

THE SOCIAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1123940

Details

Other names	THE SCIOAL REESESEARCH ASSOCIATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06407985
Registered	2008-05-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Post box 1249 70 Hillside Avenue Canterbury Kent CT2 8HA
Phone	020 4566 9492
Email	admin@the-sra.org.uk
Website	www.the-sra.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECT IS TO ADVANCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT; THE CONDUCT, DEVELOPMENT, KNOWLEDGE, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE, EDUCATION, PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Activities: Promoting high quality standards of social research, we seek to represent, support, connect and inform our members and the wider social research community. We do this with a range of events, workshops for the general public and practicing social researchers, training, and freely-available publications. Our website provides a wide range of information.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£690,417	£644,137	£487,620	8
2024-07-31	£643,862	£689,409	£441,520	0
2023-07-31	£683,532	£653,146	£487,067	6
2022-07-31	£612,134	£481,004	£456,681	5
2021-07-31	£558,415	£437,297	£325,551	5
2020-07-31	£457,776	£466,538	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Edward Dunn	Chair	2024-01-16
Beth Jane Moon		2021-01-20
Curtis James Marshall		2025-02-26
Daniel Stunell		2022-02-01
Dr Kirstie Anne Hewlett		2023-02-02
Dr Rachel Gwenllian Hughes		2021-01-20
India Thompson		2025-02-26
Joy Dobbs		2025-02-26
Laura Wilson		2025-02-26
Lee Chan		2021-01-20
Victoria Harkness		2025-02-26

Accounts

Company registration number: 06407985

Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

The Social Research Association

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 12
Independent Examiner's Report	13 to 14
Statement of Financial Activities	15
Balance Sheet	16
Statement of Cash Flows	17
Notes to the Financial Statements	18 to 27

The Social Research Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Chair	Edward Dunn
Trustees	Diarmid Campbell-Jack Lee Chan Naomi Day Joy Dobbs Edward Dunn Victoria Harkness Kirstie Hewlett Rachel Hughes CJ Marshall Beth Moon Gillian Prior Daniel Stunell India Thompson Laura Wilson
Secretary	Tina Haux
Charity Registration Number	1123940
Company Registration Number	06407985
Registered Office	9 Hare & Billet Road London England SE3 0RB
Principal Office	70 Hillside Avenue Canterbury England CT2 8HA
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road London SE3 0RB
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc Co-operative Bank plc Bank of Scotland plc

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 July 2025 have been prepared in compliance with current statutory requirements, Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011; and with the charity's governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Chair's Report – Ed Dunn

This year has marked a significant milestone for the SRA as we have developed and have launched our finalised 2025–2028 strategy, setting a clear direction for the years leading up to our 50th anniversary in 2028. Our new strategy, developed collaboratively with trustees and staff, and building on member feedback, sets out ambitious goals: to build a vibrant and inclusive community for social researchers, support diverse pathways into and through the profession, become a leading voice on research ethics, and ensure the SRA's financial security and sectoral influence. These objectives are underpinned by our core values of excellence, inclusivity, innovation, integrity, and collaboration.

Community and Membership: We have continued to grow and connect our diverse membership, now over 1,600 strong, with active branches in Scotland, Wales, and the North. As always I really enjoyed our Annual Conference. We returned to the Royal College of Physicians in London, attracting around 300 delegates for a sellout event featuring high-profile speakers and 16 breakout sessions. We shall return to the same venue in 2026 and our events and webinars continue to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing across the UK.

Investment: We have made a significant yet carefully considered investment in our new Member Hub, recognising its potential to transform how our community connects and collaborates. This digital platform has been designed to provide members with a vibrant, interactive space to share knowledge, access resources, participate in discussions, and build professional networks. By monitoring key performance indicators such as adoption rates, engagement levels, and member satisfaction, looking forward we will ensure that the Hub delivers real value and supports our strategic goals of inclusivity, innovation, and growth. The Member Hub will not only enhance the day-to-day experience of our members—making it easier to find support, join events, and contribute to the SRA's mission—but also strengthen our collective voice and resilience as we look to the future.

Professional Development: Our training offer remains sector-leading, with new modules on AI and digital methods attracting record attendance. We have expanded our support for early career researchers, including supporting the Survey Futures Early Career scheme, and broadened access to professional development.

Ethical Leadership: The SRA has strengthened its position as a champion of research ethics, providing updated guidance and resources to support high standards across the sector.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) remains central. This year, we expanded our EDI working group and delivered new training and events focused on inclusive research practices.

Financial Resilience: Prudent management has allowed us to invest in new initiatives while maintaining a stable financial position. The wider charity and research sector continues to face both challenges and opportunities. We remain mindful of our reliance on training and membership income and are actively exploring ways to diversify our revenue streams. Our improved approach to risk management ensures we can adapt to changing conditions and continue to deliver value for our members.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Thanks, and transitions

As always, I am deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, and trustees for their dedication. This year, we bid farewell to several long-serving trustees and welcomed new colleagues to the Board. Special thanks go to those stepping down for their invaluable contributions. Furthermore, we are saying goodbye to a much valued staff member. Monica Wright has decided to leave after doing an excellent job on finances and events at the SRA for nine years. Anyone who has been to our annual conferences will know what a fabulous event it is and anyone who has organised a conference will know how much work goes into organising such as day. Monica will be a tough act to follow!

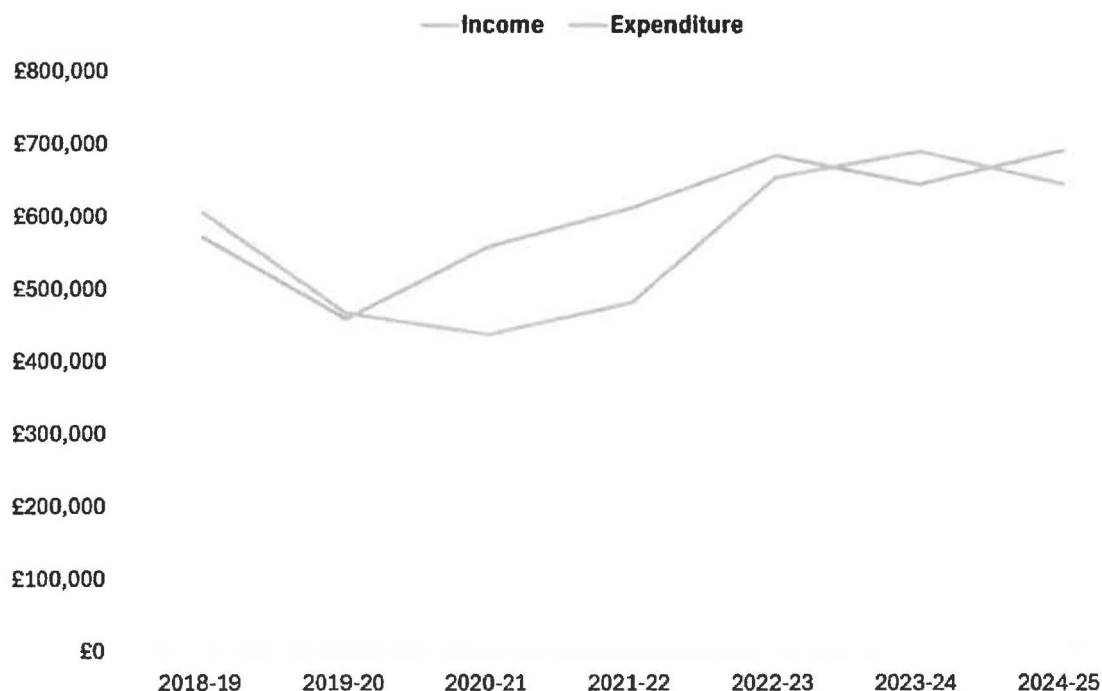
Closing

As we look ahead to the launch of the Member Hub and the publication of our new strategy, the Board and I remain committed to ensuring the SRA is a resilient, forward-looking organisation—one that champions excellence, inclusion, and innovation in social research.

Treasurer's report: Financial Year 2024/25

In the 2024/25 financial year, we have focused on maximising cost efficiencies in our business as usual as well as strategic investment, resulting in a surplus of £46,100 at year end. This follows having reported a deficit in the previous year due to strategic investment and a loss-making annual conference. The surplus is due to strong demand for training, paired with only a moderate increase in the cost of training, review of external contracts and better financial performance of the annual conference.

The SRA still holds significant reserves due to surpluses generated in 2020-22 (see Figure 1), following the shift to online delivery during the pandemic. This new operating model led to a situation where the SRA held more funds in reserve than required. As a result, in addition to expanding the staff team to meet new levels of demand, in the 2023/24 financial year we began to ringfence around £150-200k in designated funds to spend on special projects that will incubate new services and improve the operations of the charity in the following areas: equality, diversity and inclusion, community building and supporting new initiatives to be launched in 2028 when the SRA will be celebrating its 50th birthday.



The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Figure 1: Trends in income and expenditure

Spending on designated funds projects has increased over the past year (£24,052, up from £9,821 in 2023-24) as these projects now gain momentum. Over the next 2-3 years, we expect the SRA will report a deficit while we deliver these projects, which aim to broaden the range of benefits we deliver for our members and the social research profession more broadly, and to diversify our income streams.

The SRA's financial performance in 2024/25 confirms what was suspected in the 2023/24 report, that the growth seen during the pandemic has now levelled off. What is cause for celebration, however, is that we have been able to sustain the higher levels of income seen during the pandemic (£640k+) over the past three years, compared to the pre-pandemic period (see Figure above). 2024-25 saw the highest income levels generated by the charity to date at £690,237. Overall income and expenditure from business-as-usual also continue to generate a surplus, leaving the SRA in a strong and sustainable financial position. Furthermore, the SRA did not encounter any large extraordinary costs such as recruitment for a chair and CEO, as had been the case in 2023/24. In the sections below, we describe these trends in more detail.

Income and Expenditure Overview

The SRA's key income streams – membership, training, events, advertising and ethics appraisal – continue to perform well overall (see Figure 2), though with some notable shifts:

- **Membership:** Membership income has dropped modestly in this financial year relative to the last two years, decreasing slightly from £100,109 in 2023/24 and £99,752 in 2022/23 to £97,351. The drop in 2024/25 has been magnified by large group members renewing their membership in the 2025/26 financial year rather than the 2024/25 financial year. As will be discussed in later sections of the report, we are reviewing and expanding the SRA membership offer in 2025/26.
- **Training:** Training courses remain the SRA's largest income stream, contributing £531,739. This figure is more in line with training income seen in 2022/23 (£524,957) than that of 2023/24 (£490,128). The decline in the training income in 2023/24 was driven by reduced trainer availability and a slightly lower number of courses delivered. In response, we have worked to increase the cost efficiency of our training offer this year, through a moderate increase in training fees as well as undertaking a review of the scheduling of courses, which led to more courses being fully booked than in the past. This has led to higher levels of net income from our training offer, thereby increasing the surplus generated from this critical income stream.
- **Events:** Inflationary pressures continue to impact the annual conference. However, an increase in attendance, sponsorship and reduction in venue costs contributed to the costs being substantially lower than in 2023/24. This resulted in this year's conference making a small surplus (£778), compared to a loss of £19,000 in 2023/24.
- **Advertising:** Advertising income from the jobs board continued its downward trend, falling from £8,418 in 2023/24 to £5,272 in 2024/25. This reflects broader challenges in the recruitment sector and highlights the importance of exploring alternative revenue streams in this area.
- **Ethics appraisal:** The ethics appraisal service was introduced in 2022-23. Income from the ethics appraisal service has continued to increase, rising from £10,774 in 2023/24 to £12,577 in 2024/25. Yet it is currently running on a cost recovery model, with the reimbursements for the external experts carrying out the appraisals coming to £11,070 in 2024/25. Growing the panel, updating the guidance and marketing the service further will be an area of focus for the SRA in 2025/26 to try to grow this as an income stream.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

- Investments: The SRA makes a small amount of money each year from investments (£760 in 2024/25); however, we feel this is an underutilised source of income generation, and will be looking to expand our investments next year.

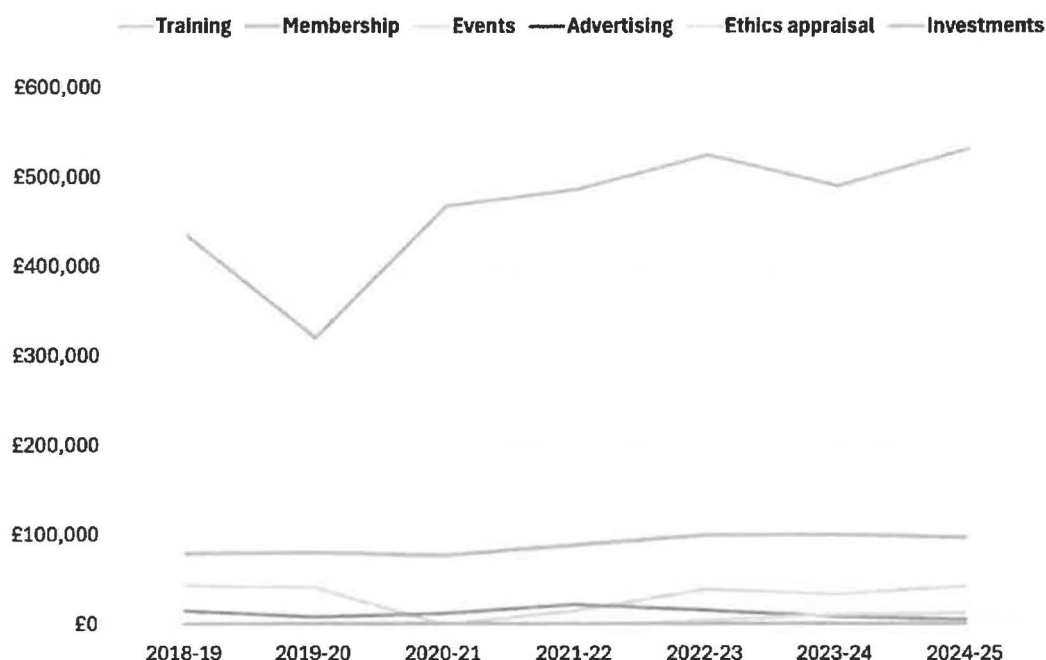


Figure 2: Breakdown of income sources

We continue to take steps to mitigate risks around income, particularly training. This includes looking at cost efficiencies in our training offer, introducing new courses as well as commissioning an accessibility review. The sustainability of our income from membership will also be addressed through designated funds spending on community building projects; and we have made the diversification of income streams a strategic priority in our strategy development.

Expenditure during 2024/25 was shaped by the SRA's strategic priorities and external economic factors.

- Staffing: in the past year staff salaries have seen inflation-linked increases, reflecting the long-term trajectory of incremental rises year on year. Note: staff costs are lower than last year, as 2023/24 was a period of transitional staffing.
- Governance: Governance dropped to £3,142 in 2024/25 due to a number of services being taken in-house. Please be aware that governance costs are surfaced under the term 'trustee meetings' in the tables below, but the significant spending in 23/24 included a full governance review and recruitment costs for a new chair and CEO. The trustee meetings column should therefore be read as capturing broader governance spend for 23/24.
- Digital Infrastructure: The SRA modestly increased its spending on IT and website services, with costs rising to £32,979 from £32,887 in the previous year.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

- Designated Funds: The SRA utilised £24,052 from designated funds during 2024/25 for the mentoring pilot and setting up the membership hub. The latter involves cost of software and consultancy as well as recruitment of additional staff. Strategically investing the surplus has been a key focus of the SRA in 2024/25 and both the mentoring pilot as well as the membership hub have the potential to transform the membership offer of the SRA as well as the engagement with our members.
-

Reserves Management

The SRA's financial stability is underscored by its strong reserves position. At the close of 2024/25, the SRA carried forwards £487,620 – exceeding the range required by the SRA's reserves policy (9-12 months of operating expenses, which equates to £269,765–£359,686). £341,119 will be retained as reserves; and £134,641 allocated to designated funds projects, supporting further investment in EDI and community-building initiatives. The SRA reserves policy has been updated setting out clear principles as well as a detailed discussion of how the reserve amount has been calculated, e.g. factoring contractual commitments and secured future income. The revised reserves policy has been approved by the board.

Strategic Reflections

The SRA's financial position remains strong, underpinned by prudent management and a commitment to reinvest surplus funds in activities that benefit the social research community.

Key achievements include:

- Capacity Building: Increased investment in staffing and governance continued to strengthen the SRA's operational resilience and positioned it for future growth.
- Investment in membership services: Strategic investment in mentoring and a membership hub reflects changes in the working lives of social researchers as well as the continued commitment to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of the SRA.
- Programme Diversification: Focused investment in EDI initiatives such as the training accessibility audit reflects the SRA's commitment to inclusivity and long-term value creation.
- Sustainable Financial Planning: The planned reduction in reserves aligns with the SRA's policy, ensuring that surplus funds are reinvested to support its mission.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, the Trustees remain committed to monitoring economic conditions and adjusting plans as needed to ensure the SRA continues to balance growth with sustainability.

Governance - Diarmid Campbell-Jack

The Governance sub-committee continues to drive forward the approach to Governance in the SRA. This has continued to focus on implementing the recommendations suggested in the review of the SRA's Governance & Board Effectiveness which was completed in late 2023.

The 2024/25 reporting period saw the Governance sub-committee successfully complete the implementation of the most priority items identified in the 2023 review. These have included updating articles of association, ensuring a clear Scheme of Delegation (including outlining which trustee groups are Committees and which are working groups), reviewing the trustee board composition, and ensuring a full risk register is in place and monitored.

The Governance sub-committee, having completed these most priority items, is now moving to work on the less priority items identified in the 2023 reviews. These include monitoring that relevant policies are in place and updated, ensuring standardised job descriptions are in place, and that annual 1-2-1s are held for all trustees with the Chair of Trustees.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Communications - CJ Marshall

Research Matters, the SRA Magazine, remains freely available. It appears quarterly provides reflections on methodological innovations, EDI and working practices as well as more general updates from and for the social research community. Key themes this year have been career pathways, EDI, industry news and research innovation. Many thanks to our Editor, Andrew Phelps and team of Volunteers; Imogen Birch, Malen Davies, Ella Forder, Justine Karpusheff, Phagoora, Jasmeet Phagoora, Line Knudsen, Nicola Wilson, Eileen Irvin and Laura Robertson. Many thanks also to add Shirley Henderson and Ross Mcleod for their excellent work on editing and the layout respectively of Research Matters.

The SRA Blog continues to be published several times a month. We are still searching for an Editor, in the meantime the blog is being overseen by Tina Haux (CEO) and Jessica Nelligan (Digital Communication Manager). Our most popular blogs to date are Reflexivity and Positionality in Social Sciences Research and Paradigms for Mixed Methods Research, which consistently rank among the most visited pages on our website.

The SRA Newsletter continues to be a key channel for keeping our members connected and informed, achieving consistently high engagement. Published bi-weekly the newsletter highlights upcoming events and training opportunities, and shares the latest developments in social research. Many thanks to the longstanding editor, Kate Atkins, for putting together such an interesting newsletter every fortnight!

The SRA's LinkedIn presence has continued to grow as a valuable platform for engaging with members and the wider research community. Over the past year, our follower base increased by 108% to 8893 with posts on training, funding, job listings and sector news consistently achieving strong engagement. LinkedIn has become an important tool for raising the profile of social research, and showcasing the impact of the SRA's work. Complementing the SRA's LinkedIn page, the CEO, Tina Haux, is actively using the platform to share best practice, highlight jobs and comment on developments.

Our presence on BlueSky continues to grow steadily, establishing a modest but engaged audience for sharing updates.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – Lee Chan, Naomi Day and India Thompson

The SRA has continued to promote and support diversity and inclusion within the UK social research sector and to share the latest thinking on inclusive research practice. Over the past year, we have made progress in strengthening our internal culture, improving the accessibility of our events and training, and amplifying underrepresented voices in the sector.

Our internal culture

The SRA Diversity and Inclusion work group has met regularly and worked closely with trustees and senior staff to ensure EDI principles are reflected across our work. Staff have continued to receive EDI training and we continue to draw on good practice in our day-to-day activities. This has also been embedded into our induction processes to ensure all new staff gain a strong understanding of the SRA's culture and our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion from the outset.

In addition, we have now formally commissioned The Social Investment Consultancy (TSIC) to carry out an accessibility audit of our training programme. This will include a desk review, attending courses, and gathering feedback from attendees and trainers. The findings are being developed into a practical toolkit for trainers to ensure the SRA training offering is accessible to all who need it.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

We also launched a pilot mentoring scheme, designed and implemented with an emphasis on inclusive matching. Feedback has been positive, with mentees reporting that their pairings were well-tailored to their needs.

Events and Partnerships

Accessibility and inclusivity were central to the organisation of our annual conference. Measures included a quiet room, captioning, hearing loops, menu choices and British Sign Language interpreters. We have taken forward learnings from the event to inform future conferences. We provided a travel bursary to help ensure the SRA conference could be accessed by those travelling from outside London, particularly for those without organisational travel funding.

The conference also featured a highly popular session from Social Researchers of Colour (SROC), which generated rich discussion and interest in further collaboration. We have continued to amplify their work throughout the year.

The SRA has also strengthened its role in sector-wide EDI initiatives, contributing to the Market Research Society's EDI council and supporting the social research apprenticeship programme led by the University of Kent.

Knowledge Sharing

Our series of free webinars in Autumn 24 on inclusive research practices was well attended and received strong feedback. Building on this success, we began planning a dedicated event series on accessibility in research methods, drawing on contributions from our conference and the Creative Methods conference.

Our EDI vision

We have successfully developed an EDI vision which will be incorporated within our new strategy and organisational objectives. Work currently in motion and all the work slated to happen (such as the mentoring scheme) reflect that the SRA is committed to creating and nurturing an inclusive and diverse network of social researchers and to helping them achieve research excellence. Our new three-year strategy has EDI at its core, with a clear commitment to achieving greater accessibility, representation and inclusion across our activities, membership, and the wider social research sector.

Membership - Beth Moon

SRA membership is open to all individuals in the UK and elsewhere, and members are found in a wide range of sectors and organisations, including central and local government and other public bodies, research agencies and institutes, charities, academia, and independent consultants. The varied nature of the membership in terms of employment sector is seen by trustees as a strength of the SRA, providing services to researchers across a wide range of settings.

Membership is holding steady, we had 1,676 this 23/24 and ended the 2024/25 year with 1,660 members. Of those members just over half are individual members (876 individual members) and just under half are group members (784 group members). We have 56 groups in total, with the Home Office being our largest group at 102 members. We have also welcomed two new group memberships: Alzheimer's Society and Forever Consulting.

The SRA has continued to prioritise expanding its membership offering and facilitating community within the social research profession. We have been piloting a mentoring scheme. Many thanks to the MRS for sharing their experiences and resources with us and to the current mentees and mentors for engaging in the process.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

We have carried out an internal review of membership benefits and are now doing a competitor analysis. We have procured and adapted software for an online community platform. Looking ahead, we are planning a membership survey in the autumn, launch a community platform later and roll out the mentoring scheme. In order to deliver all these additional activities, we have welcome two new staff members: Emma Clarke and Neena Chauhan. None of this would be possible without the excellent work of our membership officer, Gabrielle Elward.

Training - Victoria Harkness

We delivered more courses in 2024/25 (158) than in either 2023/24 (148) or 2022/23 (156), although total bookings were slightly lower at 2,038 compared to 2,095 the previous year.

Several new courses were successfully introduced this year, including:

- **How to Design Trauma-Informed and Inclusive Research** – Skye Curtis and Holly Taylor-Dunn
- **Inclusive Research** – Hannah Marcus and Nena Foster
- **Effective Learning Partnerships** – Miranda Lewis
- **Designing a Communications Plan for Disseminating Research Findings** – Mihaela Gruia
- **Focus Group Design and Moderation** – Karen Lumsden

We're continuing to expand the programme in 2025/26 with exciting new courses such as:

- **Using AI for Quantitative Data Analysis** – Rob de Vries
- **Making Sense of Causes: Quantitative Tools for Real-World Research** – Rob de Vries
- **Advanced Participatory Action Research** – Ellie Thompson

Courses are available to book until the end of 2025, with the Spring 2026 schedule nearly ready to go.

In-house training also saw growth, with 37 courses delivered in 2024/25 compared to 30 the previous year. This included a mix of new clients and returning organisations seeking further training.

We've also begun the SRA Training Accessibility & Inclusivity Audit in collaboration with The Social Investment Consultancy and look forward to the insights and improvements it will bring.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to trainers Nigel Hawtin and Lulu Pinney for their outstanding contributions over the years. Nigel is retiring, and Lulu is moving on to new ventures—we wish them both all the best for the future.

Research ethics

The Ethics Appraisal Service forms part of SRA's wider work to enhance the ethical awareness and conduct of social research and complements the SRA's other ethics services, including our freely available [guidance](#) and the [ethics forum](#) for members. The ethics appraisal service has seen a growth in applications in the past year, which is why we have taken the decision to ask Bernie Graham and Jane Evans to join Ron as chairs of the review panels.

We would like to thank the forum members for their time and expertise, providing a vital service to the SRA and the social research community: Ron Iphofen, Jane Evans, Bernie Graham (panel chairs), Allison Allam, Sam Clemens, Helen Kara, Yulia Kartalova, Rosemary Lampert. We would like to welcome the new members who have joined us over the past year bringing their insight and passion to the panel: Jo Edson Ferrie, Sarah Frankenburg and Caroline Thurley.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

We would like to thank the members who have stepped down this past year for all their expertise and input: Carrie Heitmeyer, Cecile Morales and Martin Tolich.

Events – India Thompson

Annual Conference - We returned to the Royal College of Physicians in central London for the 2025 conference, our fourth time at this central, accessible venue. It was a sellout event with over 282 delegates from across the UK attending. The Main sessions were presented by Phil Sutcliffe (Nexxt Intelligence|Inca), Rachel Leaver and Maro Mouameletzi (Dentzu Media) Professor Sir Geoff Mulagan (University College London) and Professor Claire Alexander (University of Manchester). 16 Breakout sessions on applied social research with a continued focus on EDI were delivered by social researcher across the industry and Masterclasses on Research with children and young people and value for money evaluations were well received. This year we introduced new session for sponsor software demonstrations and a panel discussion by Social Researchers of Colour (SROC). A record number of 9 Exhibitors attended bringing vital additional income. With some budgetary constraints, we trialled a reduced number of breakout rooms and did not hold the post event drinks reception. The latter was much missed.

Alongside the conference, we ran a series of webinars on key topics for the community. The first webinar focused on EDI and the second on AI. The recording and slides for most of the webinars are available on the SRA website.

'Perspectives and Practices: EDI in Social Research' webinar series *This new series of online events attracted consistent audience numbers*

25/9/24 A step-change in the inclusivity of UK data: where next? ONS 23/10/24 Better practice with disabled people and people with long-term conditions - Magenta Research research/Ofcom 13/11/24 Amplifying marginalised voices through inclusive research – Verian Group UK 5/12/24 Inclusivity in Social Survey Data Collection - ONS

Joint AI Webinar series in conjunction with Campaign for Social Science & UK Evaluation Society

11/12/24 Will AI Change the World? Professor Oliver Hauser – Univer of Exeter 30/1/25 How AI shapes human morality – Professor Iyad Raywen - Max Planck Institute for Human Development 8/5/25 Applications of AI in Public Sector – organised buy the SRA with speakers from Department for Energy, security and Net Zero and Ofsted

*In March the annual **Cathie Marsh Memorial Lecture** took place in person at the University of Manchester and co-hosted by the UK Statistical Society. Dr Cristina Silver – University of Surrey & Dr Steve Wright (University of Lancaster) spoke on 'Generative-AI in Qualitative Research: Step-Change, Abomination, or...?'*

In April the **Sir Roger Jowell Memorial Lecture 2025** in collaboration with City University, ESRC, NatCen and the SRA was delivered by Professor Jane Falkingham University of Southampton speaking on 'The new rush hour of life: Balancing paid and unpaid work in mid-life?'

SRA North, with special thanks to Georgina Culliford for all her work, continues to deliver a range of regional events including in person networking and an in person/online seminar 'Using Behavioural Science in Social Research' with a panel of speakers Hull Teaching Hospital, Department for Transport and the Madano Agency

We are very grateful to SRA staff member Monica Wright for her work on these events, and to the events group volunteers who help to plan the major ones: Caroline Smith and Sophie Wilson and new members, Rong A, Sohila Sawhney and Jude Taylor.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Jennifer Brooks (resigned 30 August 2025) Diarmid Campbell-Jack Lee Chan Daniel Clay (resigned 31 December 2024) Naomi Day Joy Dobbs (appointed 26 February 2025) Edward Dunn Victoria Harkness (appointed 26 February 2025) Kirstie Hewlett Rachel Hughes CJ Marshall (appointed 26 February 2025) Martina Lewis (resigned 24 July 2025) Rosie McLeod (resigned 31 December 2024) Ailbhe McNabola (resigned 30 August 2025) Beth Moon Gillian Prior Daniel Stunell India Thompson (appointed 26 February 2025) Laura Wilson (appointed 26 February 2025)
Chair:	Edward Dunn Ailbhe McNabola (resigned 30 August 2025)
Secretary:	Tina Haux

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Statement of Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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.

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

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 30 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Edward Dunn
Chair of trustees

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Social Research Association ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes 15 to 27.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The Social Research Association you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Social Research Association are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Social Research Association's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

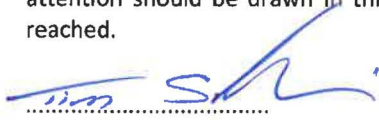
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Social Research Association as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

12/2/2026

The Social Research Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary income	3	97,351	97,351	100,109	100,109
Charitable activities	4	592,126	592,126	542,998	542,998
Investment income	5	<u>760</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>755</u>	<u>755</u>
Total income		<u>690,237</u>	<u>690,237</u>	<u>643,862</u>	<u>643,862</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(644,137)</u>	<u>(644,137)</u>	<u>(689,409)</u>	<u>(689,409)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(644,137)</u>	<u>(644,137)</u>	<u>(689,409)</u>	<u>(689,409)</u>
Net movement in funds		46,100	46,100	(45,547)	(45,547)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>441,520</u>	<u>441,520</u>	<u>487,067</u>	<u>487,067</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>487,620</u>	<u>487,620</u>	<u>441,520</u>	<u>441,520</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 16.

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

(Registration number: 06407985)

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	4,828	3,158
Current assets			
Debtors	13	83,587	50,347
Cash at bank and in hand	14	498,648	500,143
		582,235	550,490
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(99,443)	(112,128)
Net current assets		482,792	438,362
Net assets		487,620	441,520
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		487,620	441,520
Total funds	16	487,620	441,520

For the financial year ending 31 July 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 15 to 27 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 30 January 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Edward Dunn
Chairman and Trustee

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income/(expenditure)		46,100	(45,547)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,348	684
Investment income		(760)	(755)
		<u>46,688</u>	<u>(45,618)</u>
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in debtors	13	(33,240)	(14,594)
Increase in creditors	15	845	1,697
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income		(13,530)	9,540
		<u>763</u>	<u>(48,975)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		760	755
Acquisitions of tangible assets		(3,018)	(2,850)
		<u>(2,258)</u>	<u>(2,095)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(2,258)</u>	<u>(2,095)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(1,495)	(51,070)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		<u>500,143</u>	<u>551,213</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		<u>498,648</u>	<u>500,143</u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 18 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

9 Hare & Billet Road
London
England
SE3 0RB

The principal place of business is:

70 Hillside Avenue
Canterbury
England
CT2 8HA

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 30 January 2026.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line basis
IT equipment	33% straight line basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2025	2024
		£	£
Membership	97,351	97,351	100,109
	<u>97,351</u>	<u>97,351</u>	<u>100,109</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2025	2024
		£	£
Events	42,538	42,538	33,678
Ethics appraisals	12,577	12,577	10,774
Training courses	531,739	531,739	490,128
Advertising	5,272	5,272	8,418
	<u>592,126</u>	<u>592,126</u>	<u>542,998</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General		
	£	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£
Interest receivable and similar income; Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>760</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>755</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Total 2025	Total 2024
	Note	£	£
Staff costs	10	241,989	248,318
Office and administration		812	845
Online Community		2,179	-
Cost of trustee meetings		3,142	41,440
Travel and subscriptions		4,589	5,375
Consultancy fees		11,070	10,300
Foreign currency (gains)/losses		-	431
Support costs	9	<u>380,356</u>	<u>382,700</u>
		<u>644,137</u>	<u>689,409</u>

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also support costs of £380,356 (2024 - £382,700) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 9 for further details.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

£1,353 (2024: £2,819) of expenses were reimbursed to the trustees for travel expenses during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Training	256,512	253,221
Insurance	1,891	1,419
Events	43,108	55,237
IT and website	32,979	32,887
Printing, postage and stationery	-	396
Membership costs	8,082	3,517
Sundries	12,344	5,886
Newsletters and Journal	12,590	16,594
Staff entertaining (allowable for tax)	-	1,230
Bookkeeping	698	614
Accountancy	1,206	1,010
Independent examination	3,078	2,988
Bank charges	6,520	7,017
Depreciation of office equipment	1,348	684
	<u>380,356</u>	<u>382,700</u>

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	222,474	223,872
Staff NIC (Employers)	15,332	20,709
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	4,183	3,737
	<u>241,989</u>	<u>248,318</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Charitable activities	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>

6 (2024 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

11 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,288 (2024 - £2,069).

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 August 2024	8,664	8,664
Additions	<u>3,018</u>	<u>3,018</u>
At 31 July 2025	<u>11,682</u>	<u>11,682</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2024	5,506	5,506
Charge for the year	<u>1,348</u>	<u>1,348</u>
At 31 July 2025	<u>6,854</u>	<u>6,854</u>
Net book value		
At 31 July 2025	<u>4,828</u>	<u>4,828</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>3,158</u>	<u>3,158</u>

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	40,584	32,476
Prepayments	<u>43,003</u>	<u>17,871</u>
	<u>83,587</u>	<u>50,347</u>

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	<u>498,548</u>	<u>500,043</u>
	<u>498,648</u>	<u>500,143</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	5,411	3,278
Other taxation and social security	3,605	5,077
Other creditors	856	762
Accruals	3,078	2,988
Deferred income	86,493	100,023
	<u>99,443</u>	<u>112,128</u>

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2025 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>441,520</u>	<u>690,237</u>	<u>(644,137)</u>	<u>487,620</u>

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>487,067</u>	<u>643,862</u>	<u>(689,409)</u>	<u>441,520</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,828	4,828
Current assets	582,235	582,235
Current liabilities	(99,443)	(99,443)
Total net assets	<u>487,620</u>	<u>487,620</u>

Prior year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,158	3,158
Current assets	550,490	550,490
Current liabilities	(112,128)	(112,128)
Total net assets	<u>441,520</u>	<u>441,520</u>

Accounts

Company registration number: 06407985

Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London

The Social Research Association

SE3 ORB

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 11
Independent Examiner's Report	12 to 13
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Statement of Cash Flows	16
Notes to the Financial Statements	17 to 25

The Social Research Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Chairman

Diarmid Campbell-Jack

Edward Dunn

Ailbhe McNabola

Trustees

Jennifer Brooks

Diarmid Campbell-Jack

Lee Chan

Daniel Clay

Naomi Day

Edward Dunn

Kirstie Hewlett

Rachel Hughes

Martina Lewis

Rosie McLeod

Ailbhe McNabola

Beth Moon

Gillian Prior

Daniel Stunell

Secretary

Graham Farrant

Tina Haux

Charity Registration Number

1123940

Company Registration Number

06407985

Registered Office

70 Hillside Avenue

Canterbury

England

CT2 8HA

Independent Examiner

Field Sullivan Limited

9 Hare & Billet Road

London

SE3 ORB

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Co-operative Bank plc
Bank of Scotland plc The
annual report together
with the financial
statements and auditors'
report of the charitable
company for the year
ended 31 July 2024 have
been prepared in
compliance with current
statutory requirements,
Companies Act 2006, the
Charities SORP (FRS 102)
applicable to charities
preparing their accounts
in accordance with the
Financial Reporting
Standard applicable in the
UK and Republic of Ireland
and the Charities Act
2011; and with the
charity's governing
document, its
Memorandum and Articles
of Association.

SRA Annual Report for August 2023 - July 2024

The Social Research Association is an educational charity, whose purpose is to uphold high standards in the conduct, development, and application of social research for the benefit of the public interest, and to advance knowledge and professional practice in the social research field.

Social research aims to provide the public, the government, and a wide range of public and charitable bodies with reliable information about key aspects of life in the UK, under a range of topic headings: education, health and wellbeing, employment, housing, transport, and many more.

To support the social research industry in meeting these aims, the SRA undertakes three main activities:

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Providing training courses on a wide range of research-related topics, so that researchers and research users are equipped to apply high standards in their professional work.

Providing guidance on, for example, the ethical standards to apply in the conduct of research, such as ensuring that when members of the public participate in research projects, their rights are upheld and their data is protected.

Providing publications and events, so that researchers and research users can share good practice and learn about new developments in the field.

The trustees of the SRA have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The SRA is a company limited by guarantee, and the governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Chairs' report – Ed Dunn

This financial year has been one of change as I took over as the new Chair of Trustees and we welcomed our new Chief Executive, Tina Haux. We have also begun to implement a new phase of operations for the SRA as we begin to invest in several exciting initiatives which will pave the way for new future offerings and the onward growth of the charity.

The Treasurer report provides full details of the financial position, showing the SRA finishing the financial year with a deficit of just under £46,000.

This was a planned deficit and the SRA's financial position remains strong, underpinned by prudent management and a commitment to reinvest surplus funds in activities that benefit the social research community.

Key achievements this year include:

- **Capacity Building:** Increased investment in staffing and governance has strengthened the SRA's operational resilience and positioned it for future growth.
- **Programme Diversification:** Focused investment in initiatives focused on equality, diversity and inclusion reflects our commitment to inclusivity and long-term value creation.
- **Sustainable Financial Planning:** The planned reduction in reserves aligns with the SRA's policy, ensuring that surplus funds are reinvested to support its mission.

As in previous years, our training and membership offer remains popular. The dedication and commitment of our trainers continues and some of our new training offering – in particular related to AI – proved to be the most popular ever! Our membership has increased, rising from 1,329 in July last year to 1,405 this July.

Our SRA Conference took place in June 2024, once again at the Royal College of Physicians, London, and in the midst of the pre-election period causing a few last-minute changes! The conference garnered positive feedback from participants after a full day of talks and discussions. A date is already secured for 2025 – the 12th July!

We continue to drive diversity, and promote inclusion, in social research. There is always more we can do within the EDI space and I am hugely grateful for the Trustee sponsors and volunteers in this area. Our Autumn series of webinars on inclusive social research were well attended and received. Achieving meaningful impact is not easy or quick and we are determined to carry on with making our incremental but meaningful improvements.

Looking ahead

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

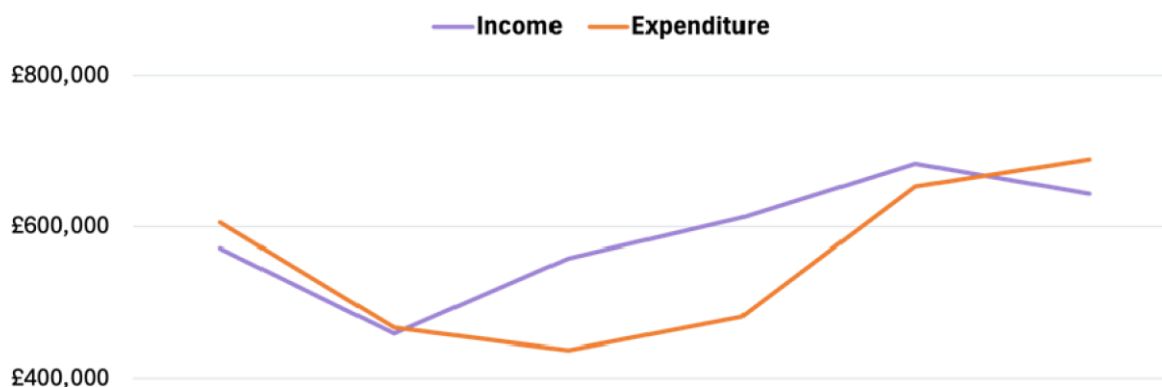
Looking ahead to 2024/25, we will publish a strategy refreshing our organisational objectives and setting out our key areas of ambition for the coming years. The SRA will celebrate 50 years in 2028 and I am keen we articulate to you all the kind of organisation we want to be. Meanwhile, the Board and I remain committed to monitoring the economic conditions within which we operate and adjusting plans as needed to ensure the SRA continues to balance growth with sustainability. Operationally, we have improved our approach to risk management which has highlighted our over-reliance on training and membership as our key sources of income. We will look to diversify over the coming years.

Finally, a huge thanks to the SRA staff and volunteers, with their hard work and dedication being the foundation for the strength of the organisation. Extra thanks are due to two trustees who stood down as co-chairs in 2023/24: Ailbhe McNabola and Diarmid Campbell-Jack. In 2024/25 Ailbhe and a few others will step down as Trustees, having reached the end of their terms. We will look forward to thanking them for their contribution, whilst also welcoming new colleagues to the Board. My final words are reserved for Graham Farrant, who retired as our Chief Executive in June 2024 after more than a decade in the role. We are a better organisation for his diligence, and efforts.

Treasurer's report: Financial Year 2023/24 (Kirstie Hewlett)

The 2023/24 financial year has been one of both consolidation and strategic investment for the SRA, resulting in a deficit of £45,547 at year end. Reporting a deficit signals a new phase of operations for the SRA, enabled by the significant surpluses generated in 2020-22 owing to the shift to online delivery during the pandemic (see Figure 1). This new operating model led to a situation where the SRA held more funds in reserve than required. As a result, in addition to expanding the staff team to meet new levels of demand, we ringfenced around £150-200k in designated funds to spend on special projects that will incubate new services and improve the operations of the charity, in the following areas: equality, diversity and inclusion, and community building. Over the next 2-3 years, we expect the SRA will continue to report a deficit while we deliver these projects, which aim to broaden the range of benefits for our members and the social research profession, and diversify our income streams.

The SRA's financial performance in 2023/24 indicates that the growth seen during the pandemic has now levelled off. While income decreased modestly to £643,862 (from £683,532 in 2022/23), overall income and expenditure from business-as-usual continue to generate a small surplus, leaving the SRA in a strong and sustainable financial position. The 2023/24 deficit arose from designated funds spending, plus costs incurred during a period of considerable organisational change (ie the recruitment of a new Chief Executive and Chair, overlapping salaries during periods of handover). In the sections below, we describe these trends in more detail.



The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report



Income and Expenditure Overview

The SRA's key income streams – membership, training, events, advertising and ethics appraisal – continue to perform well overall (see Figure 2), though with some notable shifts:

Membership: Membership income has shown steady growth, increasing slightly from £99,752 in

- 2022/23 to £100,109 in 2023/24. This consistency reflects the ongoing value members place on SRA's offerings and services.

Training and Events: Training courses remain the SRA's largest income stream, contributing £490,128. However, this represents a decline from £524,957 in 2022/23, driven by reduced trainer availability and a slightly lower number of courses delivered. Events income also declined, dropping to £33,678 • from £39,004, though this was offset by increased participation in smaller, regionally focused events. Expenditure on training fell proportionately to £249,364 from £290,365, ensuring that the surplus generated from this activity remained stable. Meanwhile, inflationary pressures significantly impacted the annual conference, contributing to an increase in events costs to £51,511 from £45,989.

Advertising: Advertising income from the jobs board continued its downward trend, falling from

- £15,491 in 2022/23 to £8,418 in 2023/24. This reflects broader challenges in the recruitment sector and highlights the importance of exploring alternative revenue streams in this area.

Ethics appraisal: The ethics appraisal service was introduced in 2022-23. Income from the ethics • appraisal service has almost tripled this year, rising from £3,800 in 2022/23 to £10,774 in 2023/24. Growing this service further will be an area of focus for the SRA in 2024/25.

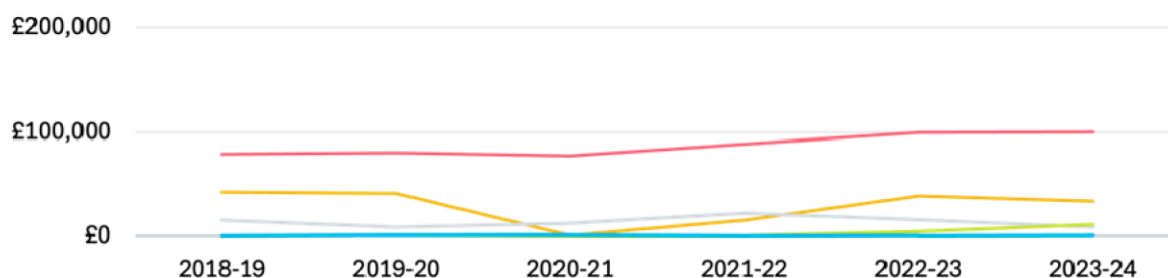
Investments: The SRA makes a small amount of money each year from investments (£755 in

- 2023/24); however, we feel this is an underutilised source of income generation, and will be looking to expand our investments next year.



The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report



We have taken several steps this year to mitigate risks around income, particularly training. This includes looking at cost efficiencies in our training offer, as well as conducting a review of training course fees (which have not been updated since 2022), with a modest price increase in line with inflation scheduled for January 2025. The sustainability of our income from membership will also be addressed through designated funds spending on community building projects; and we have made the diversification of income streams a strategic priority in our strategy development, including but not limited to investments, the jobs board and ethics appraisal service.

Expenditure during 2023/24 was shaped by the SRA's strategic priorities and external economic factors.

- **Staffing:** Inflation-linked salary adjustments and transitional staffing costs—including the recruitment of a new Chief Executive and Chair—drove staff costs up to £248,318 (from £216,204).
- **Governance:** Governance costs were particularly high in 2023/24 (£41,440), on account of one-off investment in a review of governance and recruitment costs for the Chief Executive and Chair.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** The SRA increased its spending on IT and website services, with costs rising to £32,887 from £23,758. This reflects both inflation-driven cost increases and one-off investments in our website.
- **Designated Funds:** The SRA utilised £9,821 from designated funds during 2023/24 to advance projects aligned with its strategic goals. These included the development and delivery of EDI-related training for staff and investment in new training course development, which will launch in early 2025.

Reserves Management

The SRA's financial stability is underscored by its strong reserves position. At the close of 2023/24, the SRA carried forwards £441,520 – comfortably within the range required by the SRA's reserves policy (9-12 months of operating expenses, which equates to £269,765–£359,686). £314,725 will be retained as reserves; and £126,795 allocated to designated funds projects, supporting further investment in EDI and community-building initiatives.

Strategic Reflections

Despite a planned deficit, the SRA's financial position remains strong, underpinned by prudent management and a commitment to reinvest surplus funds in activities that benefit the social research community.

Key achievements include:

- **Capacity Building:** Increased investment in staffing and governance has strengthened the SRA's operational resilience and positioned it for future growth.
- **Programme Diversification:** Focused investment in EDI initiatives reflects the SRA's commitment to inclusivity and long-term value creation.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

- **Sustainable Financial Planning:** The planned reduction in reserves aligns with the SRA's policy, ensuring that surplus funds are reinvested to support its mission.

Looking ahead to 2024/25, the Trustees remain committed to monitoring economic conditions and adjusting plans as needed to ensure the SRA continues to balance growth with sustainability.

Training - Beth Moon and Dan Clay

The SRA's training courses are a significant means to fulfilling the organisation's aim of promoting excellence and innovation in social research. They are also an important source of revenue for the organisation.

In this financial year we ran slightly fewer courses than in 22/23 (148 courses compared with 156) but attracted approx. 2050 bookings compared with approx. 1900 in 22/23. We have continued to run the majority of our courses online to meet the needs of the SRA audience, who typically prefer this method, but continue to provide a smaller offering of in-person courses to ensure we cater for diversity in preferred approaches.

The SRA aims to offer courses that cutting edge and relevant and were pleased to introduce new courses on AI-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis and Depth Interviewing, developed by Dr Christina Silver and ran in May and June, selling out both dates. Demand continues to be strong. Following a successful in-house pilot, we plan to introduce a new course on Inclusive Social Research Practice. In 2025 we will also be running new courses on trauma-informed and inclusive research as well as behavioural science.

Our success in delivering high-quality training to members and the wider profession this year is due to the hard work and dedication of the trainers, who have continued to innovate to find new ways to ensure course delivery remains engaging and inclusive. Huge thanks also to our previous training manager Lindsay Adams for her hard work and dedication to the SRA and a warm welcome to our new training manager Patricia Cornell who has taken over the organisation and support for the courses and is already making an impressive contribution. Our success in delivering training to members and the wider profession this year is due to the hard work and dedication of the trainers, who have continued to innovate to find new ways to ensure online course delivery remains engaging.

Membership - Gillian Prior

SRA membership is open to all individuals in the UK and elsewhere, and members are found in a wide range of sectors and organisations, including central and local government and other public bodies, research agencies and institutes, charities, academia, and independent consultants. The varied nature of the membership in terms of employment sector is seen by trustees as a strength of the SRA, providing services to researchers across a wide range of settings.

We were pleased to see another increase in members this year, from 1,405 in July 22/23 to 1,676 this 23/24. Thanks are due to Gabrielle Elward, membership administrator, for her continued dedication. This increase was due to in part to a large group membership from a UK university – the first of its kind for the SRA and evidence of the SRA's appeal to academic/educational audiences as well as practised professionals.

The SRA has continued to prioritise expanding its membership offering and facilitating community within the social research profession.

For example, focus groups in May 2023 identified a potential opportunity for the SRA to utilise the collective buying power of its membership to negotiate discounts on key products. This idea was delivered as a membership benefit in late 2023, with discounts negotiated on key software packages including Quirkos, MaxQDA and Indemo, as well as on fundamental services such as Public Liability Insurance.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Behind the scenes, substantial work has been done to explore ambitious projects to enhance the SRA membership community, including the development of a digital community platform and a pilot of a mentoring scheme, both of which are expected to come to fruition in 24/25.

Research Matters, the SRA magazine, has been freely available since the pandemic. It provides reflections on methodological innovations, EDI and working practices as well as more general updates from and for the social research community. Research Matters could not function without its excellent volunteers: Andrew Phelps (editor), Imogen Birch, Malen Davies, Ella Forder, Justine Karpusheff, Jasmeet Phagoora, Line Knudsen, Eileen Irvin and Laura Robertson.

The SRA blog has been published (almost) every week. Highlights from this year include: Many thanks to the excellent editor Cath Elliot and the team of volunteers Joanna Barry, Sally Abernethy, Patten Smith, Sally McManus, Joanna Barry, Princess Akin-Olugbade, Rounaq Nayak, Fiona Weir, Rebecca Harrocks, Rebecca Gossage-Worrall, Nadia von Benzon and Nysha Givans.

Our internal culture

The SRA has continued to promote and support diversity and inclusion within the UK social research sector and to share the latest thinking on inclusive research practice.

Our EDI action plan, set out by The Social Investment Consultancy (TSIC) following a rigorous audit reporting, provided us with a clear improvement programme to follow. Some of our achievements are outlined below under the five headings TSIC's report used as a structure:

The SRA Diversity and Inclusion work group continued to meet regularly working with senior staff to ensure EDI considerations are embedded throughout what we do.

Staff have all received EDI training and we draw on good working practices.

To ensure delivery of the action plan, an SRA Diversity and Inclusion work group was created, comprised of SRA trustees and senior staff. Work on delivering these actions is underway and will continue into 2024 and beyond.

One particular areas of the plan which is well progressed is in our commissioning of an expert training provider to deliver foundational training on inclusive working practices and inclusive communications. This course has been delivered to SRA staff.

External partnerships

We continue to work with external partners to achieve joint aims as we are stronger and better together. For example, we sit on the Market Research Society EDI council and are able to contribute towards the great work it does through its interest groups, as well as offer the SRA as a platform for that work.

We continued to amplify the work of Social Researchers of Colour and this culminated in a special panel session at our annual conference which was attended by a wide range of attendees, and we will be inviting them back for July 2025.

The SRA works closely with the Social Research Apprenticeship partners to support this ambitious endeavour. The social research apprenticeships are aimed at young people who would not have the chance to go to university. The apprentice programme is delivered by the University of Kent and the first cohort started in September 2024.

Communications

We took on board the recommendations in the TSIC report on how improve the inclusivity and diverse representation of our online content. We have completed a review of imagery used across our website, agreed

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

the principles for choosing imagery and made the necessary changes. We have also redoubled efforts feature a wider cross-section of researchers in our blogs and to feature more articles on inclusive research and EDI in the workplace. We are happy to have curated a series of blogs by the global community, Colour of Research (CoRe) and look forward to extending that partnership.

Our service offering

One particular area of the plan which has slipped slightly is to develop and deliver an Inclusive Social Research Practice course by Nena Foster (Circle) and Hannah Simon (Common Collective). The good news is that after delays in the development of the course, it was piloted in November 2024 and received great feedback. It will be optimised and ready to launch in March 2025.

We will be continuing our free inclusive research webinar series next year, having had a great response to the series of four we put on this autumn which shared the experiences of researchers using a range of different methods to achieve better inclusivity in their work. Whilst these webinars were delivered after the end of the 23/24 financial year, plans were well underway immediately after our annual conference in June. In addition to this, we commit to making all our educational resources as accessible as possible.

Our EDI vision

We have successfully developed an EDI vision which will be incorporated within our new strategy and organisational objectives. Work currently in motion and all the work slated to happen (such as the mentoring scheme) reflect that the SRA is committed to creating and nurturing an inclusive and diverse network of social researchers and to helping them achieve research excellence.

To 2028, our 50th birthday

There is always more to do in the EDI space, it is not always easy and very rarely quick. We are determined to carry on with making our incremental but meaningful improvements. We look forward to working with a fresh crop of trustees and volunteers and with potential new partners and other individuals who can support us on our EDI journey.

Research ethics – Martina Vojtkova

The SRA's Ethics Appraisal Service launched in 2022, with the aim of giving organisations and individuals who wish to have an independent ethical review of their research proposals, and can't access this another way. A small team of knowledgeable researchers (who are also volunteers on the SRA Ethics Forum) form ad-hoc committees to review project plans. This is not a REC (Research Ethics Committee) and it doesn't formally 'approve' research proposals. But it can offer a 'favourable opinion' or make suggestions for improvement. The appraisers are paid, so there is a charge to use the service.

The Ethics Appraisal Service forms part of SRA's wider work to enhance the ethical awareness and conduct of social research and complements the SRA's other ethics services, including our freely available guidance and the ethics forum for members.

We would like to thank the forum members for their time and expertise, providing a vital service to the SRA and the social research community: Ron Iphofen (chair), Allison Allam, Jane Evans, Bernie Graham, Carrie Heitmeyer, Helen Kara, Yulia Kartalova, Rosemary Lampert, Cecile Morales and Martin Tolich.

Events - Rosie McLeod

We went back to the Royal College of Physicians in central London for the 2024 conference. One of the key benefits of the venue is that it is very accessible and we were able to hire extra rooms as prayer and quiet spaces. It was a very successful event with over 250 delegates from across the UK and beyond. The announcement of

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

the general election in July 2024 meant that the conference took place during the time of election purdah, i.e. where civil servants are not allowed to be engaged in any activity that could be regarded as political. This affected the number of presentations as well as some of the content. The keynote talks were given by Stian Westlake (Executive Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council), the Polly Curtis from Demos and Reema Patel from Ipsos, Christina Silver from CAQDAS and Steve Wright from the University of Central Lancashire), and keynote talks from Catherine Hutchinson (UK government Evaluation Task Force), Robert Cuffe (BBC), Ralph Scott (University of Manchester) and Johnathan Van-Tam from the University of Nottingham.

In November 2023 the annual Rogel Jowell memorial lecture was given by Professor Robert Ford from the University of Manchester on the topic of 'Are immigrants changing and does this matter?'. The event was chaired by Stian Westlake, the Executive Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The events is a collaboration of NatCen Social Research, City University and the SRA.

We are very grateful to SRA staff member Monica Wright for her work on these events, and to the events group volunteers who help to plan the major ones: Caroline Smith, Sarah Cheesbrough, George Holt, Jane Simmonds, Jen Jones, and Sophie Wilson.

SRA NORTH

SRA north organised two events that were very well attended. These were:

SRA North Seminar: Inclusive Research Design & Commissioning - 17 May 2024

Presentations by Naseem Allmomen (*Magenta Research*), Skye Curtis (*MEL Research*), Andrea Barry (*Youth Futures Foundation*), Alison McIntyre (*Youth Futures Foundation*) and Ema Thornhill (*Scope*).

SRA North Seminar: Routes into Research: Social research career options - 22 November 2023

Presentation by Amelia Clayton (*Young Foundation*), Olivia Brown (*HMRC*), Simon Maydew (*Verian*), Skye Curtis (*MEL Research*) and Peter Traynor (*Youth Futures Foundation*)

Trustee attendance in 2023/24

Trustee	Number of meetings attended / total number of meetings
Lee Chan	4/6
Dan Clay	4/6
Dan Stunell	3/6
Gillian Prior	3/6
Jenni Brooks	4/6
Ailbhe McNabola	4/6
Diarmid Campbell Jack	5/6
Martina Vojtkova	3/6
Rosie McLeod	4/6
Rachel Hughes	3/6
Ed Dunn	4/4

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Jennifer Brooks
	Diarmid Campbell-Jack
	Lee Chan
	Daniel Clay
	Naomi Day
	Edward Dunn (appointed 16 January 2024)
	Kirstie Hewlett
	Rachel Hughes
	Martina Lewis
	Rosie McLeod
	Ailbhe McNabola
	Beth Moon
	Gillian Prior
	Daniel Stunell
Chairman:	Diarmid Campbell-Jack
	Edward Dunn (appointed 16 January 2024)
	Ailbhe McNabola
Secretary:	Graham Farrant
	Tina Haux (appointed 1 July 2024)

Statement of Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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.

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

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 26 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
.....
Diarmid Campbell-Jack
Co-Chair of trustees until
January 2024



.....
.....
Edward Dunn
Chair of trustees from
January 2024



Ailbhe
McNabola
Co-Chair of
trustees until
January 2024

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Social Research Association ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes 14 to 25.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The Social Research Association you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Social Research Association are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Social Research Association's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Social Research Association as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

The Social Research Association

4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....

Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

26 February 2025

The notes on pages 17 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

		Unrestricted	Total 2024	Unrestricted	Total 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary income	3	100,109	100,109	99,752	99,752
Charitable activities	4	542,998	542,998	583,252	583,252
Investment income	5	755	755	528	528
Total income					
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	(689,409)	(689,409)	(653,146)	(653,146)
Total expenditure					
Net movement in funds		(45,547)	(45,547)	30,386	30,386
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>487,067</u>	<u>487,067</u>	<u>456,681</u>	<u>456,681</u>
		<u>(689,869)</u>	<u>(689,869)</u>	<u>(683,540)</u>	<u>(683,540)</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>441,520</u>	<u>441,520</u>	<u>487,067</u>	<u>487,067</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 16.

	Note	2024 £	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	3,158	994
Current assets			
Debtors	13	50,347	35,751
Cash at bank and in hand	14	500,143	551,213
		<u>550,490</u>	<u>586,964</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(112,128)	(100,891)
(Registration number: 06407985)			
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2024			
		<u>438,362</u>	<u>486,073</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>441,520</u>	<u>487,067</u>
Net assets			
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>441,520</u>	<u>487,067</u>
Total funds	16	<u>441,520</u>	<u>487,067</u>

For the financial year ending 31 July 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 25 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 26 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



 Diarmid Campbell-Jack
 Co-Chair of trustees
 until January 2024



 Edward Dunn
 Chair and Trustee from
 January 2024 onwards



 Ailbhe McNabola
 Co-Chair of trustees until
 January 2024

	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			

The notes on pages 17 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Net cash (expenditure)/income		(45,547)	30,386
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		684	1,146
Investment income		(755)	(528)
		(45,618)	31,004
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	13	(14,594)	6,794
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	1,697	(1,772)
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income		9,540	(11,792)
Net cash flows from operating activities			
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		755	528
Acquisitions of tangible assets		(2,850)	(1,343)
Net cash flows from investing activities			
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(51,070)	23,419
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		551,213	527,794
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		500,143	551,213
Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 July 2024		<u>(48,095)</u>	<u>24,835</u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

70 Hillside Avenue
Canterbury
England
CT2 8HA

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 26 February 2025.

2 Accounting policies

The Social Research Association

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2019) (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Income and endowments

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

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line basis
IT equipment	33% straight line basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
	<u>100,109</u>	<u>100,109</u>	<u>99,752</u>
Membership	<u>100,109</u>	<u>100,109</u>	<u>99,752</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Events	33,678	33,678	39,004
Ethics appraisals	10,774	10,774	3,800
Training courses	490,128	490,128	524,957
Advertising	<u>8,418</u>	<u>8,418</u>	<u>15,491</u>
	<u>542,998</u>	<u>542,998</u>	<u>583,252</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted		
	funds	Total	Total
	General	2024	2023

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	755	755	528
	<u>755</u>	<u>755</u>	<u>528</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	10	248,318	216,204
Office and administration		845	1,148
Charitable donations		-	1,050
Cost of trustee meetings		41,440	5,745
Travel and subscriptions		5,375	5,601
Consultancy fees		10,300	30,850
Foreign currency (gains)/losses		431	299
Support costs	9	<u>382,700</u>	<u>392,249</u>
		<u>689,409</u>	<u>653,146</u>

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also support costs of £382,700 (2023 - £392,249) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 9 for further details.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

£2,819 (2023: £697) of expenses were reimbursed to the trustees for travel expenses during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Analysis of support costs

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

Support costs

	Total	Total
	2024	2023
	£	£
Training	253,221	290,365
Insurance	1,419	1,710
Events	55,237	45,989
IT and website	32,887	23,758
Printing, postage and stationery	396	6
Membership costs	3,517	2,449
Sundries	5,886	1,144
Newsletters and Journal	16,594	14,005
Staff entertaining (allowable for tax)	1,230	885
Bookkeeping	614	568
Accountancy	1,010	1,108
Independent examination	2,988	2,898
Bank charges	7,017	6,220
Depreciation of office equipment	684	1,144
	<u>382,700</u>	<u>392,249</u>

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	223,872	197,938
Staff NIC (Employers)	20,709	15,190
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	3,737	3,076
	<u>248,318</u>	<u>216,204</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No	No
Charitable activities	5	5

4 (2023 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

11 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,288 (2023 - £2,069).

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 August 2023	6,505	6,505
Additions	2,850	2,850
Disposals	(691)	(691)
	<u>8,664</u>	<u>8,664</u>
At 31 July 2024		
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2023	5,513	5,513
Charge for the year	684	684
Eliminated on disposals	(691)	(691)
	<u>5,506</u>	<u>5,506</u>
At 31 July 2024		
Net book value		
	3,158	3,158
At 31 July 2024	<u>992</u>	<u>992</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>992</u>	<u>992</u>
Debtors		
	£	£
Trade debtors	32,476	19,906
Prepayments	17,871	15,845

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

	50,347	35,751
12 Tangible fixed assets		

_____	_____
=====	=====

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash on hand	100	100
	<u>500,043</u>	<u>551,113</u>
Cash at bank	<u>500,143</u>	<u>551,213</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	3,278	1,770
Other taxation and social security	5,077	5,131
Other creditors	762	609
Accruals	2,988	2,898
	<u>100,023</u>	
Deferred income	<u>112,128</u>	<u>100,891</u>
		90,483

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2024 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>487,067</u>	<u>643,862</u>	<u>(689,409)</u>	<u>441,520</u>
	Balance at 1 August 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>456,681</u>	<u>683,532</u>	<u>(653,146)</u>	<u>487,067</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July £
Tangible fixed assets	3,158	3,158
Current assets	550,490	550,490
Current liabilities	(112,128)	(112,128)
Total net assets	441,520	441,520

Prior year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July £
Tangible fixed assets	994	994
Current assets	586,964	586,964
Current liabilities	(100,891)	(100,891)
Total net assets	487,067	487,067

Accounts

Company registration number: 06407985

Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

The Social Research Association

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 10
Independent Examiner's Report	11 to 12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 to 26

The Social Research Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Jennifer Brooks
	Diarmid Campbell-Jack
	Lee Chan
	Daniel Clay
	Naomi Day
	Kirstie Hewlett
	Rachel Hughes
	Martina Lewis
	Rosie McLeod
	Ailbhe McNabola
	Beth Moon
	Gillian Prior
	Daniel Stunell
	Graham Farrant
Secretary	
Charity Registration Number	1123940
Company Registration Number	06407985
Registered Office	9 Hare & Billet Road London SE3 ORB
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road London SE3 ORB
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc
	Co-operative Bank plc
	Bank of Scotland plc

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 July 2023 have been prepared in compliance with current statutory requirements, Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011; and with the charity's governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

SRA Annual Report for August 2022 - July 2023

The Social Research Association is an educational charity, whose purpose is to uphold high standards in the conduct, development, and application of social research for the benefit of the public interest, and to advance knowledge and professional practice in the social research field.

Social research aims to provide the public, the government, and a wide range of public and charitable bodies with reliable information about key aspects of life in the UK, under a range of topic headings: education, health and wellbeing, employment, housing, transport, and many more.

To support the social research industry in meeting these aims, the SRA undertakes three main activities:

Providing training courses on a wide range of research-related topics, so that researchers and research users are equipped to apply high standards in their professional work.

Providing guidance on, for example, the ethical standards to apply in the conduct of research, such as ensuring that when members of the public participate in research projects, their rights are upheld and their data is protected.

Providing publications and events, so that researchers and research users can share good practice and learn about new developments in the field.

The trustees of the SRA have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The SRA is a company limited by guarantee, and the governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees' contributions

Chairs' report - Ailbhe McNabola and Diarmid Campbell-Jack

This financial year has continued to see the SRA consolidate its strong financial position, allowing us to continue to invest further in activities to promote our charitable objectives.

The Treasurer report provides full details of the financial position, showing the SRA finishing the financial year with a surplus of £30,000. Together with the surpluses achieved in previous years, the organisation has almost £500,000 in reserves. A major focus of the Trustees, Chief Executive, and new Operations Manager is reducing these reserves in line with our current reserves policy, through designating funds to allow investments in one-off programmes of work that could not be funded through general funds.

As in previous years, the SRA's positive financial picture is largely due to the success of our training and membership offers. Thanks to the dedication of our trainers, our training sessions were as popular this year as last, reaching 1,800 attendees. We expanded our training offer, including new courses on Creative Data Analysis, Introduction to Embodied Enquiry, and Positionality and Reflexivity in Qualitative Research, and have begun offering courses at physical venues to meet the growing demand for this approach post-pandemic. Our membership has increased, rising from 1,329 in July last year to 1,405 this July.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

We continue to drive diversity and promote inclusion in social research, and are currently working on our own approach as the SRA, with a SRA Diversity and Inclusion working group implementing the EDI action plan for the organisation following an external audit of our practice. We are currently introducing training for staff, working to represent a broader set of researchers in our publications, and developing an Inclusive Social Research Practice course. We are proud of our efforts in this space, but recognise that we should continue to focus on this area.

Our SRA Conference took place in June 2023 at a sold-out Royal College of Physicians, London, garnering positive feedback from participants after a full day of talks and discussions. We are already planning the 2024 event, and continue developing our regional networks and events.

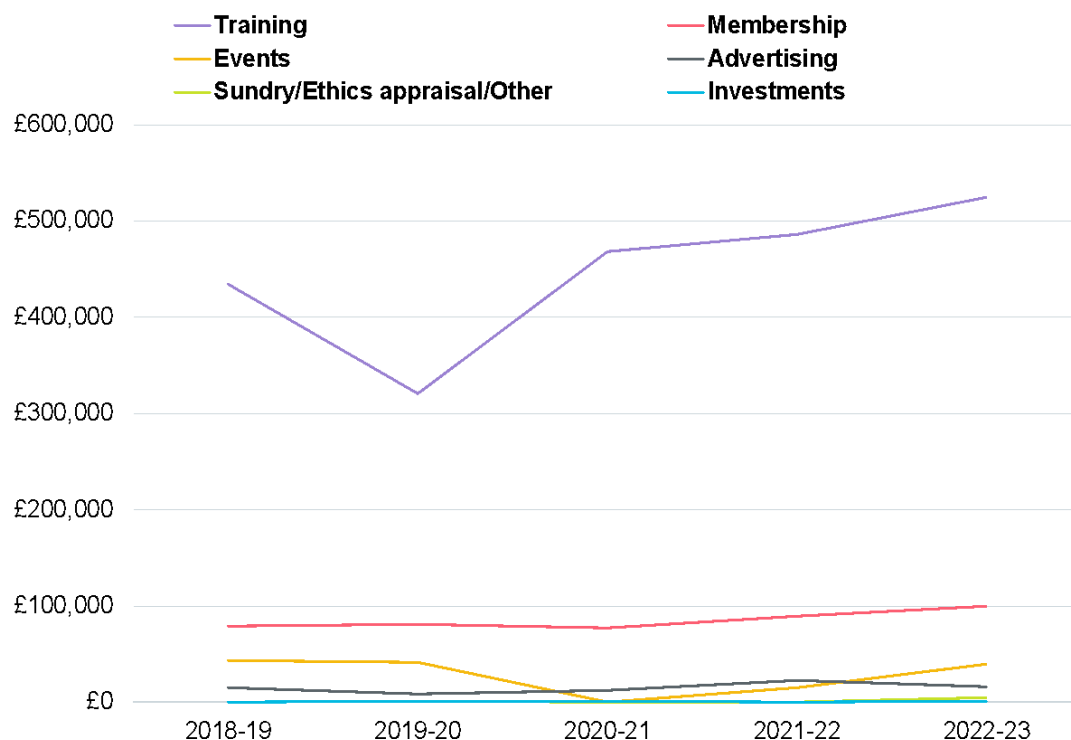
Finally, a huge thanks to the SRA staff and volunteers, with their hard work and dedication being the foundation for the strength of the organisation. Extra thanks are due to two trustees who completed their terms of service during this year: Nigel Meager, our Treasurer, and Isabella Pereira, who led on EDI initiatives, and oversaw training.

Treasurer's report - Kirstie Hewlett

The SRA has continued to grow over the past year, increasing its annual income by £71,398 to generate a total income of £683,532. This reflects a pattern of growth similar to 2021/22, with our income growing at a rate of 10-12% each year.

Membership income has shown marginally higher rates of growth compared to training (8% vs 12% growth relative to 2021-22, respectively). Events have also become a more prominent income stream in 2022-23 following the return of in-person events, with income levels now recovered to pre-COVID levels. Advertising income via the jobs board is the only core income stream that has gone down relative to 2021-22.

SRA income streams over time



The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

That we are seeing growth in all of these areas points to a positive position from the charity's traditional sources of income. Diversifying from these sources of income where realistic and fitting with our overall objectives will be a focus for SRA trustees over the coming years, to reduce our reliance on income from a single source (ie. training courses).

Alongside this pattern of growth, there has been a notable jump in expenditure in 2022-23. This is for a variety of reasons:

The organisation has grown: in August 2022 we hired an Operations Manager to support the Chief Executive in delivering day-to-day operations and continued organisational growth. The SRA has also commissioned a governance review to take stock of our current processes, incurring a one-off cost to support this work.

Inflation: operating costs have been impacted by inflation. In particular, trustees voted to increase staff salaries (the charity's main operating expense) in line with inflation to reflect the rising cost of living, and we have also seen costs increase for expenditure around IT services, accounting and insurance.

Increased cost of sales (ie expenditure directly incurred through the provision of training, membership and events): expenditure linked to cost of sales was notably higher in 2022-23 than in recent years. This was largely driven by the resumption of in-person events and a one-off royalty payment paid to trainers who had developed online content during the pandemic.

Designated funds: We have begun implementing plans for reducing the amount of money the SRA holds in reserves through designated funds projects (previously this type of expenditure has been considered as an ongoing programme cost – more on this below).

As a result, the SRA's operating expenses are now around 25% higher than they were in 2022-23, and cost of sales 50% higher.

Providing that it is carefully managed and appropriate, increasing our expenditure to enable growth is a positive step. Firstly, the increase in operational expenditure means that the SRA has reduced the scale of surplus it generates annually (£30,386 at end of this year), meaning that we are moving towards a more sustainable operating model where growth is adequately resourced.

Secondly, increasing expenditure on one-off projects over a short-term is important, given the need to reduce the level of reserves held by the organisation. The SRA had made significant surpluses over the previous two years (in the region of £120-£130k) owing to changes to the business model during the COVID pandemic (ie shifting to remove forms of delivery). This has enabled the SRA to build up considerable reserves. According to our reserves policy (retaining 9-12 months of operating expenses in reserve), the level of reserves we hold are now roughly double what is needed: at the end of the 2022-23 financial year, the SRA holds £487,067 in reserves.

As a charity, we recognise the importance of reinvesting this money to the benefit of the social research community. Throughout this year, the trustees have worked closely with the Chief Executive and Operations Manager to develop a plan for committing around half of the funds held in reserves to designated funds, to reduce the reserves in line with our current reserves policy. This is an exciting opportunity to invest in one-off programmes of work at a scale that wouldn't be possible through general funds.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Through a consultative process, we have identified two priority areas of work that we will initially focus on delivering with these funds: equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI); and scoping work into whether developing a community hub is viable. We anticipate that both programmes of work will begin to be delivered from 2023/24, across 3-4 years. The EDI programme will focus on continuance of previous work, whereas the first year of work in the community strand will be focused on scoping the requirement with members.

In future years we expect to be reporting a deficit as the designated funds programmes begin to incur spending. However, given the turbulence of the current economic situation we will proceed with caution: spending of designated funds will be closely monitored by trustees at board meetings and reviewed in detail at least twice annually. This will give us flexibility to pivot if new priorities emerge or to adapt if we begin to see changes in the pattern of growth in previous years.

The Trustees' view is that the SRA's finances have been well and efficiently managed by the Chief Executive and his team, and have generated opportunities to support ambitious new programmes of work that will make a difference to the social research community.

Training – Beth Moon

The SRA's training courses are a significant means to fulfilling the organisation's aim of promoting and upholding high standards in social research. They are also an important source of revenue.

In this financial year 143 courses ran online, a number very similar to last year's total, with 1,843 attendees compared to 1,940 last year. In the spring two courses took place at a physical venue, and more have continued to be delivered in-person. This is a welcome return for both trainers and many attendees, although it is clear that online training is here to stay, with strong ongoing demand for this mode of delivery.

We have continued to ensure our training offer remains cutting edge and relevant, with a number of new courses running this year. These have included Creative Data Analysis, Introduction to Embodied Enquiry, Positionality and Reflexivity in Qualitative Research, and Making the Most of Your Research Journal. And as described in the section on EDI, a new course on inclusive practice in social research has been commissioned following a call for expressions of interest.

Our success in delivering training to members and the wider profession this year is due to the hard work and dedication of the trainers, who have continued to innovate to find new ways to ensure online course delivery remains engaging. Huge thanks are also due to training manager Lindsay Adams for all her hard work in organising and supporting the courses.

Membership – Gillian Prior

SRA membership is open to all individuals in the UK and elsewhere, and members are found in a wide range of sectors and organisations, including central and local government and other public bodies, research agencies and institutes, charities, academia, and independent consultants. The varied nature of the membership in terms of employment sector is seen by trustees as a strength of the SRA, providing services to researchers across a wide range of settings.

We were pleased to see another increase in members this year, from 1,329 in July last year to 1,405 this July. Thanks are due to Gabrielle Elward, membership administrator, for her dedicated work in a busy time.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

In early 2023 we hosted focus groups on various topics including membership. One of the aims of these groups was to identify avenues of support the SRA could offer members to respond to significant changes in the social research sector. One suggestion was that the SRA might leverage the collective buying power of our membership to negotiate discounts on essential services. With the support of suppliers, we were able to agree exclusive discounts on insurance offerings, books and research software from three different suppliers.

These groups were also helpful in identifying a need for the SRA to further invest in community offerings to members. With the move to online, members identified feeling more disconnected from the research community. Investment has now been earmarked to develop the SRA's offerings in these areas and bring the social research community closer together.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - Lee Chan

The SRA has remained committed to driving diversity and promoting inclusion within the UK social research sector and are pleased to have taken meaningful action over the 2022-2023 financial year.

A key action identified was to review our internal practices and culture, to essentially "get our own house in order", before switching to a more external focus. We brought in external EDI experts The Social Investment Consultancy to carry out a rigorous audit reporting to us in February 2023.

The report outlined work to be done and set out an EDI action plan, with clear actions to drive improvement around five core areas spanning our internal culture, external partnerships, communications, our service offering and our EDI vision.

To ensure delivery of the action plan, an SRA Diversity and Inclusion work group was created, comprised of SRA trustees and senior staff. Work on delivering these actions is underway and will continue into 2024 and beyond.

One particular area of the plan which is well progressed is in our commissioning of an expert training provider to deliver foundational training on inclusive working practices and inclusive communications. This course will be delivered to SRA staff in November 2023.

The SRA have been able to take actions to help improve the inclusivity and diverse representation of our online content, including a review of imagery used across our website with more substantial actions planned for 2024.

We have also made a concerted effort to feature a wider cross-section of researchers in our blogs and to feature more articles on inclusive research and EDI in the workplace. We are currently working with Colour of Research (CoRe) to produce blog posts on a variety of topics as part of this effort. Similarly, we have been keen to ensure that articles on inclusive research and EDI in the workplace in our newsletter and journal. The Autumn 2023 edition of Research Matters featured a double spread on key influencers' thoughts on EDI in the social research sector.

Moving to the SRA's external impact, the development and delivery of an Inclusive Social Research Practice course was identified as a key priority for 2023. We advertised for a suitable delivery partner through an open call which led to 27 expressions of interest to deliver the course from a wide range of experts. After a robust process, a partner with extensive expertise on the subject has been commissioned and the course is expected to open in early 2024. Resources to support our trainers deliver more inclusive and accessible courses have also been identified as a priority for 2024.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Proactive efforts have been made to network and collaborate with external organisations to promote wider and fairer access to the social research sector. For example, we have supported Social Researchers of Colour (SRoC) at their early careers event hosted at Kantar Public, contributed to the MRS' first EDI summit this year and have been advising on the new apprenticeship scheme for GSR .

There is much more to do in the EDI space and we look forward to doing this in partnership with like-minded organisations and individuals across the sector.

Research ethics – Martina Vojtkova

The SRA's [Ethics Appraisal Service](#) launched in 2022, with the aim of giving organisations and individuals who wish to have an independent ethical review of their research proposals, and can't access this another way. A small team of knowledgeable researchers (who are also volunteers on the SRA Ethics Forum) form ad-hoc committees to review project plans. This is not a REC (Research Ethics Committee) and it doesn't formally 'approve' research proposals. But it can offer a 'favourable opinion' or make suggestions for improvement. The appraisers are paid, so there is a charge to use the service.

This year has seen an upsurge in use of the service, with 8 appraisals carried out for a range of clients. The feedback from users has been very positive.

The Ethics Appraisal Service forms part of SRA's wider work to enhance the ethical awareness and conduct of social research and complements the SRA's other ethics services, including our freely available [guidance](#) and the [ethics forum](#) for members.

SRA Cymru branch – Rachel Hughes

Webinars

The SRA's programme of webinars continues to prove a useful way to share learning, practice, and insights, and provide opportunities for early career researchers to present ideas in a supportive space.

The SRA Cymru branch has had the privilege to host a couple of excellent webinars this year. In March 2023, we welcomed Dr Tegan Brierley-Sollis from Wrexham University to explore the emerging trauma-informed culture within the North Wales Youth Justice Service. She talked through the challenges of embedding a trauma-informed culture into a justice setting, as well as the benefits this shift may have on both children accessing the service and staff working within the service. We had 30 people in attendance from all over the UK. We also had an attendee from the University of California. The webinar was recorded and can be seen [here](#) on the Social Research Association's YouTube channel.

In April 2023, we held a webinar about *Lleisiau Bach – Little Voices*, a Lottery-funded project which supported research teams of children in schools and communities throughout Wales to bring about change and to contribute to policy and decision-making on issues that are important to them. Over 100 local and national child-led projects were supported, deploying, and developing a methodology rooted in the UNCRC and participatory action research.

The webinar was delivered by the *Lleisiau Bach* team – Professor Jane Williams, Swansea University, Helen Dale, West Glamorgan Regional Partnership, and Arwyn Roberts, Bangor University. They explained the methodology and its potential application within social research and professional practice.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

We had 70 people from across the UK join us on the webinar. There were a lot of questions and engagement. It was clear that this is a topic that resonated with people. The webinar can be viewed [here](#).

It is our intention to continue to develop and enhance our events offer for the social research community in Wales (and beyond) over the course of 2023-24.

Advising

This year we were invited to attend a Roundtable at SPARC (Cardiff University's Social Science Research Park) exploring the development of an evidence-informed system in Wales. We had a very interesting discussion exploring the role of institutions and citizens in evidence and knowledge creation, the capacity and capability within organisations to undertake social research and analyse data, the purpose of evidence, championing good practice of where evidence is used to inform policy and practice. There was a desire to continue the discussion and open it up to a much broader set of people.

London events - Rosie McLeod

After the Covid pandemic caused the annual conference to be cancelled (2020) and held online only (2021), we decided to move the timing to summer, and held the conference face to face in June 2023, at the Royal College of Physicians in London. It was a very successful event with over 300 delegates from across the UK, and keynote talks from Catherine Hutchinson (UK government Evaluation Task Force), Robert Cuffe (BBC), Ralph Scott (University of Manchester) and Professor Heidi Safia Mirza (UCL and Goldsmiths).

In October 2022 Professor Rosie Campbell delivered the Roger Jowell annual memorial lecture, organised by NatCen Social Research, City University and SRA, on the topic of 'Exposing the gender pay gap: why women voters will decide the next election'.

At the Cathie Marsh lecture in January 2023, presentations from NatCen, Ipsos, Kantar Public and ONS focused on the impact of the pandemic on data collection methods.

We are very grateful to SRA staff member Monica Wright for her work on these events, and to the events group volunteers who help to plan the major ones: Caroline Smith, Sarah Cheesbrough, George Holt, Jane Simmonds, Jen Jones, and Sophie Wilson.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Jennifer Brooks
	Diarmid Campbell-Jack
	Lee Chan
	Daniel Clay
	Naomi Day
	Kirstie Hewlett (appointed 2 February 2023)
	Rachel Hughes
	Martina Lewis
	Rosie McLeod
	Ailbhe McNabola
	Nigel Meager (resigned 2 February 2023)
	Beth Moon
	Isabella Coelho Pereira (resigned 2 February 2023)
	Gillian Prior
	Daniel Stunell
Secretary:	Graham Farrant

Statement of Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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.

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

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 24 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Ailbhe McNabola
Trustee

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Social Research Association ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. 13 26

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The Social Research Association you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Social Research Association are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Social Research Association's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Social Research Association as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Kirsty Nicholls FCCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

Date:.....

The Social Research Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary income	3	99,752	99,752	88,886	88,886
Charitable activities	4	583,252	583,252	522,945	522,945
Investment income	5	<u>528</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>303</u>
Total income		<u>683,532</u>	<u>683,532</u>	<u>612,134</u>	<u>612,134</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(653,146)</u>	<u>(653,146)</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(653,146)</u>	<u>(653,146)</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>
Net movement in funds		30,386	30,386	131,130	131,130
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>456,681</u>	<u>456,681</u>	<u>325,551</u>	<u>325,551</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u><u>487,067</u></u>	<u><u>487,067</u></u>	<u><u>456,681</u></u>	<u><u>456,681</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 16.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

(Registration number: 06407985)

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	994	797
Current assets			
Debtors	12	35,751	42,545
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>551,213</u>	<u>527,794</u>
		586,964	570,339
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(100,891)</u>	<u>(114,455)</u>
Net current assets		<u>486,073</u>	<u>455,884</u>
Net assets		<u>487,067</u>	<u>456,681</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>487,067</u>	<u>456,681</u>
Total funds	16	<u>487,067</u>	<u>456,681</u>

For the financial year ending 31 July 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 26 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 24 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Ailbhe McNabola
Trustee

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		30,386	131,130
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,146	1,722
Investment income		<u>(528)</u>	<u>(304)</u>
		31,004	132,548
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	12	6,794	(11,756)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	14	(1,772)	651
Decrease in deferred income		<u>(11,792)</u>	<u>(15,495)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>24,234</u>	<u>105,948</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		528	303
Acquisitions of tangible assets		(1,343)	-
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets		<u>-</u>	<u>161</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(815)</u>	<u>464</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		23,419	106,412
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		<u>527,794</u>	<u>421,382</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		<u><u>551,213</u></u>	<u><u>527,794</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

9 Hare & Billet Road

London

SE3 0RB

[Authorised for issue date](#)

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line basis
IT equipment	33% straight line basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Sundry income	-	-	19
Membership	99,752	99,752	88,867
	<u>99,752</u>	<u>99,752</u>	<u>88,886</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Events	39,004	39,004	14,988
Ethics appraisals	3,800	3,800	-
Training courses	524,957	524,957	486,061
Advertising	15,491	15,491	21,896
	<u>583,252</u>	<u>583,252</u>	<u>522,945</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	funds	2023	2022
	General	£	£
	£		
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	528	528	303
	<u>528</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>303</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	9	216,204	171,804
Office and administration		1,148	762
Charitable donations		1,050	-
Cost of trustee meetings		5,745	4,457
Travel and subscriptions		5,601	1,723
Consultancy fees		30,850	27,657
Foreign currency (gains)/losses		299	206
Support costs	7	392,249	274,395
		653,146	481,004

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also support costs of £392,249 (2022 - £274,395) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 7 for further details.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

7 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	161
Training	290,365	200,969
Rent and rates	-	3,666
Insurance	1,710	1,541
Events	45,989	13,432
Telephone and fax	-	202
IT and website	23,758	22,973
Printing, postage and stationery	6	94
Membership costs	2,449	3,374
Sundries	1,144	966
Newsletters and Journal	14,005	14,087
Staff entertaining (allowable for tax)	885	-
Bookkeeping	568	400
Accountancy	1,108	470
Independent examination	2,898	2,706
Bank charges	6,220	6,913
Depreciation of office equipment	1,144	1,722
Advertising	-	719
	392,249	274,395

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

£697 (2022: £862) of expenses were reimbursed to the trustees for travel expenses relating to Trustees Away Day during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	197,938	158,691
Staff NIC (Employers)	15,190	11,011
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	3,076	2,102
	<u>216,204</u>	<u>171,804</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Charitable activities	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

4 (2022 - 3) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The chief executive officer, as the highest paid member of staff, received benefits totalling £54,318 (2022 - £51,767).

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 August 2022	5,163	5,163
Additions	1,342	1,342
At 31 July 2023	6,505	6,505
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2022	4,365	4,365
Charge for the year	1,146	1,146
At 31 July 2023	5,511	5,511
Net book value		
At 31 July 2023	994	994
At 31 July 2022	798	798

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	19,906	25,550
Prepayments	15,845	16,809
Other debtors	-	186
	35,751	42,545

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	551,113	527,694
	551,213	527,794

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,770	5,259
Other taxation and social security	5,131	3,243
Other creditors	609	900
Accruals	2,898	2,778
Deferred income	90,483	102,275
	<u>100,891</u>	<u>114,455</u>

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,288 (2022 - £2,069).

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2023 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>456,681</u>	<u>683,532</u>	<u>(653,146)</u>	<u>487,067</u>
	Balance at 1 August 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2022 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>325,551</u>	<u>612,134</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>456,681</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	994	994
Current assets	586,964	586,964
Current liabilities	(100,891)	(100,891)
Total net assets	<u>487,067</u>	<u>487,067</u>

Prior year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	797	797
Current assets	570,339	570,339
Current liabilities	(114,455)	(114,455)
Total net assets	<u>456,681</u>	<u>456,681</u>

Accounts

Company registration number: 06407985

Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

The Social Research Association

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 10
Independent Examiner's Report	11 to 12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 to 26

The Social Research Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Jennifer Brooks
	Diarmid Campbell-Jack
	Lee Chan
	Daniel Clay
	Naomi Day
	Rachel Hughes
	Martina Lewis
	Rosie McLeod
	Ailbhe McNabola
	Nigel Meager
	Beth Moon
	Isabella Coelho Pereira
	Gillian Prior
	Daniel Stunell
Charity Registration Number	1123940
Company Registration Number	06407985
Registered Office	9 Hare & Billet Road London SE3 ORB
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road London SE3 ORB
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc
	Co-operative Bank plc
	Bank of Scotland plc
	Allied Irish Bank

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 July 2022 have been prepared in compliance with current statutory requirements, Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011; and with the charity's governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Social Research Association is an educational charity, whose purpose is to uphold high standards in the conduct, development, and application of social research for the benefit of the public interest, and to advance knowledge and professional practice in the social research field.

Social research aims to provide the public, the government, and a wide range of public and charitable bodies with reliable information about key aspects of life in the UK, under a range of topic headings: education, health and wellbeing, employment, housing, transport, and many more.

To support the social research industry in meeting these aims, the SRA undertakes three main activities:

Providing training courses on a wide range of research-related topics, so that researchers and research users are equipped to apply high standards in their professional work.

Providing guidance on, for example, the ethical standards to apply in the conduct of research, such as ensuring that when members of the public participate in research projects, their rights are upheld and their data is protected.

Providing publications and events, so that researchers and research users can share good practice and learn about new developments in the field.

The trustees of the SRA have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The SRA is a company limited by guarantee, and the governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees' contributions

Chairs' report - Ailbhe McNabola and Diarmid Campbell-Jack

This financial year has continued the growth seen last year. Our financial situation has continued to improve, demand for our membership and training provision remains strong, and work in other core areas has continued. Despite the possible financial downturn, we are in a position to invest in future activities to promote our charitable objectives, and recent work on the SRA strategy will provide a framework so we focus on where we can make the most important difference.

As noted in the Treasurer's report, the SRA finished the 2021-22 financial year with a surplus of £131,000, an increase over the £121,000 in the previous year. As seen last year, this positive financial picture is largely due to the success of our training and membership offers. Our financial situation means we can continue to meet our core aims, while mitigating against any possible downturn in income due to possible recession.

A major part of our work in the last 12 months has been updating and developing our strategic thinking. The trustees have identified four priority areas (training, membership, diversity and inclusion, early careers researchers) and are working with SRA staff to plan clear actions in these areas over the next few months. This work will ensure a strategic direction for the immediate future, with delivery plans that can be implemented.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

We now have more SRA members than ever before, with membership increasing from 1,329 to 1,405. We are currently investigating how we can continue to improve what we offer to members so that they benefit as much as possible from the opportunities the SRA can provide.

The SRA training offer has been just as popular this year as last year, with similar numbers of courses and attendees. New courses have been developed and delivered to meet the changing needs of researchers. Online courses have continued to be important, testing out face-to-face delivery as we move back to a pre-pandemic situation. We will continue to test and monitor the success of our training so we deliver the best training in the most appropriate way to meet the needs of potential attendees.

Last year the SRA undertook vital work on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). This led to opportunities in the last 12 months to work in partnership across the sector with other organisations, so we can maximise our input on this issue. We are working with the Market Research Society (MRS) to obtain grant funding to support researchers in mainstreaming EDI, and have supported the Social Researchers of Colour (SRoC) network. We are embedding EDI in the SRA practices, with an audit being commissioned which will lead to concrete actions for us as an organisation. A recent focus in our publications has been covering EDI issues and we would encourage members to get in touch with articles or ideas on this key theme.

We have continued to successfully develop our local SRA branches in Scotland, Cymru, and the North and are looking to provide more of the face-to-face opportunities members welcome and were put on hold during the pandemic.

Our 2022 online conference was a huge success, with a wide variety of speakers, more attendees than expected, and very positive feedback. For the first time in four years, our next conference will once again be face-to-face, providing the networking opportunities and personal links that members appreciate. We've moved the conference from the usual December timeslot, with the event planned to take place at the Royal College of Physicians in London on June 15th.

We would like to warmly thank SRA trustees Nigel Meager and Isabella Pereira, who are retiring this year after completing the maximum of six years of service on the board.

As Honorary Treasurer, Nigel has led the Board's discussions of finance, and his support, advice and guidance have been invaluable. Nigel played a vital role in helping the SRA not just navigate the pandemic, but emerge from lockdown in a very sound financial position.

Isabella revived and led the advocacy group of trustees and staff, ensuring its close engagement with other membership organisations in our sector to discuss issues of mutual interest. In recent years diversity and inclusion became a major focus of this group, including the SRA's commissioning of a major research project from The Young Foundation.

Finally, a huge thanks to the SRA staff and trustees. The last twelve months have seen a lot of hard work to continue delivering high-quality services during a challenging environment. Our financial position, new strategic developments, and the concrete actions outlined in this report are testament to their efforts. The SRA provides incredibly valuable work, and plays a crucial role in the social research sector. Without our staff and trustees this would not be possible.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Treasurer's report - Nigel Meager

Once again, the SRA had a positive year financially in 2021/22, with all its main income streams growing or remaining stable compared with the previous years, while there was little growth in operating expenses. As in the previous year the SRA's training programme, delivered online since the advent of the Covid pandemic, remained in strong demand and this provided the majority (around two thirds) of the organisation's income. Other sources of income (the main ones being in-house training, membership subscriptions and advertising income) have, however, all grown during the year. The latter represents a positive diversification of the income base, helping to reduce the organisation's reliance on a single income stream (online training).

Total income for the year at £612,000 was almost 10 per cent higher than the previous year. Looking briefly at the main components of this income:

- Online training courses produced £486,000 of income, an increase of 4 per cent on the previous year (£468,000). This was mainly from public courses but also included income from courses provided in-house to large organisations.
- Membership subscriptions at £98,000 were 21 per cent higher than the previous year);
- The online annual conference raised £15,000 of income (there was no annual conference in the previous year, due to the Covid pandemic); and
- Advertising income (from the job vacancies board on the SRA website) at £22,000 grew significantly by 45% cent over the previous year.

The expenditure side of the accounts was broadly stable:

- The costs of delivering the organisation's activities (training, membership, events, publications, website and IT support, etc) was £274,000, slightly higher than the previous year's £269,000, but the growth in costs was less than the growth in the activities themselves, reflecting economies of scale in their delivery;
- The SRA's staff costs grew by around 6% over the previous year.

Taking these financial developments together, the net impact of a strong growth in income and largely stable costs is that the SRA again finished the 2021/22 financial year with a significant financial surplus of £131,000. This is slightly larger than the surplus for the previous year (£121,000). This is a very good outcome, and confirms that the SRA has successfully managed the turbulence generated by the Covid pandemic and the need to move most of its activities online. It leaves the SRA with some £457,000 in its reserves at year end which represents nearly two years' worth of operating costs. This is above the level specified in the Board's reserves policy. It means that, having adapted to the post-pandemic environment, the Association is well-placed to invest in meeting its members' needs and its charitable objectives, while having the resilience to face any further turbulence arising from the current economic and political uncertainty.

The Trustees' view is that the SRA's finances have been well and efficiently managed by the Chief Executive and his team and that the financial position remains robust and sustainable.

Note that figures quoted here are rounded to the nearest 1,000

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Training – Isabella Pereira

The SRA's training courses are a significant means to fulfilling the organisation's aim of promoting and upholding high standards in social research. They are also an important source of revenue.

As described in the previous two annual reports, before the COVID-19 pandemic SRA courses were delivered face-to-face, but from May 2020 courses were delivered only online. This year courses remained largely online, and this has continued all through the 2021-22 financial year.

In this financial year 143 courses ran online, a number very similar to last year's total, with 1,843 attendees compared to 1,940 last year. In the spring two courses took place at a physical venue, and we expect more in-person courses next year. This is a welcome return for both trainers and many attendees, although it is clear that online training is here to stay, with strong ongoing demand for this mode of delivery.

We have continued to ensure our training offer remains cutting edge and relevant, with a number of new courses running this year. These have included Creative Data Analysis, Introduction to Embodied Enquiry, Positionality and Reflexivity in Qualitative Research, and Making the Most of Your Research Journal.

Our success in delivering training to members and the wider profession this year is due to the hard work and dedication of the trainers, who have continued to innovate to find new ways to ensure online course delivery remains engaging. Huge thanks are also due to training manager Lindsay Adams for all her hard work in organising and supporting the courses.

Membership – Gillian Prior

SRA membership is open to all individuals in the UK and elsewhere, and members are found in a wide range of sectors and organisations, including central and local government and other public bodies, research agencies and institutes, charities, academia, and independent consultants. The varied nature of the membership in terms of employment sector is seen by trustees as a strength of the SRA, providing services to researchers across a wide range of settings.

We were pleased to see another increase in members this year, from 1,329 in July last year to 1,405 this July. Thanks are due to Gabrielle Elward, membership administrator, for her dedicated work in a busy time.

At a trustee awayday in March 2022, it was agreed that membership is one of the four key areas for development. Several options are currently being worked on, including expanding the range of member benefits, and providing online communities / special interest groups.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Lee Chan

It has been a year since the SRA replaced the advocacy committee with a new sub-group on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). During this time, we have put more focus on working in partnership with other organisations on issues of common interest.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Specifically, we are working with the Market Research Society (MRS) to obtain grant funding for an important role which aims to support research organisations/employers to:

- build inclusive recruitment tools
- harness and bring on more diverse talent
- develop more inclusive training
- and measure progress
- as well as help us to produce more challenging 'thought leadership' on EDI

We have investigated various funding streams and are taking this work to the next step with the support of a professional grant funding expert.

The SRA has also been involved in the development of the Social Researcher Apprenticeship scheme led by Government Social Research, designed to widen access to research careers and is suitable for all employers. The scheme is aimed at students with A levels who will study for a degree while working in social or policy research.

The SRA continues to support other organisations in their focused EDI work, such as Social Researchers of Colour (SROc) network - a small community for people of colour working in the social research sphere in the UK. We were delighted when they approached us to follow up the SRA/Young Foundation research we commissioned in 2021 on diverse experiences within the sector. They were keen to take one of the research report recommendations of creating a space for people to discuss how to get better diversity and improve inclusion within the industry. We were proud to lend SRA support to the 'best practice in employing diverse researchers event' in June 2022 and the outcomes have been amplified in a blog on the SRA website.

In terms of more regular content on EDI, we will be looking to invite more contributions from our membership and from research organisations and experts who's voices we want to amplify and work we want to showcase. Recent content in Research Matters magazine includes:

- Representation in research
- Research apprenticeships

More recently, we have taken an important step towards embedding good EDI practice in the work of the SRA. We have appointed EDI specialists at The Social Investment Consultancy (TSIC) to conduct an audit of what we do and to help develop an EDI plan. This will cover, but is not limited to reviewing: Training and events and other membership services; SRA external comms; how we recruit and retain staff/ trustees.

The aim is to have a clear plan we can implement, which will put us in an even stronger position to act as EDI Champions within the research industry.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Research ethics – Martina Vojtkova

This year saw the launch of the SRA Ethics Appraisal Service, designed for organisations and individuals who wish to have an independent ethical review of their research proposals, and can't access this another way. A small team of knowledgeable researchers (many are also volunteers on the SRA Ethics Forum) has been set up to appraise proposals. This is not a REC (Research Ethics Committee) and it doesn't formally 'approve' research proposals. But it can offer a 'favourable opinion' or make suggestions for improvement. The appraisers are paid, so there is a charge to use the service.

The main aims are:

- To enhance ethical awareness and conduct in research
- To advise on measures to protect all stakeholders (e.g. individuals participating in and associated with a research project, and researchers themselves) from undue risk of harm or violation of their rights
- To increase awareness of the potential benefits and risks of research

This year the research ethics forum has continued to provide advice to enquirers on a number of cases raised by members, and we are very grateful to Ron Iphofen for leading this work.

Finally, since the launch of the new SRA research ethics guidance in February 2021, some 17,000 people have visited the relevant webpage, and unique visits are averaging 600 per month.

SRA Scotland branch - Daniel Stunell

It's been a year of transition for SRA Scotland, following the retirement of SRA Chair Karen Kerr in summer 2021. SRA Scotland has benefitted hugely from Karen's leadership and commitment and we would like to thank her for her exceptionally hard work over several years. Daniel Stunell and Emma Hollywood have taken on the role of co-chairs in her place.

We have also seen changes in the rest of the committee with several members leaving as they have taken up new roles in the core careers. I'm delighted we have been able to recruit new members to maintain our coverage of organisations across government, private, and third sectors. However, this has left us with a relatively small core committee throughout most of this year, which, combined with new day jobs for some committee members, has meant the committee has been less active than we would have liked.

Nonetheless, we have supported a careers event with the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS), and explored opportunities to provide further opportunities to share experience with early career researchers. We've also started planning events for 2023.

Looking forward we propose to expand the committee membership and reach out to SRA members in Scotland to better understand what format and coverage of events they would like to see going forwards. Online events proved a quick and effective solution to the enforced circumstances of 2020 and 2021, and enabled a greater reach for events than ever before, but we would also like to test people's appetite for a return to the occasional face to face event as well. We will also be looking to expand our digital presence on Twitter and LinkedIn, which have not been avenues SRA Scotland has previously explored proactively.

A huge thank you is due to everyone who has found time amongst their other commitments to be a part of the SRA Scotland committee this year.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

SRA Cymru branch – Rachel Hughes

It's been a relatively quiet year for SRA Cymru this year... but we have lots in motion and planned for this next year.

Having said that, we did put a 'call-out' to our Wales-based membership to ask if anyone was interested in supporting the community of social researchers in Wales to develop events, enable networking opportunities and to make sure that as a branch we're meeting people's needs. We were pleased that a few people stepped forward and we have some ideas that we're taking forward, including physical and virtual events, opportunities to network, share and learn from each other, and increasing the content from Wales in the SRA's publications.

We were thrilled to have a stand at WISERD's annual conference in July. This year it was held in Swansea University and the theme was Civic Society and Participation: issues of equality, identity, and cohesion in a changing social landscape. It was a great opportunity for the SRA to champion what we do and why and to explore opportunities for collaboration. We also developed a short questionnaire for delegates to share their ideas about how the SRA can support them and social research in Wales and to tell us what the best thing is about being a social researcher. The output from this is helping to shape and steer our programme of activity in Wales. The questionnaire is still open for people to share their ideas. We very much look forward to a vibrant year ahead.

London events – Rosie McLeod

The annual conference in November 2021 was held online, the first SRA conference not held in person. It attracted over 300 attendees from across the sector, with keynote talks from Sir Ian Diamond (National Statistician), Sarah Castell (CEO of Involve) and Jane Elliott (Professor of Sociology at Exeter University). There was a strong focus on diversity and inclusion, with new 'in conversation' sessions and a special guest speaker Joan C. Williams, author of 'Bias Interrupted'.

The programme of webinars continued in spring 2022, with sessions from Demos on polling, SRA North on archives in social research, and The Young Foundation on what works in peer research.

September 2021 saw the eighth Roger Jowell annual memorial lecture, organised by NatCen Social Research, City University and SRA, delivered by Paul Johnson of the IFS, looked at how inequalities have been affected by the Covid pandemic.

We are very grateful to SRA staff member Monica Wright for her work on these events, and to the events group volunteers who help to plan the major ones: Caroline Smith, George Holt, Jane Barrett, Jane Simmonds, Jen Jones, and Sophie Wilson.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

Jennifer Brooks
Diarmid Campbell-Jack
Lee Chan
Daniel Clay
Naomi Day
Rachel Hughes
Martina Lewis
Rosie McLeod
Ailbhe McNabola
Nigel Meager
Beth Moon
Isabella Coelho Pereira
Gillian Prior
Daniel Stunell (appointed 1 February 2022)

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Statement of Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can 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.

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

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 6 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Ailbhe McNabola
Trustee

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Social Research Association ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. 13 26

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of The Social Research Association you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Social Research Association are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Social Research Association's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Social Research Association as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association ('the Company')

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Timothy Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
London
SE3 0RB

Date:.....

The Social Research Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary income	3	88,886	88,886	77,306	77,306
Charitable activities	4	522,945	522,945	480,051	480,051
Investment income	5	<u>303</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>1,058</u>	<u>1,058</u>
Total income		<u>612,134</u>	<u>612,134</u>	<u>558,415</u>	<u>558,415</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>
Net movement in funds		131,130	131,130	121,118	121,118
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>325,551</u>	<u>325,551</u>	<u>204,433</u>	<u>204,433</u>
Total funds carried forward	17	<u><u>456,681</u></u>	<u><u>456,681</u></u>	<u><u>325,551</u></u>	<u><u>325,551</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 17.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

(Registration number: 06407985)

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	797	2,679
Current assets			
Debtors	12	42,545	30,789
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>527,794</u>	<u>421,382</u>
		570,339	452,171
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(114,455)</u>	<u>(129,299)</u>
Net current assets		<u>455,884</u>	<u>322,872</u>
Net assets		<u>456,681</u>	<u>325,551</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>456,681</u>	<u>325,551</u>
Total funds	17	<u>456,681</u>	<u>325,551</u>

For the financial year ending 31 July 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 26 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 6 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Ailbhe McNabola
Trustee

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		131,130	121,118
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,722	1,773
Investment income	5	(303)	(1,058)
Rounding		(1)	1
		<u>132,548</u>	<u>121,834</u>
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in debtors	12	(11,756)	(1,431)
Increase in creditors	14	651	6,041
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income		<u>(15,495)</u>	<u>16,853</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>105,948</u>	<u>143,297</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	303	1,058
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11	-	(2,598)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		<u>161</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>464</u>	<u>(1,540)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		106,412	141,757
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		<u>421,382</u>	<u>279,625</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		<u><u>527,794</u></u>	<u><u>421,382</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

9 Hare & Billet Road

London

SE3 0RB

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 6 December 2022.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line basis
IT equipment	33% straight line basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Sundry income	19	19	140
Membership	88,867	88,867	77,166
	<u>88,886</u>	<u>88,886</u>	<u>77,306</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Events	14,988	14,988	-
Training courses	486,061	486,061	467,874
Advertising	21,896	21,896	12,177
	<u>522,945</u>	<u>522,945</u>	<u>480,051</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	funds	2022	2021
	General	£	£
	£		
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	303	303	1,058
	<u>303</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>1,058</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	9	171,804	160,808
Office and administration		762	-
Charitable donations		-	1,000
Cost of trustee meetings		4,457	24
Travel and subscriptions		1,723	1,526
Consultancy fees		27,657	4,460
Foreign currency (gains)/losses		206	779
Support costs	7	<u>274,395</u>	<u>268,700</u>
		<u>481,004</u>	<u>437,297</u>

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also support costs of £274,395 (2021 - £268,700) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 7 for further details.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

7 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	161	-
Training	200,969	189,945
Rent and rates	3,666	21,996
Insurance	1,541	1,114
Events	13,432	735
Telephone and fax	202	929
IT and website	22,973	23,846
Printing, postage and stationery	94	61
Membership costs	3,374	3,857
Sundries	966	2,376
Newsletters and Journal	14,087	12,042
Bookkeeping	400	720
Accountancy	470	120
Independent examination	2,706	2,526
Bank charges	6,913	6,660
Depreciation of office equipment	1,722	1,773
Advertising	719	-
	274,395	268,700

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

£862 (2021: £Nil) of expenses were reimbursed to the trustees for travel expenses relating to Trustees Away Day during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	158,691	148,545
Staff NIC (Employers)	11,011	10,194
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	2,102	2,069
	<u>171,804</u>	<u>160,808</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Charitable activities	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

3 (2021 - 3) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The chief executive officer, as the highest paid member of staff, received benefits totalling £51,767 (2021 - £49,351).

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 August 2021	12,641	12,641
Disposals	<u>(7,477)</u>	<u>(7,477)</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>5,164</u>	<u>5,164</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2021	9,961	9,961
Charge for the year	1,722	1,722
Eliminated on disposals	<u>(7,316)</u>	<u>(7,316)</u>
At 31 July 2022	<u>4,367</u>	<u>4,367</u>
Net book value		
At 31 July 2022	<u>797</u>	<u>797</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>2,680</u>	<u>2,680</u>

12 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	25,550	22,539
Prepayments	16,809	2,750
Other debtors	<u>186</u>	<u>5,500</u>
	<u>42,545</u>	<u>30,789</u>

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	<u>527,694</u>	<u>421,282</u>
	<u>527,794</u>	<u>421,382</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	5,259	5,046
Other taxation and social security	3,243	3,561
Other creditors	900	396
Accruals	2,778	2,526
Deferred income	102,275	117,770
	<u>114,455</u>	<u>129,299</u>

15 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Land and buildings		
Within one year	<u>-</u>	<u>3,667</u>

16 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,288 (2021 - £2,069).

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2022 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>325,551</u>	<u>612,134</u>	<u>(481,004)</u>	<u>456,681</u>
	Balance at 1 August 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2021 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>204,433</u>	<u>558,415</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>325,551</u>

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	797	797
Current assets	570,339	570,339
Current liabilities	<u>(114,455)</u>	<u>(114,455)</u>
Total net assets	<u>456,681</u>	<u>456,681</u>

Prior year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,679	2,679
Current assets	452,171	452,171
Current liabilities	<u>(129,299)</u>	<u>(129,299)</u>
Total net assets	<u>325,551</u>	<u>325,551</u>

19 COVID

The financial impact of COVID on the SRA was minimal in this financial year, with staff working at home and online training course delivery continuing to thrive. The main impact was that it was not possible to organise an in-person annual conference.

Accounts

Company registration number: 06407985

Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
SE10 8RF

The Social Research Association

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 10
Independent Examiner's Report	11 to 12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Statement of Cash Flows	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 to 27

The Social Research Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Dr Vicki Marie Belt
	Jennifer Brooks
	Diarmid Campbell-Jack
	Lee Chan
	Daniel Clay
	Naomi Day
	Jane Evans
	Rachel Hughes
	Karen Kerr
	Martina Lewis
	Rosie McLeod
	Ailbhe McNabola
	Nigel Meager
	Beth Moon
	Isabella Coelho Pereira
Principal Office	Gillian Prior
	c/o CILIP
	7 Ridgmount Street WC1E 7AE
Registered Office	70 Royal Hill
	Greenwich
	London
	SE10 8RF
Company Registration Number	06407985
Charity Registration Number	1123940
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc
	Co-operative Bank plc
	Bank of Scotland plc
	Allied Irish Bank
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited
	70 Royal Hill
	Greenwich
	SE10 8RF

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 July 2021.

The Social Research Association is an educational charity, whose purpose is to uphold high standards in the conduct, development and application of social research for the benefit of the public interest, and to advance knowledge and professional practice in this field.

Social research aims to provide the public, the government, and a wide range of public and charitable bodies with reliable information about key aspects of life in the UK, under a range of topic headings: education, health and wellbeing, employment, housing, transport, and many more.

The main activities undertaken by the SRA to achieve its purpose are:

Providing training courses on a wide range of research-related topics, so that researchers and research users are equipped to apply high standards in their professional work.

Providing guidance on, for example, the ethical standards to apply in the conduct of research, such as ensuring that when members of the public participate in research projects, their rights are upheld and their data is protected.

Providing publications and events, so that researchers and research users can share good practice and learn about new developments in the field.

The trustees of the SRA have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The SRA is a company limited by guarantee, and the governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The maximum term of service for trustees is 6 years. New trustees are recruited by inviting all members to consider applying via an online application form that specifies the experience and capabilities that are sought, and the responsibilities of trusteeship. Applicants are reviewed and selected by a subgroup of existing trustees including a Chair, and the chief executive. Appointments are provisional until they are voted on by members at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' contributions

Chair's report - Ailbhe McNabola and Diarmid Campbell - Jack

Whereas last financial year was a year of contrasts, this financial year has been a year of consolidation and growth, placing us in a strong financial situation and in a position to make investments in future activities to promote our charitable objectives.

As noted in the Treasurer's report, the SRA finished the financial year with a large surplus of £121,000, compared to a small deficit in the previous year. This positive financial picture is largely due to the success of our training and membership offers.

SRA training has continued to thrive this year, with online courses proving very popular. The 148 courses held this year is a record, around 50% more than were delivered in the previous financial year. Most of the people attending training are UK-based, although the highly-accessible nature of online training has also attracted attendees from every continent. Membership has also grown this year after a small dip last year, and the SRA now has over 1,400 members, which is also a record.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

2021 saw the fruition of many years of planning for major research into diversity and inclusion among UK social researchers. The research was conducted for the SRA by The Young Foundation, and resulted in a ground-breaking report. This has been followed up by further dissemination including webinars, talks to key stakeholders and social media activity. Thanks and congratulations are due in particular to trustee Isabella Pereira, who has worked tirelessly on this initiative.

Another highlight has been the publication of fully updated and revised SRA ethics guidance, following considerable development work. This was another longstanding goal achieved this year, ensuring the SRA is contributing to high standards in research. This updated guidance is vital, with the previous version having been widely used and referenced since its original publication in the 1980s. We are very grateful to the volunteer members who contributed to the new version.

Unfortunately it was not possible to run the SRA annual conference due to COVID. However, an online conference is scheduled to return in the 2021-2022 financial year, with an excellent line-up of speakers and activities planned. We currently plan to run an in-person conference again the following financial year.

Our local branches in Scotland, Cymru, and the North have all remained highly active despite the pandemic, providing opportunities for social researchers to meet and take part in online and face to face events. A wide range of other events have been run, including the Roger Jowell memorial lecture, online seminars, and the well-attended national launch of our research on diversity and inclusion report.

The hard work of SRA staff and trustees during this period has put us in a positive position to deliver against our charitable aims. At the time of writing, plans are in place to build upon our strengths in training and our membership offer so we can continue to promote high quality standards of research, and represent, support, connect and inform our members and the wider social research community.

Finally, we would like to thank David Johnson for his work as chair of the SRA Board of Trustees. David stepped down during the 2020-2021 financial year, having completed a little more than his allotted six years as a trustee. David's support, advice and guidance were invaluable, not least in ensuring the SRA emerged from the pandemic in a strengthened position.

Treasurer's report - Nigel Meager

In financial terms, 2020/21, the first full year since the onset of the Covid pandemic, was an extremely successful one for the SRA. Following the rapid switch to online delivery of training courses (which provide the SRA's largest income source) at the beginning of the pandemic, the SRA was able to consolidate and grow this training programme during 2020/21 and, as noted elsewhere in this report, demand for these courses remained very strong.

For the year as a whole, total training income (mainly from public open courses, but including an element from courses provided in-house to large organisations, which also grew) was just under £468,000, some 31 per cent higher than the previous year.

The second main stream of income, from membership subscriptions, at £77,000, was slightly below the 2019/20 level, while advertising income (from job vacancy advertising) grew from around £8000 to just over £12,000 year on year.

This year's income also included £20,000 of funding from external organisations contributing to the major study of diversity and inclusion in the social research sector which we commissioned and published during the year (please see Advocacy update for details).

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The net impact of these positive developments was that total year end income, at £558,000, was 22 per cent higher than the previous year.

On the expenditure side of the accounts, the picture was one of stability:

- The costs of delivering the training programme (mainly the fees paid to trainers and associated administrative costs) were at £190,000 very similar to those of the previous year (£179,000), despite the considerable growth in training provision over the period.
- Similarly, the organisation's operating expenses, including in particular, staff salaries, office rental costs, IT support and website costs, and other ongoing costs associated with running the Association, recorded very little change over the year.

It is also worth noting that, exceptionally, this year did not include any costs or income associated with running the SRA's annual conference, which did not take place due to the pandemic.

The overall impact of these developments (strong growth in income and static costs) is that the SRA finished the 2020/21 financial year with a significant financial surplus of £121,000. This compares with a small deficit for the previous year. Given the turbulence in the external environment during the year, and the fact that in the prior year the SRA has had to rapidly (and successfully) adjust its service delivery to a largely online model, this is, in the view of the Trustees, a very good outcome. It leaves the SRA with around £326,000 in its reserves at year end, which represents around 16 months' worth of operating costs. This is well above the level specified in the Board's reserves policy, and leaves the Association in a strong position both to invest in its future development and to ensure that its model of service delivery is in line with its members' needs after the pandemic.

Overall, the view of the Board is that resources have continued to be efficiently managed by Graham Farrant and his small office team, and that the current financial position is robust and sustainable.

Note that figures quoted here are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Membership - Dan Clay

Following a small dip in membership last year, we have been pleased to see an improvement in the current year, from 1,201 in July last year to 1,329 this July. Thanks are due to Gabrielle Elward, membership administrator, for her hard work in a busy time.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The membership profile on some key measures is shown below:

Employment status

Employed full-time	66%
Employed part-time (<25hrs)	8%
Self-employed / freelance	8%
Student (post-grad)	14%
Retired	2%
Unwaged	2%
Base	1,329

Sector

Central government	40%
Charitable / 3rd sector	1%
Self-employed / freelance	10%
Research agency	10%
Academic / education (staff)	8%
NGO / NDPB / Public body	7%
Social research org'n / institute	5%
Government agency	4%
Local Government	4%
Other commercial business	1%
Professional association	1%
Base	1,072

Location

England	80%
Scotland	8%
Wales	8%
Ireland (South)	1%
Ireland (North)	1%
Rest of world	2%
Base	1,329

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

No significant changes were seen on these measures during the year. The varied nature of the membership in terms of employment sector has always been seen by trustees as a strength of the SRA, appealing to researchers in a wide range of settings.

Elsewhere in this report you can read about the SRA-funded research carried out in early 2021 by The Young Foundation, seeking to understand issues of diversity and inclusion across the whole social research profession. Many members took part in the survey, and the qualitative interviews for research study.

Towards the end of the financial year the SRA commissioned Eva Trier Consulting to conduct work among members and other researchers about the SRA's membership and training offer. The report's recommendations on how to strengthen and expand in both areas will be a major area of strategic development next year.

Training - Vicki Belt

The SRA's training courses help to fulfil the organisation's aim of promoting and upholding high standards in social research, and are also a significant source of income.

As described in the previous annual report, before the COVID-19 pandemic, all SRA courses were delivered face-to-face, but these ceased in March 2020. From May that year all courses have been delivered via online sessions, and this has continued all through the 2020-21 financial year, which of course has been another challenging year for us all.

Attendees on SRA online courses pay a lower fee than for face-to-face courses, as costs are lower - there is no venue hire, lunch, or trainer travel costs to cover. And online training is more accessible, with no travel time of cost for attendees. Online training has continued to prove very popular this year, with 148 courses held in the financial year, and 1,940 trainees (compared to last year's 96 courses and 1,228 trainees). Indeed, the volume of training is now greater than in the most recent year when all courses were held face-to-face, 2018-19, which saw 124 courses and 1,700 trainees.

New courses developed this year included Creative Methods in Qualitative Research, Reflexivity in Qualitative Research, Digital Qualitative Interviews, Introduction to Ethnographic Methods, Advanced Questionnaire Design, Planning and Designing a Qualitative Study, Real World Data with R, Regression Analysis using R (Advanced).

The success we have had with training is down to the hard work and dedication of the trainers, who have continued to innovate with new courses, and new ways to ensure course delivery remains engaging. Thanks are also due to Lindsay Adams for all her hard work in organising and supporting the courses, and to Graham Farrant for his leadership.

A future challenge we will be addressing this year is to manage the transition to face-to-face courses as it becomes viable for people to travel and meet in person. Given the popularity of online delivery we expect a strong online offer to continue alongside face to face courses. I look forward to seeing the organisation continue to build on the strengths and success of the SRA training programme over the year ahead.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Advocacy - Isabella Pereira

This has been a very gratifying year for the SRA from an advocacy perspective. In early 2020 the Board were forced to shelve an important initiative to conduct the first ever research into experiences of diversity and inclusion across the social research sector in early 2020 due to the pandemic. However, by September of that year we were able to return to our selected suppliers, The Young Foundation, kicking off the project with funding secured from both Power to Change and Kantar Public and an exciting programme of work ahead. The initiative was further bolstered by the advent of new trustees Lee Chan, Beth Moon and Naomi Day in early 2021, who, alongside Isabella Pereira, formed a new Board steering group to support the design, quality assurance and dissemination of the research.

Fieldwork was conducted in January - March of 2021, with an excellent response of nearly 1000 social researchers from every corner of the profession responding to our survey, and a further 21 individuals taking part in follow-up depth interviews. The research, 'Far to Go: Diversity and Inclusion in Social Research', led by Victoria Boleman at The Young Foundation, was published in July 2021. It was launched at a panel event chaired by Isabella Pereira with over 200 attendees, and a small programme of publications and events has followed from the launch:

- A blog by SRA trustee Lee Chan on the importance of the research;
- A blog by Alice Bell of The Young Foundation reflecting on key findings; and
- A panel event chaired by SRA member Ella Fryer-Smith, taking a social class perspective on the findings.

In mid 2021, reflecting on the success of the diversity and inclusion research, the Board agreed to replace the advocacy committee with a new sub-committee on Diversity and Inclusion, to be led by Lee Chan. The committee will deliver further activities arising from the research and will seek to embed relevant learnings in the work of the SRA.

This change also reflects the SRA's current limited resources for wider advocacy and policy work and the fact that we actively collaborate with other organisations campaigning on relevant issues, most notably the Academy of Social Sciences and their Campaign for Social Science, as well as the Royal Statistical Society and the British Sociological Association.

Research ethics - Jane Evans

Despite the restrictions over the past year, it has been a busy and productive year for the SRA's involvement with research ethics. After intensive and detailed work by a great team of authors the research ethics guidance was published on the SRA's web site offering a valuable resource for social researchers as well as meeting the objectives of the SRA to make sure social research

- Protects research participants
- Is high quality
- Complies with legislation
- Reassures funders
- Maintains the good reputation of the sector

This is now available at [SRA research ethics guidance](#).

Additionally, the research ethics forum has provided advice to enquirers on a number of dilemmas and plans.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Plans are now underway to deliver a research ethics advisory forum so that SRA members, can, for a fee, obtain ethical advice on research proposals and bids. This is likely to prove especially useful to researchers who do not have access to a Research Ethics Committee but who still need to demonstrate that their research is ethical according to an independent body. This forum will not give ethical approval as such, but will appraise documents submitted against clear ethical protocols to assure that proposals are ethical and safe.

SRA Scotland branch

Many thanks are due to Karen Kerr, who retired this year as chair of the Scotland branch, and to the committee, for all their work this year.

We are pleased to report that a new chair, Daniel Stunell, will take on this role in the following year.

SRA Cymru branch - Rachel Hughes

It's been a year of transition for SRA Cymru. In January 2021, SRA Cymru Chair, Faye Gracey's term came to an end. SRA Cymru has benefited from Faye's excellent leadership, commitment, and involvement over many years, and we thank her for everything that she has done. Dr Rachel Hughes is now the new Chair and has started a programme of work to establish a committee for SRA Cymru to both support the work of the SRA in Wales and act as champions of social research. Part of this work has involved directly contacting SRA members in Wales, as well as through the existing regular channels. Several people have shown an interest in being involved more explicitly. In addition, we have continued to develop the SRA Cymru Twitter feed as a vibrant space for all things social research in Wales and beyond.

Covid-19 has necessitated our events programme to be moved online. Whilst there are clearly benefits for meeting and networking face-to-face, being online has enabled more people to access the events from across Wales and the UK. In addition to the excellent programme of events and learning opportunities offered by the SRA, SRA Cymru held a couple of webinars over the course of the year.

Pauline O'Hare from Careers Wales and Tegan Waites from Children in Wales shared their personal experiences about how digital opportunities have changed how they undertake social research. Participants also had the opportunity to share and learn from each other in smaller break-out groups.

In collaboration with Cardiff University and Welsh Government, Dr Sioned Pearce (Cardiff University) critically explored evaluation as a concept within a state-led social policy programme, and Richard Thurston (Welsh Government) gave a response to the findings.

Both events were very stimulating and well-attended. It is our intention to continue to develop and enhance our events offer for the social research community in Wales (and beyond) over the course of 2021-22.

SRA North group - Jenni Brooks

Over the last year, SRA North has remained active, meeting regularly online and organising a series of virtual events and informal community meet ups. We have had several new committee members join us this year.

In December 2020, in response to evidence of great disparity in the effects of the covid pandemic, we organised an online seminar exploring approaches to studying health inequalities, with a focus on homelessness, disability, and deprivation. Speakers from Qa Research, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and Groundswell discussed population intelligence, peer research, and online public consultation, and the event was well received.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

SRA North have been focusing attention on early career researchers, and in May 2021 we organised a seminar on careers and entry routes into social research in the north. Researchers shared their career journeys with around 40 participants, with a good mix of new researchers and those looking for a change in career. We plan to continue this work in the year ahead, starting with an event in response to the SRA's diversity and inclusion research.

We would like to pass a special thanks to all committee members, and those who have supported SRA North through speaking at or attending events and in other ways.

London events - Rosie McLeod

The annual conference in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid. However, we were able to resume a number of seminars and events over the year, which transferred online successfully, and to plan for an online annual conference in November 2021.

The seventh Roger Jowell annual memorial lecture, organised by NatCen Social Research, City University and SRA took place online and in person in September. The topic was social justice and health equity, and was delivered by health expert Sir Michael Marmot, Director of the Institute of Health Equity (Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, UCL) and chaired by Caroline Costongs, Director of EuroHealthNet.

Our free seminar series has worked well in webinar form. In January we hosted 'GDPR & Brexit: What researchers need to know', with a presentation by Mark Phillips, from GIDE UK. In April we heard about 'How has Covid-19 changed the way communities behave', with findings from research commissioned by LGA and conducted by Britain Thinks.

In July, we held a larger scale event to launch the publication of our research on inclusion and diversity, which occupied the usual slot for our Summer event and included a panel of expert commentators alongside the presentation of the findings by The Young Foundation. Several hundred sign-ups to the event reflected strong engagement with this work. Reflecting findings from the report and a discussion during the launch about the importance of class analysis, we scheduled a further seminar on 28th October - "A social class perspective on diversity and inclusion in UK social research", chaired by Ella Fryer-Smith.

We are very grateful to Monica Wright in the SRA office for her work on these events, and to the events group volunteers who help to plan the major ones: Caroline Smith, George Holt, Jane Barrett, Jane Simmonds, Jen Jones, Liz Young, and Sophie Wilson.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Ailbhe McNabola
Trustee

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association

I report to the trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of The Social Research Association ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

.....

Timothy Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
SE10 8RF

Date:.....

The Social Research Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary income	3	77,306	77,306	87,561	87,561
Charitable activities	4	480,051	480,051	369,592	369,592
Investment income	5	1,058	1,058	927	927
Other income		-	-	623	623
Total income		<u>558,415</u>	<u>558,415</u>	<u>458,703</u>	<u>458,703</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>
Net movement in funds		121,118	121,118	(7,835)	(7,835)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>204,433</u>	<u>204,433</u>	<u>212,268</u>	<u>212,268</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u>325,551</u>	<u>325,551</u>	<u>204,433</u>	<u>204,433</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2020 is shown in note 18.

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

(Registration number: 06407985)

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	2,679	1,855
Current assets			
Debtors	13	30,789	29,358
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>421,382</u>	<u>279,625</u>
		452,171	308,983
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(129,299)</u>	<u>(106,405)</u>
Net current assets		<u>322,872</u>	<u>202,578</u>
Net assets		<u>325,551</u>	<u>204,433</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>325,551</u>	<u>204,433</u>
Total funds	18	<u>325,551</u>	<u>204,433</u>

For the financial year ending 31 July 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 13 to 27 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23 November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Ailbhe McNabola
Trustee

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income/(expenditure)		121,118	(7,835)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,773	926
Investment income	5	(1,058)	(927)
Rounding		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
		121,834	(7,836)
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	13	(1,431)	9,037
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15	6,041	(5,272)
Increase in deferred income		<u>16,853</u>	<u>37,751</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>143,297</u>	<u>33,680</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	1,058	927
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	<u>(2,598)</u>	<u>(2,781)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(1,540)</u>	<u>(1,854)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		141,757	31,826
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August		<u>279,625</u>	<u>247,799</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July		<u><u>421,382</u></u>	<u><u>279,625</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in , and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
London
SE10 8RF

The principal place of business is:

c/o CLIP
7 Ridgmount Street
WC1E 7AE

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 23 November 2021.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line basis
IT equipment	33% straight line basis

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and legacies;			
Sundry income	140	140	332
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants - Job retention scheme	-	-	6,890
Membership	77,166	77,166	80,339
	<u>77,306</u>	<u>77,306</u>	<u>87,561</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Events	-	-	41,267
Training courses	467,874	467,874	320,229
Advertising	12,177	12,177	8,096
	<u>480,051</u>	<u>480,051</u>	<u>369,592</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,058	1,058	927

6 Other income

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Other income	-	623

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	10	160,808	156,726
Charitable donations		1,000	-
Cost of trustee meetings		24	1,593
Travel and subscriptions		1,526	1,161
Consultancy fees		4,460	1,000
Other interest payable		-	6
Foreign currency (gains)/losses		779	78
Support costs	8	<u>268,700</u>	<u>305,974</u>
		<u>437,297</u>	<u>466,538</u>

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also support costs of £268,700 (2020 - £305,974) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 8 for further details.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Training	189,945	189,945	178,953
Rent and rates	21,996	21,996	21,996
SRA Cymru expenses	-	-	18
SRA Scotland expenses	-	-	883
SRA North expenses	-	-	113
Insurance	1,114	1,114	1,064
Events	735	735	35,590
Telephone and fax	929	929	1,583
IT and website	23,846	23,846	31,929
Printing, postage and stationery	61	61	1,966
Membership costs	3,857	3,857	4,007
Trade subscriptions	-	-	388
Sundries	2,376	2,376	11
Newsletters and Journal	12,042	12,042	14,918
Bookkeeping	720	720	1,760
Accountancy	120	120	-
Independent examination	2,526	2,526	2,448
Bank charges	6,660	6,660	7,421
Depreciation of office equipment	1,773	1,773	926
	<u>268,700</u>	<u>268,700</u>	<u>305,974</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	148,545	144,611
Staff NIC (Employers)	10,194	9,967
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	2,069	2,148
	<u>160,808</u>	<u>156,726</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 August 2020	10,043	10,043
Additions	<u>2,598</u>	<u>2,598</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>12,641</u>	<u>12,641</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2020	8,189	8,189
Charge for the year	<u>1,773</u>	<u>1,773</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>9,962</u>	<u>9,962</u>
Net book value		
At 31 July 2021	<u>2,679</u>	<u>2,679</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>1,854</u>	<u>1,854</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	22,539	21,848
Prepayments	2,750	2,010
Other debtors	5,500	5,500
	<u>30,789</u>	<u>29,358</u>

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash on hand	100	100
Cash at bank	421,282	279,525
	<u>421,382</u>	<u>279,625</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	5,046	150
Other taxation and social security	3,561	2,492
Other creditors	396	398
Accruals	2,526	2,448
Deferred income	117,770	100,917
	<u>129,299</u>	<u>106,405</u>

16 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Land and buildings		
Within one year	3,667	22,000
Between one and five years	-	3,667
	<u>3,667</u>	<u>25,667</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,069 (2020 - £2,148).

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2021 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>204,433</u>	<u>558,415</u>	<u>(437,297)</u>	<u>325,551</u>
	Balance at 1 August 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2020 £
Unrestricted				
General	<u>212,268</u>	<u>458,703</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>204,433</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,679	2,679
Current assets	452,171	452,171
Current liabilities	(129,299)	(129,299)
Total net assets	<u>325,551</u>	<u>325,551</u>

Prior year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 July 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,855	1,855
Current assets	308,983	308,983
Current liabilities	(106,405)	(106,405)
Total net assets	<u>204,433</u>	<u>204,433</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

20 COVID

The financial impact of COVID on the SRA was minimal in this financial year, with staff working at home and online training course delivery continuing to thrive. The main impact was that it was not possible to organise the annual conference.

21 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Accounts

Company registration number: 06407985

Charity registration number: 1123940

The Social Research Association

(A company limited by share capital)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
SE10 8RF

The Social Research Association

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 8
Independent Examiner's Report	9 to 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 to 22

The Social Research Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Dr Vicki Marie Belt Daniel Clay Robert Erens Jane Evans Faye Gracey David Johnson Karen Kerr Martina Lewis Rosie McLeod Ailbhe McNabola Nigel Meager Kieran O'Leary Isabella Coelho Pereira
Principal Office	c/o CILIP 7 Ridgmount Street WC1E 7AE
Registered Office	70 Royal Hill Greenwich London SE10 8RF
Company Registration Number	06407985
Charity Registration Number	1123940
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc Co-operative Bank plc Bank of Scotland plc Allied Irish Bank
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 70 Royal Hill Greenwich SE10 8RF

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 July 2020.

The Social Research Association is an educational charity, whose purpose is to advance the conduct, development and application of social research for the benefit of the public interest, and to advance knowledge and professional practice in this field.

Social research aims to provide the public, the government, and a wide range of public and charitable bodies with reliable information about key aspects of life in the UK, under a range of topic headings: education, health and wellbeing, employment, housing, transport, and many more.

The main activities undertaken by the SRA to achieve its purpose are:

- **Providing training courses** on a wide range of research-related topics, so that researchers and research users are equipped to apply high standards in their professional work.
- **Providing guidance on**, for example, the ethical standards to apply in the conduct of research, such as ensuring that when members of the public participate in research projects, their rights are upheld and their data is protected.
- **Providing publications**, events, seminars so that researchers and research users can share good practice and learn about new developments in the field.

The trustees of the SRA have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The SRA is a company limited by guarantee, and the governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees' contributions

Chair's report - David Johnson

This year has been very much a year of contrasts. In the first seven months of the year the SRA continued with a range of activities towards delivering our charitable purposes, including a very successful annual conference at the Royal College of Physicians in December 2019. In the second five months the SRA, like many other charities, has had to respond to the challenges caused by the Covid pandemic.

Covid could have had presented a real financial threat to our continuation as a charity. But, I am pleased to report we were able in the short term to draw on our income reserves set aside for unanticipated challenges, take swift decisions as a board of trustees and operationalise our plans through the hard work of the Chief Executive and his staff to address the challenges we faced. We were able to cut discretionary expenditure considerably and pivot the organisation towards online delivery of our training to protect our main source of income. As the financial and training reports below demonstrate we have done so successfully, delivering training to 1228 course attendees over the year and reporting only a small loss of £8,000 at the end of the year, meaning that our reserves are protected for continuance of our work and to cope with future challenges that may arise.

I am also pleased to report that membership levels have broadly held up. There has been a slight fall on year-on-year comparisons (down 40 members to 1,201), but we are watching the trend closely. We have also been able to continue to support members, with a particular focus on independent researchers and developing plans to explore issues of representation in the social research profession by social class and ethnicity.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

The future remains, of course, uncertain but I am confident that the SRA remains in a good place to continue to deliver against its charitable aims, with plans and processes in place to cement the good work delivered to date and to capitalise on the opportunity to diversify the delivery of our training portfolio.

Finally, I wanted to thank Mark Carrigan for his work as a trustee before stepping down in June to devote more time to his day job. He has been a real support to many areas of our work and on behalf of the trustees I would like to wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Treasurer's report - Nigel Meager

The 2019/20 financial year was, in many ways, as documented elsewhere in this report, a difficult and unusual one, due in particular to the Covid-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the second half of the financial year. Inevitably these circumstances were reflected in the SRA's financial results, which recorded a significant decline in overall income compared with the previous year; at £459,000, income was down by around 20 per cent on the level of 2018/19.

The main source of this decline was the dramatic fall in income from training courses which, at £285,000, was significantly down on both the previous year's level (by nearly 30 per cent) and the level we had been budgeting for at the start of the year. The fall in training income occurred despite the rapid and successful shift of the SRA's course programme to online delivery (documented in other sections of this report), without which the income decline would have been even larger. The programme was essentially halted for the first two months of lockdown, while conversion to online delivery was undertaken.

The other main source of income (membership subscriptions) has, however, held up well in this difficult climate. While there has been some loss of membership, subscription income at just over £80,000 remained at over 98 per cent of the previous year's level.

As far as the more minor components of the SRA's income were concerned, the picture was mixed: some declined (e.g. advertising income through the SRA's job vacancy service, which was down due to the impact of the Covid pandemic), while others increased (e.g. in-house training provided by the SRA to other organisations).

In view of the fall in income, the Trustees decided to delay some planned investment expenditure until the external environment was judged to be more stable.

On the expenditure side of the accounts, significant changes compared with the previous year included a number of areas in which costs fell, in particular:

- A dramatic fall in the costs of the **SRA training programme** which were 43 per cent lower than the previous year. This fall was proportionately greater than the fall in income noted above, partly because the underlying costs of the online training model are lower than those of the previous face-to-face training programme (due to savings on venue and travel costs in particular), and partly because the training course administrator joined the staff of the SRA, having previously been freelance (see below);
- A big reduction in the **cost of the 2019 annual conference** compared with 2018 (at just over £35,000 this cost was 31 per cent lower than the previous year);
- A big reduction in **website expenditure** (£22,000, compared with over £40,000 the previous year), as most development costs for the new website were incurred in 2018/19

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Set against these were a small number of cost increases, in particular:

- A significant growth in **staff salary costs**. This was mainly due to the training administrator joining the SRA staff during the year (and being offset by a corresponding reduction in training costs - see above), but small salary increases for existing staff also contributed to this change.
- An increase in the **costs of in-house training provision** (these costs were, however, covered by the growth in in-house training income noted above)

The net effect of these changes in income and costs is that the SRA finished the 2019/20 financial year with a small deficit of just under £8,000. Given the rapid change in the operating environment during the year, and the need in particular to adapt training provision to the constraints imposed by Covid, this is, in the view of the Trustees, a good outcome, and it leaves the SRA with over £200,000 in its reserves. This is a healthy level of reserves for a small charity, and is in line with the Board's reserves policy, and puts the Association in a good position to face the continuing uncertainty in the external environment.

Overall, the view of the Board is that resources have continued to be efficiently managed by Graham Farrant and his small office team, and that the current financial position is a robust one.

Membership - Dan Clay

SRA membership is open to all individuals in the UK and elsewhere, and members are found in a wide range of sectors and organisations, including central and local government, research agencies large and small, charities, independent researchers and academia. Over the past eight years the numbers of members has been growing slowly, but this year we have seen a small dip in numbers, from 1,241 in August 2019 to 1,201 in July 2020. We are therefore keeping a close watch on this, and if this fall-off continues we will investigate whether it affects some sectors of members more than others, and what remedial action can be taken. At the same time we have set aside a modest budget to raise awareness about the SRA on social media platforms.

The survey of members in late 2019 generated much useful data that trustee have been examining during 2020, including what members find useful about membership, their training needs, and what else they looked for from membership. Training and publications were particularly helpful, and overall the organisation was rated as good value for money.

A new area of enquiry in the survey was representation and disadvantage in the social research profession. Members saw social class, ethnicity and gender equality as the issues most in need of addressing by the SRA. This has fed into the research project into diversity and inclusion in the profession, discussed in the Advocacy section of this report.

When the Covid-19 pandemic began, we were very conscious of the disruption our members and others in the sector were facing, with the cessation of face to face fieldwork and widespread postponement of projects. In the early stages of the lockdown we wrote to all members, and as a result set up a webpage detailing what help was available from the government for employees, small businesses and the self-employed. We engaged several times with independent members, who were likely to be particularly in need of support. Their feedback led to a new scheme to offer these members free places on pilot runs of a range of new online courses, which has proved popular.

The SRA newsletter, edited by volunteer Gillian Smith, stepped up its output to become a research-related resource, providing updates, links to news and suggestions for conducting research in a pandemic, and highlighting various funding opportunities for small-scale projects.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Training - Vicki Belt

Training courses provided by the SRA are an important way to support the organisation's aim to promote and uphold high standards in social research. Until this year all SRA courses were delivered face-to-face, and so in March 2020 the training programme saw a severe disruption with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic. All face-to-face training necessarily ceased, and future courses were postponed.

A decision was made early on to face the challenges head on and help trainers to convert their face-to-face courses to online delivery. With support from Christina Silver (Qualitative Data Analysis Services), the first online courses quickly became available in May 2020, via Zoom. Online training proved popular, and to the end of July, 38 online courses were held, with some 420 attendees. Taking registrations and providing administrative support for courses delivered by NatCen Social Research continues to be an important aspect of the training programme, and these courses have also been converted to online delivery.

Looking over the financial year as a whole, there were 96 courses with 1,228 attendees. This is less than last year, due to the two-month hiatus between the last face-to-face course and the first online training course, but the organisation has successfully maintained a strong training programme in spite of the many challenges thrown up by the Covid-19 crisis. In fact, the move to online provision has actually had some benefits, for example it has stimulated trainers to innovate and develop a range of new courses, including online focus groups, applied behavioural science, using the R analysis tool, and creative research methods.

The success of the SRA's shift to online training provision is down to the hard work of the trainers and the SRA team, who have shown considerable creativity, professionalism and resilience during these very challenging times. Thanks are due to the trainers for managing the conversion to online delivery so well, and to the staff for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks go to training manager Lindsay Adams, and to Graham Farrant for his leadership. I look forward to working with the team to continue to grow and strengthen the training programme over the year ahead.

Advocacy - Isabella Pereira

In 2020, the Advocacy group took some major steps towards addressing issues of diversity and inclusion in the social research profession, reflecting the prominence of this issue on the world stage and its importance in the work of social researchers.

In 2019 the Board agreed to commission primary research to explore experiences of diversity and inclusion in social research. At the start of 2020 a competitive tender was issued, with the Young Foundation ultimately appointed to conduct the research in February. This was an exciting opening to the year, with the work intended to start a conversation in the profession about representation - especially in relation to ethnicity and social class, issues which members reported in the 2019 survey mattered most to them.

The pandemic meant the study went on hold - but in the meantime we were delighted to be offered sponsorship for the programme from the Power to Change Trust and Kantar Public. The design stage has now begun in earnest with their support, and we look forward to launching the survey and qualitative research in early 2021. Member events will follow when the research is published.

The Advocacy group were also involved with the development of a BAME social researchers' network. This was established at the NatCen/ SPA event 'Navigating the White Space' in February, at which Board member Isabella Pereira attended as a panel member. As well as forging new relationships this year, the Advocacy group has maintained existing links with other professional bodies in the sector and continues to explore shared areas of interest.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Research ethics - Jane Evans

The ethical guidance is in the process of development and should be ready for publication online soon. This is a most thorough piece of work and has been through many iterations and had numerous rounds of commentary to get it to this point.

The SRA provides its members with a free ethics consultancy forum-a group of volunteers who are happy to answer your varied ethical queries on a range of topics. Members have used the forum this year to prepare for ethical review by a Research Ethics Committee (REC) or to test an application to RTEC without risk to understand the challenges and comments that might arise in advance. Some have come for guidance to set up an in-house REC within an organisation. You can be sure of thoroughly considered and thought-provoking guidance from the forum and it is safe to say that we all enjoy the stimulation of offering guidance to SRA members who request it.

In the longer term the SRA is considering setting up an informal ethical review body-not a REC-but somewhere researchers can go to for a more in-depth consideration of the ethics of proposed research. This is still under discussion and the final form will be better understood in the coming months. This should be especially useful for researchers such as independents, who are working outside of the normal academic, official, or corporate settings that have inhouse committees, but who are still required to confirm to commissioners that their research will be ethical.

In addition to the above I contribute an occasional article on ethical dilemmas to the quarterly Research Matters. If you have an ethical dilemma which you think would be of interest to the readers of Research Matters please get in touch. It would be interesting to work collaboratively on readers' real-life issues.

SRA Scotland branch - Karen Kerr

Over the last year SRA Scotland has remained active with the running of events and good engagement of its committee members.

As part of the Festival of Social Sciences 2019, SRA Scotland and the University of Edinburgh organised an event on 'Scotland's Population Surveys: How do the findings change people's lives?'. This took place on 7 November 2019 and was very well attended, with over 70 participants taking part in a lively and interesting session on Scotland's three large-scale cross sectional surveys: the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, the Scottish Health Survey and the Scottish Household Survey. You can read more about the event [here](#).

During lockdown SRA North and SRA Scotland ran the first joint committee virtual conference 'Keeping connected, staying social, getting virtual.' The event on 24 June 2020 had over 70 participants taking part across the UK. The event provided a welcome opportunity for research colleagues to come together in uncertain times. The joint committee produced a blog outlining their experience of organising and running a virtual event and you can read about it [here](#).

Many thanks are due to our chairs, speakers, and committee members, who give freely of their time, skills and expertise. Without their support these events would not take place.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

SRA Cymru branch - Faye Gracey

Over the last year SRA Cymru activities have covered a range of research topics and included seminars, social events, and training.

We are very grateful to all who have supported SRA Cymru by arranging activities, presenting/lecturing, chairing seminars, delivering training, and attending events. Special thanks to Rachel Hughes (Dotiau) for her continued support and instrumental role in keeping our twitter feed active. Do follow us @SRACymru to hear our news first.

Things became more difficult towards the end of the year. Plans to co-host events with LARIA and the Market Research Society were thwarted by the initial lock down, and we postponed progressing plans for the second Wales Social Research Awards in light of implications from the pandemic. We know lots of social researchers in our network are having a difficult time professionally and personally too. As we mentioned in our newsletters, we hope you know that you can always get in touch and that we love to hear from you.

Now we have accepted there must be a new normal in the medium term at least, we are learning from how SRA North and SRA Scotland are effectively connecting their communities virtually. SRA Cymru activities will continue to cover a range of topics and will include seminars, social events, and training. So we hope to see you on Zoom or Teams very soon.

SRA Ireland branch - Kieran O'Leary

The SRA Ireland branch includes over 20 members working in a wide variety of social research roles throughout the island of Ireland.

As a relatively small group it is always looking for ways to tailor the SRA offering locally to ensure it meets the specific needs of social researchers north and south of the border. However the Covid pandemic has naturally meant a cessation of most activities since early 2020.

Finally to note that I will be stepping down as SRA trustee at the end of 2020.

London events - Graham Farrant

A successful annual conference was held in December 2019, with over 300 delegates attending at a new venue, the Royal College of Physicians in London. The conference theme was 'Blurring boundaries and crossing frontiers in social research', chaired by Dame Jil Matheson, and plenary speakers Sir Adrian Smith, Lorraine Whitmarsh and Pam Cox. Along with six workshop sessions and four masterclasses, a popular innovation this year was the Research Gallery, displaying creative exhibits based on research themes and projects.

The Roger Jowell annual memorial lecture is organised by NatCen Social Research, City University and SRA. It is usually held in June but due to the Covid outbreak was postponed to September 2020 and presented online.

The pandemic put an end to any Summer Event this year, and with a focus on converting SRA training courses from face-to-face to online delivery, events necessarily took a back seat. Some online events were held by the Branches and the aim is to reconvene the London events group later in 2020 to devise further activities.

We are very grateful to Monica Wright in the SRA office for her work on these events, and to the events group volunteers who help to plan the major ones: Caroline Smith, Debbie Chan, Elizabeth Young, Jane Barrett, Jane Simmonds, Jen Jones, Natalie Maplethorpe and Sophie Walsh.

The Social Research Association

Trustees' Report

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Social Research Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 27 November 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
David Johnson
Trustee

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association

I report to the trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the financial statements of The Social Research Association ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of charitable company you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charitable company's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charitable company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charitable company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Social Research Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Social Research Association

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

.....

Timothy Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
SE10 8RF

Date:.....

The Social Research Association

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2020 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Voluntary income		87,561	87,561	79,146	79,146
Charitable activities		369,592	369,592	492,289	492,289
Investment income	5	927	927	-	-
Other income		623	623	-	-
Total income		<u>458,703</u>	<u>458,703</u>	<u>571,435</u>	<u>571,435</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>(606,870)</u>	<u>(606,870)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>(606,870)</u>	<u>(606,870)</u>
Net movement in funds		(7,835)	(7,835)	(35,435)	(35,435)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>212,268</u>	<u>212,268</u>	<u>247,703</u>	<u>247,703</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>204,433</u>	<u>204,433</u>	<u>212,268</u>	<u>212,268</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2019 is shown in note 16.

The Social Research Association

(Registration number: 06407985)

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,855	-
Current assets			
Debtors	12	29,358	38,395
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>279,625</u>	<u>247,799</u>
		308,983	286,194
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(106,405)</u>	<u>(73,926)</u>
Net current assets		<u>202,578</u>	<u>212,268</u>
Net assets		<u><u>204,433</u></u>	<u><u>212,268</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>204,433</u>	<u>212,268</u>
Total funds	16	<u><u>204,433</u></u>	<u><u>212,268</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 July 2020 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 11 to 22 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 27 November 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



 David Johnson
 Trustee

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by share capital, incorporated in .

The address of its registered office is:

70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
London
SE10 8RF

The principal place of business is:

c/o CILIP
7 Ridgmount Street
WC1E 7AE

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 27 November 2020.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing group accounts

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in section 398 of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirement to prepare consolidated financial statements, on the grounds that it is a small sized group.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office equipment, furniture and fittings	25% straight line basis
IT equipment	33% straight line basis

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

3 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2020	2019
		£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Sundry income	332	332	288
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants - Job retention scheme	6,890	6,890	-
Membership	80,339	80,339	78,858
	<u>87,561</u>	<u>87,561</u>	<u>79,146</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	General £	£	£
Events	41,267	41,267	42,847
Training courses	320,229	320,229	434,612
Advertising	8,096	8,096	14,830
	<u>369,592</u>	<u>369,592</u>	<u>492,289</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2020
	General £	£
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>927</u>	<u>927</u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2020
	General £	£
Other income	<u>623</u>	<u>623</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Staff costs	9	156,726	107,492
Training		178,953	318,879
Rent and rates		21,996	20,593
SRA Cymru expenses		18	190
SRA Ireland expenses		-	18
SRA Scotland expenses		883	329
SRA North expenses		113	542
Insurance		1,064	1,047
Events		35,590	60,396
Room hire		-	240
Telephone and fax		1,583	4,463
Office and administration costs London		-	4,318
IT and website		31,929	51,086
Printing, postage and stationery		1,966	1,728
Membership costs		4,007	-
Trade subscriptions		388	291
Sundries		11	1,452
Cost of trustee meetings		1,593	2,772
Travel and subscriptions		1,161	1,874
Newsletters and Journal		14,919	15,127
Bookkeeping		1,760	3,226
Independent examination		2,448	2,400
Consultancy fees		1,000	1,050
Bank charges		7,420	7,639
Other interest payable		5	-
Foreign currency (gains)/losses		79	(282)
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		926	-
		<u>466,538</u>	<u>606,870</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	144,611	100,181
Staff NIC (Employers)	9,967	5,787
Staff pensions (Defined contribution)	2,148	1,524
	<u>156,726</u>	<u>107,492</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 August 2019	7,263	7,263
Additions	<u>2,781</u>	<u>2,781</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>10,044</u>	<u>10,044</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2019	7,263	7,263
Charge for the year	<u>926</u>	<u>926</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>8,189</u>	<u>8,189</u>
Net book value		
At 31 July 2020	<u>1,855</u>	<u>1,855</u>
At 31 July 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

12 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	21,848	16,646
Prepayments	2,010	16,249
Other debtors	5,500	5,500
	<u>29,358</u>	<u>38,395</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	150	4,670
Other taxation and social security	2,492	1,871
Other creditors	398	422
Accruals	2,448	3,797
Deferred income	100,917	63,166
	<u>106,405</u>	<u>73,926</u>

14 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Land and buildings		
Within one year	22,000	22,000
Between one and five years	3,667	25,667
	<u>25,667</u>	<u>47,667</u>

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £1,524 (2019 - £744).

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 August 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>212,268</u>	<u>458,703</u>	<u>(466,538)</u>	<u>204,433</u>
	Balance at 1 August 2018 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 July 2019 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>247,703</u>	<u>571,435</u>	<u>(606,870)</u>	<u>212,268</u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Current year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,855	1,855
Current assets	308,983	308,983
Current liabilities	<u>(106,405)</u>	<u>(106,405)</u>
Total net assets	<u>204,433</u>	<u>204,433</u>

Prior year

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Current assets	286,194	286,194
Current liabilities	<u>(73,926)</u>	<u>(73,926)</u>
Total net assets	<u>212,268</u>	<u>212,268</u>

The Social Research Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

18 COVID

Like most other organisations the SRA was notably impacted by the Covid 19 outbreak during the year. Face to face training courses stopped in early March, causing a serious fall in income (ie. the income received in advance for face to face courses from March onwards could not be recognised, and new registrations ceased). All registered attendees were given the option to move to online courses as these became available, or refunded /given a credit towards a future course. During March, April and May we worked with trainers to convert their courses to online provision, and the first of these courses became available in mid-May.

We cancelled our popular annual conference, scheduled for November 2020, as it was clear the outbreak was not going to be short, and the first deposit paid was refunded.

Two staff who had worked on face to face training and events were furloughed in March and April via the government's Job Retention scheme.