

Company number: 05856324
Charity number: 1120203

Compassion in Dying

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Compassion in Dying

Contents

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Reference and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report	3
Independent auditor's report	12
Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)	16
Balance sheet.....	17
Statement of cash flows	18
Notes to the financial statements.....	19

Compassion in Dying

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Company number	05856324
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom
Charity number	1120203
Country of registration	England and Wales
Registered office and operational address	181 Oxford Street London W1D 2JT

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:

Dame Barbara Monroe	Chair
Dr Anushka Aubeelack	Vice–
Chair (appointed 2 nd August 2023)	
Cameron Brown	Treasurer
Jo Gibbons	
David Spenser	
Paul Woodward (Resigned 3 March 2023)	
Mark Jarman–Howe (Vice–Chair, resigned 12 th May 2023)	
Rachael Clarke	(Appointed 28 February 2024)
Dr Vinod Nambisan	(Appointed 28 February 2024)

Key management personnel	Sarah Wootton	Chief Executive and Company Secretary
	Thomas Davies	Director of Parliamentary and Legal Policy
	Usha Grieve	Director of Partnerships and Services
	Davina Hehir	Deputy Chief Executive
	David Pearce	Director of Fundraising and Marketing
	Alyson Thomson	Director of Communications and Scotland
	Lloyd Riley	Director of Policy and Research

Bankers Co–Operative Bank
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Compassion in Dying

Reference and administrative information

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Auditor	Sayer Vincent LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Invicta House 110 Golden Lane LONDON EC1Y 0TG
----------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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

At Compassion in Dying, we want people to be in control of their end-of-life decisions because there is no-one better to make them. So we support people to make informed choices, start honest conversations about death and dying with loved ones, and record and revisit their wishes whenever they want to. We're here for everyone, whether they are preparing for the years ahead or need us right now, whatever their beliefs, values and traditions. We champion everyone's right to make informed decisions, free of cost and free of judgement.

Everything we do starts with what dying people tell us. We listen to what they say and amplify their voices. We shift attitudes and drive changes to the healthcare system. So people's end-of-life decisions are heard, understood and respected when it matters most.

Alongside our sister organisation, Dignity in Dying, we aim to improve dying in the UK by putting people in charge of decisions about the end of their life.

Compassion in Dying's Memorandum of Association specifies a charitable aim, which is to benefit the public by relieving suffering and advancing education. Within that overall aim the organisation has three specific objectives:

- To stimulate and facilitate research into end-of-life issues.
- To provide information and advice about end-of-life options.
- To provide education and training on end-of-life rights and choices.

Review of Achievements

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. 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 the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the trustees ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

2023 Achievements

At the start of 2023, Compassion in Dying launched its new brand and new website, with a focus on putting people in control of decisions at the end of their life and amplifying their voices to drive changes to the healthcare system. The language and tone of the brand and new website are based on qualitative and quantitative research conducted with thousands of people. One of the clearest findings from this research is that people want honesty and to see their experiences reflected, and the brand places this front and centre in both what we do and what we say. In spring 2023, we published a series of four blogs sharing the learning from the research process, available here: <https://compassionindying.org.uk/blog-post/for-your-end-of-life-your-way/>.

To deliver the new website we developed user-led, clear and accessible public-facing content, resulting in our online pages now ranking first for searches of 'Living Wills'. This means that more people can find our free and simple forms, ensuring their end-of-life wishes are recorded and are more likely to be respected when it matters most.

Supporting people

During 2023, we supported 8,337 people to think about, talk about and document their end of life wishes, through our free nurse-led information line and online advance decision service. Demand for the information line service has risen significantly. The number of contacts in 2023 (4,007) was a 48% increase compared to the previous year. This growth is set against a backdrop of enquiries which continue to increase in length and complexity. The proportion of our calls that took longer than 15 minutes increased by 35% from 2022 to 2023.

We know that our services make a difference. In 2023, after accessing support from our information line 9 in 10 people felt peace of mind, in control and less worried after planning ahead and 8 in 10 people recorded their wishes and discussed this with their family.

"Over several phone calls, Compassion in Dying's nurse gently helped me to understand that having an advance decision wasn't giving up on my husband, but supporting and empowering him when he needed me the most. When those sad days actually came, I felt confident I could make sure his wishes were followed. In the end, having thought about and recorded his wishes before a crisis, saved his death." Elizabeth, information line caller

We opened a new helpline for people at crisis point in response to the many people who contacted us because they had to fight for their loved ones' wishes to be heard and could not find help when they needed it most. We now provide in-depth support to people making complex treatment decisions, and to those who need to challenge decisions that are not lawful and

advocate for their loved ones. We give people the information and support they need to draft letters, prepare for meetings and think through the questions they need to ask. This new service is helping to challenge the power imbalance that people often tell us they face when medical decisions are being made about someone they love.

We were the first UK organisation to launch a free online advance decision service in 2017. Since then, more than 34,000 people have used it to record their wishes. It is linked to by the NHS and many other partners who trust our user-led approach to help people create personalised and robust advance decision forms. This year, we rebuilt the service from the ground up to make it even easier to use. We want as many people as possible to be able to plan for the end of life. So we encourage healthcare providers, charities and businesses to integrate our online advance decision service with their own website or app using their branding. This is the first service of its kind available to be made open and shareable under a Creative Commons license, for free.

Driving changes to policy and practice

After concluding our partnership work with Subco Trust in 2022, which saw us partner with the charity in an innovative project on advance care planning with South Asian elders in Newham, Compassion in Dying published a report in 2023 that amplified the voices of the people who shared their experiences throughout the project. The report called for culturally and linguistically accessible information and support for people to make decisions about the end of their life.

Towards the end of 2023, Compassion in Dying was commissioned by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) to deliver a research project, alongside the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR), exploring what people need from a Do Not Attempt Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) discussion and what needs to change to improve experiences of DNACPR decisions for people in the future. Compassion in Dying's research, based on focus groups with older people, has highlighted that DNACPR conversations and decisions are often communicated insensitively, too late, or not at all. The findings were published, alongside the PHSO and BIHR, at the start of 2024.

We conducted a detailed thematic analysis of over 5,000 calls to our information line service alongside qualitative interviews with people we support. We will publish the findings of this research in 2024.

Beneficiaries of our services

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on the public benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2006.

The charity is actively advancing its objects for the public benefit by the means described above. Compassion in Dying is delivering a wide range of services for the benefit of many.

The potential beneficiaries of the charity include all those in the UK affected by end-of-life issues. The trustees have agreed that all information, support, and research results will be made available to the public without charge.

Financial review

This was the fifteenth year of the charity being operational. The total income received was £610k (2022:£745k).

Of the total received, £584k was unrestricted, including a further £200k from the Bernard Lewis Family Charitable Trust.

The remaining £26k comprised donations of restricted funds for various projects:

- Information Development received £10k in total from Dorothy Bishop.
- We received £15k for outreach work in the community.

The £676k spent directly on restricted activities was allocated as follows: Information Development £613k (2022: £343k) and community outreach £63k (2022:£31k). The projects were part-funded from reserves, as agreed by the Board in order to expand our services particularly in relation to the Information Development area.

Within the total expenditure of £994k 95% was on charitable activities (as defined by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice) (2022– 95%).

Total incoming resources of £610k and resources expended of £994k gave a net decrease in funds of £384k with a strong balance sheet position at year-end which included cash balances of £753k and accrued income of £122k. At the year-end, £139k was due to Dignity in Dying for staff resource and accommodation overheads, relating to the quarter to the end of December 2023.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There is a risk register which is kept under review by the Company Secretary. The risk register is also reviewed by the Finance and Audit subcommittee of the trustee board at least five times per year. It is reviewed and formally approved by trustees at least annually.

The major risks that have been identified for Compassion in Dying are:

Staff wellbeing – End of life is a challenging subject matter and can increase the potential for staff to feel emotionally exhausted. It is vital to maintain staff wellbeing in order to ensure the quality of our services, momentum of our work and to retain experienced staff. In order to support staff with such pressures and maintain a good understanding of how the team are feeling at any given point, we have regular team meetings and one-to-one meetings between staff members and their line managers. We also provide access to counselling support for all staff members and group supervision sessions for those working on our services.

Service quality – As for any service providing charity, maintaining high quality services and accurate information is a key concern. The measures outlined above in relation to maintaining staff wellbeing also underpin our service provision: team meetings to share learning and develop staff's understanding of best practice, good line management and external counselling and supervision support for staff. In addition, staff training needs are reviewed on a regular basis as are the policies underpinning our services and systems. We also regularly seek feedback from the people who use our services including our website, so that we can monitor our service quality and respond to feedback.

External communication – It is important that communication and social media messaging by staff and Trustees is accurate – poor or inaccurate communication would be a risk to our credibility and reputation. In order to manage this risk, a central press team handles media contact, and organisation guidelines have been set for social media use.

Finances and fundraising – Maintaining healthy finances and good financial management is a concern for all charities with the cost of living crisis of recent years heightening risk in this area. The Finance and Audit subcommittee of the trustee board review our accounts on a quarterly basis and we have robust financial controls and systems in place.

We are aware that there may be financial consequences of the rising cost of living, but the structure of our organisation is such that we can manage our expenditure well and curtail it if required. Compassion in Dying's reserves are at an acceptable level, and we foresee no material uncertainties which will prevent us from operating in the next twelve months. However we are aware of the importance of building our income and reserves levels. The organisation is constantly reviewing new opportunities for securing funding that fit with its strategic priorities, including promoting legacy giving.

We do not rely on public fundraising and have maintained our funding primarily through donations from foundations and trusts, with a smaller proportion of our income from legacies, and a much

smaller portion from individual donations from people who have used our services.

No third parties or 'on behalf of' fundraisers were involved in fundraising for Compassion in Dying in 2023, though we have engaged a consultant for advice on fundraising strategy in 2024.

As we do very little public fundraising, we are not registered with any voluntary regulation schemes for fundraising.

We received no complaints about our fundraising in 2023. Whilst our focus on foundations and trusts limits the risk of harm to vulnerable people through fundraising, our fundraising asks to people who have used our service are very limited and 'light touch'. If staff have any concerns about potential vulnerability of an individual seeking to donate to the charity they alert the Director of Fundraising or Deputy CEO so they can explore the concerns further. If there are any concerns as to the mental capacity of the individual to make a donation, it would not be accepted. In addition, all staff are trained on safeguarding and alert concerns in relation to safeguarding to one of our safeguarding leads.

Remuneration Policy

Compassion in Dying aims to maintain competitiveness of pay for its employees, while also controlling costs within set parameters, including affordability. Equally, the organisation wants to provide employees with a fair and as far as possible, transparent process. There is a set pay-scale with grade descriptors, which set out the behaviours, skills and abilities expected of staff at each grade. At the absolute discretion of the Board, and based on the finances of the organisation and approved by the Finance and Audit Committee, there will be an annual cost of living increase for employees. In 2023 the Trustees revised the pay scales with pay rises for more junior staff starting in November and December 2023 rather than waiting until January 2024.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees regularly review the charity's reserves requirements. They are satisfied that the charity has sufficient reserves to enable it to fulfil its foreseeable commitments. At the year end the charity held £692k in unrestricted funds (2022: £1,065k) and had no restricted funds (2022:£12k).

The Trustees believe that current reserves are sufficient to cope with immediate demands.

The reserves policy agreed by the trustees is that reserves should at all times be sufficient to meet the company's obligations if it were to be wound up. They are satisfied that current reserves are sufficient to meet this test, which the board estimates to be £184k.

We are aware that there could be severe financial consequences as the downward turn in the economy plays out, but the structure of our organisation is such that we can manage our expenditure well and curtail it if required. Compassion in Dying's reserves are at a comfortable level.

Future focus

In 2024 our focus will be on delivering the two strands of our brand strategy to:

- support people directly to be in control of decisions at the end of their life; and
- amplify people's voices to drive changes to the healthcare system.

Therefore, we will continue to strengthen and grow our services and public-facing content. Our work is driven by what people tell us they want and need and we will continue to develop our online user-led content to meet these needs, including developing a new practical guide to best interest decision making under the Mental Capacity Act.

To amplify the voices of the people we support, we will publish a new landmark report which shines a light on the urgent need for a shift in how healthcare and society, as a whole, approaches decisions and conversations around dying. The recommendations in this report will form the backbone of our influencing programme throughout 2024.

In addition, we will continue to drive progress on our existing policy calls, to ensure they are understood and acted upon by organisations and policymakers. This includes improving the provisions of electronic end-of-life records and developing national guidance on Voluntary Stopping Eating and Drinking.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 23 June 2006 and registered as a charity on 23 July 2007.

The charity follows a continuous programme of governance review and improvement.

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. All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 9 to the accounts.

Appointment of trustees

Compassion in Dying has a policy of identifying skills gaps on its board before recruiting new trustees. We continue to work to build a stronger board with a broad skills base, covering healthcare, legal and commercial expertise.

Potential new trustees are interviewed by the Chair and the Chief Executive and meet informally with some senior staff. Recommended candidates observe two board meetings, are considered by the board as a whole and are appointed by approval of a simple majority of the trustees. All trustees are members of the charity for Companies House purposes.

Trustee induction and training

Newly appointed trustees undergo a comprehensive induction programme within a short period after appointment.

Ongoing governance reviews will highlight any further areas of training desirable for trustees and where appropriate, we will arrange for this to be undertaken.

Related parties and relationships with other organisations

Compassion in Dying was founded by, and works in collaboration with, Dignity and Choice in Dying (known as Dignity in Dying). We share an aim to improve dying in the UK by putting people in charge of decisions about the end of their life but we work in different ways.

Dignity in Dying campaigns to change the law to allow the option of assisted dying for terminally ill, mentally competent adults in the UK. They are a not-for-profit membership organisation.

Compassion in Dying is a registered charity. We want people to be in control of their end-of-life decisions because there is no one better to make them. While we support law change in principle, we do not campaign on assisted dying.

We're legally separate organisations with distinct governance, boards, and finances. Our Chief Executive, Sarah Wootton, leads both organisations. We share resources, including an office and some staff and relations between Dignity in Dying and Compassion in Dying are further governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.

The board members (trustees) of Compassion in Dying have put arrangements in place to ensure that all funds received by Compassion in Dying are spent solely on the charitable work of Compassion in Dying, with no inadvertent subsidy to Dignity in Dying.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees 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 Statement of Recommended Practice
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice

Compassion in Dying

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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 adequate 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.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 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.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The directors' annual report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 10 July 2024 and signed on their behalf on by

Cameron Brown
Treasurer

Dame Barbara Monroe
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Compassion in Dying (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 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 December 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
- 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 Compassion in Dying'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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the 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' annual 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 directors 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 statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, 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 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the audit and risk committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent auditor's report

To the members of

Compassion in Dying

- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those 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: 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.

Noelia Serrano (Senior statutory auditor)

23 July 2024

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor, 110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Compassion in Dying

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	557,255	–	557,255	585,862	–	585,862
Other Income		–	–	–	3,000	–	3,000
Charitable activities							
Information Development	3	–	10,128	10,128	–	14,367	14,367
Peer Navigator	4	–	–	–	–	20,000	20,000
Reaching Communities	5	–	15,386	15,386	–	43,034	43,034
Lambeth Advance Care Planning Project	6	–	–	–	–	66,923	66,923
Investments		26,761	–	26,761	11,803	–	11,803
Total income		584,016	25,514	609,530	600,665	144,324	744,989
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		52,493	–	52,493	47,001	–	47,001
Charitable activities							
Policy, research and communication		265,754	–	265,754	336,369	–	336,369
Information Development		–	612,680	612,680	–	343,052	343,052
Peer Navigator		–	–	–	–	43,656	43,656
Lambeth Advance Care Planning Project		–	–	–	–	122,765	122,765
Reaching Communities		–	62,854	62,854	–	30,741	30,741
Total expenditure	7	318,247	675,534	993,781	383,370	540,214	923,584
Net (expenditure) for the year	8	265,769	(650,020)	(384,251)	217,295	(395,890)	(178,595)
Transfers between funds		(637,727)	637,727	–	(408,183)	408,183	–
Net movement in funds		(371,958)	(12,293)	(384,251)	(190,888)	12,293	(178,595)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,064,255	12,293	1,076,548	1,255,143	–	1,255,143
Total funds carried forward	17	692,297	–	692,297	1,064,255	12,293	1,076,548

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements

Compassion in Dying

Balance sheet

Company no. 05856324

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible fixed assets	13		–		–
Current assets:					
Debtors	14	121,820		18,076	
Short term deposits > 3m		340,000		481,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		412,571		781,747	
		<u>874,391</u>		<u>1,280,823</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	182,094		204,274	
Net current assets			<u>692,297</u>		<u>1,076,548</u>
Total net assets	16		<u>692,297</u>		<u>1,076,548</u>
The funds of the charity:	17				
Restricted income funds			–		12,293
Unrestricted funds			692,297		1,064,255
Total charity funds			<u>692,297</u>		<u>1,076,548</u>

Approved by the trustees on 10 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Cameron Brown
Treasurer

Dame Barbara Monroe
Chair

Compassion in Dying

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash (used in) operating activities	18		(536,938)		(72,113)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		26,761		11,804	
Transfer of cash to short term deposits > 3m		141,000		(481,000)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			167,761		(469,196)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(369,176)		(541,309)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			781,747		1,323,056
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			412,571		781,747

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Compassion in Dying is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in United Kingdom. The registered office address is 181 Oxford Street, London, W1D 2JT.

b) 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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

Reserves continue to be maintained at a level well within the minimum reserves policy and healthy cash reserves have also been maintained despite the pandemic. In light of this, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that 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.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

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

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation 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), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, 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.

g) 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.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) 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 relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- ☐ Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of providing information about the aims, objectives and projects 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 financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

j) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of Raising Funds	5%
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy, Research and Communication	25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Development	54%
<input type="checkbox"/> Peer Navigator	0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Reaching Communities	4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Lambeth Care Planning	0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Governance costs	13%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

	2023	2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Cost of Raising Funds	7%	6%
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy, Research and Communication	30%	34%
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Development	56%	43%
<input type="checkbox"/> Reaching Communities	7%	4%
<input type="checkbox"/> Peer Navigator	0%	5%
<input type="checkbox"/> Training	0%	0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Lambeth Care Planning	0%	8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Line – Nurses	0%	0%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £750. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives, using the straight line method. The rate applicable is:

<input type="checkbox"/> Office equipment	3 year
-------------------------------------------	--------

l) 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.

m) 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.

n) Short term deposits

Short term deposits includes cash balances that are invested in accounts with a maturity date of between 3 and 12 months.

o) 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.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

p) Pensions

The charity makes payments to defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of employees. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charitable company in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable to the funds during the year. The charity has no liability under the schemes other than the payment of those contributions.

Compassion in Dying

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Legacies		
Jenny Gregorian	88,065	-
Birch	-	5,000
Hawley	-	36,300
Sylvia Lindsay	8,000	-
Anonymous	500	-
Richard Bryden	114	-
Total legacies	96,679	41,300
Donations		
The Bernard Lewis Family Charitable Trust	200,000	150,000
The Hadley Trust	20,000	20,000
Robert Martin	30,000	-
Cameron Brown	21,200	1,700
Lunde Trust	10,000	20,000
Peter Brown	-	100,000
Church Street Trustees	100,000	204,009
D J Walker	-	1,000
Gundle Philanthropic Trust	2,000	-
Bridor Trust	-	1,000
Box Trust	1,000	1,500
Hanlon Charity	-	10,000
Joseph and Ruth Smilg Charitable Trust	-	1,000
Alexandra Hope	5,234	-
Lord Vinson Charitable Trust	5,000	-
Gaie Scouller	5,000	-
Roger Salmon	5,000	-
Nicole Campbell	4,200	-
John and Elizabeth Long Memorial Trust	1,000	1,000
John Nairn	1,000	-
Richard Palk Charitable Trust	-	4,231
Richard Scheffer	-	1,000
Robert Grover	1,000	-
Gift Aid	13,256	2,309
General donations under £1,000	35,686	25,813
Total donations	460,576	544,562
Total income from legacies and donations	557,255	585,862

All the above donations and legacies are unrestricted.

Income from charitable activities:

3 Information development

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Dorothy Bishop	10,000	10,000
Gift Aid	8	2,500
Legacies	-	1,500
Other	120	367
	10,128	14,367

All 2023 and 2022 donations are restricted.

4 Peer Navigator Project

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
The Sam and Bella Charitable Foundation	-	20,000
	-	20,000

All 2022 donations are restricted.

5 Reaching Communities

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Other Income	15,386	43,034
	15,386	43,034

Other income related to restricted income in relation to projects with University of Bristol and MBL (Seminars) for drafting advance decisions & living wills.

6 Lambeth Advance Care Planning Project

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
National Lottery Community Fund	–	66,923
	–	66,923
Total income from charitable activities	25,514	144,324

7a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities							
	Cost of raising funds £	Policy, research and communication £	Information development £	Reaching Communities £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff costs (note 9)	38,013	149,149	253,776	35,331	39,206	65,247	580,722	581,409
Other staff costs	-	-	14,329	50	-	5,049	19,428	16,250
Payable to partners	-	-	-	540	-	-	540	60,670
Office costs	-	-	3,507	-	-	78,031	81,538	84,940
Project costs	-	-	250	-	-	-	250	-
Volunteer costs	-	-	-	-	-	240	240	57
Seminars, conferences and meetings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,855
Marketing	-	5,967	-	-	-	-	5,967	-
Literature, printing and postage	-	-	23,867	40	-	3,362	27,269	5,532
Web design and hosting	-	22,957	1,627	-	-	-	24,584	33,235
Product Development	-	26,464	199,346	2,400	-	-	228,210	106,825
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-	1,032	1,032	-
Audit, accountancy and professional fees	-	-	-	10,000	9,613	2,414	22,027	27,251
Trustee costs	-	-	-	-	1,974	-	1,974	5,560
	38,013	204,537	496,702	48,361	50,793	155,375	993,781	923,584
Support costs	11,458	44,957	76,493	10,649	11,818	(155,375)	-	-
Governance costs	3,022	16,260	39,485	3,844	(62,611)	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2023	52,493	265,754	612,680	62,854	-	-	993,781	923,584

Compassion in Dying

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

7b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities								
	Cost of raising funds £	Policy, research and communication £	Information development £	Peer Navigator £	Reaching Communities £	Lambeth Advance Care Planning Project £	Governance costs £	Support costs £	2022 Total £
Staff costs (note 9)	33,601	154,249	219,347	21,911	20,715	27,285	35,033	69,268	581,409
Other staff costs	-	-	388	695	116	-	-	15,051	16,250
Payable to partners	-	-	-	-	-	60,670	-	-	60,670
Office costs	-	-	2,379	1,924	1,248	10,998	-	68,391	84,940
Project costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Volunteer costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	57
Seminars, conferences and meetings	-	-	1,855	-	-	-	-	-	1,855
Literature, printing and postage	-	501	1,236	-	262	1,476	-	2,057	5,532
Web design and hosting	-	16,362	14,949	1,924	-	-	-	-	33,235
Product Development	-	94,254	12,571	-	-	-	-	-	106,825
Audit, accountancy and professional fees	-	-	-	7,440	-	4,800	9,315	5,696	27,251
Trustee costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,560	-	5,560
	33,601	265,366	252,725	33,894	22,341	105,229	49,908	160,520	923,584
Support costs	10,531	48,346	68,750	6,868	6,493	8,552	10,980	(160,520)	-
Governance costs	2,869	22,657	21,577	2,894	1,907	8,984	(60,888)	-	-
Total expenditure 2022	47,001	336,369	343,052	43,656	30,741	122,765	-	-	923,584

Compassion in Dying

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

8 Net expenditure for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT): Audit	8,000	7,500

9 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	506,247	501,396
Social security costs	48,945	53,329
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	25,530	26,684
	580,722	581,409

One employee earned more than £60,000 during the year, in the bracket £60,000– £69,999 (2022: one).

The total employee benefits (including employer national insurance and employer pension contributions) of the key management personnel were £218,521 (2022: £206,836).

The charity trustees were not paid and did not receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

Trustees' expenses represents the payment or reimbursement of travel, subsistence and accommodation costs totalling £388 (2022: £600). Note 7a to these financial statements shows £1,974 of trustee costs (2022: £5,560) which relates to room hire and other meeting costs.

10 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Raising Funds	0.9	0.9
Policy, Research and Communication	13.1	12.1
Information Development	5.7	5.8
Outreach	0.5	1.1
Peer Navigator	–	0.8
Support	6.7	5.7
Governance	0.4	0.4
	27.2	26.8

The average number of employees full time and part time equivalent during the year was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Cost of Raising Funds	0.5	0.4
Policy, Research and Communication	2.4	3.0
Information Development	5.2	5.4
Outreach	0.4	0.9
Peer Navigator	–	0.7
Support	1.0	1.2
Governance	0.2	0.1
	9.7	11.8

Compassion in Dying

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

11 Related party transactions

As explained in the Trustees' Report, the charity works closely with the sister organisation Dignity in Dying (DID). In particular, the charity shares office accommodation and some staff with DID, and DID acts as the charity's payroll agent. There is a related party current account through which these costs are charged – see note 15.

The 2023 time recording exercise resulted in a decrease to the 2023 charge to £268,803 (2022: £274,673).

As at 31 December 2023, two of the seven (2022: two of the seven) trustees of Compassion in Dying are also a board member of Dignity in Dying. The two organisations have separate chairs and treasurers and any financial transactions between the organisations are negotiated on an arm's length basis.

There were donations received during the year of £21,200 (2022: £1,700) from related parties, including trustees. These donations had no restrictions or conditions attached.

12 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At the start of the year	12,852	12,852
At the end of the year	12,852	12,852
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	12,852	12,852
Charge for the year	–	–
	12,852	12,852
Net book value		
At the end of the year	–	–
At the start of the year	–	–

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	17,777	7,793
Other debtors	48	2,679
Accrued income	103,995	7,604
	121,820	18,076

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	23,353	46,841
Other creditors	1,101	7,362
Taxation and social security	7,642	5,794
DID current account (see note 11)	138,620	133,408
Accruals	11,378	10,869
	182,094	204,274

16a Analysis of net assets between funds (current year)

	General unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Net current assets	692,297	–	692,297
Net assets at the end of the year	692,297	–	692,297

16b Analysis of net assets between funds (prior year)

	General unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Net current assets	1,064,255	12,293	1,076,548
Net assets at the end of the year	1,064,255	12,293	1,076,548

17a Movements in funds (current year)

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Information Line Fund	–	10,128	(612,680)	602,552	–
Information Line – Nurses	–	–	–	–	–
Peer Navigator	–	–	–	–	–
Outreach	–	–	–	–	–
Reaching Communities	12,293	15,386	(62,854)	35,175	–
Total restricted funds	12,293	25,514	(675,534)	637,727	–
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	1,064,255	584,016	(318,247)	(637,727)	692,297
Total unrestricted funds	1,064,255	584,016	(318,247)	(637,727)	692,297
Total funds	1,076,548	609,530	(993,781)	–	692,297

17b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Information Line Fund	–	14,367	(343,052)	328,685	–
Information Line – Nurses	–	–	–	–	–
Peer Navigator	–	20,000	(43,656)	23,656	–
Reaching Communities	–	43,034	(30,741)	–	12,293
Lambeth Advance Care Planning Project	–	66,923	(122,765)	55,842	–
Total restricted funds	–	144,324	(540,214)	408,183	12,293
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	1,255,143	600,665	(383,370)	(408,183)	1,064,255
Total unrestricted funds	1,255,143	600,665	(383,370)	(408,183)	1,064,255
Total funds	1,255,143	744,989	(923,584)	–	1,076,548

Purposes of restricted funds**Information Line Fund**

This is funding transferred from reserves as agreed and committed by the trustees and restricted donations for the provision of an End-of-Line Care Information Line, available to the public via a free phone number.

Reaching communities

Through our community engagement we work with communities known to experience health inequalities to ensure that they have access to advance care planning support.

Peer Navigator

The Peer Navigator service supports those affected by a recent diagnosis, or facing important treatment decisions. It provides support from someone who has been through similar experiences, and can help people to come to terms with a new diagnosis and plan next steps, make decisions about complex treatment options and speak to their doctor, family and friends about their diagnosis.

Lambeth Advance Care Planning Project

This project consists of a network of organisations working to make advance care planning accessible for Lambeth's diverse communities, ensuring that what matters to each person is known about when health decisions need to be made.

18 Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net expenditure or the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(384,251)	(178,595)
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(26,761)	(11,803)
(Decrease)/increase in debtors	(103,745)	8,686
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(22,180)	109,598
Net cash used in operating activities	(536,938)	(72,113)

19 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.