

Company number: 5224240

Charity Number: 1105918



**Omega Research Foundation**

# Omega Research Foundation Limited

Report and financial statements  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Omega Research Foundation Limited  
Reference and administrative information  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023)  
Natalie Wilkins  
Josephine Dresner  
Ian Bell  
Jevon Clayton  
Annalena Wolcke (appointed 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023)  
Safa Al Ahmad (appointed 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

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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

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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.



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*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

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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.

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### *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



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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.

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### *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.

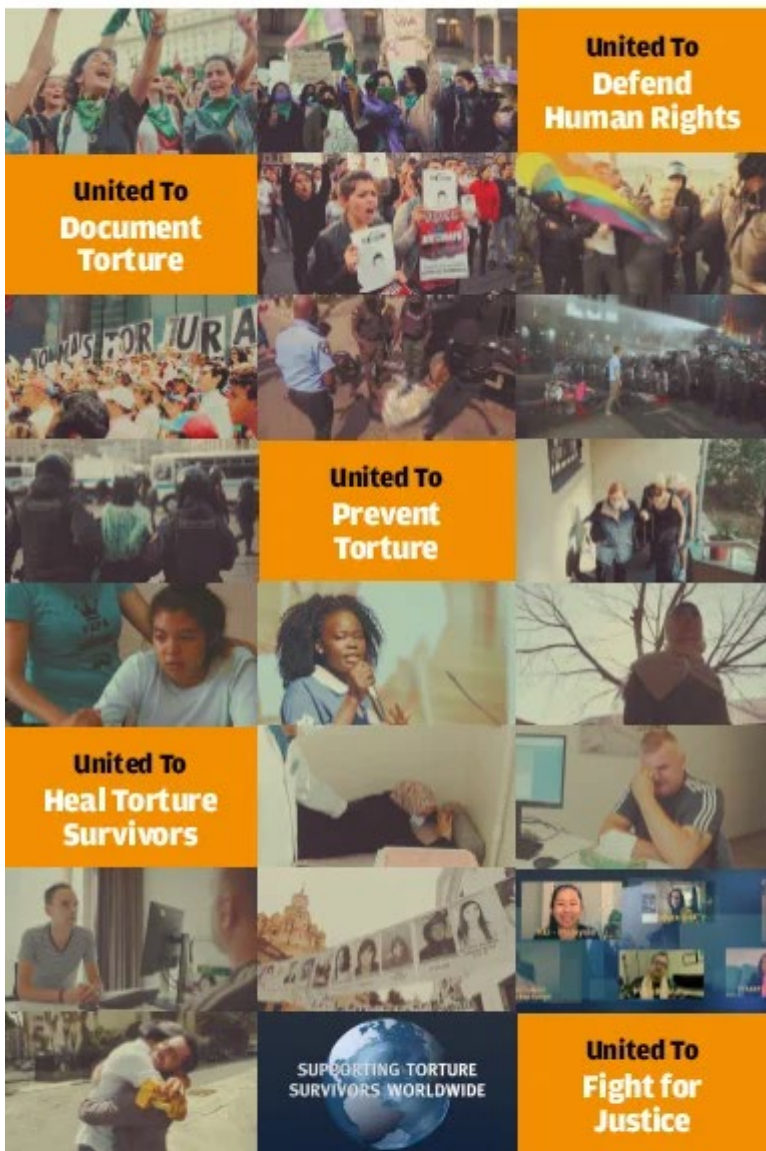
In March 2024, Omega delivered the keynote speech to Fair Trials' [Legal Experts Advisory Panel](#) (LEAP) Conference in Brussels, Belgium. Titled 'Blindings and broken trust: Controls on the use of force in protests and prisons' Omega's presentation highlighted injuries and other human rights violations 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.



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**#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.

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## 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

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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 7<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and registered as a charity on 16<sup>th</sup> 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;



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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 31<sup>st</sup> 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

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## Trustees' annual report

for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

23<sup>rd</sup> 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 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>15,918</b>	<b>388,105</b>	<b>404,023</b>	<b>302,946</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		19,699	-	19,699	86,925
Charitable activities	7	89,994	360,306	450,300	287,203
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>109,693</b>	<b>360,306</b>	<b>469,999</b>	<b>374,128</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		<b>(93,775)</b>	<b>27,799</b>	<b>(65,976)</b>	<b>(71,182)</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>	9	<b>(93,775)</b>	<b>27,799</b>	<b>(65,976)</b>	<b>(71,182)</b>
Transfer between funds		(20,812)	20,812	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>(114,587)</b>	<b>48,611</b>	<b>(65,976)</b>	<b>(71,182)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		262,994	4,323	267,317	338,499
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>148,407</b>	<b>52,934</b>	<b>201,341</b>	<b>267,317</b>

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
		£	£
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	60,209	128,252
Cash at bank and in hand		170,867	164,227
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>231,076</b>	<b>292,479</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	16	(29,735)	(25,162)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>201,341</b>	<b>267,317</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>201,341</b>	<b>267,317</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>201,341</b>	<b>267,317</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
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
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b>201,341</b>	<b>267,317</b>

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

<b>Current reporting period</b>	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Donations	873	-	873
<b>Total</b>	873	-	873
<b><i>Previous reporting period</i></b>	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Donations	1,324	-	1,324
<b>Total</b>	1,324	-	1,324

### 4 Income from charitable activities

<b>Current reporting period</b>	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
<b>Total</b>	10,467	388,105	398,572
<b><i>Previous reporting period</i></b>	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
<i>Oak Foundation grant</i>	-	62,660	62,660
<i>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust grant</i>	14,000	-	14,000
<i>Open Society Foundations</i>	121,803	-	121,803
<i>OPCAT Special Fund</i>	-	24,561	24,561
<i>Network for Social Change</i>	18,837	-	18,837
<i>Other income from charitable activity</i>	58,819	-	58,819
<b>Total</b>	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

<b>Current reporting period</b>	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £
Income from bank deposits	4,578	-	4,578
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,578	-	4,578
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b><i>Previous reporting period</i></b>	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>2023</i> £
<i>Income from bank deposits</i>	<i>942</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>942</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<i>942</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>942</i>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### 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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19,699	86,925
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	450,300	287,203
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted expenditure	360,306	91,472
Unrestricted expenditure	89,994	195,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	450,300	287,203
	<hr/>	<hr/>

# Omega Research Foundation Limited

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

### 8 Analysis of governance and support costs

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

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	340,745	286,339
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Allocated as follows:</b>		
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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	340,745	286,339
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	325,865	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	60,209	128,252
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	170,867	164,227
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### 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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	29,735	25,162
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Omega Research Foundation Limited

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

**17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds**

<b>Current reporting period</b>	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	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>388,105</b>	<b>(360,306)</b>	<b>20,812</b>	<b>52,934</b>
<b>Previous reporting period</b>	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023 £</i>
<i>Oak Foundation</i>	<i>5,338</i>	<i>62,660</i>	<i>(65,528)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2,470</i>
<i>Global Giving</i>	<i>3,236</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(1,383)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1,853</i>
<i>OPCAT Special Fund</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>24,561</i>	<i>(24,561)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,574</b>	<b>87,221</b>	<b>(91,472)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,323</b>

# Omega Research Foundation Limited

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

### 17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds (cont.)

<b>Name of restricted fund</b>	<b>Description, nature and purposes of the fund</b>
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>
<b>Previous reporting period</b>	<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

<b>Current reporting period</b>	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
<b><i>Previous reporting period</i></b>	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Long term grants fund £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	<i>15,080</i>	<i>247,914</i>	<i>4,323</i>	<i>267,317</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>15,080</i>	<i>247,914</i>	<i>4,323</i>	<i>267,317</i>

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 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>215,725</b>	<b>87,221</b>	<b>302,946</b>	<b>445,234</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		86,925	-	86,925	36,725
Charitable activities	7	195,731	91,472	287,203	384,933
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>282,656</b>	<b>91,472</b>	<b>374,128</b>	<b>421,658</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments</b>		<b>(66,931)</b>	<b>(4,251)</b>	<b>(71,182)</b>	<b>23,576</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>	9	<b>(66,931)</b>	<b>(4,251)</b>	<b>(71,182)</b>	<b>23,576</b>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>(66,931)</b>	<b>(4,251)</b>	<b>(71,182)</b>	<b>23,576</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		329,925	8,574	338,499	314,923
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>262,994</b>	<b>4,323</b>	<b>267,317</b>	<b>338,499</b>