

OMEGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1105918

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05224240
Registered	2004-09-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bridge 5 Mill 22a Beswick Street Manchester M4 7HR
Phone	01612738875
Email	info@omegaresearchfoundation.org
Website	www.omegaresearchfoundation.org

Activities

Objects: To promote Human RightsTo advance education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and causes of conflict.

Activities: To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and the causes of conflict.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£654,915	£445,093	£411,163	7
2024-03-31	£404,023	£469,999	-	-
2023-03-31	£302,946	£374,128	-	-
2022-03-31	£445,234	£421,658	-	-
2021-03-31	£244,861	£387,714	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MICHAEL REED	Chair	
Annalena Wolcke		2023-07-04
Ian Bell		2017-09-20
Jevon Clayton		2017-09-20
Josephine Dresner		2014-09-22
Safa Al Ahmad		2024-06-01
Steven James Lindsay		2020-03-06

OMEGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1105918

Accounts

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918



Omega Research Foundation

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st March 2025

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st March 2025

Company number 5224240

Charity number 1105918

Registered office and operational address Bridge 5 Mill
22A Beswick Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 7HR

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Michael Reed	Chair
Steven Lindsay	Treasurer
Natalie Wilkins	(resigned 5 December 2024)
Josephine Dresner	
Ian Bell	
Jevon Clayton	
Annalena Wolcke	
Safa Al Ahmad	(appointed 1 June 2024)

Company Secretary Fiona Gorton

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Charity Bank Limited
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Auditors Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

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

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Omega Research Foundation are:

To promote human rights.

To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights, and the causes of conflict.

Omega works to:

Investigate and expose the global manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of military, security, and police (MSP) weapons, equipment, and techniques and related human rights and international humanitarian law violations.

Provide expert analysis and policy proposals to strengthen national, regional, and international controls.

Share our specialist knowledge, including through training, briefings, capacity building, and technical assistance.

So that:

We strengthen relationships with other NGOs and human rights monitors, journalists, judges and other legal professionals, political figures, private entities, unions, state institutions, law enforcement agencies, and international and regional institutions.

These key stakeholders are empowered with knowledge of the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of MSP weapons, equipment, and techniques, and their human rights impacts for a range of communities.

We collectively advocate for change.

So that:

Controls related to the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of weapons, equipment, and techniques are human rights-compliant.

These controls are effectively implemented and monitored.

Those who perpetrate violations are held to account.

So that:

Human rights and international humanitarian law violations are not committed or facilitated by people using military, security, and policing weapons, equipment, and techniques.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on promotion of human rights. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. All activities are undertaken to further the organisation's charitable objectives for the public benefit.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

The charity's main objectives for the financial year 2024-25 were:

- To continue work as a member of the United Against Torture Consortium (UATC) on a European Commission funded anti-torture project.
- To work with an increasing range of partners to provide support and case studies for lobbying and advocacy activities for strengthening controls on the international trade and use of MSP equipment, at national, regional, and international levels, and through the Torture-Free Trade Network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- To launch our new website, providing a wide range of information and data around MSP equipment and related human rights issues.
- To offer reactive research services and crisis response to highlight issues of concern in countries in conflict or for other human rights abuse cases.

The aims, objectives and activities of the charity are kept under ongoing review by the trustees to ensure they remain focused on the charity's stated purposes.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits arising from the charity's work.

Achievements and performance

Investigate and expose

Following the 2024 violent crackdown on protests in Georgia, Omega worked with two local partner organisations to support and amplify the work of Georgian human rights defenders. In January 2025, Omega together with the UATC published [preliminary findings](#) of an investigation into torture and ill-treatment against protesters. This was followed by a [briefing](#) published in March on extra-custodial torture and suppression of political dissent in Georgia.

In June 2024, Omega attended the *Eurosatory 2024* arms and security trade fair in Paris to monitor the 60+ UK companies exhibiting, as well as to assess whether all 1000+ exhibiting companies were acting in compliance with the EU Anti-Torture Regulation and French law. We found UK companies were in compliance. However, we also found anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions from India and South Korea exhibited in violation of French and EU law. We worked with Amnesty France to successfully alert the organisers and get them to expel the offending companies.



Before and after

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

The stand of Korea Defense Industry Corp, exhibiting prohibited cluster munition bomblets, was closed by the Eurostaory 2024 event organisers, all materials removed and the company ejected. This was the first time since the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force in 2010 that Omega has seen cluster munition bomblets physically displayed for sale at an international defence exhibition.

Omega joined UATC colleagues from Redress, IRCT, OMCT and APT to develop an EU-funded crisis intervention project in Bangladesh, running January 2025 – June 2026. We will work with local CSOs to respond to the human rights impacts following the Bangladesh uprising of July 2024. We collaborated with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for their fact-finding mission and report into the uprising. In February 2025 Omega joined a UATC Mission to establish the project, meet with local partners and investigate human rights violations, particularly the blinding and maiming of thousands of protestors through police use of metal pellets and other projectiles.

Provide expert analysis

Omega has provided our expertise to inform professional audiences and the general public about unlawful or dangerous use of force by police. We provided analysis to many media outlets and UN Special Procedures following the alleged use of a 'sonic device' in Belgrade, Serbia, in March 2025; the use of such a device may amount to ill-treatment. Omega supplied information to several Serbian human rights organisations who successfully petitioned the [European Court of Human Rights](#) to intervene. Omega provided expert advice to our partner Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) in Argentina on the human rights impacts and injury potential of new chemical irritant projectile launcher being introduced by police across Argentina.

Omega continued as a member of the European Commission's Informal Expert Group, advising the Commission on strengthening the EU Anti-Torture Regulation. Omega made proposals for expanding both the list of inherently abusive equipment that should be prohibited as well as the list of other equipment whose trade should be regulated. The Expert Group's input informed the Commission's recommendations for strengthening the Regulation, which then have to be reviewed by Member States and the European Parliament. We expect the Commission to [review](#) the Regulation's prohibited and controlled lists in the next financial year. We will use the strengthened EU Regulation as a 'good practice' example to lobby the UK Government to strengthen UK export controls.

Omega provided expert support to strategic litigation, seeking justice for people affected by unlawful state violence. During the reporting period, we provided expert opinions concerning the use of force in two cases where individuals experiencing mental health crises died during encounters with police, one in France and the other in Catalonia. The first of these has been submitted as part of an application to the European Court of Human Rights, which is pending, and the other to the relevant national court, where the case is still in progress.

The [Torture-Free Trade Network](#) of civil society organisations working for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty grew to over 80 civil society organisations from all world regions. Omega is part of the Network's core group, guiding strategic planning, engaging in advocacy work, and sharing our technical expertise and materials on both tools of torture and effective measures for regulating their trade. Omega joined Network advocacy missions to [Geneva](#) (May 2024) and the [United Nations](#) in New York (October 2024). We jointly facilitated an online meeting of the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade group of States in January 2025, which was also joined by the UN Special Rapporteurs on Torture and on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, the Chairperson of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa, Council of Europe Director of Human Rights, and the Secretary General of Amnesty International. We are calling on all States to support the development of a legally binding *Torture-Free Trade Treaty*.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2025



UN Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, Cultural & Issues), October 2024, during Omega's advocacy mission to the UN

Omega continued to chair the UK's National Taser Stakeholder Advisory Group (NTSAG), which provides critical oversight of police use of taser weapons in the UK, including new developments and policy changes. A new weapon, the Taser 10, underwent testing and evaluation, and Omega provided technical opinion and critique of the process, including on the risk of the weapons and its potential impact on children. In our role as chair of NTSAG, Omega continued to attend the National Police Chiefs Council's UK Less Lethal Weapons Working Group – we remain the only independent expert voice on the group, and we are able to bring a much needed informed human rights dimension to discussions of new weapons and technologies being introduced into UK policing.

Share our knowledge

In November 2024, Omega took part in an international Workshop "Strengthening Multilateral Efforts to Curb Trade in Torture and Death Penalty Goods" in Strasbourg hosted by the Council of Europe (CoE) Steering Committee for Human Rights for CoE member States, also streamed [online](#). The Workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the CoE's [Recommendation Rec\(2021\)2](#) on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the need for international cooperation on international standards through the UN. The event brought together the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture,

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2025

Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE's General Rapporteur on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, national experts; representatives of the European Union, and civil society.



The panel at "Strengthening Multilateral Efforts to Curb Trade in Torture and Death Penalty Goods" Workshop

Through the United Against Torture Consortium, we provided seven [small grants](#) to CSOs to support their work to further the campaign for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty. Based in Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, South Africa, and Uganda, the organisations supported built engagement within national and regional actors and institutions including police forces and authorities, national and regional human rights mechanisms, and regional intergovernmental frameworks.

At the invitation of the Technical Mission in Peru of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHCHR), Omega delivered two online trainings to legal professionals in Peru. The first took place in May 2024 and was aimed at the Special Prosecutorial Team for cases involving victims during social protests (EFICAVIP). The second training was delivered to lawyers who accompany those affected by alleged arbitrary use of force by police or military officials during the protests that took place from December 2022 to March 2023. Both events addressed the use of less lethal weapons during protests and over 80 people were trained in total. Discussions around further technical assistance to aid accountability efforts continue.

In November 2024 we co-organised an online workshop with the South Korean organisation, World Without War. The workshop focussed on how to research and document the manufacture, export, and use of South Korean policing equipment. Workshop participants were keen to learn more about the manufacture, trade, and use of policing weapons, as well as how to monitor and research these weapons. However, it was also an opportunity for Omega to learn more about the regulatory framework governing manufacture and use of policing weapons in South Korea.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2025

We continued our long-standing engagement with Brazilian partners. On 10 and 11 September 2024, Omega, Justiça Global and the Brazilian NPM organised online training for the members of two new local preventive mechanisms from the States of Acre and Sergipe. In March 2025, we again partnered with Justiça Global to co-organise in-person training in Rio de Janeiro for representatives of social movements, non-governmental organisations and judicial actors. In both events we shared tools and expertise to inform advocacy and legal interventions concerning the unlawful use of force disproportionately affecting racialised and marginalised groups.



Participants at workshop co-organised by Omega and Justiça Global, Rio de Janeiro, 31 March 2025.

Strategy

The organisational Theory of Change developed in 2020/21 and detailed in the Objectives and Activities section still informs Omega's work and is kept under regular review. Omega's strategy is partly driven by the strategy of the United Against Torture Consortium, which is being updated in 2025/26. We therefore plan to revisit the organisation's Strategy in 2026/27 following the UATC strategy update.

As part of our regular strategic review Omega identified a need to renew the Omega website to improve our visibility, communications, and information sharing. Our completely redesigned website now includes more information, highlights of our technical expertise, and links to our research database. It enables us to share data and information more easily with our audience. The website was launched

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

early in the financial year. Following the launch of the new website in April 2024, website visitors increased 67% when compared to the previous 12 months.

Grant making

As part of the EU funding for the UATC project, Omega is obliged to provide some Financial Support to Third Parties. The contribution of this to the achievement of our aims and objectives is detailed in the Achievements and Performance section. Grants are either offered to longstanding partners to continue collaboration and where partners are in a unique position to contribute, or as a result of publicly advertised open calls on a competitive basis. In offering this support, Omega aims to be a partner rather than a grant maker, offering wider support than just financial. Recipients have been invited to meetings and conferences, both online and in person, and further resources are being developed to support organisations on an ongoing sustainable basis beyond the lifetime of any financial support provided.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year, Omega had total Reserves of £411,163. Of this, £152,970 was held in restricted reserves to be spent on ongoing projects, £131,750 in designated reserves to be released over the following fifteen months, and £126,443 in general reserves.

Reserves policy

Omega holds *Restricted Reserves*, being unspent funding provided for specific projects, and *Unrestricted Reserves* which can be subdivided into *Designated Reserves*, being the proportion of multi-year core grant funding relating to future years as stated in the grant agreement, and the *General Fund*.

The trustees have reviewed Omega's Reserves Policy and have concluded that an upper and lower limit of reserves held in the General Fund should be set bearing in mind the objective of holding such reserves. That is, reserves in the General Fund are intended to underpin the organisation's solvency and the continuity of its operations. However, the size of these reserves should not be excessive. Excessive reserves would lead to resources being idle and unused for long periods.

In relation to the upper limit the trustees have taken into consideration the experience of the last ten years. In that period Omega has received three grants from the European Commission, each lasting around three years, with ten months between the first two, and twenty months between the second and third. These grants have typically provided around 70% of the organisation's income. In order to underpin the organisation's solvency during the periods waiting for the next grant receipt or between grants, the trustees consider holding a maximum reserves in the General Fund of a year of basic operating costs to be reasonable. Basic operating costs in 2024/25 are around £350,000 per annum – approximately £30,000 per month.

In relation to the lower limit should it become apparent that no further major grant is to be expected from the European Commission or from an alternative grant provider, Omega would need to drastically restructure and reduce its size and scope of operations. The trustees estimate that the costs associated with such a restructuring and reduction would amount to five months of basic operating costs which currently would be around £150,000.

Reserves in the General Fund at the end of 2024/25 stood at £126,443 which is below the target limits of £150,000 to £350,000. This is mitigated by the Designated fund balance of £131,750, but trustees are aware that further fundraising is a priority, and if unsuccessful there may be a need for some level of restructuring. The situation is under active review, and during the year staff reduced their hours and pay to support the long-term future of the organisation.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

Fundraising

The long-term financial viability of Omega depends on continual fundraising, in a climate of shrinking donor funding for human rights work. Omega raises most of its income through grant funding, though has started to receive some donations from the public in the last few years. Omega has received no complaints relating to fundraising activity.

In June 2024, we started the second year of a three year grant from the EU to the international United Against Torture Consortium, in which Omega is a core partner along with the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Redress, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT), and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). Negotiations about a further grant under the four year Financial Framework Partnership Agreement will take place during the coming financial year. In January 2025, the UATC started work under a second EU funded project for 18 months, focusing on Bangladesh.

Omega's funding from the Oak Foundation finished in April 2024. In December 2024 Omega's two year grant from the Open Society Foundations finished. We do not expect further funding from either foundation, as both seem to be prioritising other areas of funding going forwards. This change in funding priorities, within an already limited field for such a specialised area, is a major concern. In January 2024, Omega was very pleased to be awarded one of eight legacy grants from the Joffe Charitable Trust. This will provide vital support over the next four years. We are also very grateful for ongoing support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, who extended our three year grant by a further 18 months during the financial year. This grant now runs to June 2026. Omega has worked hard through the financial year and beyond to try to diversify our funding base and find new sources of funds, both alone and as part of the UATC.

Plans for the future

We will continue to:

- offer research and policy support to the UN, human rights bodies, NGOs, researchers and journalists working in our areas of interest;
- develop new partnerships with NGOs and funders to strengthen the organisation for the future; and
- share our knowledge and skills with likeminded organisations to investigate and expose human rights abuses globally.

We will work with the UATC to negotiate further funding from the EU following on from our initial three year grant, and to find additional funding for this work.

Omega's work is by its nature a long term undertaking. Preventing human rights violations, nationally, regionally or internationally, takes many years of advocacy, supported by rigorous research. Trustees do not, therefore, foresee any significant changes in the organisation's plans or activities.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16th September 2004.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

The Omega Research Foundation may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional trustees are to retire. The Trustees are also directors and members of the company. Trustees are recruited following the Trustee Recruitment Policy, which states that vacancies should be advertised and applications invited, with a focus on maintaining a

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

diverse Board. New trustees go through an induction process and are given the option of training in any aspect of directorship that they feel is necessary.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 11 to the accounts.

Trustees meet 4-5 times per year and make decisions on the medium and long term aims and activities of the organisation, including: funding strategies; methods of attaining the organisation's objectives; organisational policies; and staffing levels. The Board of Trustees also monitors the overall performance and achievements of the organisation. The Omega Research Foundation has a principal staff of seven to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated. This includes project management and financial administration.

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the Omega Research Foundation is exposed and ensure that adequate systems and processes are in place to manage those risks. The three highest risks identified are:

- Lack of resources to carry out work – mitigated by fundraising efforts, careful monitoring of budgets, and ongoing review of staffing levels.
- Legal action as a result of inaccurate information – mitigated by rigorous research and fact-checking, legal advice, and the use of neutral language in reports.
- Staff security when travelling – mitigated by risk assessment before travel, and ongoing monitoring.

The trustees are mindful of the Charity Governance Code's principles and recommended practice, to ensure Omega's governance standards remain high. Trustees and staff are alert to the need to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in all their policies and operations.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2025 was 7 (2024: 7). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At 31 March 2025 Omega employed six full-time research staff, and a part-time administrative & finance officer, although these staff were all working at 80% capacity due to funding constraints. Omega also had two volunteers during the year; one recruited through the University of Manchester, and one through a school work experience scheme. Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. After two years' service, all staff are paid at the same rate (pro-rata), which is set periodically by the trustees, taking account of inflation, comparable market salaries, and the charity's available resources.

Currently all staff have over two years' service, and therefore all count as senior management personnel. All served throughout the reporting period, and were still in post at the date of signature:

- Helen Close
- Neil Corney
- Michael Crowley
- Fiona Gorton
- Scott Mason
- Matthew McEvoy
- Rebecca Shaw

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

Neil Corney, a member of Omega staff, is a trustee of Bridge 5 Mill Ltd, Omega's landlord. He always recuses himself from any discussions around this relationship, with both parties.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

Omega is a member of the United Against Torture Consortium. This is governed by a Board consisting of one member from each member organisation, with a rotating chair. The work of the UATC is determined by the grant contract with the EU, as agreed by the UATC Board, and managed via Memoranda of Understanding between the lead organisation OMCT and each other member organisation. Omega's involvement in the UATC Board ensures that Omega's work under the contract and MoU is always in line with Omega's charitable objectives.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2025

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Omega Research Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 15th December 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Steven Lindsay

Treasurer

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Omega Research Foundation Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 12, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA CTA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

23rd December 2025

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,812	74	1,886	873
Charitable activities	4	233,415	416,760	650,175	398,572
Investments	5	2,854	-	2,854	4,578
Total income		238,081	416,834	654,915	404,023
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		29,653	-	29,653	19,699
Charitable activities	7	82,155	333,285	415,440	450,300
Total expenditure		111,808	333,285	445,093	469,999
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		126,273	83,549	209,822	(65,976)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	9	126,273	83,549	209,822	(65,976)
Transfer between funds		(16,487)	16,487	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		109,786	100,036	209,822	(65,976)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		148,407	52,934	201,341	267,317
Total funds carried forward		258,193	152,970	411,163	201,341

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Company number 5224240

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	14	106,355	60,209
Cash at bank and in hand		328,410	170,867
Total current assets		434,765	231,076
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(23,602)	(29,735)
Net current assets		411,163	201,341
Total assets less current liabilities		411,163	201,341
Net assets		411,163	201,341
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	152,970	52,934
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated fund: Long term grants	19	131,750	98,176
General funds	19	126,443	50,231
Total charity funds		411,163	201,341

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 19 to 34 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 15th December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Steven Lindsay (Treasurer)

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		209,822	(65,976)
Adjustments for:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		(2,854)	(4,578)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(46,146)	68,043
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(6,133)	4,573
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		154,689	2,062
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Dividends, interest, and rents from investments		2,854	4,578
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		2,854	4,578
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		157,543	6,640
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		170,867	164,227
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		328,410	170,867

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

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

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

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

c Income

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

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, 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 and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e 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 Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The charity has one designated fund, the long term grants fund, which holds grant income awarded under multi-year grants. This is transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant.

The remaining unrestricted funds are the general funds of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives. There are currently no fixed assets.

j Debtors

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

k Cash at bank and in hand

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

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m 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.

n Foreign currencies

Transactions entered into in currencies other than sterling are included in the accounts after conversion at the bank rate in force on the date.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within staff costs in note 6, 7 and 8, and are allocated between funds in proportion to the allocation of staff time.

The money purchase plan is managed by TPT Retirement Solutions (previously The Pensions Trust) and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement year age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is 0.69% and this is deducted from the investment fund annually. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. The contributions outstanding at the year-end were £1,723 (2024: £2,154).

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Donations	1,812	74	1,886
Total	1,812	74	1,886
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Donations	873	-	873
Total	873	-	873

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
European Commission grant	-	331,938	331,938
European Commission crisis area grant	-	84,822	84,822
Joffe Charitable Trust grant	52,000	-	52,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant	162,500	-	162,500
Other income from charitable activity	18,915	-	18,915
Total	233,415	416,760	650,175
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
European Commission grant	-	325,865	325,865
Oak Foundation grant	-	62,240	62,240
Other income from charitable activity	10,467	-	10,467
Total	10,467	388,105	398,572

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

5 Investment income

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £
Income from bank deposits	2,854	-	2,854
	2,854	-	2,854
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £
Income from bank deposits	4,578	-	4,578
	4,578	-	4,578

6 Cost of raising funds

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	22,648	15,011
Accommodation	1,242	635
Governance costs (see note 8)	664	428
Support costs (see note 8)	5,099	3,625
	29,653	19,699

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	238,225	280,006
Accommodation	13,062	11,851
Publishing (including websites)	9,769	17,906
Travel	7,889	12,666
Training provision	-	6,890
Research	-	806
Share of grant relating to partner organisations	85,633	41,669
Governance costs (see note 8)	7,130	10,888
Support costs (see note 8)	53,732	67,618
	415,440	450,300
	2025 £	2024 £
Restricted expenditure	333,285	360,306
Unrestricted expenditure	82,155	89,994
	415,440	450,300

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2025 £
Staff costs	40,960	3,276	44,236
Office costs	17,871	1,464	19,335
Audit fees	-	3,054	3,054
	58,831	7,794	66,625
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	5,099	664	
Charitable activities	53,732	7,130	
	58,831	7,794	
Previous reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	40,939	4,789	45,728
Office costs	30,304	3,557	33,861
Audit fees	-	2,970	2,970
	71,243	11,316	82,559
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	3,625	428	
Charitable activities	67,618	10,888	
	71,243	11,316	

The charity has one activity and therefore support costs are not apportioned.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

9 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Auditor's remuneration - audit fees	2,545	2,415
Auditor's remuneration - other	-	60

10 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	268,122	298,541
Social security costs	23,581	27,276
Pension costs	13,406	14,928
	305,109	340,745
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	22,648	15,011
Charitable activities	238,225	280,006
Support costs	40,960	40,939
Governance costs	3,276	4,789
	305,109	340,745

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2024: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2024: 7).

Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. The senior management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the staff team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £310,109 (2024: £345,745).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

11 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2024: Nil).

No (2024: no) members of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year.

Aggregate donations from related parties, were nil (2024: Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no conditions were attached to donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2024: Nil).

12 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
European Commission	416,760	325,865
	416,760	325,865

The European Commission grant represents year two of a three-year grant, with the second year commencing in June 2024, to cover 95% of costs on the project "United Against Torture Consortium project". A further European Commission grant was awarded in January 2025 to extend the project's activities, focusing on Bangladesh, for 18 months. Some of the grant was unspent at the year end (see note 17).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants receivable	96,250	52,500
Trade debtors	5,440	3,894
Prepayments and accrued income	4,665	3,815
	106,355	60,209

Grants receivable consists of 15 months of an 18-month extension grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This is held in the Long term grants designated fund (see note 19). The amounts recoverable in more than one year is £19,250 (2024: £nil)

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Short term deposits	317,580	165,248
Cash at bank and on hand	10,830	5,619
	328,410	170,867

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	10,811	11,021
Other creditors and accruals	7,070	10,321
Taxation and social security costs	5,721	8,393
	23,602	29,735

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
European Commission	52,934	331,938	(330,671)	16,487	70,688
EU crisis area grant	-	84,822	(2,540)	-	82,282
Global Giving	-	74	(74)	-	-
Total	52,934	416,834	(333,285)	16,487	152,970
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
European Commission	-	325,865	(274,906)	1,975	52,934
Oak Foundation	2,470	62,240	(64,710)	-	-
Global Giving	1,853	-	(1,853)	-	-
Network for Social Change	-	-	(18,837)	18,837	-
Total	4,323	388,105	(360,306)	20,812	52,934

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
European Commission	Funding for the United Against Torture Consortium project
Global Giving	Funding for further development of the database, including providing access to external individuals and organisations.
Oak Foundation	Funding to continue work on the European "Anti Torture" Regulation, and work on the Alliance for Torture Free Trade, and on torture prevention work in Brazil
Network for Social Change	Funding for monitoring proposed new weapons and tactics within UK police, plus some core funding

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

19 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	50,231	106,331	(111,808)	81,689	126,443
Designated fund: Long term grants	98,176	131,750	-	(98,176)	131,750
	<u>148,407</u>	<u>238,081</u>	<u>(111,808)</u>	<u>(16,487)</u>	<u>258,193</u>
	<u><u>148,407</u></u>	<u><u>238,081</u></u>	<u><u>(111,808)</u></u>	<u><u>(16,487)</u></u>	<u><u>258,193</u></u>
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>As at 31 March 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	15,080	15,918	(109,693)	128,926	50,231
Designated fund: Long term grants	247,914	-	-	(149,738)	98,176
	<u>262,994</u>	<u>15,918</u>	<u>(109,693)</u>	<u>(20,812)</u>	<u>148,407</u>
	<u><u>262,994</u></u>	<u><u>15,918</u></u>	<u><u>(109,693)</u></u>	<u><u>(20,812)</u></u>	<u><u>148,407</u></u>

Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds
Long term grants fund	Income from multi-year core grants, currently from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (4.5 year extended grant starting January 2022), to be transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant, following the grant agreement, together with a portion of the first year of the Joffe Charitable Trust grant received during the year.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Long term grants fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	126,443	131,750	152,970	411,163
Total	126,443	131,750	152,970	411,163
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Long term grants fund £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>50,231</i>	<i>98,176</i>	<i>52,934</i>	<i>201,341</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>50,231</i>	<i>98,176</i>	<i>52,934</i>	<i>201,341</i>

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

21 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	873	-	873	1,324
Charitable activities	4	10,467	388,105	398,572	300,680
Investments	5	4,578	-	4,578	942
Total income		15,918	388,105	404,023	302,946
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		19,699	-	19,699	86,925
Charitable activities	7	89,994	360,306	450,300	287,203
Total expenditure		109,693	360,306	469,999	374,128
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		(93,775)	27,799	(65,976)	(71,182)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	9	(93,775)	27,799	(65,976)	(71,182)
Transfer between funds		(20,812)	20,812	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(114,587)	48,611	(65,976)	(71,182)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		262,994	4,323	267,317	338,499
Total funds carried forward		148,407	52,934	201,341	267,317

OMEGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1105918

Accounts

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918



Omega Research Foundation

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Company number 5224240

Charity number 1105918

Registered office and operational address Bridge 5 Mill
22A Beswick Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 7HR

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Michael Reed Chair
Steven Lindsay Treasurer
Rick Seccombe (resigned 10th October 2023)
Natalie Wilkins
Josephine Dresner
Ian Bell
Jevon Clayton
Annalena Wolcke (appointed 4th July 2023)
Safa Al Ahmad (appointed 1st June 2024)

Company Secretary Fiona Gorton

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Charity Bank Limited
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Auditors Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

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

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Omega Research Foundation are:

To promote human rights.

To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights, and the causes of conflict.

Omega works to:

Investigate and expose the global manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of military, security, and police (MSP) weapons, equipment, and techniques and related human rights and international humanitarian law violations.

Provide expert analysis and policy proposals to strengthen national, regional, and international controls.

Share our specialist knowledge, including through training, briefings, capacity building, and technical assistance.

So that:

We strengthen relationships with other NGOs and human rights monitors, journalists, judges and other legal professionals, political figures, private entities, unions, state institutions, law enforcement agencies, and international and regional institutions.

These key stakeholders are empowered with knowledge of the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of MSP weapons, equipment, and techniques, and their human rights impacts for a range of communities.

We collectively advocate for change.

So that:

Controls related to the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of weapons, equipment, and techniques are human rights-compliant.

These controls are effectively implemented and monitored.

Those who perpetrate violations are held to account.

So that:

Human rights and international humanitarian law violations are not committed or facilitated by people using military, security, and policing weapons, equipment, and techniques.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on promotion of human rights. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. All activities are undertaken to further the organisation's charitable objectives for the public benefit.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

The charity's main objectives for the financial year 2023-24 were:

- To work with an increasing range of partners to provide support and case studies for lobbying and advocacy activities for strengthening controls on the international trade and use of MSP equipment, particularly through the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade (states) and the Torture-Free Trade Network (CSOs).
- To continue to develop and expand our in-house research database and archive for the recognition and tracing of military, security, and police equipment.
- To offer reactive research services and crisis response to highlight issues of concern in countries in conflict or for other human rights abuse cases.
- To start work as a core member of the United Against Torture Consortium on a European Commission funded project.

The aims, objectives and activities of the charity are kept under ongoing review by the trustees to ensure they remain focused on the charity's stated purposes.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits arising from the charity's work.

Achievements and performance

Investigate and expose

An important part of Omega's work is to investigate governments, companies, and individuals involved in the global trade in military, security, and police (MSP) weapons, equipment, and techniques, and related human rights and international humanitarian law violations. This involves researching and investigating all aspects of the industry including the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use or misuse of the weapons and equipment.



Milipol France, Robin Ballantyne © Omega Research Foundation

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

In November 2023, Omega attended the Milipol Paris arms fair at the invitation of the organiser. We visited company stands to check that no law enforcement equipment prohibited under the EU Anti-Torture Regulation or French Law was being promoted. Company brochures, posters, and stands were checked for any promotion of prohibited equipment and we informed the fair organisers when anything of concern was discovered. We found four Chinese companies promoting prohibited items, including spiked batons, thumbcuffs and weighted leg cuffs: after the fair organisers' compliance team was alerted, the material was removed. In addition to prohibited equipment, we also collected information on electric shock stun guns, batons and gloves, and ammunition containing multiple projectiles. Omega classifies these types of law enforcement equipment as 'inherently abusive' and believes they should be prohibited. We worked with [Amnesty France](#) and the UN [Special Rapporteur on Torture](#) to advocate for the strengthening of French, EU and international trade controls to prohibit such abusive equipment.

Omega continued work to support victims and survivors of state violence and their fight for justice. This included intervening in cases we identified as strategically important. For instance, Laurent Theron suffered irreversible loss of sight during a 2016 protest when a French police officer threw an explosive grenade towards him. Mr Theron took his case to the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that the use of the grenade was neither necessary nor proportionate. Omega and our partner [REDRESS](#), who work for justice and reparation for survivors of torture, submitted a [third-party intervention](#) to the court, examining the indiscriminate nature of explosive grenades that disperse kinetic impact projectiles and the incompatibility of their use against protesters with the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The case continues.

Provide expert analysis

Our research, technical assistance, and policy proposals have been key in strengthening controls governing the trade and use of law enforcement equipment globally.

United Nations

Omega was central to important developments towards international rules banning the trade in inherently abusive goods, and regulating the export of law enforcement weapons and equipment that can be misused for torture. Omega provided research, technical assistance, and policy advice to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture in drafting the UN [Thematic study on the global trade in weapons, equipment and devices used by law enforcement and other public authorities that are capable of inflicting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment](#). The Special Rapporteur's study included recommendations to regulate the trade, and has already informed State and civil society policy and action promoting a Torture-Free Trade Treaty.

Omega provided key inputs to the 2024 UN [Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests](#). We are also assisting with other elements of the [Practical Toolkit](#) being developed by Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, with the support of UNODC and OHCHR. These tools will be promoted to states across the world, providing a human rights-based alternative to the coercive crowd control practices that have become increasingly prevalent, and which have led to serious human rights violations of protesters globally. Omega's contributions strengthened language on the use of force, and insisted on specific protections for children, as well as stronger language to emphasise the absolute prohibition of torture.

Omega continued to supply technical expertise and data on companies trading in 'tools of torture' and on use of equipment, to the Special Rapporteur on Torture for a range of states she was examining, and for her subsequent thematic report on good practices in prison management.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2024



Examples of types of equipment identified by the Special Rapporteur on Torture as being inherently cruel, inhuman or degrading and therefore considered to be prohibited: Weighted leg cuffs (top-left), Spiked baton (top-right), Thumbcuffs (bottom-left), Electric shock shield (bottom-right). © Omega Research Foundation

European Union (EU)

As a member of the EU Commission's Informal Expert Group for the Implementation of the EU Anti-Torture Regulation, Omega provided technical assistance to Commission officials to strengthen this important legally binding instrument, continuing our close working relationship with the EU built up over many years. Commission-proposed revisions that would further restrict the export of goods that can be used for torture to third countries are likely to be published in late 2024. The strengthening of export rules would be doubly significant, making it more difficult for abusive regimes to acquire goods for torture and repression, and setting a precedent which would likely be replicated in other regions.

Council of Europe (CoE)

Since its adoption in 2021, Omega has promoted and facilitated full implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation addressing the trade in torture goods. We briefed both the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the EU Mission to the Council of Europe on the contemporary European torture trade and made recommendations for strengthening CoE regional torture-free trade measures in advance of a February 2024 meeting between the 46 Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and UN torture prevention bodies. The CoE is now reviewing implementation of the CoE Recommendation and seeking how this can be strengthened.

Inter-American system

In November 2023, Omega joined 23 other civil society organisations in presenting our concerns regarding the human rights impact of less lethal weapons to the Inter-American Commission on Human

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

Rights in a thematic hearing. Separately, Omega and CEJIL (a human rights organisation working in the Latin American region) submitted an [amicus brief](#) to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, encouraging the Court to consider the creation of Inter-American standards on the manufacture, trade, and acquisition of less lethal weapons, in the context of an advisory opinion requested of the Court by Mexico. These activities sought to promote the development of legislation prohibiting and preventing torture and ill-treatment in the region. This process is ongoing and we will continue to support it.

Supporting partners to drive change locally

In Brazil, Omega drafted a memo on the use of instruments of restraint in healthcare settings to inform a draft protocol being developed by the Rondonia State Mechanism to Prevent and Combat Torture. This protocol was requested by judicial authorities in response to the Mechanism's documentation of the inhumane use of restraints on ill prisoners. The draft protocol to end such practices awaits approval from judicial authorities.

Omega provided technical assistance concerning use of multiple kinetic impact projectiles to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture during her October 2023 mission to Chile. Acting on this advice, the Special Rapporteur subsequently [recommended](#) that Chilean authorities prohibit the manufacture, trade, and use of multiple KIPs and withdraw them from law enforcement armouries.

Omega supported efforts to reform the policing of protests in Colombia. This included giving an online presentation to Colombian civil society organisations and also gave a presentation in one of a series of police reform roundtable meetings, attended by policing authorities and local civil society organisations and facilitated by the local UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The result of this process is a draft resolution and decree which is being reviewed by the Office of the President. Advances in the draft include the prohibition of kinetic impact projectiles during protests.

Omega provided technical assistance to Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS, an Argentinian organisation) around the violent repression of protests in January and February 2024 in Argentina. We provided information on equipment in the context of protests, including identification of specific weapons and their origin (based on images and company information), and detailed the human rights concerns specific to the use of this equipment. This has informed their advocacy and awareness-raising.

At the request of senior officials, Omega and OMCT provided technical expertise concerning the limits on the use of electric shock projectile weapons and chemical irritants in places of detention, to the Ministry of Justice of a government in Latin America. As a result, the Ministry developed internal guidance and stricter criteria concerning the acquisition of certain less lethal weapons for use in prisons.

Omega supported efforts to stop US police using injurious munitions against protesters and those deprived of their liberty. State law requires all California law enforcement agencies to publicly [report](#) on how military equipment was used in the previous year. Omega worked with the American Friends Service Committee and local civil society organisations to support their call for a ban on the use of multiple projectile 'scattershot' munitions by the Sheriff of Alameda County. Omega provided technical assistance, policy advice, and [advocacy](#), including using the Special Rapporteur on Torture's list of items that should be prohibited, at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meetings in 2023 and 2024. This advocacy resulted in the Alameda Sheriffs' office deciding to phase out several models of multiple projectile (scattershot) munitions, committing to not use scattershot munitions on prisoners in Santa Rita's mental health unit, to "research alternatives" to these munitions, and reporting that they did not use scattershot munitions over the last year. Further advocacy to remove all multiple projectile munitions continues.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

UK

Omega chairs National Taser Stakeholders Advisory Group meetings, attended by senior commanding police officers responsible for Less Lethal Weapons in UK Policing, representatives from the College of Policing, Home Office, Ministry of Defence and other officials. We lobbied for changes in police training on Taser, raised concerns around cases and injuries, and commented on policy proposals. We also participate in 'Less Lethal Weapons Working Group' meetings, obtaining unique information on police weapons developments in UK policing, as well as operational data on use of force and weapons. We attended meetings reviewing the use of the Taser 7 weapon, and sat on the group assessing the new Taser weapon, Taser 10, which has commenced a testing process for introduction into UK policing, suggesting changes to the process, and raising concerns that this new '10 shot Taser' was inappropriate for UK policing. We presented at the National Police Chief's Council's International Taser Conference in May 2023, the only human rights voice at the event, where we raised concerns about the 'Taser drone' developed with UK Government grants since 2020 and now being assessed for introduction into UK policing. We successfully lobbied against the export of Taser weapons from the UK to police in British Overseas Territories, which would have been contrary to extant UK export laws, and influenced the proposed UK police Taser training proposal for police in Anguilla.

We grew our relationship with the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), holding meetings on cases of Taser use, and use of Taser against children. We lobbied for mandatory referral to the IOPC of all uses against children – sadly not yet achieved.

Through attending the Less Lethal Weapons Working Group, we met with the prison service, discovering that they were procuring Tasers and other new weapons, including riot control agent compressed gas launchers, for use by their National Tactical Response Group. We established new contacts with prison reform and oversight organisations, and informed their freedom of information requests and preparations for possible judicial review of decisions taken by Ministers.

Share our specialist knowledge

Omega's expertise and technical knowledge feeds into the work of many other organisations around the world. We run training sessions, write briefings, and offer technical assistance to support the work of other organisations.

Training and capacity building

Omega partnered with organisations working in Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, and Uzbekistan, organising training on issues related to torture and other ill-treatment, which we delivered to over 150 people, including protest monitors, prison monitors, and other human rights defenders.

As part of our work supporting CSOs and human rights defenders, Omega worked with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) to revise and expand IRCT's Protest Toolkit to include additional information on documenting law enforcement weapons and equipment used. The toolkit is designed to help protest monitors record and document injuries inflicted by law enforcement officers at a protest or in detention. The new toolkit was translated into Bengali and used in our training for Bangladeshi human rights defenders in November 2023.

Omega worked closely with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE-ODIHR), providing technical expertise, text, and videos for an updated module on Tactical Options and the Use of Force in the context of policing assemblies, for the ODIHR Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association assembly monitoring e-learning course. The course, designed for law enforcement officials and human rights monitoring bodies, is available [online](#). Omega also led a session on the same theme as part of an ODIHR training

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2024

event for Assembly Monitors for Ligue des droit des hommes (LDH), a French human rights organisation, in March 2024, in Paris.

Omega works with National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), who are mandated under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture to make unannounced monitoring visits to places of deprivation of liberty, as well as with National Human Rights Institutions, providing them with information and training on monitoring the use of weapons and equipment in places of detention. Omega has an established relationship with OSCE-ODIHR and the University of Exeter, with whom we organise workshops and training sessions on monitoring weapons and restraints in places of detention. In this reporting period, we co-organised two of these trainings for the NPMs of France and Slovakia, with the workshops tailored to the specific mechanism. We worked with participants to develop follow-up actions for the NPM and recommendations for the relevant authorities.



Training the Slovakian NPM © OSCE-ODIHR

In June 2023 Omega co-organised a workshop with OSCE-ODIHR in Almaty, Kazakhstan entitled “monitoring the use of weapons and methods of restraint by law enforcement personnel in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan”. The two-day workshop was for Ombuds institutions, the National Preventive Mechanisms of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and the National Human Rights Institution of Uzbekistan. It provided an opportunity for them to share experiences, issues, and good practice.

European Parliament

Omega presented on the human rights impacts of police weapons and use of force, and controls on the trade and use of such weapons, at an ‘Exchange of views on the use of force by the police under the Rule of Law’ organised by the Democracy, Rule of Law, and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group at the EU Parliament. Although policing is controlled at a national level and the EU parliament has no authority over policing, the event informed policing and policy professionals both at an EU level and in member states.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

Support to journalists and others

Omega responded to an ongoing range of requests for technical expertise, including:

- identification of weapons and ammunition used, or found at, scenes of human rights violations from media organisations (including Reuters, Al-Jazeera, New York Times);
- support for academics studying the prevention of torture;
- advice to human rights organisations and journalists examining use of force and conventional and less lethal weapons, including in USA, Canada, Chile, Peru, Gaza, Kenya, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, amongst many others, providing, for example:
 - technical information and details of human rights concerns on the [use of restraint techniques, including hog-tie](#);
 - technical information and details of [human rights concerns on electric shock weapons](#).

Eye injuries

Over the past five years, there has emerged a global crisis of eye injuries, including blinding, caused by police use of multiple kinetic impact projectiles in crowd control operations, sometimes using shotgun-fired metal pellets (often using hunting ammunition), or projectiles made of rubber or plastic. In Colombia, Omega participated in a February 2024 hearing of the Colombian Senate's Human Rights Commission dealing with ocular injuries incurred during protests. We collaborate with local survivor group Movimiento en Resistencia Contra las Agresiones Oculares del Escuadrón Móvil Antidisturbio (MOCAO), who co-organised the event and invited Omega to speak about the global nature of this issue. The aim of the hearing was to create political will to ensure full remedy for survivors and to prevent future violations.

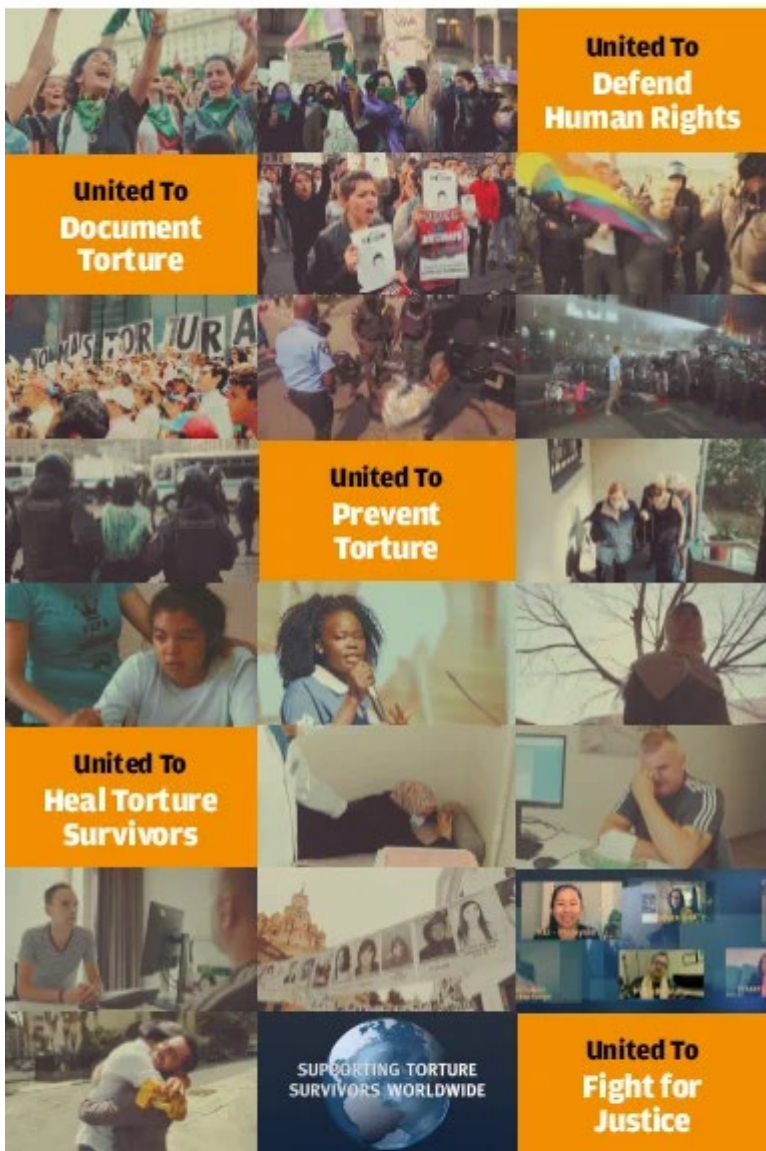
In March 2024, Omega spoke at the UK premiere of the film 'Reborn Eyes – Surviving Ocular Mutilation' at the University of Exeter. The film, about survivors of police violence in Colombia, was made by Lucía Guerrero Rivière from the University, who had worked with MOCAO. Omega spoke about monitoring the use of police weapons in torture and the need for a ban on multiple kinetic impact projectiles.

In March 2024, Omega delivered the keynote speech to Fair Trials' [Legal Experts Advisory Panel](#) (LEAP) Conference in Brussels, Belgium. Titled 'Blindings and broken trust: Controls on the use of force in protests and prisons' Omega's presentation highlighted injuries and other human rights violations and the urgent need to control use of force and weapons by law enforcement officials globally and noted the Special Rapporteur on Torture's report. Some 50 lawyers from LEAP's network attended from almost all EU states, plus Switzerland and Albania.

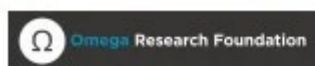
Torture-Free Trade Network

Omega continued to be a key driver of building this global movement. As a member of the Core Group of the Torture-Free Trade Network, we collaborated with civil society from around the world, building connections, conducting shared advocacy missions, and developing the campaign for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty. Omega's expertise has informed the direction of civil society's work on the campaign. We meet regularly as the Core Group organisations and support and facilitate wider Network meetings. As part of an international civil society delegation from this Network, Omega staff conducted bilateral meetings with state representatives to the United Nations in New York during the UN General Assembly in October 2023, briefing on the issue, encouraging further engagement in the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade, and calling on States to work towards a Torture-Free Trade Treaty.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2024



#UnitedAgainstTorture



United Against Torture Consortium

With torture still widespread, Omega has joined forces with another five of the world's leading anti-torture organisations, in partnership with over 200 civil society organisations and other partners in more than 100 countries. Together, we will strengthen and expand the anti-torture movement by pooling expertise in torture prevention, protection, rehabilitation, and strategic litigation.

The United Against Torture Consortium brings Omega, the Association for the Prevention of Torture ([APT](#)), and [REDRESS](#) together with the global memberships of the World Organisation Against Torture ([OMCT](#)), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims ([IRCT](#)), and the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture ([FIACAT](#)).

Survivors' experiences and, for those who wish, their direct participation, will be at the centre of the Consortium's torture prevention, rehabilitation, and justice processes, both nationally and internationally.

There is an urgent need to tackle the current global rise of autocracy, the shrinking space for civil society, an alarming acceptance of torture among some sectors of the public, and the dire need to deliver justice to survivors amid unprecedented levels of systematic and widespread torture.

Together, we are more than the sum of our parts and we will work innovatively, tirelessly, and strategically to strengthen and expand the anti-torture movement for a world free of torture and ill-treatment.

Protecting and promoting human rights and democracy is a key [priority](#) of EU external action and one of the founding values of the European Union, which provides funding to the Consortium.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2024

Strategy

Omega undertook a major strategic planning exercise in 2020/21. This led to the development of a Theory of Change for the organisation, as detailed in the Objectives and Activities section of this report above and available on the Omega website. This organisational Theory of Change informs Omega's work and is kept under regular review. We plan to revisit the organisation's overarching Strategy in 2025/26.

As part of our regular strategic review Omega identified a need to renew the Omega website to improve our visibility, communications and information sharing. Our completely redesigned website now includes more information, highlights of our technical expertise, and links to our research database thus enabling us to share data and information more easily with our audience. The website was built during this financial year and launched in April 2024. This has resulted in increased traffic and interactions.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year, Omega had total Reserves of £201,341. Of this, £52,934 was held in restricted reserves to be spent on ongoing projects, £98,176 in designated reserves to be released over the following financial year, and £50,231 in general reserves.

Fundraising

The long-term financial viability of Omega depends on continual fundraising, in a climate of shrinking donor funding for human rights work. Omega raises most of its income through grant funding, though has started to receive some donations from the public in the last few years. Omega has received no complaints relating to fundraising activity.

In June 2023, a four-year Financial Framework Partnership Agreement began between the EU and the international United Against Torture consortium, in which Omega is a core partner along with the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Redress, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT) and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). An initial three-year torture prevention grant under this Agreement also started in June 2023.

The third year of a grant from the Oak Foundation started in May 2023. This will be the final grant from the Oak Foundation as they are prioritising other areas of funding. In January 2023, Omega started the second year of a three-year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and started a two-year grant from the Open Society Foundations, securing funding from them for the first time. Omega also received a one-year grant from the Network for Social Change covering the financial year. Omega has worked hard through the financial year and beyond to try to diversify our funding base and find new sources of funds.

Reserves policy

Omega holds *Restricted Reserves*, being unspent funding provided for specific projects, and *Unrestricted Reserves* which can be subdivided into *Designated Reserves*, being the proportion of multi-year core grant funding relating to future years as stated in the grant agreement, and the *General Fund*.

The trustees have reviewed Omega's Reserves Policy and have concluded that an upper and lower limit of reserves held in the General Fund should be set bearing in mind the objective of holding such reserves. That is, reserves in the General Fund are intended to underpin the organisation's solvency and

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

the continuity of its operations. However, the size of these reserves should not be excessive. Excessive reserves would lead to resources being idle and unused for long periods.

In relation to the upper limit the trustees have taken into consideration the experience of the last ten years. In that period Omega has received three grants from the European Commission via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, each lasting around three years, with fifteen months between the first two, and ten months between the second and third. These grants have typically provided around 70% of the organisation's income. In order to underpin the organisation's solvency during the periods waiting for the next grant receipt or between grants, the trustees consider holding a maximum reserves in the General Fund of a year of basic operating costs to be reasonable. Basic operating costs in 2023/24 are around £400,000 per annum - £33,000 per month.

In relation to the lower limit should it become apparent that no further major grant is to be expected from the European Commission or from an alternative grant provider, Omega would need to drastically restructure and reduce its size and scope of operations. The trustees estimate that the costs associated with such a restructuring and reduction would amount to five months of basic operating costs which currently would be around £165,000.

Reserves in the General Fund at the end of 2023-24 stood at £50,231 which is below the target limits of £165,000 to £400,000. This is mitigated by the Designated fund balance of £98,176, but trustees are aware that further fundraising is a priority, and if unsuccessful there may be a need for some level of restructuring. The situation is under active review, and after the year end, staff reduced their hours and pay to support the long-term future of the organisation.

Plans for the future

We will continue to:

- offer research and policy support to the UN, human rights bodies, NGOs, researchers and journalists working in our areas of interest;
- develop new partnerships with NGOs and funders to strengthen the organisation for the future; and
- share our knowledge and skills with likeminded organisations to investigate and expose human rights abuses globally.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16th September 2004.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

The Omega Research Foundation may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional trustees are to retire. The Trustees are also directors and members of the company. Trustees are recruited following the Trustee Recruitment Policy, which states that vacancies should be advertised and applications invited.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 11 to the accounts.

New trustees go through an induction process and are given the option of training in any aspect of directorship that they feel is necessary.

Trustees meet 4-5 times per year and make decisions on the medium and long term aims and activities of the organisation, including: funding strategies; methods of attaining the organisation's objectives;

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

organisational policies; and staffing levels. The Board of Trustees also monitors the overall performance and achievements of the organisation. The Omega Research Foundation has a principal staff of seven to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated. This includes project management and financial administration.

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the Omega Research Foundation is exposed and ensure that adequate systems and processes are in place to manage those risks.

The trustees reviewed their application of the Charity Governance Code's principles and recommended practice during the year to ensure Omega's governance standards remain high. Trustees and staff are alert to the need to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in all their policies and operations. All trustees have undertaken training in diversity and recently agreed to update the diversity policy. Recruitment of new trustees took place later in 2023 and steps were taken to make the role open to a diverse range of candidates.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2024 was 7 (2023: 7). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At 31 March 2024 Omega employed five full-time and one part-time research staff, and a part-time administrative & finance officer. Omega also had four volunteers during the year; some recruited through the University of Manchester, where student volunteers can submit their time with Omega towards an application for the Stellify Award. Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. After two years' service, all staff are paid at the same rate (pro-rata), which is set periodically by the trustees, taking account of inflation and the charity's available resources.

The trustees and staff of Omega would like to pay tribute to Rick Seccombe, a past trustee and long-time supporter and friend of Omega from our very beginning, who sadly died in October 2024. We will miss his sage advice and calm counsel.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Omega Research Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 5th December 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Steven Lindsay

Treasurer

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Omega Research Foundation Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA CTA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

23rd December 2024

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	873	-	873	1,324
Charitable activities	4	10,467	388,105	398,572	300,680
Investments	5	4,578	-	4,578	942
Total income		15,918	388,105	404,023	302,946
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		19,699	-	19,699	86,925
Charitable activities	7	89,994	360,306	450,300	287,203
Total expenditure		109,693	360,306	469,999	374,128
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		(93,775)	27,799	(65,976)	(71,182)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	9	(93,775)	27,799	(65,976)	(71,182)
Transfer between funds		(20,812)	20,812	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(114,587)	48,611	(65,976)	(71,182)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		262,994	4,323	267,317	338,499
Total funds carried forward		148,407	52,934	201,341	267,317

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Company number 5224240

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	14	60,209	128,252
Cash at bank and in hand		170,867	164,227
Total current assets		231,076	292,479
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(29,735)	(25,162)
Net current assets		201,341	267,317
Total assets less current liabilities		201,341	267,317
Net assets		201,341	267,317
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	52,934	4,323
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated fund: Long term grants	18	98,176	247,914
General funds	18	50,231	15,080
Total charity funds		201,341	267,317

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 20 to 35 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 5th December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Steven Lindsay (Treasurer)

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

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

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

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

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

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

c Income

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

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, 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 and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e 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 Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The charity has one designated fund, the long term grants fund, which holds grant income awarded under multi-year grants. This is transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant.

The remaining unrestricted funds are the general funds of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives. There are currently no fixed assets.

j Debtors

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

k Cash at bank and in hand

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

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m 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.

n Foreign currencies

Transactions entered into in currencies other than sterling are included in the accounts after conversion at the bank rate in force on the date.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within staff costs in note 6, 7 and 8, and are allocated between funds in proportion to the allocation of staff time.

The money purchase plan is managed by TPT Retirement Solutions (previously The Pensions Trust) and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement year age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is 0.69% and this is deducted from the investment fund annually. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. The contributions outstanding at the year-end were £2,154 (2023: £1,835).

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Donations	873	-	873
Total	873	-	873
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Donations	1,324	-	1,324
Total	1,324	-	1,324

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
European Commission grant	-	325,865	325,865
Oak Foundation grant	-	62,240	62,240
Other income from charitable activity	10,467	-	10,467
Total	10,467	388,105	398,572
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Oak Foundation grant	-	62,660	62,660
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant	14,000	-	14,000
Open Society Foundations	121,803	-	121,803
OPCAT Special Fund	-	24,561	24,561
Network for Social Change	18,837	-	18,837
Other income from charitable activity	58,819	-	58,819
Total	213,459	87,221	300,680

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

5 Investment income

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £
Income from bank deposits	4,578	-	4,578
	4,578	-	4,578
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £
Income from bank deposits	942	-	942
	942	-	942

6 Cost of raising funds

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	15,011	64,337
Accommodation	635	2,000
Governance costs (see note 8)	428	2,461
Support costs (see note 8)	3,625	18,127
	19,699	86,925

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	280,006	166,380
Accommodation	11,851	5,173
Publishing (including websites)	17,906	5,120
Travel	12,666	22,283
Training provision	6,890	23,544
Research	806	11,460
Share of grant relating to partner organisations	41,669	-
Governance costs (see note 8)	10,888	6,365
Support costs (see note 8)	67,618	46,878
	450,300	287,203
	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted expenditure	360,306	91,472
Unrestricted expenditure	89,994	195,731
	450,300	287,203

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	40,939	4,789	45,728
Office costs	30,304	3,557	33,861
Audit fees	-	2,970	2,970
	71,243	11,316	82,559
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	3,625	428	
Charitable activities	67,618	10,888	
	71,243	11,316	
Previous reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	50,112	5,510	55,622
Office costs	14,678	1,678	16,356
Audit fees	215	1,638	1,853
	65,005	8,826	73,831
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	18,127	2,461	
Charitable activities	46,878	6,365	
	65,005	8,826	

The charity has one activity and therefore support costs are not apportioned.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Auditor's remuneration - audit fees	2,415	1,485
Auditor's remuneration - other	60	60

10 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	298,541	251,208
Social security costs	27,276	22,570
Pension costs	14,928	12,561
	340,745	286,339
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	15,011	64,337
Charitable activities	280,006	166,380
Support costs	40,939	50,112
Governance costs	4,789	5,510
	340,745	286,339

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2023: 7).

Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the staff team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £345,745 (2023: £291,339).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

11 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2023: Nil).

No (2023: One) members of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2023: £5).

Aggregate donations from related parties, were nil (2023: Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no conditions were attached to donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2023: Nil).

12 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
European Commission	325,865	-
	325,865	-

The European Commission grant was the first payment to cover 95% of costs on the project "United Against Torture Consortium project". Some of the grant was unspent at the year end (see note 17).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

14 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants receivable	52,500	122,500
Trade debtors	3,894	2,754
Prepayments and accrued income	3,815	2,998
	60,209	128,252

Grants receivable consists of the final 9 months of a 3 year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This is held in the Long term grants designated fund (see note 18). There were amounts recoverable in more than one year (2023: £52,500)

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Short term deposits	165,248	132,026
Cash at bank and on hand	5,619	32,201
	170,867	164,227

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	11,021	9,624
Other creditors and accruals	10,321	8,499
Taxation and social security costs	8,393	7,039
	29,735	25,162

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
European Commission	-	325,865	(274,906)	1,975	52,934
Oak Foundation	2,470	62,240	(64,710)	-	-
Global Giving	1,853	-	(1,853)	-	-
Network for Social Change	-	-	(18,837)	18,837	-
Total	4,323	388,105	(360,306)	20,812	52,934
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Oak Foundation	5,338	62,660	(65,528)	-	2,470
Global Giving	3,236	-	(1,383)	-	1,853
OPCAT Special Fund	-	24,561	(24,561)	-	-
Total	8,574	87,221	(91,472)	-	4,323

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
European Commission	Funding for the United Against Torture Consortium project
Oak Foundation	Funding to continue work on the European "Anti Torture" Regulation, and work on the Alliance for Torture Free Trade, and on torture prevention work in Brazil
Global Giving	Funding for further development of the database, including providing access to external individuals and organisations.
Network for Social Change	Funding for monitoring proposed new weapons and tactics within UK police, plus some core funding
OPCAT Special Fund	Funding from the United Nations Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture to strengthen the capacity of the Brazilian National Preventive Mechanism

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	15,080	15,918	(109,693)	128,926	50,231
Designated fund: Long term grants	247,914	-	-	(149,738)	98,176
	<u>262,994</u>	<u>15,918</u>	<u>(109,693)</u>	<u>(20,812)</u>	<u>148,407</u>
	<u><u>262,994</u></u>	<u><u>15,918</u></u>	<u><u>(109,693)</u></u>	<u><u>(20,812)</u></u>	<u><u>148,407</u></u>
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>As at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	137,425	90,311	(282,656)	70,000	15,080
Designated fund: Long term grants	192,500	125,414		(70,000)	247,914
	<u>329,925</u>	<u>215,725</u>	<u>(282,656)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>262,994</u>
	<u><u>329,925</u></u>	<u><u>215,725</u></u>	<u><u>(282,656)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>262,994</u></u>
Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund				
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds				
Long term grants fund	Income from multi-year core grants, currently from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (3 year grant starting in January 2022), to be transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant, following the grant agreement.				

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Long term grants fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	50,231	98,176	52,934	201,341
Total	50,231	98,176	52,934	201,341
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Long term grants fund £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Net current assets/(liabilities)	15,080	247,914	4,323	267,317
Total	15,080	247,914	4,323	267,317

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

20 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,324	-	1,324	4,903
Charitable activities	4	213,459	87,221	300,680	440,021
Investments	5	942	-	942	310
Total income		215,725	87,221	302,946	445,234
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		86,925	-	86,925	36,725
Charitable activities	7	195,731	91,472	287,203	384,933
Total expenditure		282,656	91,472	374,128	421,658
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		(66,931)	(4,251)	(71,182)	23,576
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	9	(66,931)	(4,251)	(71,182)	23,576
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(66,931)	(4,251)	(71,182)	23,576
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		329,925	8,574	338,499	314,923
Total funds carried forward		262,994	4,323	267,317	338,499

OMEGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1105918

Accounts

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918



Omega Research Foundation

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st March 2023

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st March 2023

Company number 5224240

Charity number 1105918

Registered office and operational address Bridge 5 Mill
22A Beswick Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 7HR

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Michael Reed Chair
Steven Lindsay Treasurer
Rick Seccombe (resigned 10th October 2023)
Natalie Wilkins
Josephine Dresner
Ian Bell
Jevon Clayton
Annalena Wolcke (appointed 4th July 2023)

Company Secretary Fiona Gorton

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Charity Bank Limited
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Auditors Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

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

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Omega Research Foundation are:

- To promote human rights
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and the causes of conflict.

Omega works to:

- **Investigate and expose** the global manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of military, security and police (MSP) weapons, equipment, and techniques and related human rights and international humanitarian law violations.
- **Provide expert analysis** and policy proposals to strengthen national, regional, and international controls.
- **Share our specialist knowledge**, including through training, briefings, capacity building, and technical assistance.

So that:

- We strengthen relationships with other NGOs and human rights monitors, journalists, judges and other legal professionals, political figures, private entities, unions, state institutions, law enforcement agencies, and international and regional institutions.
- These key stakeholders are empowered with knowledge of the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of MSP weapons, equipment, and techniques, and their human rights impacts for a range of communities.
- We collectively advocate for change.

So that:

- Controls related to the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of weapons, equipment, and techniques are human rights-compliant.
- These controls are effectively implemented and monitored.
- Those who perpetrate violations are held to account.

So that:

Human rights and international humanitarian law violations are not committed or facilitated by people using military, security, and policing weapons, equipment, and techniques.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on promotion of human rights. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. All activities are undertaken to further the organisation's charitable objectives for the public benefit.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

The charity's main objectives for the financial year 2022-23 were:

- To work with an increasing range of other partners to provide support and case studies for lobbying and advocacy activities in strengthening controls on the international trade and use of MSP equipment, particularly through the Alliance for Torture Free Trade (states) and the Torture Free Trade Network (CSOs);
- To continue to develop and expand our in-house research database for the recognition and tracing of military, security and police equipment;
- To offer reactive research services and crisis response to highlight issues of concern in countries in conflict or for other human rights abuse cases.
- To develop a project plan to secure further funding to replace the European Commission funding which ended in the previous financial year.

The aims, objectives and activities of the charity are kept under ongoing review by the trustees to ensure they remain focused on the charity's stated purposes.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits arising from the charity's work.

Achievements and performance

Investigate and expose

Omega supports efforts to hold accountable those responsible for the unlawful use of force. Prosecutors in the Brazilian State of Bahia informed us that the training we provided to them in 2021 directly contributed to several of their successes this year, including in "[Operation Istanbul](#)", which led to the prosecution and subsequent conviction of an investigative police officer for torture. Globally, criminal convictions for torture are still extremely rare for a multitude of reasons, but achieving accountability is one of the most effective means of preventing further abuses.

This year, Omega again provided technical expertise to human rights organisation [Iridia](#), who provide legal representation to the victims of state violence. The technical memorandum we produced was a key resource both for litigation and advocacy, contributing to the recent decision of the Catalanian Government to amend rules on the use of kinetic impact projectiles and to instruct the police service, *Mossos d'Esquadra*, to cease use of a particularly dangerous munition. These decisions will make exercising the right to freedom of peaceful assembly safer in Catalonia.

Together with Amnesty International, Omega researched and co-authored a report, [My Eye Exploded](#), documenting the trade, use and misuse of kinetic impact projectiles (such as plastic and rubber bullets), particularly in the context of the policing of public assemblies. Launched in March 2023, and based on research in more than 30 countries over the last five years, the report highlighted the thousands of injuries to protestors and bystanders across the world – including permanent disabilities and scores of deaths – resulting from projectile misuse. It identified inherently injurious or abusive projectiles that should be prohibited. The report proposed strict national, regional, and global regulation over their design, use and trade – notably highlighting the need for creation of a robust Torture-Free Trade Treaty. The report is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Omega contributed to Amnesty's associated internal advocacy circulars, providing guidance for Section lobbyists throughout the world. It became a focus for advocacy by Amnesty International Sections and membership, and Torture-Free Trade Network NGOs.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Provide expert analysis

United Nations

In order to facilitate State discussions and civil society advocacy in the UN, Omega, together with the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School and Amnesty International, drafted [*Essential Elements of a Torture Free Trade Treaty*](#) a technical legal paper setting out the key content and operational features of a prospective international human rights based trade instrument. Launched in September 2022, the paper cites relevant existing standards in a discussion covering the potential treaty's principles and goals, prohibitions and trade controls and monitoring and operational aspects. It incorporates Annexes listing inherently abusive equipment to be prohibited and law enforcement equipment whose trade needs to be regulated. The paper was translated into Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. Omega subsequently contributed to Amnesty's associated internal advocacy circulars, providing guidance for Amnesty Section lobbyists throughout the world.

European Union

Omega continued its role as a member of the Informal Expert Group (IEG), advising the Commission on strengthening the EU Anti-Torture Regulation. In Autumn 2023 Omega developed proposals for expanding the list of inherently abusive equipment that should be prohibited under the [*EU Anti-Torture Regulation*](#), and the list of law enforcement equipment whose trade should be regulated under the Regulation. These were presented to the Informal Expert Group and systematically reviewed by the Group in its meetings (October 2022, January 2023, March 2023); this process is ongoing. The Omega/IEG proposals will inform future Commission's recommendations for strengthening the Regulation, which then have to be agreed by the Member States and the European Parliament. The process is expected to be completed in 2024.

UK

Omega continued to play an active role on the [*UK National Taser Strategic Advisory Group \(NTSAG\)*](#), which provides oversight and advises police in England and Wales on the use of the Taser weapon. Omega has been Chair of the NTSAG since late 2019 and as such also attended the UK's Less Lethal Weapons Working Group. These groups give Omega access to key decision makers in UK policing, the College of Policing and the Home Office, where we are able to raise concerns and try to influence policy and practice.

Share our specialist knowledge

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, Omega partnered with organisations working in Brazil, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Peru, and Switzerland. In these countries we organised training sessions on issues related to torture and other ill-treatment, which we delivered to over 1,300 people, including public defenders, judges, prison and protest monitors, and other human rights defenders.

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR): Omega co-organised two trainings with [*ODIHR*](#) and the University of Exeter for the National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) of Kyrgyzstan and Switzerland on monitoring weapons and equipment in places of detention in these countries. These trainings are part of an on-going ODIHR project to support the work of NPMs in the OSCE region, often involving input from Omega and the University of Exeter. Whilst in Kyrgyzstan, Omega also ran a short workshop for Kyrgyz civil society members involved in monitoring protests.

Omega was a member of the OSCE-ODIHR Assembly Monitoring Mission to monitor the policing of May Day 2023 in Paris. We prepared a briefing on the weapons and equipment used by French police for the

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

OSCE-ODIHR Monitors, and were part of the team monitoring police use of force and equipment, including explosive grenades, tear gas and water cannon.



French police in Paris on May Day 2022

Mexico: Omega continued to support judicial actors in the litigation of cases of torture and other ill-treatment. In June 2022, Omega and a team of multi-disciplinary experts trained two groups of public defenders on international and national standards on the prevention, investigation and punishment of torture, including use of force standards and the updated [Istanbul Protocol](#). We also provided online training on the same topics to two more groups of public defenders from throughout the country, as well as a self-led online course which has been completed by over 1,000 people thus far.

These activities were designed specifically for public defenders and carried out in partnership with the Federal School for Judicial Training (*Escuela Federal de Formación Judicial - EFFJ*), the Federal Public Defender's Office (*Instituto Federal de Defensoría Pública - IFDP*), its Technical Secretariat for Combatting Torture, and the General Directorate for Human Rights of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation.

Torture-Free Trade Network and civil society: Together with Amnesty International, the Harvard International Human Rights Law Clinic, the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Omega co-organised a Torture-Free Trade Treaty Summit held at Amnesty International's Human Rights Action Centre in London on 18-19 January 2023. Attended by over 50 in-person participants, and more than 60 virtual participants, the Summit was an opportunity for civil society from around the world to make connections, share knowledge, and further the campaign for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty. At the close of the Summit, more than 30 organisations - including Omega - signed the [Shoreditch Declaration for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty](#). The Declaration calls for prohibitions on the manufacture and trade of inherently abusive equipment, as well as effective human rights-based trade controls on standard law enforcement equipment often used to commit acts of torture or other ill-treatment.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2023



Attendees at the Torture Free Trade Summit, January 2023

The Torture-Free Trade Network, formed following the Summit, continues to be active in research, advocacy and lobbying, with Omega playing a central role. With Amnesty, CVT, and the Harvard International Human Rights Clinic, Physicians for Human Rights, the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations, Omega is a member of the Network's Core Group, which meets weekly to continue advocacy and other work. The Network itself meets every two months. These meetings, which are attended by civil society representatives from around the world, are opportunities to build relationships across civil society, and for organisations to share work updates as well as participate in training. Regional hubs are beginning to develop, with the Africa and Americas Groups especially active.

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) & Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA): At the request of the CPTA, Omega drafted a Report on the Production, Trade, and Use of Tools of Torture in Africa. The report was launched at an event ('Awareness-Raising Panel against the production, trade, and use of torture instruments in Africa') at the 75th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in early May 2023. Omega is currently working with the CPTA to promote its findings amongst African States and civil society.

Country focus: Brazil

Brazil has the third largest prison population in the world and acts of torture and other ill-treatment are commonplace. Omega has worked closely with the [Brazilian Mechanism to Prevent and Combat Torture \(MNPCT\)](#) since 2016, enabling it to increase scrutiny and accountability for misuse of force, and providing a crucial evidence base for all work to combat torture in Brazil.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Together with partner organisation [Justiça Global](#) we have identified shortcomings in regulations on the use of force throughout Brazil, in both the prison and juvenile justice systems. Our work underpinned a [recommendation](#) issued by the National Human Rights Council instructing authorities to strengthen regulation of the use of less lethal weapons in the penitentiary system.

Brazil is the largest manufacturer of less lethal weapons in the region. We have uncovered questionable transfers to repressive regimes and identified gaps in the domestic regulatory framework.

Omega delivered in-person training in May 2022 and again in March 2023, which increased the ability of torture monitors to document the use/mis-use of torture technologies and to scrutinize use of force protocols. The 91 people (55F, 36M) who participated in training included torture monitors, public defenders, public prosecutors tasked with prison oversight, civil society organisations and state legislators. All of these actors work with or for the benefit of people deprived of their liberty and their families. Participants appreciated the practical nature of training, enabling them to conduct more in-depth "interviews with security agents who use less-lethal weapons, allowing a more accurate investigation, questioning information given and better understanding the institutional justifications for the use of weapons."



Workshop on use of force protocols, Brasilia, May 2023.

Tools and standards developed in the international human rights arena are rarely translated into Portuguese. We sought to address this gap by producing three resources in Brazilian Portuguese over the last year, including a [translation](#) of the UN Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement, which monitoring bodies have already begun citing in their reports and recommendations. The results we have obtained in Brazil with our longstanding partners are proof of the value of sustained engagement for achieving gradual change.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Strategy

Following an earlier review of the organisation's Information Technology and data systems, Omega staff have been working on an IT and database upgrade. This upgrade, completed during the year increased Omega's capacity to collect record and analyse data. We are now in the process of upgrading our website. Part of this upgrade will link the website and database so we can more easily publish, disseminate and share our research data.

We have also upgraded our computer hardware, ensuring that each member of staff has a laptop to facilitate flexible working.

Omega undertook a major strategic planning exercise in 2020/21. This led to the development of a Theory of Change for the organisation, as detailed in the Objectives and Activities section of this report above and available on the Omega website. This organisational Theory of Change informs Omega's work, and is kept under regular review.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year, Omega was in a reasonable financial position, with total Reserves of £267,317. Of this, £4,323 was held in restricted reserves to be spent on ongoing projects, £247,914 in designated reserves to be released over the following three financial years, and £15,080 in general reserves.

Fundraising

The long-term financial viability of Omega depends on continual fundraising, in a climate of shrinking donor funding for human rights work. Omega raises most of its income through grant funding, and in previous years has used professional support from Wootton George Consulting in reviewing some grant applications. Wootton George Consulting are NCVO members and are committed to upholding the standards of the Institute of Fundraising. Omega has received no complaints relating to fundraising activity.

Omega received no funding from the European Commission during the financial year, and had been without such funding for 18 months, causing a financial strain on the organisation. By the end of the financial year, however, a new grant had been agreed as part of a four-year Financial Framework Partnership Agreement between the EU and the international United Against Torture consortium #UATC, in which Omega is a core partner along with the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Redress, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT) and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT). The initial three year torture prevention grant under this Agreement started in June 2023.

The second year of a grant from the Oak Foundation started in May 2022. We understand that this will be the final grant from the Oak Foundation as they are prioritising other areas of funding. In January 2022 Omega started a further three-year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and in January 2023 started a two year grant from the Open Society Foundations, securing funding from them for the first time. Omega has worked hard through the financial year and beyond to try to diversify our funding base and find new sources of funds.

Reserves policy

Omega holds *Restricted Reserves*, being unspent funding provided for specific projects, and *Unrestricted Reserves* which can be subdivided into *Designated Reserves*, being the proportion of multi-year core grant funding relating to future years as stated in the grant agreement, and the *General Fund*.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

The trustees have reviewed Omega's Reserves Policy and have concluded that an upper and lower limit of reserves held in the General Fund should be set bearing in mind the objective of holding such reserves. That is, reserves in the General Fund are intended to underpin the organisation's solvency and the continuity of its operations. However, the size of these reserves should not be excessive. Excessive reserves would lead to resources being idle and unused for long periods.

In relation to the upper limit the trustees have taken into consideration the experience of the last ten years. In that period Omega has received three grants from the European Commission via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, each lasting around three years, with fifteen months between the first two, and ten months between the second and third. These grants have typically provided around 70% of the organisation's income. In order to underpin the organisation's solvency during the periods waiting for the next grant receipt or between grants, the trustees consider holding a maximum reserves in the General Fund of a year of basic operating costs to be reasonable. Basic operating costs in 2022/23 are around £300,000 per annum - £25,000 per month.

In relation to the lower limit should it become apparent that no further major grant is to be expected from the European Commission or from an alternative grant provider, Omega would need to drastically restructure and reduce its size and scope of operations. The trustees estimate that the costs associated with such a restructuring and reduction would amount to five months of basic operating costs which currently would be around £125,000.

Reserves in the General Fund at the end of 2022-23 stood at £15,080 which is below the target limits of £125,000 to £300,000. However this is mitigated by the Designated fund balance of £247,914 and the start of a new three-year grant from the European Commission which started in June 2023 and which will contribute €912,685 to Omega funds over the period.

Plans for the future

We will continue to offer research and policy support to the UN, human rights bodies, NGOs, researchers and journalists working in our areas of interest; develop new partnerships with NGOs and funders to strengthen the organisation for the future; and share our knowledge and skills with likeminded organisations to investigate and expose human rights abuses globally.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16th September 2004.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

The Omega Research Foundation may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional trustees are to retire. The Trustees are also directors and members of the company. Trustees are recruited following the Trustee Recruitment Policy, which states that vacancies should be advertised and applications invited.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 11 to the accounts.

New trustees go through an induction process and are given the option of training in any aspect of directorship that they feel is necessary.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Trustees meet 4-5 times per year and make decisions on the medium and long term aims and activities of the organisation, including: funding strategies; methods of attaining the organisation's objectives; organisational policies; and staffing levels. The Board of Trustees also monitors the overall performance and achievements of the organisation. The Omega Research Foundation has a principal staff of seven to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated. This includes project management and financial administration.

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the Omega Research Foundation is exposed and ensure that adequate systems and processes are in place to manage those risks.

The trustees reviewed their application of the Charity Governance Code's principles and recommended practice during the year to ensure Omega's governance standards remain high. Trustees and staff are alert to the need to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in all their policies and operations. All trustees have undertaken training in diversity and recently agreed to update the diversity policy. Recruitment of new trustees took place later in 2023 and steps were taken to make the role open to a diverse range of candidates.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2023 was 7 (2022: 7). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At 31 March 2023 Omega employed five full-time and one part-time research staff, and a part-time administrative & finance officer. Omega also had nine volunteers during the year; recruited through the University of Manchester, volunteers can submit their time with Omega towards an application for the Stellify Award. Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. After two years' service, all staff are paid at the same rate (pro-rata), which is set periodically by the trustees, taking account of inflation and the charity's available resources.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Omega Research Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

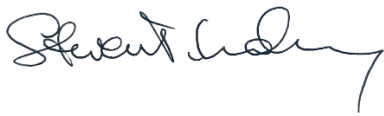
The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 12th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Steven Lindsay

Treasurer

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Omega Research Foundation Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA CTA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG
20th December 2023

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,324	-	1,324	4,903
Charitable activities	4	213,459	87,221	300,680	440,021
Investments	5	942	-	942	310
Total income		215,725	87,221	302,946	445,234
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		86,925	-	86,925	36,725
Charitable activities	7	195,731	91,472	287,203	384,933
Total expenditure		282,656	91,472	374,128	421,658
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		(66,931)	(4,251)	(71,182)	23,576
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	9	(66,931)	(4,251)	(71,182)	23,576
Net movement in funds for the year		(66,931)	(4,251)	(71,182)	23,576
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		329,925	8,574	338,499	314,923
Total funds carried forward		262,994	4,323	267,317	338,499

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Company number 5224240

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	14	128,252	282,230
Cash at bank and in hand		164,227	107,438
Total current assets		292,479	389,668
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(25,162)	(51,169)
Net current assets		267,317	338,499
Total assets less current liabilities		267,317	338,499
Net assets		267,317	338,499
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	4,323	8,574
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated fund: Long term grants	18	247,914	192,500
General funds	18	15,080	137,425
Total charity funds		267,317	338,499

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 17 to 32 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 12/12/2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Steven Lindsay (Treasurer)

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

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

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

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

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

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

c Income

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

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, 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 and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e 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 Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The charity has one designated fund, the long term grants fund, which holds grant income awarded under multi-year grants. This is transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant. The remaining unrestricted funds are the general funds of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives. There are currently no fixed assets.

j Debtors

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

k Cash at bank and in hand

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

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m 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.

n Foreign currencies

Transactions entered into in currencies other than sterling are included in the accounts after conversion at the bank rate in force on the date.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within staff costs in note 10, and are allocated between funds in proportion to the allocation of staff time.

The money purchase plan is managed by TPT Retirement Solutions (previously The Pensions Trust) and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement year age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is 0.69% and this is deducted from the investment fund annually. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. The contributions outstanding at the year-end were £1,835 (2022: £1,766)

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Donations	1,324	-	1,324
Total	1,324	-	1,324
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Donations	532	4,371	4,903
Total	532	4,371	4,903

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Oak Foundation grant	-	62,660	62,660
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant	14,000	-	14,000
Open Society Foundations	121,803	-	121,803
OPCAT Special Fund	-	24,561	24,561
Network for Social Change	18,837	-	18,837
Other income from charitable activity	58,819	-	58,819
Total	213,459	87,221	300,680
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
European Commission grant	-	83,929	83,929
Oak Foundation grant	-	62,600	62,600
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	239,000	-	239,000
Other income from charitable activity	54,492	-	54,492
Total	293,492	146,529	440,021

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5 Investment income

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income from bank deposits	942	-	942
	942	-	942
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Income from bank deposits	310	-	310
	310	-	310

6 Cost of raising funds

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	64,337	29,032
Accommodation	2,000	836
Governance costs (see note 8)	2,461	809
Support costs (see note 8)	18,127	6,048
	86,925	36,725

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	166,380	224,258
Accommodation	5,173	6,458
Publishing (including websites)	5,120	20,910
Travel	22,283	6,710
Training provision	23,544	15,292
Research	11,460	7,057
Evaluation	-	2,207
Share of grant relating to partner organisations	-	44,159
Governance costs (see note 8)	6,365	6,352
Support costs (see note 8)	46,878	51,530
	287,203	384,933
	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted expenditure	91,472	162,088
Unrestricted expenditure	195,731	222,845
	287,203	384,933

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	50,112	5,510	55,622
Office costs	14,678	1,678	16,356
Audit fees	215	1,638	1,853
	65,005	8,826	73,831
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	18,127	2,461	
Charitable activities	46,878	6,365	
	65,005	8,826	
Previous reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	40,497	3,279	43,776
Office costs	13,553	1,110	14,663
Audit fees	3,528	2,772	6,300
	57,578	7,161	64,739
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	6,048	809	
Charitable activities	51,530	6,352	
	57,578	7,161	

The charity has one activity and therefore support costs are not apportioned.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditor's remuneration - audit fees	1,485	5,190
Auditor's remuneration - other	60	60

10 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	251,208	260,483
Social security costs	22,570	23,736
Pension costs	12,561	12,847
	286,339	297,066
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	64,337	29,032
Charitable activities	166,380	224,258
Support costs	50,112	40,497
Governance costs	5,510	3,279
	286,339	297,066

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2022: 6).

Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the staff team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £291,339 (2022: £301,066).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

11 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2022: Nil).

No (2022: no) members of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2022: £nil).

Aggregate donations from related parties, were nil (2022: £220 plus Gift Aid).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no conditions were attached to donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2022: Nil).

12 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
European Commission	-	83,929
	-	83,929

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants receivable	122,500	276,429
Trade debtors	2,754	3,130
Prepayments and accrued income	2,998	2,671
	128,252	282,230

Grants receivable consists of 21 months of a 3 year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This is held in the Long term grants designated fund (see note 18). The amounts recoverable in more than one year is £52,500 (2022: £122,500)

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Short term deposits	132,026	93,413
Cash at bank and on hand	32,201	14,025
	164,227	107,438

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	9,624	19,043
Other creditors and accruals	8,499	25,199
Taxation and social security costs	7,039	6,927
	<u>25,162</u>	<u>51,169</u>

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Oak Foundation 2	5,338	62,660	(65,528)	-	2,470
Global Giving	3,236	-	(1,383)	-	1,853
OPCAT Special Fund	-	24,561	(24,561)	-	-
	<u>8,574</u>	<u>87,221</u>	<u>(91,472)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,323</u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
European Commission	5,615	83,929	(94,464)	4,920	-
Oak Foundation 1	3,500	6,930	(10,430)	-	-
Oak Foundation 2	1,050	55,670	(51,382)	-	5,338
Joffe Charitable Trust	4,677	-	(4,677)	-	-
Global Giving	-	4,371	(1,135)	-	3,236
	<u>14,842</u>	<u>150,900</u>	<u>(162,088)</u>	<u>4,920</u>	<u>8,574</u>

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Oak Foundation 2	Funding to continue work on the European "Anti Torture" Regulation, and work on the Alliance for Torture Free Trade, and on torture prevention work in Brazil.
Global Giving	Funding for fourther development of the database, including providing access to external individuals and organisations.
OPCAT Special Fund	Funding from the United Nations Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture to strengthen the capacity of the Brazilian National Preventive Mechanism.
European Commission	Funding for the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation". Completed in September 2021.
Oak Foundation 1	Matched funding to cover up to 20.65% of the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation". Completed in September 2021.
Joffe Charitable Trust	Funding for development of a new research database.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	137,425	90,311	(282,656)	70,000	15,080
Designated fund: Long term grants	192,500	125,414	-	(70,000)	247,914
	329,925	215,725	(282,656)	-	262,994
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 April 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>As at 31 March 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	255,081	84,334	(259,570)	57,580	137,425
Designated fund: Long term grants	45,000	210,000	-	(62,500)	192,500
	300,081	294,334	(259,570)	(4,920)	329,925
Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund				
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds				
Long term grants fund	Income from multi-year core grants, currently from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (3 year grant starting in January 2022), the Open Society Foundations (2 year grant starting in January 2023) and the Network for Social Change to be transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant, following the grant agreement.				

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Long term grants fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	15,080	247,914	4,323	267,317
Total	15,080	247,914	4,323	267,317
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Long term grants fund £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Net current assets/(liabilities)	137,425	192,500	8,574	338,499
Total	137,425	192,500	8,574	338,499

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	532	4,371	4,903	86
Charitable activities	293,492	146,529	440,021	244,296
Investments	310	-	310	479
Total income	294,334	150,900	445,234	244,861
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	36,725	-	36,725	32,167
Charitable activities	222,845	162,088	384,933	355,547
Total expenditure	259,570	162,088	421,658	387,714
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	34,764	(11,188)	23,576	(142,853)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	34,764	(11,188)	23,576	(142,853)
Transfer between funds	(4,920)	4,920	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	29,844	(6,268)	23,576	(142,853)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	300,081	14,842	314,923	457,776
Total funds carried forward	329,925	8,574	338,499	314,923

OMEGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1105918

Accounts

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st March 2022

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st March 2022

Company number 5224240

Charity number 1105918

Registered office and operational address Bridge 5 Mill
22A Beswick Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 7HR

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Michael Reed	Chair
Steven Lindsay	Treasurer
Rick Seccombe	
Natalie Wilkins	
Emilia McElvenney (resigned 13 th March 2022)	
Josephine Dresner	
Ian Bell	
Jevon Clayton	

Company Secretary Fiona Gorton

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Charity Bank Limited
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Auditors Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

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

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Omega Research Foundation are:

- To promote human rights
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and the causes of conflict.

Omega works to:

- Investigate and expose the global manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of military, security and police (MSP) weapons, equipment, and techniques and related human rights and international humanitarian law violations.
- Provide expert analysis and policy proposals to strengthen national, regional, and international controls.
- Share our specialist knowledge, including through training, briefings, capacity building, and technical assistance.

So that:

- We strengthen relationships with other NGOs and human rights monitors, journalists, judges and other legal professionals, political figures, private entities, unions, state institutions, law enforcement agencies, and international and regional institutions.
- These key stakeholders are empowered with knowledge of the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of MSP weapons, equipment, and techniques, and their human rights impacts for a range of communities.
- We collectively advocate for change.

So that:

- Controls related to the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of weapons, equipment, and techniques are human rights-compliant.
- These controls are effectively implemented and monitored.
- Those who perpetrate violations are held to account.

So that:

Human rights and international humanitarian law violations are not committed or facilitated by people using military, security, and policing weapons, equipment, and techniques.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on promotion of human rights. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. All activities are undertaken to further the organisation's charitable objectives for the public benefit.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

The charity's main objectives for the financial year 2021-22 were:

- To complete work on the 42 month project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation" 79.35% funded by the European Commission, alongside partners in South Africa, Brazil and Indonesia;
- To work with an increasing range of other partners to provide support and case studies for lobbying and advocacy activities in strengthening controls on the international trade and use of MSP equipment, particularly through the Alliance for Torture Free Trade;
- To continue the maintenance and expansion of Mispo.org, an online photo-database for the recognition and tracing of military, security and police equipment; and other in-house databases;
- To offer reactive research services and crisis response to highlight issues of concern in countries in conflict or for other human rights abuse cases.

The aims, objectives and activities of the charity are kept under ongoing review by the trustees to ensure they remain focused on the charity's stated purposes.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits arising from the charity's work.

Achievements and performance

International controls on the trade in law enforcement equipment used in torture and other ill-treatment

United Nations

In December 2021, Omega and Amnesty provided a joint written submission to the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Torture Free Trade. In January 2022, Omega, Amnesty and the Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic gave coordinated presentations to the UN GGE during a formal stakeholders consultation. The three presentations collectively addressed the requirement for an international legally binding Torture Free Trade Treaty and examined the scope of equipment and activities that should be covered by such an instrument.

Council of Europe (CoE)

Following the adoption of *Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment* by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 31st March 2021, Omega undertook measures to promote awareness of this new instrument and its effective implementation by CoE Member States.

In May 2021, Omega, Amnesty, and the CoE Human Rights Subcommittee Secretariat organised a high-level meeting for CoE Member States, *on Implementation of the CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2*. The event included keynote presentations by the Chair of the CoE Committee of Ministers, CoE Secretary General, and Amnesty's Secretary General. Expert presentations were delivered by Omega, Amnesty, the European Commission, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Omega and Amnesty produced a web video for CoE States and civil society detailing the CoE torture trade and CoE Recommendation.

European Union (EU)

Following a recommendation by Omega in its November 2020 *Review of EU Anti-Torture Regulation and its implementation*, the European Commission subsequently established an Informal Expert Group to

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

facilitate strengthening and implementation of the EU Anti Torture Regulation and also to explore how the EU could promote regional and international regulation of the trade. Omega was invited to join this expert group which held its first quarterly meeting in May 2021. In October 2021 at the invitation of the organisers, Omega and Amnesty researchers officially monitored the 2021 Milipol Arms and Security Trade Fair in Paris, France. The promotion of certain inherently abusive equipment (notably canine worn electric muzzles designed to shock protesters) was identified and halted.

Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)

Omega worked closely with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to organise an OSCE Workshop on the torture trade, held in Vienna on 20th October 2021. In addition to Omega and ODIHR staff, speakers included representatives of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Amnesty International Netherlands, the European Commission – Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, and the Mongolian Government. As well as the European Commission, official representatives from a further 19 OSCE participating States attended the event in person or remotely.

Prior to the workshop, Omega prepared a report entitled *OSCE participating States and the production, trade and use of law enforcement equipment that has no practical use or that can be readily misused for the purpose of torture or other ill-treatment*, which was circulated to all participants. Omega is producing an expanded version of this report, to be used in Omega's ongoing advocacy to promote OSCE standards, as well for advocacy with other regional organisations, such as the EU and CoE, and in the ongoing UN process.

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) & Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA)

At the request of the CPTA, Omega drafted a report, *Production, Trade, and Use of Tools of Torture in Africa*, which was circulated to African States by the CPTA at the 69th Session of the ACHPR in November 2021. An Omega researcher presented the report at the Session, and the ACHPR developed a plan for further work on the report. Omega are currently working with CPTA staff to further develop the report, which is due to be launched in 2023.

Investigating and strengthening oversight of the use of force and torture prevention

General

COVID-19-related restrictions remained in place for much of the period and new work practices allowed Omega to continue to support civil society and human rights monitors remotely. Holding webinars, workshops and meetings online enabled Omega to interact with more people with diverse experiences than would ever have been able to attend in-person events, as well as reducing the need to travel.

Training and technical assistance

Mexico: Between August and December 2021, Omega, in collaboration with the Anti-Torture Initiative, ran a multidisciplinary training programme on the *Istanbul Protocol and its Interaction with the Mexican Federal Judiciary*. Around 180 judges from the federal criminal justice system took part in the course, which was developed in close cooperation with the Federal School for Judicial Training (Escuela Federal de Formación Judicial) and the General Directorate for Human Rights of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation.

Between November 2021 and April 2022, Omega provided technical support and training to the Specialised Unit for the Investigation and Litigation of the Ayotzinapa Case, involving the disappearance of a group of students. This support was provided through the Inter-American Commission of Human

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

Rights and concerned the use of international human rights standards, particularly the Istanbul Protocol and standards on the use of force.

Brazil: In September 2021, Omega and local partners Justiça Global held an online workshop on torture and the structural problems underlying the systematic unlawful use of force in Brazil. Attendees included experts from the Rio de Janeiro State Mechanism for the Prevention and Combat of Torture (RJ State Mechanism) and the National Preventive Mechanism, psychosocial support professionals, grassroots lawyers' groups and organisations that work from a gender and racial equality perspective.

In August 2021, the Rio de Janeiro State Mechanism asked Omega to produce a technical report concerning an incident involving the use by a special intervention unit of stun grenades and kinetic impact projectiles against prisoners in their cells. The Mechanism cited Omega's report extensively and annexed it to its own report, which it continues to use to advocate for policy changes.

In October and November 2021, Omega provided a multi-disciplinary training course to prosecutors from the State of Bahia tasked with police oversight. This followed Omega's participation in online training organised by the National Council of Prosecutors on less lethal weapons and use of force standards, attended by prosecutors from across Brazil.

In February 2022, Omega, the Brazilian National Justice Council, UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Development Programme, and the Association for the Prevention of Torture co-organised an online event on the combat of torture during custody hearings in the State of Bahia. The event was attended by members of the judiciary, the prosecutorial service, the public defender's office, forensic experts and police officials working in internal affairs units.

Catalonia: Omega provided technical expertise to lawyers from human rights organisation Irídia, who provide legal representation to the victims of state violence.

Tunisia: In November 2021, at the request of OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture) Tunisia, Omega ran a one-and-a-half-day training session for human rights defenders (HRDs) in Tunisia on monitoring protests. The session was run three times over the course of a week to enable approximately 60 HRDs to attend. The workshop covered human rights-compliant policing, identifying policing weapons and equipment, and documenting instances of excessive use of force.

UK: In October 2021 Omega ran a one-day workshop for UK-based Iranian researchers on monitoring protests in Iran and documenting the weapons and equipment used in the policing of protests.

On-line events have made it easier to share our expertise with others and to host discussions with particular experts who would generally not be able to participate. Attendance at panel discussions that would have been limited to people at a particular conference, such as the UN Human Rights Council, have been available to all, worldwide (although some participants have required funds to access web services). Omega has participated in panel discussions and provided online training, including: a UN side event on the use of security-related measures in response to COVID-19, a webinar on less lethal weapons and grave human rights violations in Chile, and webinars on monitoring the use of force and documenting torture in places of detention in Colombia.

Contributions to other reports

We continued to work with NGOs, journalists and others to identify arms, ammunition and other equipment used in repression around the world. Some examples include:

- In June 2021, Omega and OSCE ODIHR published the *Guide on Law Enforcement Equipment Most Commonly Used in the Policing of Assemblies*. Omega staff also took part in ODIHR assembly monitoring missions and provided briefings for monitors.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

- Omega worked closely with Amnesty International, including their Digital Verification Corps, on a major investigation of the misuse of police batons and related equipment worldwide. The web-platform includes details of verified human rights violations in different countries, details of the health implications of baton strikes, and information on international standards and human rights. 'Blunt Force' was launched in September 2021 with worldwide media outreach, activist engagement, and lobbying and advocacy work.
- Omega worked in partnership with UNODC and the Brazilian National Justice Council to produce an international edition of the *Handbook on handcuffs and other instruments of restraint in court hearings* which seeks to support judges to reduce the use of handcuffs in the courtroom.

Omega continued to play an active role on the UK National Taser Strategic Advisory Group (NTSAG), which provides oversight and advises police in England and Wales on the use of the Taser weapon. Omega has been Chair of the NTSAG since late 2019 and as such also attended the UK's Less Lethal Weapons Working Group. These groups give Omega access to key decision makers in UK policing, the College of Policing and the Home Office, where we are able to raise concerns and influence policy and practice.

Omega submitted papers and briefings to various international organisations and meetings, and responded to a large number of requests from researchers and journalists.

Strategy

Following an earlier review of the organisation's Information Technology and data systems, Omega staff have been working on an IT and database upgrade. This upgrade, completed during the year, will increase Omega's capacity to collect and record data and will make our information more easily accessible both internally and for selected external partners.

Omega undertook a major strategic planning exercise in 2020/21. This led to the development of a Theory of Change for the organisation, as detailed in the Objectives and Activities section of this report above and available on the Omega website. This organisational Theory of Change informs Omega's work, and is kept under regular review.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year, Omega was in a reasonable financial position, with total Reserves of £338,499. Of this, £8,574 was held in restricted reserves to be spent on ongoing projects, £192,500 in designated reserves to be released over the following three financial years, and £137,425 in general reserves.

Fundraising

The long-term financial viability of Omega depends on continual fundraising, in a climate of shrinking donor funding for human rights work. Omega raises most of its income through grant funding, and in previous years has used professional support from Wootton George Consulting in reviewing some grant applications. Wootton George Consulting are NCVO members and are committed to upholding the standards of the Institute of Fundraising. Omega conducted a crowdfunding campaign through Global Giving in the financial year, the first instance of active fundraising from individuals, and has received no complaints relating to fundraising activity.

In April 2018, Omega started a three-year project, grant funded by the European Commission through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, which was extended to finish in September 2021. Omega hopes that further European Commission funding will resume during 2023, and a grant from the Oak Foundation was renewed for a further three years in May 2021. We understand that this will be the final grant from the Oak Foundation as they are prioritising other areas of funding. In

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

January 2022 Omega started a further three-year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. Omega has worked hard through the financial year and beyond to try to diversify our funding base and find new sources of funds, including in 2022-23 securing a first grant from the Open Society Foundations.

Reserves policy

Omega holds *Restricted Reserves*, being unspent funding provided for specific projects, and *Unrestricted Reserves* which can be subdivided into *Designated Reserves*, being the proportion of multi-year core grant funding relating to future years as stated in the grant agreement, and the *General Fund*.

The trustees have reviewed Omega's Reserves Policy and have concluded that an upper and lower limit of reserves held in the General Fund should be set bearing in mind the objective of holding such reserves. That is, reserves in the General Fund are intended to underpin the organisation's solvency and the continuity of its operations. However, the size of these reserves should not be excessive. Excessive reserves would lead to resources being idle and unused for long periods.

In relation to the upper limit the trustees have taken into consideration the experience of the last ten years. In that period Omega has received three grants from the European Commission via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, each lasting around three years, with fifteen months between the first two, and ten months between the second and third. These grants have typically provided around 70% of the organisation's income. In order to underpin the organisation's solvency during the periods waiting for the next grant receipt or between grants, the trustees consider holding a maximum reserves in the General Fund of a year of basic operating costs to be reasonable. Basic operating costs in 2020/21 are around £300,000 per annum - £25,000 per month.

In relation to the lower limit should it become apparent that no further major grant is to be expected from the European Commission or from an alternative grant provider, Omega would need to drastically restructure and reduce its size and scope of operations. The trustees estimate that the costs associated with such a restructuring and reduction would amount to five months of basic operating costs which currently would be around £125,000.

Reserves in the General Fund at the end of 2021-22 stood at £137,425 which is between the target limits of £125,000 to £300,000.

Plans for the future

We will continue to offer research support to the UN, human rights bodies, NGOs, researchers and journalists working in our areas of interest; develop new partnerships with NGOs and funders to strengthen the organisation for the future; and share our knowledge and skills with likeminded organisations.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16th September 2004.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

The Omega Research Foundation may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional trustees are to retire. The Trustees are also directors and members of the company. Trustees are recruited following the Trustee Recruitment Policy, which states that vacancies should be advertised and applications invited.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 11 to the accounts.

New trustees go through an induction process and are given the option of training in any aspect of directorship that they feel is necessary.

Trustees meet 4-5 times per year and make decisions on the medium and long term aims and activities of the organisation, including: funding strategies; methods of attaining the organisation's objectives; organisational policies; and staffing levels. The Board of Trustees also monitors the overall performance and achievements of the organisation. The Omega Research Foundation has a principal staff of seven to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated. This includes project management and financial administration.

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the Omega Research Foundation is exposed and ensure that adequate systems and processes are in place to manage those risks.

The trustees reviewed their application of the Charity Governance Code's principles and recommended practice during the year to ensure Omega's governance standards remain high. Trustees and staff are alert to the need to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in all their policies and operations. All trustees have undertaken training in diversity and recently agreed to update the diversity policy. Recruitment of new trustees is planned in 2023 and steps will be taken to make the role open to a diverse range of candidates.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2022 was 7 (2021: 8). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At 31 March 2022 Omega employed four full-time and two part-time research staff, and a part-time administrative & finance officer. Omega also had nine volunteers during the year; recruited through the University of Manchester, volunteers can submit their time with Omega towards an application for the Stellify Award. Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. After two years' service, all staff are paid at the same rate (pro-rata), which is set periodically by the trustees, taking account of inflation and the charity's available resources.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Omega Research Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2022

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 6th December 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Steven Lindsay

Treasurer

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Omega Research Foundation Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA CTA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Slade & Cooper Limited
Statutory Auditors
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

23rd December 2022

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	532	4,371	4,903	86
Charitable activities	4	293,492	146,529	440,021	244,296
Investments	5	310	-	310	479
Total income		294,334	150,900	445,234	244,861
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		36,725	-	36,725	32,167
Charitable activities	7	222,845	162,088	384,933	355,547
Total expenditure		259,570	162,088	421,658	387,714
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments		34,764	(11,188)	23,576	(142,853)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	9	34,764	(11,188)	23,576	(142,853)
Transfer between funds		(4,920)	4,920	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		29,844	(6,268)	23,576	(142,853)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		300,081	14,842	314,923	457,776
Total funds carried forward		329,925	8,574	338,499	314,923

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

A full comparative SOFA is available on the last page of the financial statements.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Company number 5224240

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	14	282,230	53,947
Cash at bank and in hand		107,438	296,915
Total current assets		389,668	350,862
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(51,169)	(35,939)
Net current assets		338,499	314,923
Total assets less current liabilities		338,499	314,923
Net assets		338,499	314,923
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	8,574	14,842
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated fund: Long term grants	18	192,500	45,000
General funds	18	137,425	255,081
Total charity funds		338,499	314,923

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 15 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 06/12/2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Lindsay (Treasurer)

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

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

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

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

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

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

c Income

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

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, 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 and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e 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 Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The charity has one designated fund, the long term grants fund, which holds grant income awarded under multi-year grants. This is transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant. The remaining unrestricted funds are the general funds of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 8.

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives. There are currently no fixed assets.

j Debtors

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

k Cash at bank and in hand

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

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

l Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m 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.

n Foreign currencies

Transactions entered into in currencies other than sterling are included in the accounts after conversion at the bank rate in force on the date.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 10. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within staff costs in note 10, and are allocated between funds in proportion to the allocation of staff time.

The money purchase plan is managed by TPT Retirement Solutions (previously The Pensions Trust) and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement year age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is 0.69% and this is deducted from the investment fund annually. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. The contributions outstanding at the year-end were £1.766.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Donations	532	4,371	4,903
Total	532	4,371	4,903
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Donations	86	-	86
Total	86	-	86

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
European Commission grant	-	83,929	83,929
Oak Foundation grant	-	62,600	62,600
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant	239,000	-	239,000
Other income from charitable activity	54,492	-	54,492
Total	293,492	146,529	440,021
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
European Commission grant	-	176,320	176,320
Oak Foundation grant	-	60,000	60,000
Open Society Foundation	-	885	885
Other income from charitable activity	7,091	-	7,091
Total	7,091	237,205	244,296

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5 Investment income

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Income from bank deposits	310	-	310
	310	-	310
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Income from bank deposits	479	-	479
	479	-	479

6 Cost of raising funds

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	29,032	25,905
Accommodation	836	788
Governance costs (see note 8)	809	263
Support costs (see note 8)	6,048	5,211
	36,725	32,167

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	224,258	244,722
Accommodation	6,458	7,444
Publishing (including websites)	20,910	18,478
Travel	6,710	-
Training provision	15,292	1,403
Research	7,057	-
Evaluation	2,207	5,957
Share of grant relating to partner organisations	44,159	23,467
Governance costs (see note 8)	6,352	4,852
Support costs (see note 8)	51,530	49,224
	384,933	355,547
	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted expenditure	162,088	313,449
Unrestricted expenditure	222,845	42,098
	384,933	355,547

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	40,497	3,279	43,776
Office costs	13,553	1,110	14,663
Audit fees	3,528	2,772	6,300
	57,578	7,161	64,739
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	6,048	809	
Charitable activities	51,530	6,352	
	57,578	7,161	
Previous reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	36,926	2,597	39,523
Office costs	17,509	166	17,675
Audit fees	-	2,352	2,352
	54,435	5,115	59,550
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	5,211	263	
Charitable activities	49,224	4,852	
	54,435	5,115	

The charity has one activity and therefore support costs are not apportioned.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022 £	2021 £
Auditor's remuneration - audit fees	5,190	1,900
Auditor's remuneration - other	60	60

10 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	260,483	272,131
Social security costs	23,736	24,412
Pension costs	12,847	13,607
	297,066	310,150
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	29,032	25,905
Charitable activities	224,258	244,722
Support costs	40,497	36,926
Governance costs	3,279	2,597
	297,066	310,150

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 6 (2021: 6).

Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the staff team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £301,066 (2021: £314,150).

11 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2021: Nil).

No (2021: One) members of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2021: £5).

Aggregate donations from related parties, were £220 plus Gift Aid (2021: Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no conditions were attached to donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2021: Nil).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

12 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
European Commission	83,929	176,320
	<u>83,929</u>	<u>176,320</u>

The European Commission grant was the final payment to cover 79% of costs on the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation" which ran from 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2021. This was outstanding at the year end, and received in May 2022.

13 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

14 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Grants receivable	276,429	45,000
Trade debtors	3,130	6,635
Prepayments and accrued income	2,671	2,312
	<u>282,230</u>	<u>53,947</u>

Grants receivable consists of all but 3 months of a 3 year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. This is held in the Long term grants designated fund (see note 18). Also, the final payment on the European Commission grant, detailed at note 12. The amounts recoverable in more than one year is £122,500 (2021: £nil)

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Short term deposits	93,413	232,085
Cash at bank and on hand	14,025	64,830
	<u>107,438</u>	<u>296,915</u>

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	19,043	21,377
Other creditors and accruals	25,199	7,520
Taxation and social security costs	6,927	7,042
	<u>51,169</u>	<u>35,939</u>

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
European Commission	5,615	83,929	(94,464)	4,920	-
Oak Foundation 1	3,500	6,930	(10,430)	-	-
Oak Foundation 2	1,050	55,670	(51,382)	-	5,338
Joffe Charitable Trust	4,677	-	(4,677)	-	-
Global Giving	-	4,371	(1,135)	-	3,236
	<u>14,842</u>	<u>150,900</u>	<u>(162,088)</u>	<u>4,920</u>	<u>8,574</u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
European Commission	50,995	176,320	(234,176)	12,476	5,615
Oak Foundation 1	3,500	38,540	(38,540)	-	3,500
Oak Foundation 2	-	21,460	(20,410)	-	1,050
Institute of International Education	-	885	-	(885)	-
Joffe Charitable Trust	20,000	-	(15,323)	-	4,677
Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
	<u>79,495</u>	<u>237,205</u>	<u>(313,449)</u>	<u>11,591</u>	<u>14,842</u>

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
European Commission	Funding for the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation". Completed in September 2021.
Oak Foundation 1	Matched funding to cover up to 20.65% of the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation". Completed in September 2021.
Oak Foundation 2	Funding to continue work on the European "Anti Torture" Regulation, and work on the Alliance for Torture Free Trade, and on torture prevention work in Brazil.
Institute of International Education	Funding for two way interpretation during a National Justice Council symposium in Brazil and online.
Joffe Charitable Trust; Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	Funding for development of a new research database. Completed in 2021-22.
Global Giving	Funding for further development of the database, including providing access to external individuals and organisations.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	255,081	84,334	(259,570)	57,580	137,425
Designated fund: Long term grants	45,000	210,000	-	(62,500)	192,500
	<u>300,081</u>	<u>294,334</u>	<u>(259,570)</u>	<u>(4,920)</u>	<u>329,925</u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	273,281	7,656	(74,265)	48,409	255,081
Designated fund: Long term grants	105,000	-	-	(60,000)	45,000
	<u>378,281</u>	<u>7,656</u>	<u>(74,265)</u>	<u>(11,591)</u>	<u>300,081</u>
Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund				
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds				
Long term grants fund	Income from multi-year core grants, currently from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (3 year grant starting in January 2022), to be transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant, following the grant agreement.				

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Long term grants fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	137,425	192,500	8,574	338,499
Total	137,425	192,500	8,574	338,499
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Long term grants fund £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>255,081</i>	<i>45,000</i>	<i>14,842</i>	<i>314,923</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>255,081</i>	<i>45,000</i>	<i>14,842</i>	<i>314,923</i>

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	86	-	86	-
Charitable activities	7,091	237,205	244,296	417,769
Investments	479	-	479	818
Other income	-	-	-	150
Total income	7,656	237,205	244,861	418,737
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	32,167	-	32,167	25,309
Charitable activities	42,098	313,449	355,547	399,131
Total expenditure	74,265	313,449	387,714	424,440
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	(66,609)	(76,244)	(142,853)	(5,703)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(66,609)	(76,244)	(142,853)	(5,703)
Transfer between funds	(11,591)	11,591	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	(78,200)	(64,653)	(142,853)	(5,703)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	378,281	79,495	457,776	463,479
Total funds carried forward	300,081	14,842	314,923	457,776

OMEGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1105918

Accounts

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2021

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st March 2021

Company number 5224240

Charity number 1105918

Registered office and operational address Bridge 5 Mill
22A Beswick Street
Ancoats
Manchester
M4 7HR

Trustees Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Michael Reed	Chair
Steven Lindsay	Treasurer
Rick Seccombe	
Natalie Wilkins	
Emilia McElvenney	
Josephine Dresner	
Ian Bell	
Jevon Clayton	

Company Secretary Fiona Gorton

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Charity Bank Limited
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Nationwide Building Society
Kings Park Road
Moulton Park
Northampton
NN3 6NW

Auditors Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Lofts
Jersey Street
Manchester
M4 6JG

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law.

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

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Omega Research Foundation are:

- To promote human rights
- To advance the education of the public in the subject of international peace, human rights and the causes of conflict.

Omega works to:

- Investigate and expose the global manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of military, security and police (MSP) weapons, equipment, and techniques and related human rights and international humanitarian law violations.
- Provide expert analysis and policy proposals to strengthen national, regional, and international controls.
- Share our specialist knowledge, including through training, briefings, capacity building, and technical assistance.

So that:

- We strengthen relationships with other NGOs and human rights monitors, journalists, judges and other legal professionals, political figures, private entities, unions, state institutions, law enforcement agencies, and international and regional institutions.
- These key stakeholders are empowered with knowledge of the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of MSP weapons, equipment, and techniques, and their human rights impacts for a range of communities.
- We collectively advocate for change.

So that:

- Controls related to the manufacture, trade, procurement, testing, and use of weapons, equipment, and techniques are human rights-compliant.
- These controls are effectively implemented and monitored.
- Those who perpetrate violations are held to account.

So that:

Human rights and international humanitarian law violations are not committed or facilitated by people using military, security, and policing weapons, equipment, and techniques.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on promotion of human rights. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. All activities are undertaken to further the organisation's charitable objectives for the public benefit.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

The charity's main objectives for the financial year 2020-21 were:

- To continue work on the three year project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation" 79.35% funded by the European Commission, alongside partners in South Africa, Brazil and Indonesia;
- To work with an increasing range of other partners to provide support and case studies for lobbying and advocacy activities in strengthening controls on the international trade and use of MSP equipment, particularly through the Alliance for Torture Free Trade;
- To continue the maintenance and expansion of Mispo.org, an online photo-database for the recognition and tracing of military, security and police equipment; and other in-house databases;
- To offer reactive research services to highlight issues of concern in countries in conflict or human rights abuse cases.

The aims, objectives and activities of the charity are kept under ongoing review by the trustees to ensure they remain focused on the charity's stated purposes.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits arising from the charity's work.

Achievements and performance

International controls on the trade in torture equipment

United Nations

Omega worked with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to survey Member States, and on a consultation and webinar for key stakeholders on Torture-Free Trade in April 2020. These informed the UN Secretary General's report to the UN General Assembly in July 2020, that the majority of respondent States supported legally binding international controls on the trade in torture and death penalty technologies.

At a UN meeting 'Towards Torture-Free Trade: Opportunities and Challenges' in December 2020, Omega and Amnesty launched their report *Ending the Torture-Trade: The path to global controls on the 'tools of torture'* (also translated into French and Spanish). This examined promotion, trade, and use of torture and death penalty technologies, and highlighted the development of regulation of the trade.

Omega and Amnesty developed a "model" *Torture Trade and Death Penalty Trade Instrument* (TDPTI) – a blueprint global instrument regulating the trade in these technologies. It includes prohibitions on inherently abusive equipment and devices designed to carry out executions, such as spiked batons and gallows, and controls on the trade in standard-issue policing equipment such as handcuffs, and dual use pharmaceuticals for lethal injections.

Council of Europe

Omega worked with the Secretariat and German and UK representatives to produce a draft non-binding legal instrument. Following reviews and revisions by States, *Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures against the trade in goods used for the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment* was adopted by the CoE Committee of Ministers in March 2021.

European Union

Omega worked to influence the Review of the EU Anti-Torture Regulation and its implementation by Member States by the European Commission, presented to the European Parliament and Council in July 2020.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

Omega wrote a "shadow report" examining the Regulation and its Annexes, reviewing implementation by Member States, and researching activities of companies in the EU during 2015-2019. A version of this report without company details – *Review of EU Anti-Torture Regulation and its implementation: Provisional findings and recommendations* – was submitted to the Commission in May 2020, to inform their Review. Omega's final report was launched in November 2020 while the European Parliament and Council discussed appropriate, effective measures to strengthen the Regulation and its implementation.

Omega participated in consultations during the Review, including the *EU Anti-Torture Regulation: Review Workshop/Webinar* in May 2020 - a key forum for contributions from Member States, Commission officials, and anti-torture civil society organisations. Omega was in regular communication with Commission staff and the independent evaluator undertaking the Review.

Comparing the European Commission Review Report with Omega's "shadow report", Omega's influence is evident. The Commission recognises the need to extend the scope of goods covered, establish a process to regularly review this scope following market developments, and ensure that the scope and nature of coverage matches existing EU instruments. They note the need to address incomplete reporting by Member States, encourage greater transparency, and prepare guidance for Member States on difficult implementation issues. Finally, they call for the establishment of a group of experts to inform them on strengthening the Regulation and its implementation. This group has been established, and includes an Omega researcher.

Omega has worked closely with Amnesty throughout, co-ordinating policy development and advocacy towards Member States and the Commission, and cooperating on research and media activity.

Investigating and strengthening oversight of the use of force and torture

General

The support that we have been able to offer civil society and human rights monitors has evolved due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Holding webinars, workshops and meetings online has enabled us to interact with more people with diverse experiences than would ever have been able to attend in-person events, as well as reducing the need to travel. Such on-line events have made it easier to share our expertise with others and to host discussions with particular experts who would generally not be able to participate in short meetings that require significant travel. Attendance at panel discussions that would have been limited to people at a particular conference, such as the UN Human Rights Council, have been available to all, worldwide (although some participants have required funds to access web services). Omega has participated in panel discussions and provided online training, including: a [UN side event on the use of security-related measures in response to COVID-19](#), a [webinar on less lethal weapons and grave human rights violations in Chile](#) and [webinars on monitoring the use of force and documenting torture in places of detention in Colombia](#).

We have also produced Covid-19 specific resources, such as our [map](#) showing excessive use of force by law enforcement in enforcing Covid-19 regulations (which we are continuing to update) and our [position paper](#) on the use of chemical irritants during the pandemic. These resources have been used by other NGOs to highlight human rights issues surrounding the use of policing and security equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Brazil

Omega and our local partner Justiça Global continued to work with a range of actors to strengthen use of force standards and increase scrutiny of their implementation.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31st March 2021

Training: In December 2020, Omega presented to an online event organised by the Espírito Santo State Human Rights Council, building on Justiça Global's lobbying in the state for stronger standards on use of force in the juvenile justice system.

In March 2021, Omega provided online training to all eight National Mechanism to Prevent and Combat Torture (MNPCT) experts, on use of force standards and analysis of incidents. This was well-received, with further training requested to improve the technical quality of MNPCT reports.

Technical assistance for monitors: In November 2020, Omega identified weapons photographed during a monitoring visit by Rondônia Local Mechanism to Prevent and Combat Torture. Omega also supported the Mechanism in drafting an urgent appeal concerning the deaths of two prisoners attempting to escape from the Ariquemes Prison Unit in August 2020.

In August 2020, Omega completed a technical analysis of less lethal weapons purchased by federal penitentiary authorities, at the request of the MNPCT and the Federal Public Defenders Office.

Use of force protocols: Research into use of force protocols in Brazilian juvenile justice and adult penitentiary systems was completed and has already informed advocacy. A technical brief was drafted to help provide greater transparency concerning regulation of less lethal weapons in places of detention.

Use of less lethal weapons: The National Human Rights Council adopted a [recommendation](#) in October 2020 concerning the regulation of less lethal weapons in the penitentiary system, following collaboration between Omega, Justiça Global, the MNPCT, and the Federal Public Defenders Office - the first recommendation to bind state authorities on this.

Use of restraints: The [Manual on Handcuffs and other Instruments of Restraint in Judicial Hearings](#) published by Omega, the National Justice Council and UNODC Brazil in October 2020, has already helped judges in at least three states reduce use of restraints during detention control hearings.

Contributions to other reports, meetings, and media articles

We continued to work with NGOs, journalists and others to identify arms, ammunition and other equipment used in repression around the world. Some examples include:

- We assisted, with Campaign Against Arms Trade, in providing technical and company data for a legal complaint about UK exports of tear gas and other crowd control weapons potentially misused by US police during policing of Black Lives Matter protests in mid-2020. The case is still ongoing.
- Omega worked closely with Amnesty International, including their Digital Verification Corps, on a major investigation of tear gas used as a crowd control weapon during protests. [Tear Gas: An Investigation](#) was launched in June 2020 with worldwide media outreach, activist engagement and lobbying / advocacy work, at a time when civil society worldwide was protesting police brutality and alongside the Black Lives Matter movement. It was updated and expanded in February 2021, and won a Webby award.

Omega played an active role on the National Taser Strategic Advisory Group (NTSAG), which provides oversight and advises police in England and Wales on the use of the Taser weapon, and we became Chair of the NTSAG in late 2019. Omega also attended the UK's Less Lethal Weapons Working Group. These groups give Omega access to key decision makers in UK policing, the College of Policing and the Home Office, where we are able to raise concerns and influence policy and practice. One result was the National Police Chiefs Council agreeing to an independent examination of the disproportional use of taser against persons of colour.

Omega submitted papers and briefings to various international organisations and meetings, and responded to a large number of requests from researchers and journalists.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

Strategy

Following an earlier review of the organisation's Information Technology and data systems, Omega staff have been working on an IT and database upgrade. This upgrade, completed in 2021/22, will increase Omega's capacity to collect and record data and will make our information more easily accessible both internally and for selected external partners.

Omega undertook a major strategic planning exercise in 2020/21. This led to the construction of a Theory of Change for the organisation, as detailed in the Objectives and Activities section of this report. This organisational Theory of Change will inform Omega's work, and will be kept under regular review.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year, Omega was in a reasonable financial position, with total Reserves of £314,923. Of this, £14,842 was held in restricted reserves to be spent on ongoing projects, all of which was spent in the first quarter of 2021/22, £45,000 in designated reserves to be released over the following financial year, and £255,081 in general reserves.

Fundraising

The long-term financial viability of Omega depends on continual fundraising, in a climate of shrinking donor funding for human rights work. Omega raises most of its income through grant funding, and in previous years has used professional support from Wootton George Consulting in reviewing some grant applications. Wootton George Consulting are NCVO members and are committed to upholding the standards of the Institute of Fundraising. Omega did not conduct individual giving fundraising in the financial year and has received no complaints relating to fundraising activity. In April 2018, Omega started a three-year grant from the European Commission through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, which was extended during the financial year to finish in September 2021, and one from the Oak Foundation which was renewed for a further three years after the year end. In January 2019 Omega started a three-year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and this has also been renewed for a further three years. Omega has worked hard through the financial year and beyond to try to diversify our funding base and find new sources of funds, including in 2021-22 using crowd funding site GlobalGiving to raise funds from individuals for the first time.

Reserves policy

Omega holds *Restricted Reserves*, being unspent funding provided for specific projects, and *Unrestricted Reserves* which can be subdivided into *Designated Reserves*, being the proportion of multi-year core grant funding relating to future years as stated in the grant agreement, and the *General Fund*.

The trustees have reviewed Omega's Reserves Policy and have concluded that an upper and lower limit of reserves held in the General Fund should be set bearing in mind the objective of holding such reserves. That is, reserves in the General Fund are intended to underpin the organisation's solvency and the continuity of its operations. However, the size of these reserves should not be excessive. Excessive reserves would lead to resources being idle and unused for long periods.

In relation to the upper limit the trustees have taken into consideration the experience of the last ten years. In that period Omega has received three grants from the European Commission via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, each lasting around three years, with fifteen months between the first two, and ten months between the second and third. These grants have typically provided around 70% of the organisation's income. In order to underpin the organisation's solvency during the periods waiting for the next grant receipt or between grants, the trustees consider holding a maximum reserves in the General Fund of a year of basic operating costs to be reasonable. Basic operating costs in 2020/21 are around £300,000 per annum - £25,000 per month.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

In relation to the lower limit should it become apparent that no further major grant is to be expected from the European Commission or from an alternative grant provider, Omega would need to drastically restructure and reduce its size and scope of operations. The trustees estimate that the costs associated with such a restructuring and reduction would amount to five months of basic operating costs which currently would be around £125,000.

Reserves in the General Fund at the end of 2020-21 stood at £255,081 which is between the target limits of £125,000 to £300,000.

Plans for the future

Omega and partners Justiça Global (Brazil), Legal Resources Centre (South Africa) and associates Amnesty International and KontraS (Indonesia) continued work on the European funded project, "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation", which started in April 2018, until its completion at the end of September 2021.

We will continue to offer research support to NGOs, researchers and journalists working in our areas of interest; develop new partnerships with NGOs and funders to strengthen the organisation for the future; and share our knowledge and skills with likeminded organisations.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7th September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16th September 2004.

The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

The Omega Research Foundation may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee and determine the rotation in which any additional trustees are to retire. The Trustees are also directors and members of the company. Trustees are recruited following the Trustee Recruitment Policy, which states that vacancies should be advertised and applications invited.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 12 to the accounts.

New trustees go through an induction process and are given the option of training in any aspect of directorship that they feel is necessary.

Trustees meet 4-5 times per year and make decisions on the medium and long term aims and activities of the organisation, including: funding strategies; methods of attaining the organisation's objectives; organisational policies; and staffing levels. The Board of Trustees also monitors the overall performance and achievements of the organisation. The Omega Research Foundation has a principal staff of seven to whom the day to day management of the organisation is delegated. This includes project management and financial administration.

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the Omega Research Foundation is exposed and ensure that adequate systems are in place to manage those risks.

The trustees reviewed their application of the Charity Governance Code's principles and recommended practice during the year to ensure Omega's governance standards remain high. Trustees and staff are alert to the need to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in all their policies and operations. All trustees have undertaken training in diversity and recently agreed to update the diversity policy. Recruitment of new trustees is planned in 2022 and steps will be taken to make the role open to a diverse range of candidates.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2021 was 8 (2020: 8). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

At 31 March 2021 Omega employed six full-time research staff, and a part-time administrative & finance officer. Omega also had two volunteers during the year. Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff. After two years' service, all staff are paid at the same rate (pro-rata), which is set periodically by the trustees, taking account of inflation and the charity's available resources.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Omega Research Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual 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 which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information

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

Auditors

Slade & Cooper Ltd were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31st March 2021

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 30th November 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Steven Lindsay

Treasurer

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Omega Research Foundation Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the income and expenditure account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 8, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the

Independent auditors' report
to the members of
Omega Research Foundation

aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- enquiry of the charity's staff, management and those charged with governance to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Christy Yun Hing Lau FCCA CTA DChA

Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of

Slade & Cooper Limited

Statutory Auditors

Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Date 17/12/2021

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	86	-	86	-
Charitable activities	4	7,091	237,205	244,296	417,769
Investments	5	479	-	479	818
Other income	6	-	-	-	150
Total income		7,656	237,205	244,861	418,737
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	32,167	-	32,167	25,309
Charitable activities	8	42,098	313,449	355,547	399,131
Total expenditure		74,265	313,449	387,714	424,440
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		(66,609)	(76,244)	(142,853)	(5,703)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	10	(66,609)	(76,244)	(142,853)	(5,703)
Transfer between funds		(11,591)	11,591	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(78,200)	(64,653)	(142,853)	(5,703)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		378,281	79,495	457,776	463,479
Total funds carried forward		300,081	14,842	314,923	457,776

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Omega Research Foundation Limited
Company number 5224240

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Current assets			
Debtors	15	53,947	101,159
Cash at bank and in hand	16	296,915	375,908
Total current assets		350,862	477,067
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	17	(35,939)	(19,291)
Net current assets		314,923	457,776
Total assets less current liabilities		314,923	457,776
Net assets		314,923	457,776
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	14,842	79,495
Unrestricted income funds:			
Designated fund: Long term grants	19	45,000	105,000
General funds	19	255,081	273,281
Total charity funds		314,923	457,776

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The notes on pages 15 to 28 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 30th November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Steven Lindsay (Treasurer)

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

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

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied the exemption available to small charities in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and does not include a Statement of Cash Flows in these Financial Statements.

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

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

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

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

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

c Income

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

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, 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 and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e 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 Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The charity has one designated fund, the long term grants fund, which holds grant income awarded under multi-year grants. This is transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant.

The remaining unrestricted funds are the general funds of the charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 9.

i Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives. There are currently no fixed assets.

j Debtors

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

k Cash at bank and in hand

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

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

I Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m 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.

n Foreign currencies

Transactions entered into in currencies other than sterling are included in the accounts after conversion at the bank rate in force on the date.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 11. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included within staff costs in note 11, and are allocated between funds in proportion to the allocation of staff time.

The money purchase plan is managed by TPT Retirement Solutions (previously The Pensions Trust) and the plan invests the contributions made by the employee and employer in an investment fund to build up over the term of the plan a pension fund which is then converted into a pension upon the employee's normal retirement year age when eligible for a state pension. The total expense ratio of the plan is 0.69% and this is deducted from the investment fund annually. The charity has no liability beyond making its contributions and paying across the deductions for the employee's contributions. The contributions outstanding at the year-end were £2,182.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. 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. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations	86	-	86	-
Total	86	-	86	-

4 Income from charitable activities

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
European Commission grant		176,320	176,320
Oak Foundation grant		60,000	60,000
Open Society Foundation		885	885
Other income from charitable activity	7,091		7,091
Total	7,091	237,205	244,296
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
European Commission grant		320,320	320,320
Oak Foundation grant		60,000	60,000
Joffe Charitable Trust		20,000	20,000
TREAT grant		5,000	5,000
Other income from charitable activity	12,449		12,449
Total	12,449	405,320	417,769

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

5 Investment income

Current reporting period	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £
Income from bank deposits	479	-	479
	479	-	479
<i>Previous reporting period</i>	<i>Unrestricted £</i>	<i>Restricted £</i>	<i>2020 £</i>
<i>Income from bank deposits</i>	<i>818</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>818</i>
	<i>818</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>818</i>

6 Other income

	2021 £	2020 £
Compensation from bank	-	150
	-	150

All other income is unrestricted.

7 Cost of raising funds

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	25,905	19,521
Accommodation	788	739
Governance costs (see note 9)	263	771
Support costs (see note 9)	5,211	4,278
	32,167	25,309

All expenditure on cost of raising funds is unrestricted.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

8 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	244,722	232,948
Accommodation	7,444	8,814
Publishing (including websites)	18,478	3,344
Travel	-	10,728
Training provision	1,403	165
Research	-	4,476
Evaluation	5,957	642
Fundraiser's fees	-	350
Share of grant relating to partner organisations	23,467	77,421
Governance costs (see note 9)	4,852	9,199
Support costs (see note 9)	49,224	51,044
	355,547	399,131
	2021 £	2020 £
Restricted expenditure	313,449	356,375
Unrestricted expenditure	42,098	42,756
	355,547	399,131

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

9 Analysis of governance and support costs

Current reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	36,926	2,597	39,523
Office costs	17,509	166	17,675
Audit fees	-	2,352	2,352
	54,435	5,115	59,550
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	5,211	263	
Charitable activities	49,224	4,852	
	54,435	5,115	
Previous reporting period	Support £	Governance £	Total 2020 £
Catering & venue hire for meetings	-	881	881
Staff costs	21,390	5,855	27,245
Office costs	33,932	738	34,670
Audit fees	-	2,496	2,496
	55,322	9,970	65,292
Allocated as follows:			
Cost of raising funds	4,278	771	
Charitable activities	51,044	9,199	
	55,322	9,970	

The charity has one activity and therefore support costs are not apportioned.

10 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021 £	2020 £
Auditor's remuneration - audit fees	1,900	1,900
Auditor's remuneration - other	60	180

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

11 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	272,131	245,179
Social security costs	24,412	22,276
Pension costs	13,607	12,259
	310,150	279,714
Allocated as follows:		
Cost of raising funds	25,905	19,521
Charitable activities	244,722	232,948
Support costs	36,926	21,390
Governance costs	2,597	5,855
	310,150	279,714

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 6 (2020: 6).

Omega operates a flat management structure, with decisions being taken collectively by staff.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the staff team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £314,150 (2020: £282,714).

12 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Neither the management committee nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2020: Nil).

One member of the management committee received travel and subsistence expenses during the year totalling £5. (2020: £263).

Aggregate donations from related parties were Nil (2020: Nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2020: Nil).

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

13 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
European Commission	176,320	320,320
	176,320	320,320

The European Commission grant was the third payment to cover 79% of costs on the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation" which ran from 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2021. One payment, 10% of the total grant, is outstanding to be paid once all reporting is successfully completed in the next financial year. Some of the grant was unspent at the year end (see note 18).

14 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

15 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Grants receivable	45,000	90,000
Trade debtors	6,635	5,750
Prepayments and accrued income	2,312	5,409
	53,947	101,159

Grants receivable consists of 9 months of a 3 year grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. These amounts are held in the Long term grants designated fund (see note 18).

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021 £	2020 £
Short term deposits	232,085	231,418
Cash at bank and on hand	64,830	144,490
	296,915	375,908

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Short term compensated absences (holiday pay)	21,377	7,650
Other creditors and accruals	5,338	2,946
Taxation and social security costs	9,224	8,695
	35,939	19,291

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
European Commission	50,995	176,320	(234,176)	12,476	5,615
Oak Foundation 1	3,500	38,540	(38,540)	-	3,500
Oak Foundation 2	-	21,460	(20,410)	-	1,050
Institute of International Education	-	885	-	(885)	-
Joffe Charitable Trust	20,000	-	(15,323)	-	4,677
Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Total	79,495	237,205	(313,449)	11,591	14,842
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
European Commission	11,235	320,320	(296,375)	15,815	50,995
Oak Foundation 1	3,500	37,050	(37,050)	-	3,500
Oak Foundation 2	-	22,950	(22,950)	-	-
Joffe Charitable Trust	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total	14,735	405,320	(356,375)	15,815	79,495

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
European Commission	Funding for the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation". To be completed in 2021-22.
Oak Foundation 1	Matched funding to cover up to 20.65% of the project "Establishing effective controls on the use of and trade in torture technologies, as a tool to fight torture and support remedy and reparation"
Oak Foundation 2	Funding to continue work on the European "Anti Torture" Regulation, and work on the Alliance for Torture Free Trade
Institute of International Education	Funding for two way interpretation during a National Justice Council symposium in Brazil and online
Joffe Charitable Trust; Trust for Research and Education on the Arms Trade	Funding for development of a new research database. This will be completed in 2021-22.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity. Some grants which fall into this category are paid in arrears, after expenditure has already occurred, which can leave restricted funds in deficit for short periods of time.

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

19 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

Current reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	273,281	7,656	(74,265)	48,409	255,081
Designated fund: Long term grants	105,000		-	(60,000)	45,000
	<u>378,281</u>	<u>7,656</u>	<u>(74,265)</u>	<u>(11,591)</u>	<u>300,081</u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2020 £
General fund	223,744	13,417	(68,065)	104,185	273,281
Designated fund: Long term grants	225,000		-	(120,000)	105,000
	<u>448,744</u>	<u>13,417</u>	<u>(68,065)</u>	<u>(15,815)</u>	<u>378,281</u>
Name of unrestricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund				
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds				
Long term grants fund	Income from multi-year core grants, currently from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (3 year grant starting in January 2019), to be transferred to the general fund over the life of the grant, following the grant agreement.				

Omega Research Foundation Limited

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current reporting period	General fund £	Long term grants fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	255,081	45,000	14,842	314,923
Total	255,081	45,000	14,842	314,923
<i>Previous reporting period</i>	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Long term grants fund £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>273,281</i>	<i>105,000</i>	<i>79,495</i>	<i>457,776</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>273,281</i>	<i>105,000</i>	<i>79,495</i>	<i>457,776</i>