deliver one of the commitments of our Credibility in Neuroscience campaign, to "equip all neuroscientists with the skills, knowledge, tools and processes they need to carry out neuroscience research which will stand the test of time."

10 August 2020: Empowering and including you in UK neuroscience **-** An open discourse to discuss experiences, views and aspirations for the future of neuroscience that is fully diverse, inclusive and accessible by all. (Part of the policy work undertaken in response to BLM, see below).

19 August 2020: Reporting Research - A webinar for attendees to learn how to improve the credibility of neuroscience research through how findings are reported. (Part of the Credibility in Neuroscience campaign).

8 September 2020: 2nd Meeting of the UK network of Open Research Working Groups (UK-ORWG) – Supporting partner for delivering this day long online event promoting open science practices (part of the Credibility in Neuroscience campaign).

10 September 2020: The Pain of Missing Treatments for Pain: An Open Discussion and Q&A. Held in partnership with The Physiological Society, this online webinar brought together researchers trying to find new treatments for pain (part of our annual theme on pain)

15 September 2020: When industry meets academia. An online discussion with Sir Mene Pangalos (part of the Building Bridges Between initiative).

Through our meetings we enable neuroscientists to connect with each other, across disciplines and geographies, and goes towards meeting our object "disseminate information to all those interested in the neurosciences and related disciplines". Although many of the meetings we had planned for YE2020 were cancelled or have yet to take place, it is gratifying to see we were still able to connect neuroscientists by rapidly converting to online platforms and creating new events.

Membership of societies: The BNA is a member of three organisations which make sure the BNA membership is part of a larger voice. Membership of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) connects us with all the life sciences across the UK. The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) enables the BNA and BNA members to be part of European neuroscience, and membership of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) connects the BNA with the global community.

Of the three organisations, the BNA is most actively involved in FENS. The BNA is a member of the FENS Governing Council, and was represented at FENS meetings through the year.

Aim 3: Influence

In the previous report we described how the BNA had greatly increased activities fulfilling this third aim, 'Influence', largely due to starting the core project 'Credibility in Neuroscience'. Thanks to support from

The Gatsby Foundation, in April 2020 we were able to appoint Joseph Clift as Head of Policy and Campaigns, leading the BNA's work on credibility and enabling us to truly 'be your voice' and advocate for neuroscience and neuroscientists. YE2020 has therefore seen us build on the work from YE2019 and again increase our 'influence' activities.

Supporting and promoting credibility in neuroscience: In summary, this campaign is to, "support the neuroscience sector to increase the transparency, reproducibility, replicability and reliability of neuroscience research". It requires the BNA to influence both ways: to influence neuroscientists and how neuroscience is done, but also to influence the organisations and environment in which neuroscientists operate, so that the way neuroscience is done is able to change.

House of Commons launch of the Manifesto for Credibility in Neuroscience: Having written this manifesto during YE2019, on 25 November ~~2020~~ we held an evening reception at Westminster to set out our vision to neuroscientists and policy makers at the highest level. With addresses from Professor Dorothy Bishop, Professor Lord Robert Winston, and BNA Chief Executive, Dr Anne Cooke, the event brought together key people to promote and discuss the commitments of the manifesto, namely (1) Supporting a shift in research culture that's welcomed and desired by the whole neuroscience community. (2) Equipping all neuroscientists - regardless of career stage, location, research topic or specialist technique - with the skills, knowledge, tools and processes they need to carry out neuroscience research which is as credible as possible. (3) Changing the landscape in which neuroscientists operate, so that the influences which drive neuroscience research also drive the most credible research.

Pioneering the use of preregistration posters: Preregistration posters represent a completely new way of presenting research at a science conference, where the *plans* for a research project are presented, before data has been collected, rather than the results and outcomes of research. BNA's 2019 Festival was the first major neuroscience conference to have preregistration posters, and we took the opportunity to evaluate their effectiveness. We were delighted to have this work published in *Nature Human Behaviour* in April 2020, which will encourage other conferences to follow suit and thus influence how neuroscience is done. (Brouwers, K., Cooke, A., Chambers, C.D., Henson R.N., Tibon, R. Evidence for prereg posters as a platform for preregistration. Nat Hum Behav (2020)).

Open Access (Open Access) consultation: In May 2020 we set out the BNA's position with respect to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) proposed OA policy. Making research open and transparent is central to ensuring the credibility of neuroscience, hence influencing major funders like UKRI is highly important to the campaign.

BNA journal, *Brain and Neuroscience Advances*: Our journal is one of only a handful of journals worldwide to cover the full range of open science practices – being Gold Open Access, offering Registered Reports, CRediT taxonomy, Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines and Badges for Open Practices - in addition to being open access itself. Running the journal (now indexed in PMC) therefore gives a platform to neuroscientists which enables them to change how they report research.

Credibility in neuroscience events: In YE2020 these included -

- 5 November 2019: Never the twain shall meet?

- 20 May 2020: BNA and Credibility in Neuroscience – A webinar held in partnership with the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (part of the Credibility in Neuroscience campaign)
- 11-15 July 2020: FENS Forum special events on credibility in neuroscience
- 4 August 2020: Open Science in Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation (NIBS)
- 19 August 2020: Reporting Research.
- 8 September 2020: 2nd Meeting of the UK network of Open Research Working Groups (UK-ORWG)

COVID-19 advocacy: Speaking on behalf of UK neuroscientists about the impact of COVID-19 on neuroscience research and neuroscience careers became top priority for the BNA's advocacy work during the second half of YE2020. In early April, just a couple of weeks into the first UK lockdown, the BNA penned an open letter to all major UK funders of neuroscience, urgently requesting costed extensions for all grants, studentships and fellowships, highlighting our concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our research community and an urgent need for support. In May we ran a survey to help us understand exactly what effect COVID-19 was having on current research plus - importantly - what support neuroscientists need as we work towards recovery. The results of this survey, based on around 400 responses, had key findings as follows:

- 88% of respondents had seen a negative impact on the overall progress of their research
- 80% of respondents were concerned their research will be hindered by insufficient funding to recover after COVID-19
- >25% asked for further support from their primary funder – however, 47% of these respondents were still waiting for a response
- 32% of respondents considering leaving neuroscience research as a result of COVID-19, with over 25% considering leaving research altogether.

This last point in particular raised serious concerns over the future of vital research into the nervous system and its disorders. Using this data enabled us to advocate for neuroscientists to funders and policy makers such as UKRI, which we are continuing to do.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in neuroscience: Following the death of George Floyd on 25 May 2020, attention worldwide was drawn to racism towards Black people in particular (through the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement) and non-white people more widely. Although the BNA has had an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy for some years, and has actively and successfully increased participation of women through the BNA's activities, to date we had not actively sought to tackle exclusion or under-representation of ethnic groups.

In response to BLM, the BNA held an online webinar, "Empowering and including you in UK neuroscience", which enabled open discourse to discuss experiences, views and aspirations for the future of neuroscience that is fully diverse, inclusive and accessible by all. Outcomes of this plus further consultation with the neuroscience community, and how we are working to influence the demographics of UK neuroscience, will be included the YE2021 report.

We were also delighted to be a supporter for #BlackInNeuroWeek, when a team of neuroscientists, neuro-engineers, and science communicators celebrated and amplified Black voices in STEM.

A voice in Parliament: The BNA is a member of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (P&SC). This committee is an interface between scientists and parliamentarians and provides opportunities for the BNA to inform decision-making that takes place in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and enables us to raise awareness of issues that we feel are important for neuroscientists. Meetings of the P&SC were somewhat disrupted by COVID-19 but the BNA was represented throughout the year.

Animals in Research: The BNA continues to be committed to openness on the use of animals in research and is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. We are an active member of the RSB Animal Science Group, a special interest group representing the broad spectrum of UK bodies actively involved in supporting, funding, or formulating policy on research involving animals. We also developed teaching materials that enable discussion around the use of animals in research, particularly neuroscience, in schools.

Other activities: Further activities that show how we 'influenced' during YE2020 include:

- February 2020: The BNA contributed to the important POSTnote on Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs).
- March 2020: The BNA became a member of the UK RI BBSRC working group to review their neuroscience and behaviour portfolio, and make recommendations for the future.
- July 2020: We responded to an inquiry into the new UK research agency funded by the government, highlighting the potential opportunities that a UK ARPA could provide for neuroscience research.
- September 2020: We nominated a number of individuals for sub-panel 4, Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience (UOA4) for the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF).

BNA individual prizes: Last but by no means least, another way of influencing neuroscience is by recognising and celebrating the achievements of people within it. Winners of the BNA's annual prizes in YE2019 were as follows:

- Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience 2019: Professor Steve McMahon, King's College London
- Public Engagement of Neuroscience 2019: Dr Dean Burnett, Cardiff University
- Postgraduate Award 2019: James Phillips, University of Cambridge
- Undergraduate Award 2019: Pia Siegele, University of Edinburgh

Plans for 2020/21

The strategic pillars of the BNA remain 'Inform, Connect, Influence', with the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' continuing as our core 5-10 year commitment underlying all our activities.

Immediate, shorter-term objectives for the year 2020-21 - all of which are about fulfilling these pillars - can be summarised as 'Supporting, changing and adapting' as follows:

1. Focus on advocacy and policy work to support neuroscientists and neuroscience research in the COVID-19 and post-Brexit world, ensuring that the BNA continues to meet the pressing need of society for vital research into the nervous system and its disorders.

2. Focus on commitment three of our credibility in neuroscience campaign, *'Changing the research landscape',* to continue pushing for a research environment that allows for the best, most rigorous, robust and reproducible neuroscience.

3. Supporting under-represented groups in neuroscience, particularly ethnic groups, in order to increase accessibility by everyone and as a result improve and strengthen the neuroscience community.

We also aim to grow the membership to 2,600 – 2,700 by September 2021.

Review of financial position

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

b. Financial review

During the year, the total income was £223,979. Half our income (£113,876) was from dividends paid from our subsidiary company BNA Events Ltd, largely generated from the previous year's BNA 2019 Festival of Neuroscience. The remainder was mostly from 'charitable activities' (£95,307) which is made up of membership subscriptions and income from advertising. The total expenditure, £233,414, was slightly higher than income. At year end 2020 the Charity therefore had a net loss of £23,534, with reserves falling to £568,752, a decrease of ~£23.5k from year end 2019. However, this fall is largely due to planned expenditure as part of the Gatsby Foundation grant. This funding has and will continue to be used to support the BNA Trustees' ten-year strategic plan, in particular the 'Credibility in Neuroscience' campaign, but also other activities which meet the aims to 'Inform, Connect and Influence'. The BNA is in a stable financial position to sustain itself and to meet its charitable Objects.

c. Reserves policy

The BNA's reserves policy states that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to one year's expenditure, where one year's expenditure is calculated on the basis of:

- 12 months' overheads of British Neuroscience Association Ltd
- 12 months' direct expenses of British Neuroscience Association Ltd, where direct expenses include bursaries and grants, Bulletin production, subscriptions, and education/outreach work
- 12 months' overheads of BNA Events Ltd (averaged over a two-year period.)
- 12 months' direct expenses of BNA Events Ltd, where direct expenses relate to costs of the biennial Festival of Neuroscience (averaged over a two-year period.)

The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in revenue, they will be able to continue the Association's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and/or costs can be reduced. The level of this reserve will be maintained throughout the course of each accounting year.

d. Principal funding

The main sources of income for the BNA in Year End 2020 were membership subscriptions and advertising in the Bulletin, income from our subsidiary company dividend payment, and donations/grant funding. The dividend income from the subsidiary company reflects income generated from the 2019 BNA Festival of Neuroscience, which is then paid into the charity the following year (YE2020). The BNA journal Brain and Neurosciences Advances is in its development phase and allows us to meet a number of our charitable objectives and alongside this should provide income in future years.

e. Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by Article 5 in the Articles of Association. This permits the Charity to deposit or invest funds in securities or property as may be thought fit in order to further its Objects, or is conducive or incidental to doing so, subject to conditions and consents as laid down in the Association's governing documents.

In February 2020, following extensive consideration by members of the Investment Committee, the BNA decided to disinvest in M&G (where it had held reserves for at least 5 years) and re-invest in funds held and managed by St James's Place Wealth Management (SJP). The decision was based on a number of reasons:

- The ability to manage investments more actively and transparently in SJP than in M&G
- The reduced risk of a portfolio with SJP, rather than the UK-centric portfolio with M&G
- The ability to apply the BNA's wishes to apply ethical principles aligned with the charity's objectives with respect to investments
- Splitting the investments into two separate funds with different levels of risk and accessibility: a lower risk, lower gain, easily accessible fund; plus a slightly higher risk, higher gain, more long-term fund.

The Trustees' policy for YE2021 will be to continue to optimise income on temporarily invested funds and to maintain a balanced portfolio of long-term investments, and continue to manage the charity's investments in conformity with our policy and Trust Deed.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The Company is registered as a charity under the registration number 1103852.

The BNA is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and accompanying set of Rules. These were revised during the period of the previous report, and the new documents approved by the Charity Commission in June 2017. No changes have been made to governing articles since then.

b. Organisational structure

The British Neuroscience Association is a membership organisation, with seven membership categories (defined in the Rules), plus a number of Honorary members. With the exception of Associate members, all members have voting rights on the principle of "one member, one vote", which is exercised at the Annual General Meetings (detailed in Articles 15-27).

The association has 39 Local Groups (Rule 5), that provide for a national network between members and the Association's governance team.

The BNA is governed by a Council of Trustees, comprising between seven and twelve members of the Association (Article 29). Non-Trustee positions on the Council include the Meetings Secretary, other co-opted members for specific functions and other invited observers or advisors, for example the Neurology Advisor. The specific procedures for the appointment and retirement of the Trustees are detailed in the Articles (32-35).

To help with discharging the activities of the Association, the BNA has also a National Advisory Committee (formerly "The National Committee") whose role is to represent different demographics and interests within the Association's membership (Rule 4).

Supporting all activities and needs of the Council, Committee, and general membership is the BNA Executive. During the year this consisted of one full time and three part-time staff members.

c. Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Potential risks, once identified, will be monitored and controlled to mitigate any impact that they may have on the Association in the future.

To help with this the BNA has a Risk Register. Conflict of Interest (Rules 8 and 9) and a Register of Interests. BNA has a specific Declaration of Interests form, that is completed by all members of the Council and Committee of the BNA.

Reference and administrative details

Members of BNA Council

- *Professor A. Dolphin (President, and Officer) — appointed April 2019
- *Professor Z. Kourtzi (Association Secretary, & Officer) — elected January 2019
- *Professor C. Harmer (Treasurer and Officer) — elected June 2017
- *Professor R. Henson (President Elect) — appointed April 2019
- *Professor S L Lightman (Immediate Past President) — appointed April 2019, resigned April 2021
- *Dr V. Straub (Groups Co-ordinator) — elected May 2020
- *Professor N. Ramnani (Research Policy) — elected June 2017
- *Professor A. Lingford-Hughes (Professional Liaison) — elected June 2017
- *Professor A. Isles (Communications) — elected June 2017
- *Dr M Berners, (Independent Trustee) — appointed April 2017
- *Dr K P Cox, (Independent Trustee) — appointed April 2017
- *Professor A M Palmer, (Independent Trustee) — appointed April 2017
- Professor Hugh Piggins, (Meetings Secretary) — appointed October 2017
- Professor Sarah Guthrie (Meetings Secretary) — appointed October 2019

* Trustee position

Members of the National Committee

- Dr Elizabeth Coulthard (Membership Secretary) — resigned Sept 2020
- Dr Crawford Winlove, (Education & Engagement Secretary) — elected Sept 2018
- Dr Natalie Doig (Students and Early Career Representative) — Resigned March 2020
- Emma Soopramanien (Students & Early Career Representative) — Elected June 2020
- Dr Emma Yhnell (Equal Opportunities & Diversity Representative) — Elected February 2019

Executive

- Ms Alex Campbell (Head of Marketing and Communications)
- Mr Joseph Clift (Head of Policy and Campaigns; appointed April 2020)
- Dr Anne Cooke (Chief Executive)
- Dr Georgina Hazell (Head of Policy and Campaigns; resigned January 2020)
- Mrs Sophie Sykes-Jerrold (Development Director)
- Dr Hannah Thurgur (Executive Officer; appointed August 2020)
- Mrs Louise Tratt (Executive Officer)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of British Neuroscience Association Limited 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 law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

……

Professor R. Henson

President

Date:21-06-21…….

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of British Neuroscience Association Limited ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 September 2020.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you 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 Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed: Martin Bailey Dated: 22-06-21

Martin Bailey FCA
Goodman Jones LLP
29/30 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6LQ

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**293**	**14,503**	**14,796**	*176,962*
Charitable activities	4	**95,307**	**-**	**95,307**	*89,671*
Investments	5	**113,876**	**-**	**113,876**	*8,348*
Total income		**209,476**	**14,503**	**223,979**	*274,981*
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**124,800**	**108,614**	**233,414**	*223,158*
Total expenditure		**124,800**	**108,614**	**233,414**	*223,158*
Net (losses)/gains on investments		**(14,099)**	**-**	**(14,099)**	*35*
Net income/(expenditure)		**70,577**	**(94,111)**	**(23,534)**	*51,858*
Transfers between funds	14	**5,621**	**(5,621)**	**-**	*-*
Net movement in funds		**76,198**	**(99,732)**	**(23,534)**	*51,858*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		**326,004**	**266,282**	**592,286**	*540,428*
Net movement in funds		**76,198**	**(99,732)**	**(23,534)**	*51,858*
Total funds carried forward		**402,202**	**166,550**	**568,752**	*592,286*

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 23 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH NEUROSCIENCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04307833

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

	Note		2020 £		*2019 £*
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		**2,253**		*3,153*
Investments	11		**301,168**		*152,065*
			303,421		*155,218*
Current assets					
Debtors	12	**56,677**		*217,560*	
Cash at bank and in hand		**265,766**		*231,348*	
		322,443		*448,908*	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	**(57,112)**		*(11,840)*	
Net current assets			**265,331**		*437,068*
Total assets less current liabilities			**568,752**		*592,286*
Net assets excluding pension asset			**568,752**		*592,286*
Total net assets			**568,752**		*592,286*
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	14		**166,550**		*266,282*
Unrestricted funds	14		**402,202**		*326,004*
Total funds			**568,752**		*592,286*

The Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

.....

Professor R. Henson
President

Date: 21-06-21

The notes on pages 23 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

1. General information

British Neuroscience Association Limited is a Charitable Company Registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Dorothy Hodgkin Building, Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NY.

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have considered the impacts that the Covid-19 pandemic may have for the Charity and it is deemed that the Charity can meet its commitments and liabilities and can continue for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the 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 objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Income

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

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service. Membership fees are recongised in the period to which they relate.

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

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, on a reducing balance basis.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.9 Debtors

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

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.12 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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.13 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Donations	293	14,503	**14,796**	*176,962*
Total 2019	*2,591*	*174,371*	*176,962*	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Subscriptions and Bulletin advertising	95,307	**95,307**	*89,671*
Total 2019	*89,671*	*89,671*	

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Dividend income	113,435	**113,435**	*7,795*
Bank interest	441	**441**	*553*
	113,876	**113,876**	*8,348*
Total 2019	*8,348*	*8,348*	

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	124,800	108,614	**233,414**	*223,158*
Total 2019	*147,443*	*75,715*	*223,158*	

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Advance education in neuroscience	65,040	168,374	**233,414**	*223,158*
Total 2019	*66,798*	*156,360*	*223,158*	

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Bulletin production	26,746	**26,746**	*24,146*
Bursaries and sponsorship	8,486	**8,486**	*23,739*
Gatsby project costs	7,509	**7,509**	*6,579*
Subscriptions and membership	5,967	**5,967**	*5,176*
Advertising	8,976	**8,976**	-
Travel	517	**517**	-
Printing, postage and stationery	1,827	**1,827**	-
Telephone	512	**512**	-
Journal production	4,500	**4,500**	*1,270*
Neuroscience in schools	-	**-**	*5,888*
	65,040	**65,040**	*66,798*
Total 2019	*66,798*	*66,798*	

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Advance education in neuroscience 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	*Total funds 2019 £*
Staff costs	138,191	**138,191**	*134,635*
Depreciation	900	**900**	*300*
Advertising	9,693	**9,693**	*607*
Travel	1,381	**1,381**	*4,379*
Printing, postage and stationery	133	**133**	*93*
Telephone	589	**589**	*844*
Website development	3,312	**3,312**	*828*
Professional fees	7,213	**7,213**	*9,042*
Insurance	1,414	**1,414**	*1,017*
Bank charges	2,285	**2,285**	*2,043*
Sundry	644	**644**	*412*
Governance	2,000	**2,000**	*2,160*
Bad debt	619	**619**	-
	168,374	**168,374**	*156,360*
Total 2019	*156,360*	*156,360*	

Governance costs represent accountancy and independent examination fees.

8. Staff costs

	2020 £	*2019 £*
Wages and salaries	**122,102**	*121,256*
Social security costs	**8,035**	*7,902*
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	**8,054**	*5,477*
	138,191	*134,635*

8. Staff costs (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2020 No.	*2019* *No.*
Employees	**5**	*5*

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Total remuneration including national insurance and pension contributions in respect of key management personnel totalled £55,719 (2019: £54,664).

9. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits *(2019 - £NIL)*.

During the year ended 30 September 2020, expenses totalling £421 were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 Trustees *(2019 - £873 to 7 Trustees)* in regard to travel expenses.

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 October 2019	**4,355**
At 30 September 2020	**4,355**
Depreciation	
At 1 October 2019	**1,202**
Charge for the year	**900**
At 30 September 2020	**2,102**
Net book value	
At 30 September 2020	**2,253**
At 30 September 2019	*3,153*

11. Fixed asset investments

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Other investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 October 2019	**100**	**152,065**	**100**
Additions	**-**	**149,003**	**301,068**
At 30 September 2020	**100**	**301,068**	**301,168**
Net book value			
At 30 September 2020	**100**	**301,068**	**301,168**
At 30 September 2019	*100*	*-*	*100*

Principal subsidiaries

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Holding	Included in consolidation
BNA Events Limited	07784689	100%	No

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Profit/(Loss) for the year £	Net assets £
BNA Events Limited	**(5,314)**	**(4,935)**

12. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	**1,149**	*610*
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**53,860**	*64,605*
Other debtors	**-**	*612*
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,668**	*151,733*
	56,677	*217,560*

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	**2,782**	*1,325*
PAYE and social security	**3,850**	-
Other creditors	**39,063**	-
Accruals and deferred income	**11,417**	*10,515*
	57,112	*11,840*

Included within trade creditors is nil (2019: £95) owed to trustees in regard to expenses to be reimbursed.

14. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 October 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 30 September 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	**326,004**	**209,476**	**(124,800)**	**5,621**	**(14,099)**	**402,202**
Restricted funds						
Wolstencroft fund	**6,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**6,500**
Journal fund	**3,101**	**4,503**	**(4,500)**	**-**	**-**	**3,104**
Society for Neuroscience	**506**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**506**
Roche Products	**14,342**	**-**	**(8,486)**	**-**	**-**	**5,856**
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	**241,833**	**-**	**(91,249)**	**-**	**-**	**150,584**
Guarantors of Brain	**-**	**10,000**	**(4,379)**	**(5,621)**	**-**	**-**
	266,282	**14,503**	**(108,614)**	**(5,621)**	**-**	**166,550**
Total of funds	**592,286**	**223,979**	**(233,414)**	**-**	**(14,099)**	**568,752**

Wolstencroft fund - for expenses in regard to a lecture on ‘Outstanding Neuroscience’ at the biennial BNA Festival.

Journal fund - for editing and general running of the journal.

Society for Neuroscience - for the Core Concepts education project.

Roche Products - to support the continued teaching of neuroscience in UK schools.

Gatsby Charitable Foundation - to support the implementation of the BNA's new strategic plan.

Guarantors of Brain - funding for BNA's Brain Carer grants programme. The transfer represents expenditure incurred in the prior year in advance of the income being received but originally allocated to unrestricted funds.

14. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 October 2018 £	*Income* £	*Expenditure* £	*Gains/ (Losses)* £	*Balance at 30 September 2019* £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds - all funds	*372,802*	*100,610*	*(147,443)*	*35*	*326,004*
Restricted funds					
Wolstencroft fund	*6,500*	-	-	-	*6,500*
Journal fund	-	*4,371*	*(1,270)*	-	*3,101*
Society for Neuroscience	*506*	-	-	-	*506*
Roche Products	*10,620*	*20,000*	*(16,278)*	-	*14,342*
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	*150,000*	*150,000*	*(58,167)*	-	*241,833*
	167,626	174,371	(75,715)	-	*266,282*
Total of funds	*540,428*	*274,981*	*(223,158)*	*35*	*592,286*

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	**Restricted funds 2020** £	**Total funds 2020** £
Tangible fixed assets	2,253	-	**2,253**
Fixed asset investments	301,168	-	**301,168**
Current assets	120,606	201,837	**322,443**
Creditors due within one year	(31,825)	(25,287)	**(57,112)**
Difference	10,000	(10,000)	**-**
Total	402,202	166,550	**568,752**

15. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	*Restricted funds 2019* £	*Total funds 2019* £
Tangible fixed assets	3,153	-	*3,153*
Fixed asset investments	152,065	-	*152,065*
Current assets	182,626	266,282	*448,908*
Creditors due within one year	(11,840)	-	*(11,840)*
Total	326,004	266,282	*592,286*

16. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £8,054 (2019 - £5,477). Contributions of £284 (2019: £612) were owed to the fund at the balance sheet date.

17. Related party transactions

At 30 September 2020, British Neuroscience Association Limited was owed £53,860 (2019: £64,605) by BNA Events Limited, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Other than disclosed above or elsewhere in these financial statements, there were no other trasnactions with related parties requiring disclosure.