

THE  
ACCESS  
TO JUSTICE  
FOUNDATION



# Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

## Introduction

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Thank you for your interest in the Access to Justice Foundation's 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements. The Access to Justice Foundation is the only funder dedicated to increasing free legal support, advice, and representation across the UK. We work with other funders and individuals to increase the money available for free legal advice, and with community organisations to ensure people facing a legal problem get the help they need. We focus specifically on communities where people are less likely to know about or be able to access legal help.

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# I. Annual Report

# Our Objectives & Activities

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## Our Purpose

The Access to Justice Foundation's purpose is to (i) provide financial and other support to organisations that provide free legal advice or assistance to people in need and (ii) promote overall access to justice, as set out in our Articles of Association, which were last reviewed in 2020.

## Our Mission, Vision, and Objectives

Trustees developed a new strategy in 2024, which included updating our mission and objectives as follows:

Our vision is a society where everyone has access to justice.

Our mission is to improve people's lives by increasing the availability of free legal assistance, advice and representation

We work towards achieving our vision and mission by focusing on the following four objectives:

- Objective One: Increase available resources for the provision of free legal advice and support across the UK
- Objective Two: Develop and implement impactful grant making programmes which increase access to justice
- Objective Three: Demonstrate the value of funding advice by using our insights and engaging with key stakeholders
- Objective Four: Build operations functions that are fit-for-purpose, effective & efficient, and future-proofed

Trustees work to ensure an appropriate balance of resources is dedicated to each of these objectives. Further, trustees keep under review the proportion of funds dedicated to internal operations relative to our grant making.

## Public Benefit

Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities of the charity over the past year both are in accordance with our objects and strategy and are provided for the public benefit.

## Report on Objectives and Activities

In 2024 we undertook the following activities to advance our four strategic objectives.

### Objective One

Our first objective is to increase available resources for the provision of free legal advice and support across the UK. Our fundraising activity is focused in three main areas, namely the legal community, trusts and foundations, and public sector support.

During 2024 we raised £730,482 of unrestricted income (2023: £402,668) and designated income of £329,187 (2023: £477,671). These funds were primarily raised from residual client balances (mainly from solicitors' firms), pro bono costs orders (pursuant to our role as the prescribed charity under s194 Legal Services Act), and fundraising events (mainly our programme of legal walks across the UK).

We continue to engage with the legal community and beyond to raise awareness of our work and how they can support us. We are particularly grateful to Cooley UK (who provided pro bono assistance in the enforcement of pro bono costs orders); our member organisations for their ongoing support; Advocate, LawWorks, Pro Bono Expert Support, and the Association of Costs Lawyers; and dozens of law firms across the UK who donated to support our work. A more comprehensive list of our supporters from the legal community is included in our Impact Report, which is attached to this document.

We raised a further £12,215,424 from restricted sources (2023: £9,859,069). These funds mainly came from two funders – the National Lottery Community Fund and The Ministry of Justice. In 2025, the Ministry of Justice have agreed to extend our Improving Outcomes Through Legal Support programme, thereby committing an additional £6,096,000 for the provision of free legal advice services from April 2025 to March 2026.

Over the last eight years we have been supported by generous grant funding from the Stewarts Foundation, totalling over £2,350,000. We are very grateful to them for funding of £200,000 in 2024.

We increased activity around our role as the nominated charity to receive undistributed funds from opt out collective actions cases in the Competition Appeal Tribunal. This included meeting with key stakeholders to highlight our role as the prescribed charity charged with improving access to justice by distributing funds that class members have not claimed.

As a charity which was founded to increase funds for the provision of legal advice, all our fundraising activity directly contributes to our mission by way of providing funds for onward grant making to advice charities as well as a contribution to our own running costs to ensure we remain sustainable and have robust internal infrastructure so we can comply with our legal and regulatory requirements.

#### Objective Two

Our second objective is to develop and implement impactful grant making programmes which increase access to justice

In 2024 we launched our five year “Improving Lives Through Advice” funding programme supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. We have made grants to 59 community focused advice providers across England. As well as providing essential social welfare advice to some of the most marginalised people in the country, this programme will increase our capacity to collate data and evidence to demonstrate the impact that advice can have on people’s lives.

Our partnership with the Ministry of Justice continued with the Improving Outcomes Through Legal Support programme. In 12 months, this funding has supported 75,000 people across England and Wales with 111,000 legal issues including benefits, housing and employment. The benefits of early legal advice are being highlighted here, with nearly three quarters of clients receiving early legal advice avoiding having to go to court or tribunal.

We also made grants to 10 organisations across the UK with £500,000 of funding over two years to enhance access to pro bono legal services for disabled people.

Our grant making activity is the key mechanism through which we make progress towards our mission of improving access to legal advice. By supporting a diverse range of advice agencies

across the country, we support the sustainability and development of advice services.

As part of our commitment to the IVAR’s (Institute for Voluntary Action Research) Open and Trusting Grant Making Initiative, we have adopted their eight commitments to our approach to grant making. These are: don’t waste time, ask relevant questions, accept risk, act with urgency, be open, enable flexibility, communicate with purpose, and be proportionate.

#### Objective Three

Our third objective is to demonstrate the value of funding advice by using our insights and engaging with key stakeholders

In 2024 we began conversations with the Nuffield Foundation and the Centre for Socio Legal Studies at Oxford University about a project to research additional funding models for free legal advice. These are sources of funds which exist internationally such as IOLTA schemes, bona vacantia, and legal expenses insurance. We will be looking at if and how such schemes could work here in the UK.

We continue our focus on how advice services can be delivered more effectively and efficiently through our Justice and Innovation Group. And we draw learning from and share learning with the 1,500 members of our network, as part of our ongoing commitment to collaborative working.

We concluded our project with the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Law Society of England and Wales, which explored ways to increase the use of technology-enabled dispute resolution to help individuals and businesses resolve legal issues, without the need to go to court.

#### Objective Four

In 2024, we invested in strengthening our operational infrastructure to ensure the Foundation is operating effectively and efficiently and is sufficiently future-proofed. As part of this work, we updated key policies and processes, invested in our staff experience and organisational culture, improved our budgeting process and internal financial reporting, and improved in our IT infrastructure and cybersecurity.

### **Fundraising Practice**

The Access to Justice Foundation is a fundraising foundation, and raising resources for the advice sector is a core part of our mission and strategy. The Foundation is registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we strive to comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice – regularly referencing it to guide decisions at the management and trustee level. As part of our ongoing fundraising activities, we do not employ external agencies or consultants, we do not carry out face-to-face or telephone fundraising, and we do not approach vulnerable people. We did not receive any complaints about our fundraising in 2024.

### **Volunteers**

The Foundation is grateful for volunteers who helped to organise fundraising events in 2024, including dozens of legal walks around the UK. Further, we benefitted from the generous pro bono support of the legal community who made £129,703 (2023: £72,118) of in-kind contributions over the course of the year.

## Our Impact

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During 2024 we provided funding worth £14,671,923 (2023: £6,568,708) to a range of advice and pro bono charities across the UK. In total, 140 organisations (2023: 106) received our support.

Please see Note 15 to our financial statements, which lists all organisations that received funding from us in 2024.

### Achievements and Performance

2024 represented a significant increase in our grant making, including our first and largest multi-year grants programme, Improving Lives Through Advice. We will start to report on the impact of this programme in our 2025 Annual Report. The organisations we funded work with those who need it most – 76 percent of their client base is disabled, 62 percent are in insecure housing or homeless, and 83 percent are experiencing poverty.

We received 80 applications within our pro bono programme and were able to fund 11 grants. Many more would have received funding if we'd had more income available.

With thanks to the Bar Council, we were able to commission an updated [report on the economic value of free legal advice](#) which we are using to make the case for future funding.

We secured a twelve-month extension to the Improving Outcomes Through Legal Support grant, ensuring a further £6,096,00 in funding to support frontline free legal advice services across England and Wales in 2025.

We were awarded £85,000 in pro bono costs in the Court of Appeal decision in *Manolete v White*.

We agreed to work with the Nuffield Foundation and Oxford University to launch our [additional funding models project](#) which will commence in June 2025.

### Challenges

Our main challenge is, as always, the chronic under resourcing of free legal advice in the UK coupled with ever increasing demand for it. Our revised strategy focuses on transformational funding to try and address this.

Additionally, we have found it challenging to be an increasingly evidence-led funder. Both at the frontline where advice is provided and at the funder-level, both resourcing and the practicalities make it difficult to harmonize data collection across the sector. Further, we believe it is important the amount of data collected is proportional to the amount of funding provided. We have set up a data funders group to try and collectively address some of these challenges.

### Impact

Our funded partners have given overwhelmingly positive feedback on our funding approach. In particular, we have listened to feedback on the need for multi-year and core cost funding. This enables organisations to plan their services better, focusing resources where they can be most impactful.

We are working on ways to report impact data across all our programmes. We would highlight some of the impacts from the Improving Outcomes Through Legal Support programme over the reporting period — 72 percent of clients reported they understood their legal problem and the steps required to resolve it, 70 percent of clients displayed increased confidence and capability to deal with their problems, and 68 percent of clients resolved their problems sooner, avoiding the need to go to court.

This year we have developed a new Impact Report which provides more information on the difference we make. The Impact Report is attached to this annual report.

# Financial Review

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## Year End Financial Position

In 2024, the Foundation had a total income of £13,275,093 (2023: £10,739,408) and total expenditure of £15,823,825 (2023: £7,326,177). Of this expenditure, the Foundation made grants and donations worth £14,671,923 (2023: £6,568,708).

This income and expenditure resulted in a 2024 net operating loss of £2,548,732 (2023: net operating income of £3,413,231). We carried forward a total balance of £1,872,706 at the end of 2024 (2023: £4,421,438).

In 2024, our expenditure exceeded our income substantially. This was expected and mainly due to a restricted net operating loss of £2,995,493 (2023: restricted net operating income of £2,866,493). The reason for this loss is primarily that the Foundation received restricted funds from the National Lottery Community Fund in late 2023, which were brought forward into 2024 and then re-granted to advice agencies in the first quarter. At the end of 2024, we carried forward restricted funds of £388,120 (2023: £3,383,613).

The Foundation had a 2024 designated net operating income of £169,889 (2023: £459,144). At year end, we carried forward £681,910 (2023: £512,021) of designated funds, which will be mainly used in 2025 to make payments on existing multi-year grant commitments and for new grants to be awarded.

In 2024, the Foundation had an unrestricted net operating income of £276,872 (2023: £87,594). At year end, we carried forward £802,676 (2023: £525,804). These carried forward funds include £310,000 of operating and indemnity reserves (see more on our operating reserves policy below).

At the end of each year, the Foundation's policy is to review the unrestricted cash balance available for expenditure and to either (i) budget these funds for investment in its operations in the following year or (ii) to designate the excess amount for grant making in the following year. The Foundation also retains a small amount of these unrestricted funds as a cash cushion to smooth income and account for fluctuation in fundraising over the course of the following year. The trustees have approved a 2025 budget that will spend

down this unrestricted cash surplus through additional grant making and by investing in our operational infrastructure.

## Principal Sources of Funding

In 2024, our principal sources of funding were major restricted grants from The National Lottery Community Fund (£6,045,990) and the Ministry of Justice – Improving Outcomes Through Legal Support (£6,000,000). Other key sources of funding included Pro Bono Costs Orders (which the trustees mostly designated for grant making) as well as unrestricted funds from donated residual client balances and fundraising events.

## Operating Reserve Funds

The Foundation maintains operating reserve funds, which the Board of Trustees deem appropriate for its efficient operation on a prudent basis. The operating reserve of £180,000 (2023: £150,000) is intended to meet administrative costs to enable the continued operation of the charity. Our reserves policy states that the charity should hold reserves equivalent to 6 to 9 months of unrestricted operating costs. The current reserve amount equates to 6 months of unrestricted operating costs. The trustees have deemed reasonable the amount of operating reserves currently held.

## Banking and Investment Powers

The Foundation may invest monies of the charity not immediately required for its purposes in or upon such investments, securities, or property as the Trustees may determine. Given the need for funds to be readily available, all funds are currently held in cash with our two banking providers, CAF Bank and Virgin Money.

## Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have created a Governance, Risk, and Audit Committee, which maintains a risk register and regularly discusses key risks on at least a quarterly basis. The Foundation's key risks include:

1. **Financial Security:** The Foundation depends on several key sources of income to continue its core operations. The trustees have prioritised investing in our fundraising resource to diversify our funding base and increase total income.



2. Loss of Key Management & Trustees: The Foundation risks losing key institutional knowledge via management and trustee resignations. It manages this risk by documenting key procedures and investing in robust systems.
3. Grantee Fraud or Non-Compliance: As a grant making organisation, the Foundation must ensure its grantees are compliant and use funds efficiently and effectively. It manages this risk through clear grant making procedures and regular grantee oversight.
4. Failing to Distribute Funds to Highest Impact Recipients: As a grant making organisation, the Foundation must ensure its funds reach the most impactful grantees. It manages this risk through a competitive grant application process, rigorous review and scoring, and by nominating external members to the Board's Grants Committee.

### **Charity's Public Benefit**

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance with regard to public benefit and have ensured that the Foundation's resources have been or will be distributed to organisations that provide, support or facilitate access to free legal advice and assistance to those in charitable need, regardless of status.

## Our Plans for 2025

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During 2024 trustees developed a new organisational strategy which sharpened our focus on key areas where we believe we can have the greatest impact. We have also developed a framework to measure and report on successes and learning.

In our next strategic period (2025 – 2028), trustees identified the following key areas of focus:

1. Our primary goals around increasing funding for the provision of free legal advice and making impactful grants remain in place.
2. Broadening our funding base, both through traditional fundraising streams (e.g. individual giving, legacies, and trusts and foundations) and investing significant resource in exploring innovative and transformative funding models (e.g. collective actions, interest on lawyers' trust accounts (IOLTA), and bona vacantia).
3. Investing in and building our data capability to more effectively make the case for funding advice and to inform best practice in advice service delivery.
4. Investing in our internal infrastructure to ensure we have the systems, capabilities and resources needed to take us forward.
5. Improving our external communications and engagement by better demonstrating the impact of the work we fund.

Below we set out some specific 2025 projects to take forward this new strategy.

As part of our ongoing commitment to exploring what works best in the delivery of free legal advice, we will be working with funders, tech companies, and frontline agencies to explore the idea of a justice tech fund to support organisations to make the best use of emerging technologies.

We will carry out a review of our internal infrastructure and develop a plan to strengthen the organisation's operations over the next three years, with an eye to scaling up quickly if we receive substantial income through the new collective action regime.

Together with the Centre for Socio Legal Studies at Oxford University, we will be launching our Additional Funding models project which will research how free legal advice is funded internationally and whether and how any of those international models could work effectively in the UK.

As the law relating to opt out collective actions in the Competition Appeal Tribunal develops, we will continue to raise awareness of our role as the prescribed charity to receive undistributed damages post-trial. This includes working with potential beneficiaries to co-design a funding strategy, as well as partnering with key stakeholders working in the competition law sector to shape our approach.

We will launch a new brand and website in 2025. As a first step in our commitment to becoming a more data led funder, our new website will include a data and learning hub to be transparent about our learning and to share this information so others can make use of it.

Building on our role as convenor of a group of over 40 funders via the Social Justice Funders Group, we have set up a subgroup of funders interested in improving the evidence base for the difference advice makes. This Data & Learning Funders Group is chaired by the Nuffield Foundation and will also feed into the Ministry of Justice's long term strategy development.

# Structure and Governance

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## Organisational Structure

The Access to Justice Foundation was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 2nd October 2008 and was registered as a charity in England and Wales on 3rd October 2008 and in Scotland on 27 July 2018. It is governed by its Articles of Association.

## Trustees

The composition of the Board represents the cross legal profession nature of the Foundation, working in collaboration with the advice sector. This is achieved through trustees being appointed by the following:

1. President of the Law Society of England and Wales – Appointee: Simon Davis
2. Chairman of the Bar Council – Appointee: James Willan KC (appointed June 2024)
3. President of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives – Appointee: Maxcine Akinsowon
4. Chairman of Advice Services Alliance – Appointee: Lindsey Poole (appointed February 2024)
5. Lady Chief Justice – Appointee: Anne Molyneux (appointed June 2024)

In addition, the Board of Trustees has the power to appoint further Trustees. It does this through an open, competitive recruitment process. It has appointed: Gavin Mansfield KC (Chair), Ruth Daniel (aka Adkin), Audrey Haaxman, Golam Morshed, Des Pullen, Sacha Rose-Smith, Rebecca Samaras, Andrew Seager, Joe Snape, and Sarah Stephens. The trustees ensure independence by maintaining a register of interests and declaring interests at individual meetings where necessary.

New trustees receive an induction including the following: (i) an induction pack with key organisational documents to read, (ii) separate induction meetings with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Chief Executive, and the Finance & Operations Director, (iii) support from a trustee “buddy”, and (iv) signing of key forms including an appointment declaration, a code of conduct, a confidentiality agreement, and a declaration of interests.

## Decision Making

The trustees provide oversight for all key activities, are responsible for determining the

Foundation’s overall strategic aims and direction and approve policies and expenditure above certain thresholds. Matters requiring board approval are decided by the Board acting by a majority at Trustee meetings or by 75 percent majority over email. The board appoints the following committees to make recommendations to the Board and to exercise delegated authority on some matters: (i) Governance, Risk and Audit Committee, (ii) Grants Committee, (iii) HR Remuneration and Nominations Committee, and (iv) ad hoc committees if/as needed. To ensure sufficient technical expertise, the Board has recruited external, non-trustee members to both the Grants Committee and the HR Remuneration and Nominations Committee.

The day-to-day running of the Foundation is delegated to management, operating within the confines of policies and delegations set by the board. In general, the areas of work delegated to management includes running grant programmes, fundraising, building partnerships in the sector, and finance and operations.

## Remuneration for Key Management

All employee salaries – including key management personnel – are set through a market benchmarking exercise conducted every three years using an external dataset of comparable roles in the charity sector. The most recent benchmarking exercise was completed in July 2023 and used salary data from CENDEX. Further, we conduct a cost-of-living assessment every year to determine if it is appropriate to increase staff salaries to keep pace with inflation. This assessment is also conducted using external data. Any such salary increases are reviewed and approved by the trustees. In July 2024, the Board provided a cost-of-living salary increase for all staff, in accordance with this policy, to account for inflation.

## Cooperation with Other Organisations

The Foundation maintains a robust external stakeholder engagement plan. It uses this plan to manage engagement and partnerships with other charities and organisations with which it co-operates to advance our charitable objectives.

## Trustees’ Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of The Access to Justice Foundation for the purposes of

company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards (U.K. Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper and adequate accounting records that disclose

with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Disclosure of Information to Auditors**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

### **Small Companies Regime**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

## Reference Information

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### Charity Information

Name: The Access to Justice Foundation  
Phone: 020 4522 8400  
Website: [www.atjf.org.uk](http://www.atjf.org.uk)  
Charity Number (England & Wales): 1126147  
Charity Number (Scotland): SC048584  
Company Number: 6714178

### Registered Office

The Access to Justice Foundation  
7 Bell Yard  
London  
WC2A 2JR

### Auditors

HaysMac LLP  
10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

### Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

Virgin Money  
Jubilee House  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 4PL

### Board of Trustees

Gavin Mansfield KC (Chair)  
Maxcine Akinsowon  
Ruth Daniel (aka Adkin) (appointed Sep 2024)  
Simon Davis  
Audrey Haaxman  
Dame Maura McGowan DBE (resigned Feb 2024)  
Anne Molyneux (appointed Jun 2024)  
Golam Morshed (appointed Oct 2024)  
Lindsey Poole (appointed Feb 2024)  
Des Pullen  
Sacha Rose-Smith  
Rebecca Samaras  
HHJ Khatun Sapnara (resigned Feb 2024)  
Andrew Seager  
Joe Snape  
Sarah Stephens  
James Willan KC (appointed Jun 2024)

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
on 19 June 2025



Gavin Mansfield KC  
Chair of the Board

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## **II. Independent Auditor's Report**

# Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of the Access to Justice Foundation

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## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Access to Justice Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

## Basis for Opinion

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

## Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

## Other information

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

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

misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (which incorporates the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

### **Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 10-11, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to Company Law



and Charity Law, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as Companies Act 2006 and the Charities' Act 2011 and consider other factors such as income tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements including the risk of override of controls. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reviewing the controls and procedures of the charitable company to ensure these were in place throughout the year;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Reviewing and testing journals entries made in the year, particularly those made as part of the year end financial reporting process; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Signed by:**

**Date:** 24 June 2025



**Lee Stokes (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
For and on behalf of HaysMac LLP,  
Statutory Auditors

10 Queen Street Place  
London  
EC4R 1AG

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## **III. Financial Statements**

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies							
	Pro bono costs orders	3	26,433	240,824	-	267,257	207,629
	Residual Client Balances		303,687	684	-	304,371	229,443
	Grants received	4	170,000	80,000	12,146,486	12,396,486	10,057,547
	Other donations		195,415	7,679	66,080	269,174	222,665
Investments							
	Bank interest received		34,947	-	2,858	37,805	22,124
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>730,482</b>	<b>329,187</b>	<b>12,215,424</b>	<b>13,275,093</b>	<b>10,739,408</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities							
	Grants & Donations payable	15	(25,000)	151,897	14,545,026	14,671,923	6,568,708
	Direct costs	6	20,030	7,200	646,701	673,931	468,023
	Support costs	7	66,665	-	-	66,665	60,404
	Raising funds	8	254,357	201	-	254,558	140,618
	Other	9	137,558	-	19,190	156,748	88,424
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>453,610</b>	<b>159,298</b>	<b>15,210,917</b>	<b>15,823,825</b>	<b>7,326,177</b>
Net Income / (Expenditure)			276,872	169,889	(2,995,493)	(2,548,732)	3,413,231
Total Funds Brought Forward			525,804	512,021	3,383,613	4,421,438	1,008,207
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31/12/2024			802,676	681,910	388,120	1,872,706	4,421,438

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

			Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies							
	Pro bono costs orders	3	-	207,629	-	207,629	281,776
	Residual Client Balances		229,443	-	-	229,443	158,066
	Grants received	4	20,000	180,000	9,857,547	10,057,547	6,161,855
	Other donations		132,623	90,042	-	222,665	459,046
Investments							
	Bank interest received		20,602	-	1,522	22,124	5,468
<b>Total Income</b>			<u>402,668</u>	<u>477,671</u>	<u>9,859,069</u>	<u>10,739,408</u>	<u>7,066,211</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities							
	Grants & Donations payable	15	35,000	15,441	6,518,267	6,568,708	6,668,059
	Direct costs	6	44,587	-	423,436	468,023	470,558
	Support costs	7	50,089	-	10,315	60,404	29,238
Raising funds		8	114,574	3,086	22,958	140,618	173,567
Other		9	70,824	-	17,600	88,424	76,885
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<u>315,074</u>	<u>18,527</u>	<u>6,992,576</u>	<u>7,326,177</u>	<u>7,418,307</u>
Net Income / (Expenditure)			87,594	459,144	2,866,493	3,413,231	(352,096)
Total Funds Brought Forward			<u>438,210</u>	<u>52,877</u>	<u>517,120</u>	<u>1,008,207</u>	<u>1,360,303</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward at 31/12/2023			<u>525,804</u>	<u>512,021</u>	<u>3,383,613</u>	<u>4,421,438</u>	<u>1,008,207</u>

**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 December 2024**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	10	21,108	42,963
Cash at bank		1,942,012	4,518,145
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>1,963,120</u>	<u>4,561,108</u>
<b>Creditors, amounts falling due within one year</b>	11	<u>(90,414)</u>	<u>(139,670)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		1,872,706	4,421,438
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>£ 1,872,706</u>	<u>£ 4,421,438</u>

**The Funds of the Charity**

Unrestricted funds	12	802,676	525,804
Designated funds	12	681,910	512,021
Restricted funds	12	388,120	3,383,613
		<u>£ 1,872,706</u>	<u>£ 4,421,438</u>

The notes on pages 22 to 33 form part of the financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 June 2025.

And signed on their behalf by:



**Gavin Mansfield KC**  
**Chair of the Board**

**Statement of Cashflows**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
<b>Net cash provided by</b>			
<b>Operating activities</b>		(2,613,939)	3,267,285
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest		37,806	22,124
		_____	_____
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>			
<b>In the reporting period</b>		(2,576,133)	3,289,409
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the reporting period		4,518,145	1,228,736
		_____	_____
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		1,942,012	4,518,145
		_____	_____

Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	(2,548,732)	3,413,231
Bank interest receivable	(37,806)	(22,124)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	21,855	4,761
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(49,256)	(128,583)
	_____	_____
Net cash provided by operating activities	(2,613,939)	3,267,285
	_____	_____

**Analysis of Changes in net Debt - 2024**

	Cash at 1 January 2024	Cashflows	Cash at 31 December 2024
	£		£
Cash	4,518,145	(2,576,133)	1,942,012

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**1 General information**

The continuing activity of the charity is to facilitate access to justice for those unable to afford legal assistance.

The charity is a public benefit entity, a United Kingdom charitable company limited by guarantee. It is both incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1AG.

**2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(a) Basis of accounting**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies that have been applied to all periods presented in these financial statements are set out below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the accounting policies selected for use by the Charity. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual outcomes in the future could differ from such estimates.

**(b) Income recognition**

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity becomes legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Where a pro bono cost order has not been received within 6 months of the award a bad debt provision is considered according to the likelihood of receiving the funds. Bad debts are offset against income receivable.

Donations are recognised in accordance with the donor's wishes and credited to restricted or unrestricted funds as the case may be.

Income from government and other grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

**(c) Grants payable**

Grants payable are accounted for in the period during which they are approved by the Foundation.

**(d) Expenditure recognition**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is charged to the SOFA on an accruals basis.

When costs relate to more than one activity they are allocated to charitable expenditure, the cost of raising funds or other costs based upon management estimate of staff time. Where costs are not directly attributable to a fund they are recorded as unrestricted and a transfer recorded to account for costs attributable to restricted income.

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)****(e) Gifts in kind**

Gifts in kind are brought into account at their estimated market value at the time the relevant gifts are made.

**(f) Financial instruments**

The only financial instruments held by the Charity constitute payables and receivables. These are categorised as 'basic' in accordance with Section 11 of FRS 102 and are initially recognised at transaction price. These are subsequently measured at transaction price less any impairment.

**(g) Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Foundation and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Foundation for particular purposes.

Designated funds consist of donations received which the Trustees have allocated toward a specific beneficiary. As such the conditions have been imposed by the Trustees rather than the donor.

**(h) Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The Trustees conclude that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue and accordingly the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

**(i) Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees 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 period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Trustees consider the provision for non-recoverable amounts in relation to pro bono costs to be a key judgement and estimation. Pro-bono costs are considered for recoverability on a case by case basis.



**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**3 Pro Bono Costs**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Pro bono cost orders relating to 2024	249,757	266,141
Pro bono cost orders previously considered non-recoverable for previous years	20,000	-
Non-recoverable amounts	(2,500)	(58,512)
	£ <u>267,257</u>	£ <u>207,629</u>

**4 Grants Received**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Improving Lives Through Advice The National Lottery Community Fund	6,045,990	3,075,736
Improving Outcomes Through Legal Support Ministry of Justice	6,000,000	4,424,000
Help Accessing Legal Support Ministry of Justice	-	2,290,905
Legal Support for Litigants in Person Ministry of Justice	-	(11,073)
Community Justice Fund		
Ministry of Justice	-	(5,021)
Others, including Independent Funders	33,000	33,000
Other grants	317,496	250,000
	£ <u>12,396,486</u>	£ <u>10,057,547</u>

**5 Salaries**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	689,060	513,327
Social Security Costs	71,813	51,209
Pension costs	25,739	18,283
Redundancy costs	0	-
	£ <u>786,612</u>	£ <u>582,819</u>

The average number of employees during the year was fifteen (2023: twelve), engaged in the management and administration of the Foundation.

The number of employees whose annualised emoluments exceeded £60,000 during the year (including taxable benefits but excluding employers' pension contributions) was:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,000 - £90,000	1	-
£90,000 - £100,000	-	-

Key management remuneration for the year totalled £377,427 (2023: £286,396).

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**6 Direct Costs**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Staff costs	512,455	415,584
Rent and rates	44,161	21,521
Professional fees & Consultancy	96,250	7,501
Raising Funds & Direct Charitable Expenditure	1,696	689
Administrative expenses	19,369	22,728
	<u>£ 673,931</u>	<u>£ 468,023</u>

**7 Support Costs**

Charity accounting regulations require us to separately identify Support costs incurred.  
These are set out as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Staff costs	274,157	167,235
Rent and rates	5,800	3,799
Professional fees	25,416	3,680
Administrative expenses	49,225	20,138
	<u>£ 354,598</u>	<u>£ 194,852</u>

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Direct charitable expenditure	66,665	60,404
Cost of raising funds	154,250	68,198
Administration costs	133,683	66,250
	<u>£ 354,598</u>	<u>£ 194,852</u>

**8 Raising funds**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Direct costs	201	3,302
Gifts in Kind	100,107	69,118
Allocated Support Costs (see note 7)	154,250	68,198
	<u>£ 254,558</u>	<u>£ 140,618</u>

**9 Other costs**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Audit fees	20,040	18,020
Other	3,025	4,154
Allocated support costs (see note 7)	133,683	66,250
	<u>£ 156,748</u>	<u>£ 88,424</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**10 Debtors**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Accrued income	14,700	11,000
Prepayments	6,408	31,963
£	<u>21,108</u>	<u>£ 42,963</u>

**11 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Accruals	20,871	21,203
Grants payable	-	-
Deferred Income	45,000	95,000
Other payables	24,543	23,467
£	<u>90,414</u>	<u>£ 139,670</u>

## Deferred Income

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Deferred Income Brought Forward	95,000	50,000
Released to Income and Expenditure, 2024	(95,000)	(50,000)
Transferred from Income and Expenditure, 2024	45,000	95,000
Deferred Income Carried Forward	<u>45,000</u>	<u>£ 95,000</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**12 Summary of Funds**

**2024**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds
As at 1 January 2024	525,804	512,021	3,383,613
Total Income	730,482	329,187	12,215,424
Total Expenditure	<u>(453,610)</u>	<u>(159,298)</u>	<u>(15,210,917)</u>
At 31 December 2024	£ <u>802,676</u>	£ <u>681,910</u>	£ <u>388,120</u>

**2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds
As at 1 January 2023	438,210	52,877	517,120
Total Income	402,668	477,671	9,859,069
Total Expenditure	<u>(315,074)</u>	<u>(18,527)</u>	<u>(6,992,576)</u>
At 31 December 2023	£ <u>525,804</u>	£ <u>512,021</u>	£ <u>3,383,613</u>

Restricted funds are further split as follows:

**2024**

	TNLCF ILTA	MOJ IOTLS	Complete MOJ programmes	Other	Total
As at 1 January 2024	2,962,141	77,784	-	343,688	3,383,613
Total Income	6,048,847	6,000,000	-	166,576	12,215,423
Total Expenditure	<u>(8,687,647)</u>	<u>(6,013,005)</u>	-	<u>(510,264)</u>	<u>(15,210,916)</u>
At 31 December 2024	£ <u>323,341</u>	£ <u>64,779</u>	£ <u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>388,120</u>

**2023**

	TNLCF ILTA	MOJ IOTLS	Complete MOJ programmes	Other	Total
As at 1 January 2023	-	-	122,889	394,231	517,120
Total Income	3,077,258	4,424,000	2,274,811	83,000	9,859,069
Total Expenditure	<u>(115,117)</u>	<u>(4,346,216)</u>	<u>(2,397,700)</u>	<u>(133,543)</u>	<u>(6,992,576)</u>
At 31 December 2023	£ <u>2,962,141</u>	£ <u>77,784</u>	£ <u>-</u>	£ <u>343,688</u>	<u>3,383,613</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Fund assets and liabilities are made up as follows:

<b>2024</b>				
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Debtors	7,248	13,860	-	21,108
Cash	885,842	668,050	388,120	1,942,012
Liabilities	(90,414)	-	-	(90,414)
Net assets at 31 December 2024	£ <u>802,676</u>	£ <u>681,910</u>	£ <u>388,120</u>	£ <u>1,872,706</u>
<b>2023</b>				
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Debtors	32,263	10,700	-	42,963
Cash	633,211	501,321	3,383,613	4,518,145
Liabilities	(139,670)	-	-	(139,670)
Net assets at 31 December 2023	£ <u>525,804</u>	£ <u>512,021</u>	£ <u>3,383,613</u>	£ <u>4,421,438</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**13 Contingent liability**

The Charity has provided indemnities to firms that have donated unclaimed client funds in respect of client balances in the event that these are claimed back from the firm. Suitable investment of these reserves is considered by the trustees on a regular basis.

**14 Related Parties**

No member of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil). Travel expenses reimbursed amounted to £761 (2023: £383).

There were no other related party transactions noted in the current or preceding year.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**15 Grants and Donations made to Institutions**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Grants & Donations	14,671,923	6,568,708

Grants & Donations were made to the following institutions for the purpose of enabling the recipient to promote the charity's objectives:

Access Social Care	154,000	-
Advocate/Bar Pro Bono Unit	25,231	-
Anti-trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU)	150,000	30,000
Asylum Justice	-	26,250
Asylum Support Appeals Project	94,596	50,404
Birmingham People's Centre	1,370	-
Radical Employment Rights	130	-
Bristol Law Centre	251,698	114,757
Bristol Refugee Rights	-	33,750
Cambridge House and Talbot	-	44,125
CASCAIDr (Centre for Adults' Social Care)	-	75,000
CASSPLUS (Community Advice and Support Service)	101,659	73,626
Casus Omissus (The Aberdeen Law Project)	80	-
Central England Law Centre	273,457	83,547
Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)	150,000	-
Citizens Advice Bradford and Airedale	104,472	75,663
Citizens Advice Braintree & South Essex Limited	23,073	-
Citizens Advice Bury & Bolton	142,500	-
Citizens Advice Canolfen Cynghon Ynys Mon	-	31,133
Citizens Advice Central Dorset	150,000	64,097
Citizens Advice Central Nottinghamshire	81,569	-
Citizens Advice Chelmsford	4,494	79
Citizens Advice Coventry	-	37,500
Citizens Advice Croydon	93,210	95,059
Citizens Advice Denbighshire	60,928	74,997
Citizens Advice Flintshire	66,133	47,897
Citizens Advice Gateshead	102,918	74,538
Citizens Advice Hull & East Riding	131,740	-
Citizens Advice Liverpool	114,515	82,938
Citizens Advice Mid Mercia	-	34,657
Citizens Advice Middlesbrough	58,189	42,143
Citizens Advice Norfolk	2,498	1,000
Citizens Advice North & West Kent	92,069	122,931
Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire	127,348	-
Citizens Advice North Somerset	147,996	-
Citizens Advice Oxford Branch	24,999	-
Citizens Advice Portsmouth	89,575	64,875
Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taff	-	40,050
Citizens Advice Sheffield & Law Centre	150,000	-
Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark	-	77,827
Citizens Advice St Albans District	19,938	-
Citizens Advice Wandsworth	150,000	-
Citizens Advice Wiltshire	-	26,250
Citizens Advice Worcester and Herefordshire	150,000	-
Community Advice and Law Service Ltd	115,953	128,978
Community Law Service (Northampton And County)	86,083	62,252
Community Legal Centre - Essex	-	41,191
Coram Children's Legal Centre	154,045	-
Coventry Haven Women's Aid	137,444	-
Cumbria Law Centre	265,993	123,382

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Grants & Donations made to Institutions continued**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Deighton Pierce Glynn	33,000	33,000
Derbyshire Law Centre	150,096	45,000
Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support	103,950	75,285
Direct Help & Advice	115,435	83,603
Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk)	102,917	-
Disability Law Service	-	26,250
Disability North	149,575	-
Disability Rights UK	25,000	-
Domestic abuse Volunteer Support Services (DAVSS)	115,970	83,991
Dundee North Law Centre	328	-
Ealing Law Centre	-	26,250
East End Citizens Advice Bureaux	115,993	84,007
East European Resource Centre	150,000	-
East Greenwich Legal Advice Clinic	5,000	-
Equality and Employment Law Centre	13	-
Ethnic Minorities Law Centre	-	216
Families InFocus (Essex)	150,000	-
Family Rights Group	135,000	56,250
First Light South West	62,038	54,681
Fiscus North Limited	123,440	-
Free Legal Advice Group for Domestic Violence (FLAGDV)	-	30,000
Friends, Families and Travellers	265,993	121,507
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit	259,949	79,630
Greater Manchester Law Centre & PBC	84,860	73,235
Hammersmith & Fulham Community Law Centre	-	56,250
Harlow Advice Centre	-	36,528
Harrow Law Centre	69,596	87,904
Hastings Advice and Representation Centre	-	14,265
Hope Projects	-	12,196
Housing Matters Bristol	128	-
IKWRO - Women's Rights Organisation	150,000	-
Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS)	114,005	82,568
Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation (IRMO)	83,358	60,371
IPSEA	47,517	-
Just for Kids Law	-	75,000
Just Right Scotland	-	157
Justice	7,150	-
JustUs	-	334
Kent Law Clinic	-	938
Kirklees Citizens Advice & Law Centre	99,387	71,981
LAPG (Legal Aid Practitioners Group Management & Leadership Hub)	170,480	-
Latin American Women's Rights Service	150,000	-
Law Centres Network	-	10,000
Law for Life (Foundation for Public Legal Education)	150,000	56,250
LawCare	504	-
LawWorks (The Solicitors Pro Bono Group)	7,550	56,250
Legal Advice Centre (University House)	25,000	-
Legal Education Foundation (LEF)	116,667	-
LGBT Foundation	104,185	-
Luton Law Centre	58,031	42,029
Manchester Mind	75,037	54,345
Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN)	-	30,846
Mancroft Advice Project	139,751	-
Manuel Bravo Project	265,993	84,007
Mary Ward Legal Centre	138,481	123,439



**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Grants & Donations made to Institutions continued**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Maternity Action	150,000	65,250
Merseyside Law Centre	218,174	49,927
Narthex Sparkhill	150,000	-
New Forest Disability Information Service	78,389	-
Nishkam Civic Association	113,267	82,033
Norfolk Coalition of Disabled People	150,000	-
Norfolk Community Law Service	263,541	110,636
North Bristol Advice Centre	71,637	70,633
North East Law Centre	270,181	150,735
North Kensington Law Centre	95,660	122,634
North West London Law Centres (NWLLC)	150,000	-
North Yorkshire Citizens Advice and Law Centre	268,862	150,757
Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council	106,896	25,908
Nottingham Law Centre	150,755	-
Oxford Community Work Agency	64,966	47,052
PBIC Ltd	150,000	-
Peterborough Citizens Advice	909	-
Plumstead Community Law Centre	-	18,750
Praxis Community Projects	109,273	79,141
PRCBC	-	22,500
Public Interest Law Centre	129,000	25,000
Public Law Project	150,000	-
Rainbow Migration	150,000	-
Raise	75,395	54,605
RCJ Advice	321,922	180,764
Refugee and Migrant Centre - Birmingham	2,329	-
Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex & London (RAMFEL)	4,000	-
Refugee Support (Devon) Ltd	-	22,500
Release	-	45,000
Rights of Women	259,613	135,637
Riverside Advice	60,672	43,942
Shelter	123,069	83,286
Shelter Cymru	56,067	40,607
South West London Law Centres	113,397	130,877
South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice	61,996	42,004
Southwark Law Centre	266,433	81,430
Speakeasy Law Centre	4,000	46,451
Special Educational Needs Advice Centre (SENAC)	23,333	-
Spitfire Advice and Support Services	105,000	-
Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent Citizens Advice Bureau	115,852	83,905
Stevenage Citizens Advice Bureau	60,580	43,875
Stockton and District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS)	156,083	53,940
Suffolk Law Centre (Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality)	140,542	37,875
Support & Action To End Domestic Abuse (SATEDA)	149,353	-
Support Through Court	293,375	268,726
Support Through Court Birmingham	251	119
Support Through Court Leeds	88	-
Tax Volunteers (Trading Name Tax Help for Older People)	6,913	-
TaxAid UK t/a Bridge The Gap	8,833	1,024
Teignbridge CAB	150,000	37,500
The Motherhood Plan (t/a Pregnant Then Screwed)	108,513	78,591
The Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work Incorporated ('Parents And	150,000	-
The Women's Centre Cornwall	99,855	-
Tower Hamlets Law Centre	118,629	68,365
UCL Integrated Legal Advice Clinic	1,250	-

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Grants & Donations made to Institutions continued**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
University of Strathclyde Law Clinic	38	-
Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre	4,492	5,000
Victim Support	51,106	37,013
Wiltshire Law Centre	4,000	56,250
Women's Consortium	225	-
Working Families	265,993	159,007
York CAB	936	-
Your Voice Counts	120,000	-
Zacchaeus 2000 Trust	25,000	-
	<u>14,671,923</u>	<u>6,568,708</u>

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## IV. Impact Report



THE  
ACCESS  
TO JUSTICE  
FOUNDATION

# Impact Report 2024

## Our grants are funding organisations across the UK.

A third of our funded partners are located in London. Many offer services UK wide, including Scotland.



# The Access to Justice Foundation is the only funder in the UK dedicated to increasing free legal support, advice and representation for everyone who needs it.

We work with other funders and individuals to increase the money available for free legal advice, while working directly with community organisations supporting people who are less likely to know about or be able to access legal help.

When we talk about access to justice we're talking about people like David - people walking a fine line between managing a setback and facing a life-shattering crisis.

We exist to make sure everyone has someone to turn to, like the advisers at David's local Citizens Advice and Law Centre.

## Our approach

In this report, you'll see how we work with advice-providing charities, funders, and organisations to make better decisions and champion better practices.



**If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch.**

## Case study

### Why our work matters:

When David, an adult at risk, lost his ID and phone, he couldn't access his online bank account. Without funds to pay rent or buy food, he was evicted and had to rely on food banks. David turned to the Citizens Advice Bradford & Airedale and Bradford Law Centre for help.

With the help of an adviser, he was eventually able to open a new bank account and transfer his funds.

Able to pay rent for his own home again and being less reliant on charitable help or food banks helped David feel more independent and empowered.



**If you are interested in doing more to help people like David, please donate.**

## We focus on three key priorities:

Funding where need is the greatest

Funding the most effective ways to deliver legal advice

Gaining and sharing knowledge



# Funding where need is the greatest

**Your ability to get good legal advice shouldn't depend on how much money you have or where you live. But it does.**

There are huge disparities of access to free legal advice across the UK.

In many parts of the country, particularly rural areas, people have nowhere to turn when facing life-changing legal problems.

These “advice deserts” leave communities isolated from crucial support. Even with public transport to local towns, they often find no one there who can offer free advice.

For marginalised communities such as travellers and refugees this isolation runs deeper. They need organisations that understand their unique experience and provide safe spaces to address issues like housing, immigration and other crucial issues.

**We direct our funding where it creates the greatest impact, funding effective charities serving communities with the most pressing needs.**

Too often, the communities most in need of legal advice have the hardest time accessing it. Disabled people, for instance, might have difficulty reaching an advice agency. Yet they are also more likely to need help with benefits applications, housing problems and employment challenges.

That's why in 2024, we made grants to organisations working to improve their free legal advice provision to clients with disabilities.

One of our funded partners, Citizens Advice Braintree and South Essex, is using their grant to improve access to their services by providing sign language interpreters, using new technology, and partnering with disability advocacy groups. Read more [here](#).



**12.45m**  
**people in England**  
**live in legal aid**  
**deserts for housing.**

LexisNexis Legal Aid Deserts report. 2022

## Case study

# The Women's Centre, Cornwall

Led by women, many of whom have survived violence themselves, The Women's Centre provides vital services to women and girls dealing with the aftermath of sexual and domestic abuse.

The Centre supports women facing complex challenges including homelessness and discrimination, as well as women with learning disabilities and migrant women who often encounter additional barriers to getting help.

Their doors are open to women across Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, and to those in HMP Eastwood Park.

Our funding is supporting the Centre's ambition to build a legal advice partnership, training staff, local lawyers and practitioners, to ensure they can deliver services sensitive to the needs and experience of the women they serve. The aim is to radically improve survivors' access to justice, particularly for the most excluded and marginalised women.

**Jackie May, CEO, said:**

“A few years ago housing was the biggest issue. Now it is the impact of getting good legal advice. Our closest Law Centre is 150 miles away in Bristol.

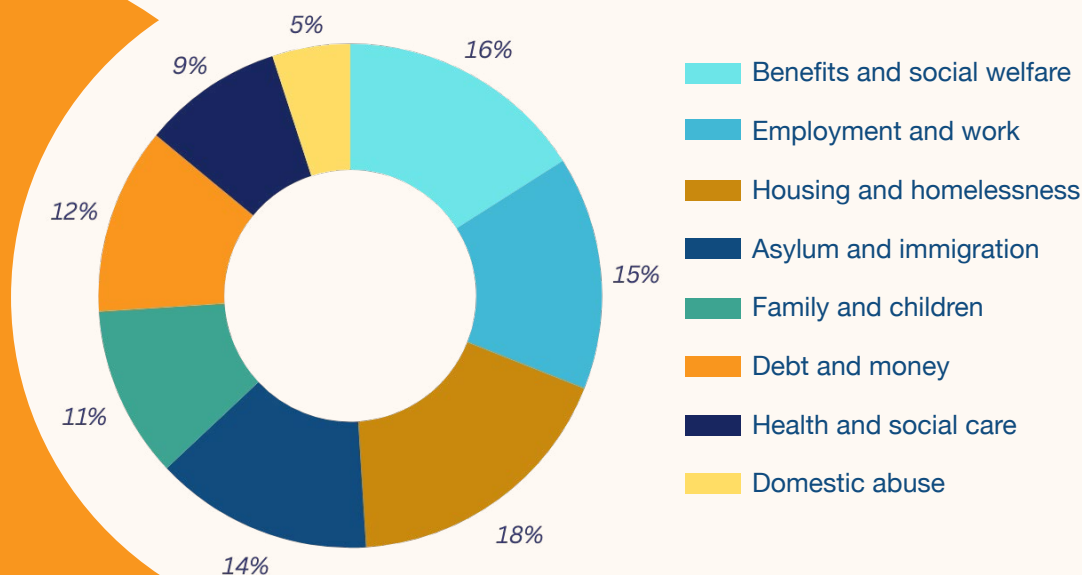
The five year core cost grant from The Access to Justice Foundation means we can use our resources where they are most needed. It has given us hope.”



**If you are interested in doing more to help, please donate.**

We support the provision of free legal advice that goes to the heart of people's daily lives. Below is a breakdown of the beneficiary needs met by our funded partners:

**We awarded £34.8m in multi-year grants in 2024 and made payments of £14.6m**





# Funding the most effective ways to deliver legal advice

**Getting legal advice in a way that works for you is essential for true access to justice.**

The traditional in-person office-based setting for legal advice has long since given way to a myriad of methods including informal, drop-in, community-based settings and online chat functions.

These new methods break down barriers, but we need to know which ones truly work best for people in need. This creates three key challenges

- **Legal advice agencies develop creative ways to reach people but struggle to measure their effectiveness,**
- **Agencies struggle to demonstrate their impact to funders like us**

**And most critically**

- **Communities might miss out on receiving advice in ways that better suit their specific needs.**

**74,897**  
**people were helped**  
**in 2024**

Data from Ministry of Justice  
funded projects



**We are committed to strengthening advice agencies by building their resources, skills, and capacity. This helps them identify the best approaches for their communities and gather meaningful data about what works.**

The evidence on advice service impact remains incomplete. That's why we are working with others to tap into expertise and fill these knowledge gaps.

We share what we learn through our website and forums, creating resources that benefits the entire sector.

Throughout this work, we are mindful of how we interact with advice agencies — only asking for data that serves a clear purpose and drives real improvement.

## Case study

# FISCUS

Based in Sunderland's most deprived ward FISCUS North delivers welfare, benefits and debt advice to more than 1400 people facing significant barriers.

Working through weekly outreach advice sessions at 14 foodbanks, they have responded to a 300% rise in demand in recent years. They meet people dealing with deepening poverty, mental health challenges, and increasingly complex needs that require comprehensive support.

FISCUS is a truly community based charity proudly offering "more than advice" with a Baby Bank, Clothes Bank and a Young Mammie's Home Economics Project alongside their advice service. The safe and welcoming spaces they provide help people to open up and share problems.

Our grant has enabled the organisation to offer full-time positions to experienced staff who were previously part-time and ensuring critical projects continue rather than closing down due to lack of funding.

**CEO Anita Heskett-Saddington said:**

“This funding has given me breathing space as a leader, time to focus on other issues and given space for other ideas.”



If you are interested in doing more to help, [please donate.](#)

## Learning together, achieving more

Shared learning is core to our values and in autumn 2024 we brought frontline organisations, funders, and the legal community together for the official launch of our five year core funding programme, [Improving Lives Through Advice](#).

We were joined by Phil Chamberlain, England Director at The National Lottery Community Fund, and Farah Ziaulla, from the Ministry of Justice. Both spoke about a unified approach and long-term vision for improving access to justice.

Funded partners from across the country, including FISCUS, shared powerful insights about their community impact. Their success stories highlighted common themes: the importance of advisers with lived experience, meeting people in accessible locations like foodbanks rather than expecting them to visit offices, and building relationships founded on trust and empowerment.

**Our long-term core funding transforms what's possible for these organisations.** It helps them attract and keep talented staff, invest confidently in innovative approaches, increase access to specialist legal advice, and provide holistic solutions to complex needs.



# Sharing knowledge and resources

**The chronic under-funding in the social justice sector is too big for any single organisation to solve alone. We work with charities, funders and other organisations that share the same aims. By joining forces we will create stronger solutions and better outcomes for everyone who needs free legal advice while continuing to make the case to government for better funded social welfare advice.**

Our collaborative approach drove a project with the Solicitors Regulation Authority and The Law Society of England and Wales to explore how Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) can address unmet legal needs.

We identified and highlighted the essential role free legal advice providers play in connecting people to dispute resolution services through a series of activities and events over 18 months

We brought together more than 120 experts representing the frontline, legal profession, technology, regulatory, and government sectors interested in resolving disputes at an early stage.

This diverse expertise helped us pinpoint not just barriers to effective ODR services, but solutions to overcome them.

## Our work delivered:

- Strategic recommendations for successfully embedding solutions,
- Best practice guidance for developing new solutions, and
- Clear evidence showing the value of funding frontline advice services to resolve disputes earlier and quicker.

This collaborative approach drives everything we do. Visit our website to see more examples of how we're bringing people together to increase access to justice.

[Read more.](#)

**“I am so glad ATJF are bringing together such a great cross section of the sector. There is so much expertise and genuine insight in the sector, if we just came together more, we could really crack it!”**

Free legal advice provider, Online Dispute Resolution Workshop



## Case study

# Access Social Care

Delivering to a vulnerable and underserved community, Access Social Care provide free legal advice and support for people with social care needs to ensure they get the care they are entitled to.

With over 850,000 people potentially needing legal advice to enforce their rights the charity has pioneered the use of technology and AI to ensure their services remain effective and accessible.

We know that developing new technology takes time and involves risks that often deter funders. That's why we provide long-term core funding—allowing Access Social Care to confidently invest in innovative approaches while continuing to meet their communities' immediate needs.

CEO and Founder Kari Gerstheimer said:

**“According to NHS data, in 2023/24 only 41% of people who requested social care received it. At least 1.5 million people are living without the social care they need.”**

Kari Gerstheimer

**“Our online legal information service, AccessAva contains more than 200 legal letters which can be personalised.**

**“We know disabled people, older people, and carers use it to navigate through the system more smoothly, and solve problems early on, improving social care outcomes. By hosting it on more than 30 partner websites, we are able to reach marginalised communities and gather powerful data.**

**“Transitioning from a minimum viable product to a sustainable service can sometimes feel like pushing a boulder up a big hill - long term funding from the Access to Justice Foundation enables us to take the calculated risks necessary when developing a tech product.”**



## Building stronger leadership for greater impact

The organisations we partner with often pour all their resources into frontline services, leaving little capacity for developing management skills. We believe great advice charities need both exceptional services and strong leadership. That's why we go beyond just funding. We're actively strengthening 59 charities through:

▶ Management and leadership training

▶ Tailored consultancy support

▶ A vibrant peer support network

**“Supporting effective management, leadership and governance is critical to maintaining and building a resilient, accessible, and high-quality specialist advice sector. Strengthen the managers and you strengthen the organisations they manage.”**

**Matthew Howgate FCMI,**  
Director of the LAPG  
Management & Leadership Hub



**59**  
charities are  
being supported  
by Funder Plus

## Our convened groups

We're committed to working collaboratively with others across the sector to ensure everyone can make the best use of the experience, expertise, and learning generated by our collective knowledge.

We openly share our data, insights, and learning because we believe collaboration strengthens everyone's work. When more people have access to quality information, we all make a bigger impact.

Our open groups create dynamic spaces where people share opportunities, tackle challenges together, and build powerful partnerships:



**The Justice and Innovation Group** is our flagship 550 strong cross-sector community group dedicated to using innovative approaches to deliver better justice services to clients. Members identify and discuss key issues facing innovation and the use of technology in the access to justice community.



**Insights and Learning Sessions** dive deep into research, evidence, and projects that matter. These sessions help us all translate valuable information into practical action, identifying the resources we need to make real change happen.



**The Social Justice Funders Group** connects 80 funders committed to addressing inequalities and building a fairer society. Our quarterly meetings facilitate knowledge exchange and create opportunities for coordinated action on shared priorities.

**“The Access to Justice Foundation plays a vital role in tackling the twin challenge of unmet legal need and championing the importance of access to justice. Through its work to support the sector to develop the evidence base about legal advice, it has been a driving force in convening stakeholders to focus their attention on improving the collection of data and use of research.”**

Ash Patel, Programme Head – Justice,  
Nuffield Foundation



**[Want to be part of these conversations?](#)**

**[Please get in touch.](#)**

# Thank you

## Our work to increase access to justice is only possible thanks to donations.

**Special thanks to the Ministry of Justice, The National Lottery Community Fund and The Stewarts Foundation for multi-year transformational funding of free legal advice.**

**Thank you to all who have given – including those who wish to remain anonymous and all those who organise and take part in fundraising events.**

Addleshaw Goddard, AK Law, Alexander Bennett Solicitors, Ashley James Solicitors, Ashurst LLP, Baring Foundation, Baker McKenzie, Blaser Mills Solicitors, Bolt Burdon Solicitors, Brick Court Chambers, Brighouses Solicitors, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, Burges Salmon, Burnett Barker Solicitors, Caswell Jones Solicitors, Central England Law Centre (CELC), Clifford Chance, Clyde & Co, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP, Cohen & Gresser, Cooley Ltd, Crowd Justice, DAC Beachcroft LLP, David Gray Solicitors, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, Dechert LLP, DGM Solicitors, Diligent Law, DMA Law, Expatriate Law, Fried Frank, Goodwin Proctor, Gowling WLG, Hague & Dixon, Helen Robbins Solicitors, Hogan Lovells International LLP, Horsey Lightly Solicitors, Investor Compensation (UK) Ltd, Ives & Co, Jomati Foundation, Kort Ltd, Lanyon Bowdler, Leeds Beckett Law School, Leigh Day & Co, LexisNexis, Lewis Silkin, Linklaters LLP, Malcolm Foy & Co, Meadows Ryan Solicitors, Milburns Solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, Morr & Co, Pockex Tax Ltd, Preston Incorporated Law Society, Redkite Solicitors, Reed Smith LLP, Rees Page Solicitors, Relative Connections, Scott + Scott, Shoosmiths, Simmons & Simmons, Simpson Millar, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Squire Patton Boggs Charitable Trust, The Bar Council, The Law Society of England & Wales, Thompsons Solicitors, Watson Farley & Williams, Wiggin LLP, Windeatts Solicitors, Womble Bond Dickinson, Woolliscrofts Solicitors

**We would like to recognise the work of pro bono lawyers who not only successfully represent their clients but also obtain Pro Bono Costs Orders which go on to help many more people have access to pro bono legal advice.**

Pépin Aslett of St Johns Buildings, Maxim Cardew of Maitland Chambers, Toby Chandler of Crown Office Chambers, Reuben Comiskey of Radcliffe Chambers, Cecily Crampin of Falcon Chambers, Nicole Davis of Edwin Coe LLP, Ian Denham of Outer Temple Chambers, Siobhan Duncan of Temple Tax Chambers, Harry Eccles-Williams of Mishcon de Reya, Benjamin Faulkner of Wilberforce Chambers, Christine Howard of Weil Gotshal and Manges, Edward Kemp KC of Matrix Chambers, Daniel Kessler of 4 Stone Buildings, Josh Lewison of Radcliffe Chambers, Cathryn McGahey KC of Temple Garden Chambers, Andrew Judge of Westgate Chambers, Sarah Parker of 3 Verulam Buildings, Georgina Peters of South Square Chambers, Brad Pomfret KC of 23 Essex Street, Rhiannon Phelps of Eversheds Sutherland, Rebecca Scammell of Bevirs Law, Harry Stratton of One Essex Court, Kate Traynor of Landmark Chambers, Verity Taylor of Mishcon de Reya, James Watthey of 4 Pump Court

# Get involved

You can join us by:

- Making a regular personal donation
- Demonstrating your company's commitment to justice through a donation
- Donating your Residual Client Balances
- Obtaining a Pro Bono Costs Order
- Sponsoring and taking part in a fundraising event

If you are passionate about increasing access to justice, please get in touch.

➤ Visit  
[www.atjf.org.uk/support-us](http://www.atjf.org.uk/support-us)

● Contact  
Bhavini Bhatt, Development Director,  
[bhavinibhatt@atjf.org.uk](mailto:bhavinibhatt@atjf.org.uk)



THE  
ACCESS  
TO JUSTICE  
FOUNDATION

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