

**PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Directors' Report)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and '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 and as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

**1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The charity's objective is to advance the education of the public in general (and in particular among those concerned with genetic conditions and infertility) in the fields of human genetics, assisted conception and embryology, including their ethical and regulatory aspects.

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. There is a rolling evaluation of its activities at both Trustees' and Advisory Committee meetings.

In carrying out their review, the Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, its supplementary public benefit guidance on the advancement of education. The Trustees judge how planned activities will contribute to the objects of the charity.

**2. MISSION, STRATEGIES AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

The vision of Progress Educational Trust (PET) is to improve choices for people affected by infertility or genetic conditions. The mission of PET is to educate and to debate the responsible application of reproductive and genetic science.

PET has continued to realise its vision and pursue its mission through the publication of BioNews, and through public events including an Annual Conference. BioNews – which is free of subscription charges – has a wide international readership, estimated to be in the region of 18,000.

PET engages with a wide range of age and interest groups, and educates the public about the complex scientific, ethical, legal and social issues that arise from genetics, genomics, assisted conception and embryo/stem cell research. PET public events are mostly free of charge, and are supported by donations, sponsorship or grant funding. Where a charge is made – for example, at the PET Annual Conference – concessions are offered for students, pensioners and those on benefits. All PET public events are widely advertised, so as to attract a large and diverse audience. 2,825 people attended PET events during this audit period.

PET collaborates with a wide range of organisations, in order to reach a more diverse audience and draw upon expertise. PET also works extensively with the media and other interested parties. The charity continues to be highly influential, and is regarded as a leading source of information and expertise on genetics, genomics, assisted conception and embryo/stem cell research.

PET maintains strong links with both the UK Government and the Scottish Government. Outside the UK, PET engages with a wide range of organisations and institutions including the World Health Organisation, the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, and the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health

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PET shares its expertise by working with and serving on bodies including the following.

- *The British Fertility Society (BFS)*

The PET Director is a Trustee of the BFS, and is also Chair of this organisation's Special Interest Group on Law, Policy and Ethics.

- *The National Fertility Group, convened by the Scottish Government*

The PET Director is a member of this Group, which brings representatives of Scotland's four NHS assisted conception units together with other NHS, patient and policy representatives.

- *The Patient Organisation Stakeholder Group, convened by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)*

PET is represented by its Director in meetings of this Group, which liaises with the UK's fertility regulator.

- *Guidance development groups for genetic medicine, convened by the British Society for Genetic Medicine (BSGM)*

The PET Deputy Director is a member of two of these groups, which focus on Ethical Issues in Prenatal Genetic Diagnosis and on Prenatal Diagnosis and Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Germline Cancer Susceptibility Gene Variants.

- *The Working Group for Good Practice Recommendations on Add-Ons, convened by the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)*

The PET Director is a member of this Working Group, which develops good practice recommendations for 'add-ons' in reproductive medicine.

- *The Newborn Genomes Programme and Generation Study, launched by Genomics England*

PET collaborates on outreach and engagement aspects of these landmark initiatives, producing events where professionals and the public discuss the implications of sequencing the whole genomes of newborn babies.

- *The Human Developmental Biology Initiative*

PET works with this large-scale research initiative, advising and training on ethical, legal and social issues and on public communication and engagement.

- *The Genomics Education Programme, part of Health Education England*

PET continues to write regular articles for this Programme's website, improving understanding of genomics among England's health workforce.

- *The Working Group on Surrogacy Law Reform, convened by Surrogacy UK*

The PET Director is a member of this Working Group, led by a prominent not-for-profit surrogacy organisation.

- *Cambridge Reproduction's External Advisory Board*

The PET Director serves on this Board, advising the University of Cambridge's reproduction-focused strategic research initiative.

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PET also serves on the Advisory Boards of several research projects, including:

- *Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing and Donor-Conception: Support and Governance in Emerging Digital Systems* (led by the University of Liverpool)
- *Remaking the Human Body: Biomedical Imaging Technologies, Professional and Lay Visions* (led by Queen Mary University of London)

Besides the professional bodies mentioned above, PET enjoys excellent relationships with other professional bodies in its area, such as the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists and the British Infertility Counselling Association.

PET also continues to enjoy excellent relationships with patient support groups including:

- Antenatal Results and Choices
- Donor Conception Network
- Fertility Network UK
- Genetic Alliance UK
- Lily Foundation
- Miscarriage Association
- Multiple Births Foundation
- Turner Syndrome Support Society
- Unique (the Rare Chromosome Disorder Support Group)

The work of PET remains vital to these and other organisations, with PET ensuring that patients and their advocates are kept up to date with the latest developments, and also acting as a hub for policy.

### **3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Sustaining Excellence Award**

This financial year saw PET complete work carried out under a Sustaining Excellence award from Wellcome. PET is very grateful to Wellcome for this award, which has enabled the charity to place itself on a sustainable footing. PET is also grateful for the continued *pro bono* work of volunteer Steve Wylie, who has helped to coordinate digital transformation work under this award.

During the audit period, the digital transformation work resulted in the launch of a single redesigned website, combining and expanding upon the legacy PET and BioNews websites. The new website has three distinct sections – BioNews, Events and Engagement – each of which has its own sub-brand and associated brand colour. Together, these three sections reflect the three main strands of the charity's activities.

PET also continued to develop its new Customer Relationship Management capabilities, based on Salesforce and Campaign Monitor. Event-related email communications became more targeted, with judicious use of reminder emails prior to events and follow-up emails after events.

PET widened the range of social media platforms on which published. In addition to its established YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos](http://www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos) the charity also launched a dedicated new podcast at [www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast](http://www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast)

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As with PET videos, PET podcasts were disseminated via BioNews, by being embedded in BioNews articles. PET podcasts were also made available on a wide variety of podcast apps and platforms including Apple, Google, iHeart, Spotify and others.

During the audit period PET used its Sustaining Excellence award to recruit a Fundraising Manager – Dr Paige Linnell – whose role focused on in securing funding from grant-giving bodies.

### **30th birthday of PET**

PET celebrated its 30th Birthday in June 2022. The charity marked this milestone with activities including:

- Creation of a timeline of key PET achievements over the preceding 30 years.
- Creation of a birthday logo, and associated marketing materials.
- A special celebratory event held at the Royal Society of Medicine, with speeches from Baroness Ruth Deech (Crossbench Peer) and Professor Robin Lovell-Badge (PET Chair of Trustees).
- Creation of a video in which leading figures and associated organisations wish PET a happy birthday.

Contributors to the video included:

- Louise Brown (the world's first IVF baby)
- Professor Carlos Calhaz-Jorge (Chair of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology)
- Liz Curtis (Founder and Chief Executive of the Lily Foundation)
- Professor Sir Jim Smith (former Director of Science at Wellcome)
- Sharon Jones (the public face of the PET #ExtendTheLimit campaign)
- Professor Vardit Ravitsky (President of the International Association of Bioethics)
- Baroness Ruth Deech (Crossbench Peer)
- Erika Tranfield (Founder of Pride Angel)
- Professor Sir Mark Caulfield (former Chief Scientist at Genomics England)
- Fiona Fox (Chief Executive of the Science Media Centre)

This video was shown at the beginning of the PET events throughout the year, and can be found on the charity's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/LduW4gARsHg>

### **Research**

To mark its 30th birthday, PET explored public perspectives on various areas within its remit, commissioning the polling organisation Ipsos to carry out a nationally representative online survey of 2,233 UK adults. This work was sponsored by the pharmaceutical company Ferring.

The survey covered many topics across three broad categories – 'Assisted Conception', 'Genetics and Genomics', and 'Human Embryos in Research and Treatment'. Key findings were published in a 44-page report entitled *Fertility, Genomics and Embryo Research: Public Attitudes and Understanding*.

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Each set of findings was published alongside commentary from PET and additional commentary from a leading figure in a relevant field. Thirty-one of these experts and commentators – a cross-section of key thinkers in the charity's orbit – contributed their views to the report.

Key findings in the report included:

- Fewer than 6 in 10 members of the public are able to identify a scientifically correct definition of the term 'genome'.
- Only around 1 in 10 members of the public are able to identify a scientifically correct definition of the term 'embryo'.
- Two-thirds of the public support the provision of NHS-funded fertility treatment to those who are infertile.
- More people support than oppose the use of human embryos in scientific and medical research. Additionally, more people support than oppose the funding of such research by the UK Government.

The research received widespread publicity in publications including the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *Sun* and *Medscape*, and also on *Times Radio* and elsewhere. PET discussed findings from the report in a poster and an accompanying presentation at the UK's largest fertility conference, Fertility 2023, which was held in Belfast.

**PET in the media**

PET enjoyed a significant media profile throughout the year, making appearances across the national and international print, broadcast and online media.

This included:

- Coverage of the PET Annual Conference and other PET events.
- Coverage of the PET Report *Fertility, Genomics and Embryo Research: Public Attitudes and Understanding*.
- Regular interviews with and use of quotes from the PET Director, in relation to the latest scientific and policy developments.

Media outlets that featured PET during the audit period included the following.



**The  
Critic**

**Daily Mail**

**DAILY  
STAR**

**The Daily Telegraph**

**Evening Standard**

**Focus on  
Reproduction**

**The  
Guardian**

**HUFFPOST**

**INDEPENDENT**

**The Mail**  
ON SUNDAY

**marie claire**

**MNT**

**MEDICAL NEWS TODAY**

**Medscape**

**METRO**



**TheObserver**



**THE  TIMES**

  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**



### **Web traffic**

The new PET website went live at the end of May 2022. Because of this, and because the new website integrated (and expanded upon) two separate legacy websites, it is not possible to make a robust year-on-year comparison of web traffic figures.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, there were 112,000 unique user visits to the PET website, with an average session duration of 1m28s. Although comparison with the last full audit period is not possible, certain trends can still be observed.

It is already clear that the new website has produced both longer session times (up 111%) and increased visits per user (up 15%). This is gratifying, as improving engagement with the PET website has been a key objective of the larger digital transformation project.

The international profile of PET continues to flourish, with visits from 204 countries as recorded by Google Analytics. A total of 49% of web traffic comes from within the UK, and 18% of web traffic comes from the USA. The remaining 33% of web traffic is geographically diverse, with the leading contributors being Australia and Canada (each accounting for 3% of traffic) and India (accounting for 2%).

The new website has also allowed PET to attract and engage with new volunteers, through a dedicated online form. Twenty-six applications to volunteer were received via this form during the audit period.

### **BioNews**

BioNews – the flagship publication of PET – published to schedule throughout the audit period. BioNews content included a wide range of news articles, comment pieces, event synopses and reviews.

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The top five most viewed BioNews articles published during the audit period were as follows.

1. Beyond the sound and fury: Whole body gestational donation (February 2023)  
[www.progress.org.uk/beyond-the-sound-and-fury-whole-body-gestational-donation/](http://www.progress.org.uk/beyond-the-sound-and-fury-whole-body-gestational-donation/)
2. What not to buy for Christmas (December 2022)  
[www.progress.org.uk/what-not-to-buy-for-christmas/](http://www.progress.org.uk/what-not-to-buy-for-christmas/)
3. Israeli woman given legal custody of baby born following embryo mix-up (October 2022)  
[www.progress.org.uk/israeli-woman-given-legal-custody-of-baby-born-following-embryo-mix-up/](http://www.progress.org.uk/israeli-woman-given-legal-custody-of-baby-born-following-embryo-mix-up/)
4. HFEA suspends licence of iTrust Fertility Eastbourne (February 2023)  
[www.progress.org.uk/hfea-suspends-licence-of-itrust-fertility-eastbourne/](http://www.progress.org.uk/hfea-suspends-licence-of-itrust-fertility-eastbourne/)
5. The desire to know one's genetic origins and the bionormativity response (November 2022)  
[www.progress.org.uk/the-desire-to-know-ones-genetic-origins-and-the-bionormativity-response/](http://www.progress.org.uk/the-desire-to-know-ones-genetic-origins-and-the-bionormativity-response/)

### **BioNews readership survey**

During the last quarter of 2022, BioNews readers were encouraged to complete a readership survey. This survey received 193 responses.

Key findings included:

- BioNews is held in almost universally high regard by its current readers, with 97% stating that they would recommend BioNews to others.
- Related to this, 50% of readers already share BioNews with others (for example by forwarding the BioNews email newsletter) and 7% of readers share BioNews with more than ten people.
- Most readers – 54% – read BioNews weekly.
- The readership is loyal, with 54% of readers having read BioNews for 5 years or longer.
- The principal reasons for reading BioNews are to '*Stay up to date with latest news*' and '*Learning about the latest developments in my field*'.

Following the readership survey, the PET team conducted two follow-up focus group discussions with younger readers (under 30 years old), in preparation for a more detailed review of how to help BioNews remain relevant for newer readers.

### **BioNews Writing Scheme**

During 2022-2023, six students from University College London (UCL) successfully participated in the BioNews Writing Scheme. They all provided positive feedback, and most of them went on to join the pool of volunteer BioNews writers.

Feedback from these students included:

- '*I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part and would love to stay on as a volunteer writer. I would definitely recommend the writing scheme to my peers as I felt that it has really improved my writing by having the opportunity to write outside my field of research.*'
- '*I thoroughly enjoyed this course, I have already recommended it to other students at UCL! Thanks to your help I really feel that I have improved my writing skills and developed a passion that can be explored as a future career choice!*'



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PET keeps in contact with those who have completed the scheme, monitoring and encouraging the development of their careers. Most of these writers go on to become regular contributors to BioNews, and many of them also go on to work for prominent organisations in the orbit of PET.

#### **Events**

PET continued holding all its events online during the audit period – largely because in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic, there remained a lack of public confidence in travel and attending large gatherings. Furthermore, some attendees at PET events gave feedback saying that they found online meetings more convenient, and therefore preferable. PET remains open to the possibility of holding some in-person events in future.

PET held 16 public events during the audit period. Several of these events focused on whether and how the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act should be updated. At other events, regulating new reproduction-related technologies (such as artificial intelligence), understanding miscarriage, and attitudes to (in)fertility in the workplace were discussed.

Three PET events during the audit period marked significant anniversaries:

- The 200th birthday of Gregor Mendel (a pioneer often referred to as the 'father of genetics')
- The 30th birthday of the world's first child conceived via intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI, now a key technique for addressing male infertility)
- The 100th anniversary of JBS Haldane's lecture *Daedalus* (which introduced the idea of IVF into the public imagination).

PET draws upon a large and diverse circle of contacts, when assembling speaker panels for its events. PET also seeks recommendations for speakers outside its orbit, in order to add further diversity and grow its circle of contacts. The charity's reputation helps to attract participation from speakers who are well known and highly regarded.

A continued benefit of PET holding its events online was a global diversity of both speakers and attendees. Prior to moving its events online, PET could only feature international speakers if sufficient sponsorship was secured, or if an event happened to coincide with a speaker's visit to the UK. Online, by contrast, the only major impediment to participating in PET events from anywhere in the world is time differences (if the event occurs at an unsociable local hour).

PET events during the audit period featured speakers who were based in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. Events were attended by people from 56 non-UK countries – Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Kenya, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, the UAE, and the USA.

Of the 16 events held during the audit period, 15 were free to attend and were chaired by Sarah Norcross.

These events were subsequently made available in the following different formats.

- Within days of an event taking place, it was the subject of a summary article published in BioNews at [www.progress.org.uk/bionews/](http://www.progress.org.uk/bionews/)

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- As of January 2023, within weeks of an event taking place, it was made available to listen to or download on the PET podcast at [www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast](http://www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast)
- Within months of an event taking place, it was made available to watch on the PET YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos](http://www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos)

The 15 free-to-attend events held during the audit period were as follows.

- *Authority over Assisted Reproduction: What Powers Should the HFEA Have?*

Speakers: Dr Debra Bloor, Rachel Cutting, Dr Marta Jansà-Pérez, Katy Lindemann, Dr Mohamed Taranissi

Sponsors: British Fertility Society, Merck

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/authority-over-assisted-reproduction-what-powers-should-the-hfea-have/](http://www.progress.org.uk/authority-over-assisted-reproduction-what-powers-should-the-hfea-have/)

Film: <https://youtu.be/sEx-8CJ0jfl>

- *Fertility Frontiers: What Is a 'Permitted' Embryo in Law?*

Speakers: Professor Mary Herbert, Julian Hitchcock, Professor Nick Hopwood, Professor Robin Lovell-Badge

Sponsors: Merck, Hertility

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/fertility-frontiers-what-is-a-permitted-embryo-in-law/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-frontiers-what-is-a-permitted-embryo-in-law/)

Film: <https://youtu.be/YVR5hupPpp4>

- *200 Years of Mendel: From Peas to Personalised Medicine*

Speakers: Dr David Bick, Dr Gemma Chandratillake, Angela Douglas, Dr John Parrington, Vivienne Parry

Sponsor: Genomics England

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/200-years-of-mendel-from-peas-to-personalised-medicine/](http://www.progress.org.uk/200-years-of-mendel-from-peas-to-personalised-medicine/)

Film: [https://youtu.be/qoa\\_n-vSJZE](https://youtu.be/qoa_n-vSJZE)

- *Consent to Change: What Do New Gamete and Embryo Storage Regulations Mean for You?*

Speakers: Joanne Anton, Rachel Cutting, James Lawford Davies, Joanne Leitch, Sharon Martin

Sponsor: Scottish Government

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/consent-to-change-what-do-new-gamete-and-embryo-storage-regulations-mean-for-you/](http://www.progress.org.uk/consent-to-change-what-do-new-gamete-and-embryo-storage-regulations-mean-for-you/)

Film: <https://youtu.be/ro-iYF8ZPwQ>

- *Donor Conception: Who Should Know What and When?*

Speakers: Nina Barnsley, Dorothy Byrne, Dr Jo Lysons, Kevin Moore, Professor Guido Pennings

Sponsor: Merck

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/donor-conception-who-should-know-what-and-when/](http://www.progress.org.uk/donor-conception-who-should-know-what-and-when/)

Film: [https://youtu.be/iY\\_I29y4zdc](https://youtu.be/iY_I29y4zdc)

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- *Rewriting the Rules: Is It Time to Simplify Fertility and Embryo Law?*  
Speakers: Professor Emily Jackson, Stuart Lavery, Professor Alison Murdoch, Dr Ippokratis Sarris  
Sponsors: British Fertility Society, CooperSurgical  
BioNews article:  
[www.progress.org.uk/rewriting-the-rules-is-it-time-to-simplify-fertility-and-embryo-law/](http://www.progress.org.uk/rewriting-the-rules-is-it-time-to-simplify-fertility-and-embryo-law/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/lnC2laUv4ag>
- *From AI to CRISPR: How Should Emerging Reproductive Technologies Be Regulated?*  
Speakers: Dr Alison Campbell, Alex Denoon, Dr Andy Greenfield, Dr Helen O'Neill  
Sponsors: British Fertility Society, Merck  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/from-ai-to-crispr-how-should-emerging-reproductive-technologies-be-regulated/](http://www.progress.org.uk/from-ai-to-crispr-how-should-emerging-reproductive-technologies-be-regulated/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/ZshFYIJfCDg>
- *30 Years of ICSI: An Injection of Hope for Male Infertility*  
Speakers: Professor Christopher Barratt, Dr Morven Dean, Professor Inge Liebaers, Professor Barbara Luke, Professor André Van Steirteghem  
Sponsor: Scottish Government  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/30-years-of-icsi-an-injection-of-hope-for-male-infertility/](http://www.progress.org.uk/30-years-of-icsi-an-injection-of-hope-for-male-infertility/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/79FQib3E6B0>
- *Till Death Do Us Part: Embryos and Gametes after Death, Divorce or Separation*  
Speakers: Robert Gilmour, James Lawford Davies, Professor Abha Maheshwari  
Sponsor: Scottish Government  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/till-death-do-us-part-embryos-and-gametes-after-death-divorce-or-separation/](http://www.progress.org.uk/till-death-do-us-part-embryos-and-gametes-after-death-divorce-or-separation/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/Zs9dYJvEB44>
- *Your Guide to Genetics and Genomics in the Fertility Clinic*  
Speakers: Dr Jonathan Berg, Dr Francesca Forzano, Professor Zosia Miedzybrodzka, Dr Nicola Williams  
Sponsor: Scottish Government  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-the-fertility-clinic/](http://www.progress.org.uk/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-the-fertility-clinic/)  
Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-t](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-t)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/mMZFiR3T3XE>
- *100 Years of 'Daedalus': The Birth of Assisted Reproductive Technology*  
Speakers: Professor Nick Hopwood, Dr Chloe Romanis, Professor Max Saunders, Sandy Starr, Samantha Subramanian  
Sponsors: Anne McLaren Memorial Trust Fund, Cambridge Reproduction  
BioNews article:  
[www.progress.org.uk/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assisted-reproductive-technology/](http://www.progress.org.uk/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assisted-reproductive-technology/)



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Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assis](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assis)

- *Understanding Miscarriage: Pregnancy Loss after Fertility Treatment*

Speakers: Ruth Bender Atik, Dr Justin Chu, Dr Ashleigh Holt-Kentwell, Professor Abha Maheshwari

Sponsor: Scottish Government

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss-after-fertility-treatment/](http://www.progress.org.uk/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss-after-fertility-treatment/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss)

- *When to Stop Storage: Improving Conversations About Unused Embryos*

Speakers: Anne Chien, Joanne Leitch, Sharon Martin

Sponsor: Scottish Government

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations-about-unused-embryos/](http://www.progress.org.uk/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations-about-unused-embryos/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations)

- *Fertility-Friendly Workplaces? Attitudes to Assisted Conception and Employment*

Speakers: Nickie Aiken MP, Dr Zeynep Gurtin, Becky Kearns, Anya Sizer, Natalie Sutherland

Sponsors: Carrot Fertility, Merck

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-to-assisted-conception-and-employment/)

[fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-to-assisted-conception-and-employment/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-to-assisted-conception-and-employment/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-)

- *Your Chance for Change: Shaping the UK's Fertility and Embryo Law*

Speakers: Dr Kay Elder, Dr Rachel Gregoire, James Lawford Davies, Venessa Smith, Peter Thompson

Sponsor: Merck

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-fertility-and-embryo-law/](http://www.progress.org.uk/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-fertility-and-embryo-law/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-f](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-f)

Film: <https://youtu.be/HWapgmEO9-Q>

In addition to these free-to-attend public events, PET also held its Annual Conference – for which there is an attendance fee – on 7 December 2022. The conference was entitled 'Making Fertility Treatment Fair: Equality in Access, Equality in Outcome?'. It explored equality and fairness in the context of fertility treatment, asking how barriers to treatment might be overcome.

The four conference sessions were as follows. Each session was the subject of a summary article published in BioNews.

- *Breaking Down Barriers: Who Will Lead the Way?*

Speakers: Julia Chain, Dr Gitau Mburu, Professor Dame Lesley Regan

Chair: Sarah Norcross

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BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/breaking-down-barriers-who-will-lead-the-way/](http://www.progress.org.uk/breaking-down-barriers-who-will-lead-the-way/)

- *Flying the Flag for Fairness: How Do Countries Compare?*

Speakers: Dr Diane De Neubourg, Dr Mete Işıkoğlu, Dr Giulia Scaravelli, Dr Andreas Tandler-Schneider

Chair: Professor Carlos Calhaz-Jorge

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/flying-the-flag-for-fairness-how-do-countries-compare/](http://www.progress.org.uk/flying-the-flag-for-fairness-how-do-countries-compare/)

- *Are Some Fertility Patients More Equal Than Others?*

Speakers: Dr Amanda Adeleye, Natalie Gamble, Deborah Gold, Vanessa Haye

Chair: Andrew Powell

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/are-some-fertility-patients-more-equal-than-others/](http://www.progress.org.uk/are-some-fertility-patients-more-equal-than-others/)

- *Fertility Preservation: Windows of Opportunity*

Speakers: Professor Melanie Davies, Professor Imogen Goold, Patrick Gordon, Professor Sheryl Homa

Chair: Fiona Fox

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/fertility-preservation-windows-of-opportunity/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-preservation-windows-of-opportunity/)

The conference was sponsored by the Anne McLaren Memorial Trust Fund, ESHRE, the Edwards and Steptoe Research Trust Fund, Vitrolife, Born Donor Bank, CooperSurgical, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Merck, Theramex, TMRW Life Sciences and the Institute of Medical Ethics.

PET received more than 550 completed evaluation forms from event attendees during the audit period. In summary:

- 94% thought the whole experience was 'excellent' or 'good'.
- 87% thought the opportunity to voice their opinion was 'excellent' or 'good'.
- 91% stated they were better informed.
- 40% had not attended a PET event before, up from 28% the previous year.

Freeform comments from attendees included the following.

- *'One of the best ever! I like these discussions on reproduction that involve different disciplines.'*
- *'It was honestly just very fun and very easy to engage with, I really enjoyed it.'*
- *'I was very impressed by the whole event, impressive use of time, no improvisations, clearly very well structured ahead and brilliantly chaired. Sound and image were perfect.'*
- *'On time and very organised. My brain is buzzing and I need to just time to process all this amazing information.'*
- *'Great v high quality, good to hear speakers voice my experiences.'*
- *'PET events are always high quality.'*
- *'PET continues to offer timely and excellent information through these panels and their availability via Zoom ensures all countries can benefit.'*

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- *'It is a very difficult subject and everyone will feel differently about how and when this should be done. All the speakers handled this with great care and all have different perspectives. Well done PET on another excellent presentation.'*
- *'It was a great exposition of the issues and a real spread of views and discussion.'*
- *'It was excellent – I'm a genetics clinician and found it interesting, engaging and I also learned something!'*
- *'Another blinder from PET – thank you.'*
- *'Much appreciated, amazing these events are still free of charge. Thank you!'*
- *'I really enjoyed it. Left work early so could join and am looking forward to attending the next session. Thank you.'*
- *'As always, an interesting, thoughtful and thought-provoking exploration of the topic, with excellent speakers and audience feedback and discussion.'*

### **Campaigning**

The prominent PET campaign #ExtendTheLimit – which calls for an extension to the length of time for which cryopreserved gametes and embryos can be legally stored within the UK – reached a successful conclusion during the audit period. A huge milestone was reached in April, when the Health and Care Act 2022 received Royal Assent.

This Act effectively abolished a distinction that had previously been made in the law, between 'medical' and 'non-medical' reasons for cryopreservation. This enabled all patients to renew their consent to continued storage every 10 years – for up to a maximum of 55 years – for the storage of gametes and embryos.

In addition to this, PET continued its longstanding campaign for more equitable public funding of fertility treatment, and for an end to the IVF 'postcode lottery'.

### **Policy work**

The main law that governs fertility treatment and embryo research in the UK – the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act – was originally passed in 1990 and was last given a thorough update in 2008. There are many respects in which the law fails to meet the present needs of patients, practitioners, researchers, regulators and others.

In February 2023, the UK's fertility regulator – the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) – launched a consultation on proposed changes to the HFE Act. The last public event PET held during the audit period – 'Your Chance for Change: Shaping the UK's Fertility and Embryo Law' – featured the Chief Executive of the HFEA, who discussed the consultation. Others on the speaker panel included experts and practitioners in fertility treatment, embryo research and related law.

PET assembled a group of research scientists and lawyers to begin setting out priorities for HFE Act reform, both in relation to the HFEA consultation and in relation to longer-term work with Government and policymakers. PET also began developing its own substantial response to the HFEA consultation, while the PET Director – in her capacity of Chair of the British Fertility Society's Special Interest Group on Law, Policy and Ethics – helped to develop that organisation's response to the consultation.



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**Social media**

During the audit period, PET continued to share its events programme, BioNews articles and other material on various social media platforms.

The main objectives of the charity's social media presence are:

- To drive followers to the PET website – encouraging them to read BioNews articles, watch PET films, listen to PET podcasts, subscribe to the BioNews email newsletter, register for PET events, volunteer with PET, and make donations.
- To increase PET visibility with all target audience groups.

All PET social media platforms have seen growth in followers during the audit period, through organic growth and engagement. The main social media platforms used by PET are Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

- *Twitter*

This is the most widely followed social platform for PET, with 6,922 followers (up from 6,732, a growth of 3%). Average engagement rates also increased during this period, from 1.5% (2022) to 2.5% (2023)

- *Facebook*

During this audit period, Facebook followers grew by 7%, from 1,830 to 1,969.

- *Instagram*

This is the newest social media platform to be used by PET and is used to promote the content which is considered most accessible to a general audience. During the audit period, Instagram followers grew by 29% to 721. This is small, but there is considerable potential for future growth.

- *LinkedIn*

This platform is of growing importance to PET, due to its ability to grow organically and also the younger profile of its users, who find the platform helpful in relation to their professional roles. The PET LinkedIn page has seen 15% growth in its number of followers.

- *YouTube*

Users who subscribe to the PET YouTube channel are notified of the publication of new PET films directly via YouTube, instead of (or in addition to) seeing these films embedded in BioNews articles on the PET website. During this audit period, subscribers to the PET YouTube channel grew by 40%, from 240 to 335.

## **4. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Overview**

Total income was £270,969 (2022: £278,195) which is a small decrease of 2.5% in comparison with the previous financial year. This is due to a drop in conference income.

PET income from donations remained steady at £24,855 (2022: £25,721).

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Total expenditure, including support costs, amounted to £258,106 (2022: £206,369) which is an increase of 20% compared with the previous financial year. This increase in expenditure is largely due to the development of the new website together with improved levels of marketing and related activities raising the charity's profile marking its 30th birthday. The main expenditure item continued to be staff costs which at £172,817 (2022: £158,709) accounted for 67% (2022: 77%) of total expenditure.

Net assets at the Balance Sheet date were £364,618 (2022: £351,755) and all funds held were unrestricted.

Future financial viability of the charity is dependent on the continued financial support of grant funding bodies, clients for the PET writing and training work, sponsors of their events, advertisers and private donors.

Future viability will also depend upon the many greatly valued Friends, Volunteers and Advisers, without whose support the charity could not survive.

### **Reserves policy**

PET holds reserves for a number of purposes which include:

- Paying for unanticipated in-year costs such as maternity pay or long-term staff sickness.
- Paying for an unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds, e.g. an unexpected large repair bill or finding 'seed-funding' for an urgent project.
- Allowing Trustees to invest in new areas of work to achieve the long-term vision of PET.
- Covering a gap in funding if a core funding source were to unexpectedly shrink, to give the Trustees time to take action.
- Meeting planned commitments that cannot be funded by future income alone, e.g. plans for a major asset purchase or a significant project.
- Covering short-term deficits in a cash budget.

Trustees consider that, given current turnover and staffing, maintaining free reserves in the range between £100k and £250k makes adequate provision for these purposes.

This policy is reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finance of the charity, and have developed a risk management strategy which involves:

- A regular review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces.
- The establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate risks identified.
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The Trustees are very grateful to Wellcome for the Sustaining Excellence award which has placed them in the position of being able develop plans to expand our work during the coming financial year.

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**5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

During the next financial year, PET will do the following.

- Continue developing a substantial response to the HFEA consultation on HFE Act reform, while pursuing longer-term work on law reform with research scientists and lawyers.
- Launch a new research project, and accompanying campaign, highlighting the importance of offering three *full* cycles of NHS-funded IVF and thereby ending the IVF postcode lottery.
- Assess whether and how the UK Government is meeting its fertility-related goals in the Women's Health Strategy for England.
- Collaborate with Cambridge Reproduction, on a new project to develop a governance framework for the rapidly developing field of stem-cell-based embryo models.
- Seek opportunities to improve public understanding of advances and challenges in genomics.
- Recruit additional members of staff, to help realise the charity's potential and cope with its growing prominence and workload.

**6. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 October 2010, its predecessor charity of the same name having been originally established in May 1992 as an unincorporated charitable trust.

The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and is managed by a board of Trustees who are the directors of the company and are appointed in accordance with the articles of association. The Trustees can appoint additional Trustees by invitation.

The articles of association state there must be a minimum number of Trustees in office of three and there is no maximum number.

The Trustees, who are directors of the company for the purposes of company law, and who served during the year were:

- Robin Lovell-Badge – Chair of Trustees
- Kerry Dyus
- Frances Flinter
- Alison McTavish
- Allan Pacey
- Chris Sivers
- Natalie Nicoll
- Peter Taylor

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company.

All Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute the sum of £10 each in the event of a winding up.

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All Trustees give freely of their time and no remuneration or benefits are paid to them.

During the audit period, £943 was paid in relation to an insurance policy that includes indemnity insurance for the Trustees.

All Trustees are kept up to date with ongoing developments in charity law and practice with appropriate training courses being considered if appropriate. It is the policy of the Trustees to provide new Trustees with all relevant information appertaining to the charity and its affairs upon induction in order that they can obtain a sufficient level of knowledge to enable them to perform their roles effectively.

The Trustees met five times during the year to provide additional support to the staff and to maintain extra vigilance on the charity during the pandemic. All the meetings have been held online. The decisions of the Trustees are recorded by written minutes. The Trustees refer to the Advisory Committee set up to assist them on matters relating to the activities of the charity.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks.

### **Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee has a depth of skills and experience in genetics, embryology, assisted conception, stem cell research, clinical practice, media, education, information technology, marketing, business, commercial practices, law, medical ethics and charity management.

Peter Taylor (Trustee) chairs this committee. The Committee met twice during the audit period.

### **Patron**

The charity's Patron is Professor Marcus Pembrey, who is one of the founders of PET and was also a member of the charity's precursor organisation, the Progress Campaign for Research into Human Reproduction. He is Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Genetics at University College London's Institute of Child Health, and served as Chair of Trustees at PET for more than 20 years.

### **Staff**

During the period the charity had up to seven employees at any one time, filling two full-time and six part-time positions.

Sarah Norcross (Director) manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, supported by Sandy Starr (Deputy Director).

Jennifer Willows continued in her roles as both Projects Officer and BioNews Legal Editor. Amanda Cooney continued as Marketing Manager.

Dr Joanne Delange continued as BioNews Genetics Editor and Hannah Flynn continued as BioNews Science Editor.

Dr Paige Linnell was recruited in March 2023, in the new post of Fundraising Manager.

### **Volunteers**

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PET is extremely grateful for the help of highly motivated and professional volunteers. Volunteer opportunities in the PET office were limited, but the audit period again saw many new volunteer applications received from people wishing to write for BioNews and/or help the charity remotely.

PET is an equal opportunity organisation, and is committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability.

**7. AUDITORS**

Gerald Edelman are the appointed auditors to the company, a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put to the members.

**8. STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITORS**

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on [date] and signed on its behalf by:



Robin Lovell-Badge  
Trustee





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The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and '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 and as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2019).

## **1. OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The charity's objective is to advance the education of the public in general (and in particular among those concerned with genetic conditions and infertility) in the fields of human genetics, assisted conception and embryology, including their ethical and regulatory aspects.

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. There is a rolling evaluation of its activities at both Trustees' and Advisory Committee meetings.

In carrying out their review, the Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, its supplementary public benefit guidance on the advancement of education. The Trustees judge how planned activities will contribute to the objects of the charity.

## **2. MISSION, STRATEGIES AND PUBLIC BENEFITS**

The vision of Progress Educational Trust (PET) is to improve choices for people affected by infertility or genetic conditions. The mission of PET is to educate and to debate the responsible application of reproductive and genetic science.

PET has continued to realise its vision and pursue its mission through the publication of BioNews, and through public events including an Annual Conference. BioNews – which is free of subscription charges – has a wide international readership, estimated to be in the region of 18,000.

PET engages with a wide range of age and interest groups, and educates the public about the complex scientific, ethical, legal and social issues that arise from genetics, genomics, assisted conception and embryo/stem cell research. PET public events are mostly free of charge, and are supported by donations, sponsorship or grant funding. Where a charge is made – for example, at the PET Annual Conference – concessions are offered for students, pensioners and those on benefits. All PET public events are widely advertised, so as to attract a large and diverse audience. 2,825 people attended PET events during this audit period.

PET collaborates with a wide range of organisations, in order to reach a more diverse audience and draw upon expertise. PET also works extensively with the media and other interested parties. The charity continues to be highly influential, and is regarded as a leading source of information and expertise on genetics, genomics, assisted conception and embryo/stem cell research.

PET maintains strong links with both the UK Government and the Scottish Government. Outside the UK, PET engages with a wide range of organisations and institutions including the World Health Organisation, the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, and the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health

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PET shares its expertise by working with and serving on bodies including the following.

- *The British Fertility Society (BFS)*

The PET Director is a Trustee of the BFS, and is also Chair of this organisation's Special Interest Group on Law, Policy and Ethics.

- *The National Fertility Group, convened by the Scottish Government*

The PET Director is a member of this Group, which brings representatives of Scotland's four NHS assisted conception units together with other NHS, patient and policy representatives.

- *The Patient Organisation Stakeholder Group, convened by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)*

PET is represented by its Director in meetings of this Group, which liaises with the UK's fertility regulator.

- *Guidance development groups for genetic medicine, convened by the British Society for Genetic Medicine (BSGM)*

The PET Deputy Director is a member of two of these groups, which focus on Ethical Issues in Prenatal Genetic Diagnosis and on Prenatal Diagnosis and Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Germline Cancer Susceptibility Gene Variants.

- *The Working Group for Good Practice Recommendations on Add-Ons, convened by the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)*

The PET Director is a member of this Working Group, which develops good practice recommendations for 'add-ons' in reproductive medicine.

- *The Newborn Genomes Programme and Generation Study, launched by Genomics England*

PET collaborates on outreach and engagement aspects of these landmark initiatives, producing events where professionals and the public discuss the implications of sequencing the whole genomes of newborn babies.

- *The Human Developmental Biology Initiative*

PET works with this large-scale research initiative, advising and training on ethical, legal and social issues and on public communication and engagement.

- *The Genomics Education Programme, part of Health Education England*

PET continues to write regular articles for this Programme's website, improving understanding of genomics among England's health workforce.

- *The Working Group on Surrogacy Law Reform, convened by Surrogacy UK*

The PET Director is a member of this Working Group, led by a prominent not-for-profit surrogacy organisation.

- *Cambridge Reproduction's External Advisory Board*

The PET Director serves on this Board, advising the University of Cambridge's reproduction-focused strategic research initiative.

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PET also serves on the Advisory Boards of several research projects, including:

- *Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing and Donor-Conception: Support and Governance in Emerging Digital Systems* (led by the University of Liverpool)
- *Remaking the Human Body: Biomedical Imaging Technologies, Professional and Lay Visions* (led by Queen Mary University of London)

Besides the professional bodies mentioned above, PET enjoys excellent relationships with other professional bodies in its area, such as the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists and the British Infertility Counselling Association.

PET also continues to enjoy excellent relationships with patient support groups including:

- Antenatal Results and Choices
- Donor Conception Network
- Fertility Network UK
- Genetic Alliance UK
- Lily Foundation
- Miscarriage Association
- Multiple Births Foundation
- Turner Syndrome Support Society
- Unique (the Rare Chromosome Disorder Support Group)

The work of PET remains vital to these and other organisations, with PET ensuring that patients and their advocates are kept up to date with the latest developments, and also acting as a hub for policy.

### **3. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### **Sustaining Excellence Award**

This financial year saw PET complete work carried out under a Sustaining Excellence award from Wellcome. PET is very grateful to Wellcome for this award, which has enabled the charity to place itself on a sustainable footing. PET is also grateful for the continued *pro bono* work of volunteer Steve Wylie, who has helped to coordinate digital transformation work under this award.

During the audit period, the digital transformation work resulted in the launch of a single redesigned website, combining and expanding upon the legacy PET and BioNews websites. The new website has three distinct sections – BioNews, Events and Engagement – each of which has its own sub-brand and associated brand colour. Together, these three sections reflect the three main strands of the charity's activities.

PET also continued to develop its new Customer Relationship Management capabilities, based on Salesforce and Campaign Monitor. Event-related email communications became more targeted, with judicious use of reminder emails prior to events and follow-up emails after events.

PET widened the range of social media platforms on which published. In addition to its established YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos](https://www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos) the charity also launched a dedicated new podcast at [www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast](https://www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast)

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As with PET videos, PET podcasts were disseminated via BioNews, by being embedded in BioNews articles. PET podcasts were also made available on a wide variety of podcast apps and platforms including Apple, Google, iHeart, Spotify and others.

During the audit period PET used its Sustaining Excellence award to recruit a Fundraising Manager – Dr Paige Linnell – whose role focused on in securing funding from grant-giving bodies.

### **30th birthday of PET**

PET celebrated its 30th Birthday in June 2022. The charity marked this milestone with activities including:

- Creation of a timeline of key PET achievements over the preceding 30 years.
- Creation of a birthday logo, and associated marketing materials.
- A special celebratory event held at the Royal Society of Medicine, with speeches from Baroness Ruth Deech (Crossbench Peer) and Professor Robin Lovell-Badge (PET Chair of Trustees).
- Creation of a video in which leading figures and associated organisations wish PET a happy birthday.

Contributors to the video included:

- Louise Brown (the world's first IVF baby)
- Professor Carlos Calhaz-Jorge (Chair of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology)
- Liz Curtis (Founder and Chief Executive of the Lily Foundation)
- Professor Sir Jim Smith (former Director of Science at Wellcome)
- Sharon Jones (the public face of the PET #ExtendTheLimit campaign)
- Professor Vardit Ravitsky (President of the International Association of Bioethics)
- Baroness Ruth Deech (Crossbench Peer)
- Erika Tranfield (Founder of Pride Angel)
- Professor Sir Mark Caulfield (former Chief Scientist at Genomics England)
- Fiona Fox (Chief Executive of the Science Media Centre)

This video was shown at the beginning of the PET events throughout the year, and can be found on the charity's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/LduW4gARsHg>

### **Research**

To mark its 30th birthday, PET explored public perspectives on various areas within its remit, commissioning the polling organisation Ipsos to carry out a nationally representative online survey of 2,233 UK adults. This work was sponsored by the pharmaceutical company Ferring.

The survey covered many topics across three broad categories – 'Assisted Conception', 'Genetics and Genomics', and 'Human Embryos in Research and Treatment'. Key findings were published in a 44-page report entitled *Fertility, Genomics and Embryo Research: Public Attitudes and Understanding*.

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Each set of findings was published alongside commentary from PET and additional commentary from a leading figure in a relevant field. Thirty-one of these experts and commentators – a cross-section of key thinkers in the charity's orbit – contributed their views to the report.

Key findings in the report included:

- Fewer than 6 in 10 members of the public are able to identify a scientifically correct definition of the term 'genome'.
- Only around 1 in 10 members of the public are able to identify a scientifically correct definition of the term 'embryo'.
- Two-thirds of the public support the provision of NHS-funded fertility treatment to those who are infertile.
- More people support than oppose the use of human embryos in scientific and medical research. Additionally, more people support than oppose the funding of such research by the UK Government.

The research received widespread publicity in publications including the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *Sun* and *Medscape*, and also on *Times Radio* and elsewhere. PET discussed findings from the report in a poster and an accompanying presentation at the UK's largest fertility conference, Fertility 2023, which was held in Belfast.

#### **PET in the media**

PET enjoyed a significant media profile throughout the year, making appearances across the national and international print, broadcast and online media.

This included:

- Coverage of the PET Annual Conference and other PET events.
- Coverage of the PET Report *Fertility, Genomics and Embryo Research: Public Attitudes and Understanding*.
- Regular interviews with and use of quotes from the PET Director, in relation to the latest scientific and policy developments.

Media outlets that featured PET during the audit period included the following.



**The  
Critic**

**Daily Mail**

**DAILY  
STAR**

**The Daily Telegraph**

**Evening Standard**

**Focus on  
Reproduction**

**The  
Guardian**

**HUFFPOST**

 **INDEPENDENT**

**The Mail**  
ON SUNDAY

**marie claire**

**MNT**

**MEDICALNEWS**TODAY

**Med**scape

**METRO**



**TheObserver**



**THE**  **TIMES**

  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**



### **Web traffic**

The new PET website went live at the end of May 2022. Because of this, and because the new website integrated (and expanded upon) two separate legacy websites, it is not possible to make a robust year-on-year comparison of web traffic figures.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, there were 112,000 unique user visits to the PET website, with an average session duration of 1m28s. Although comparison with the last full audit period is not possible, certain trends can still be observed.

It is already clear that the new website has produced both longer session times (up 111%) and increased visits per user (up 15%). This is gratifying, as improving engagement with the PET website has been a key objective of the larger digital transformation project.

The international profile of PET continues to flourish, with visits from 204 countries as recorded by Google Analytics. A total of 49% of web traffic comes from within the UK, and 18% of web traffic comes from the USA. The remaining 33% of web traffic is geographically diverse, with the leading contributors being Australia and Canada (each accounting for 3% of traffic) and India (accounting for 2%).

The new website has also allowed PET to attract and engage with new volunteers, through a dedicated online form. Twenty-six applications to volunteer were received via this form during the audit period.

### **BioNews**

BioNews – the flagship publication of PET – published to schedule throughout the audit period. BioNews content included a wide range of news articles, comment pieces, event synopses and reviews.

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The top five most viewed BioNews articles published during the audit period were as follows.

1. Beyond the sound and fury: Whole body gestational donation (February 2023)  
[www.progress.org.uk/beyond-the-sound-and-fury-whole-body-gestational-donation/](http://www.progress.org.uk/beyond-the-sound-and-fury-whole-body-gestational-donation/)
2. What not to buy for Christmas (December 2022)  
[www.progress.org.uk/what-not-to-buy-for-christmas/](http://www.progress.org.uk/what-not-to-buy-for-christmas/)
3. Israeli woman given legal custody of baby born following embryo mix-up (October 2022)  
[www.progress.org.uk/israeli-woman-given-legal-custody-of-baby-born-following-embryo-mix-up/](http://www.progress.org.uk/israeli-woman-given-legal-custody-of-baby-born-following-embryo-mix-up/)
4. HFEA suspends licence of iTrust Fertility Eastbourne (February 2023)  
[www.progress.org.uk/hfea-suspends-licence-of-itrust-fertility-eastbourne/](http://www.progress.org.uk/hfea-suspends-licence-of-itrust-fertility-eastbourne/)
5. The desire to know one's genetic origins and the bionormativity response (November 2022)  
[www.progress.org.uk/the-desire-to-know-ones-genetic-origins-and-the-bionormativity-response/](http://www.progress.org.uk/the-desire-to-know-ones-genetic-origins-and-the-bionormativity-response/)

#### **BioNews readership survey**

During the last quarter of 2022, BioNews readers were encouraged to complete a readership survey. This survey received 193 responses.

Key findings included:

- BioNews is held in almost universally high regard by its current readers, with 97% stating that they would recommend BioNews to others.
- Related to this, 50% of readers already share BioNews with others (for example by forwarding the BioNews email newsletter) and 7% of readers share BioNews with more than ten people.
- Most readers – 54% – read BioNews weekly.
- The readership is loyal, with 54% of readers having read BioNews for 5 years or longer.
- The principal reasons for reading BioNews are to '*Stay up to date with latest news*' and '*Learning about the latest developments in my field*'.

Following the readership survey, the PET team conducted two follow-up focus group discussions with younger readers (under 30 years old), in preparation for a more detailed review of how to help BioNews remain relevant for newer readers.

#### **BioNews Writing Scheme**

During 2022-2023, six students from University College London (UCL) successfully participated in the BioNews Writing Scheme. They all provided positive feedback, and most of them went on to join the pool of volunteer BioNews writers.

Feedback from these students included:

- '*I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part and would love to stay on as a volunteer writer. I would definitely recommend the writing scheme to my peers as I felt that it has really improved my writing by having the opportunity to write outside my field of research.*'
- '*I thoroughly enjoyed this course, I have already recommended it to other students at UCL! Thanks to your help I really feel that I have improved my writing skills and developed a passion that can be explored as a future career choice!*'

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PET keeps in contact with those who have completed the scheme, monitoring and encouraging the development of their careers. Most of these writers go on to become regular contributors to BioNews, and many of them also go on to work for prominent organisations in the orbit of PET.

#### **Events**

PET continued holding all its events online during the audit period – largely because in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic, there remained a lack of public confidence in travel and attending large gatherings. Furthermore, some attendees at PET events gave feedback saying that they found online meetings more convenient, and therefore preferable. PET remains open to the possibility of holding some in-person events in future.

PET held 16 public events during the audit period. Several of these events focused on whether and how the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act should be updated. At other events, regulating new reproduction-related technologies (such as artificial intelligence), understanding miscarriage, and attitudes to (in)fertility in the workplace were discussed.

Three PET events during the audit period marked significant anniversaries:

- The 200th birthday of Gregor Mendel (a pioneer often referred to as the 'father of genetics')
- The 30th birthday of the world's first child conceived via intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI, now a key technique for addressing male infertility)
- The 100th anniversary of JBS Haldane's lecture *Daedalus* (which introduced the idea of IVF into the public imagination).

PET draws upon a large and diverse circle of contacts, when assembling speaker panels for its events. PET also seeks recommendations for speakers outside its orbit, in order to add further diversity and grow its circle of contacts. The charity's reputation helps to attract participation from speakers who are well known and highly regarded.

A continued benefit of PET holding its events online was a global diversity of both speakers and attendees. Prior to moving its events online, PET could only feature international speakers if sufficient sponsorship was secured, or if an event happened to coincide with a speaker's visit to the UK. Online, by contrast, the only major impediment to participating in PET events from anywhere in the world is time differences (if the event occurs at an unsociable local hour).

PET events during the audit period featured speakers who were based in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. Events were attended by people from 56 non-UK countries – Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Kenya, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, the UAE, and the USA.

Of the 16 events held during the audit period, 15 were free to attend and were chaired by Sarah Norcross.

These events were subsequently made available in the following different formats.

- Within days of an event taking place, it was the subject of a summary article published in BioNews at [www.progress.org.uk/bionews/](http://www.progress.org.uk/bionews/)

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- As of January 2023, within weeks of an event taking place, it was made available to listen to or download on the PET podcast at [www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast](http://www.spreaker.com/show/progress-educational-trust-podcast)
- Within months of an event taking place, it was made available to watch on the PET YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos](http://www.youtube.com/ProgressEducationalTrust/videos)

The 15 free-to-attend events held during the audit period were as follows.

- *Authority over Assisted Reproduction: What Powers Should the HFEA Have?*

Speakers: Dr Debra Bloor, Rachel Cutting, Dr Marta Jansà-Pérez, Katy Lindemann, Dr Mohamed Taranissi

Sponsors: British Fertility Society, Merck

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/authority-over-assisted-reproduction-what-powers-should-the-hfea-have/](http://www.progress.org.uk/authority-over-assisted-reproduction-what-powers-should-the-hfea-have/)

Film: <https://youtu.be/sEx-8CJ0jfl>

- *Fertility Frontiers: What Is a 'Permitted' Embryo in Law?*

Speakers: Professor Mary Herbert, Julian Hitchcock, Professor Nick Hopwood, Professor Robin Lovell-Badge

Sponsors: Merck, Hertility

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/fertility-frontiers-what-is-a-permitted-embryo-in-law/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-frontiers-what-is-a-permitted-embryo-in-law/)

Film: <https://youtu.be/YVR5hupPpp4>

- *200 Years of Mendel: From Peas to Personalised Medicine*

Speakers: Dr David Bick, Dr Gemma Chandratillake, Angela Douglas, Dr John Parrington, Vivienne Parry

Sponsor: Genomics England

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/200-years-of-mendel-from-peas-to-personalised-medicine/](http://www.progress.org.uk/200-years-of-mendel-from-peas-to-personalised-medicine/)

Film: [https://youtu.be/goa\\_n-vSJZE](https://youtu.be/goa_n-vSJZE)

- *Consent to Change: What Do New Gamete and Embryo Storage Regulations Mean for You?*

Speakers: Joanne Anton, Rachel Cutting, James Lawford Davies, Joanne Leitch, Sharon Martin

Sponsor: Scottish Government

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/consent-to-change-what-do-new-gamete-and-embryo-storage-regulations-mean-for-you/](http://www.progress.org.uk/consent-to-change-what-do-new-gamete-and-embryo-storage-regulations-mean-for-you/)

Film: <https://youtu.be/ro-iYF8ZPwQ>

- *Donor Conception: Who Should Know What and When?*

Speakers: Nina Barnsley, Dorothy Byrne, Dr Jo Lysons, Kevin Moore, Professor Guido Pennings

Sponsor: Merck

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/donor-conception-who-should-know-what-and-when/](http://www.progress.org.uk/donor-conception-who-should-know-what-and-when/)

Film: [https://youtu.be/iY\\_I29y4zdc](https://youtu.be/iY_I29y4zdc)



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- *Rewriting the Rules: Is It Time to Simplify Fertility and Embryo Law?*  
Speakers: Professor Emily Jackson, Stuart Lavery, Professor Alison Murdoch, Dr Ippokratis Sarris  
Sponsors: British Fertility Society, CooperSurgical  
BioNews article:  
[www.progress.org.uk/rewriting-the-rules-is-it-time-to-simplify-fertility-and-embryo-law/](http://www.progress.org.uk/rewriting-the-rules-is-it-time-to-simplify-fertility-and-embryo-law/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/InC2laUv4ag>
- *From AI to CRISPR: How Should Emerging Reproductive Technologies Be Regulated?*  
Speakers: Dr Alison Campbell, Alex Denoon, Dr Andy Greenfield, Dr Helen O'Neill  
Sponsors: British Fertility Society, Merck  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/from-ai-to-crispr-how-should-emerging-reproductive-technologies-be-regulated/](http://www.progress.org.uk/from-ai-to-crispr-how-should-emerging-reproductive-technologies-be-regulated/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/ZshFYIJfCDg>
- *30 Years of ICSI: An Injection of Hope for Male Infertility*  
Speakers: Professor Christopher Barratt, Dr Morven Dean, Professor Inge Liebaers, Professor Barbara Luke, Professor André Van Steirteghem  
Sponsor: Scottish Government  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/30-years-of-icsi-an-injection-of-hope-for-male-infertility/](http://www.progress.org.uk/30-years-of-icsi-an-injection-of-hope-for-male-infertility/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/79FQib3E6B0>
- *Till Death Do Us Part: Embryos and Gametes after Death, Divorce or Separation*  
Speakers: Robert Gilmour, James Lawford Davies, Professor Abha Maheshwari  
Sponsor: Scottish Government  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/till-death-do-us-part-embryos-and-gametes-after-death-divorce-or-separation/](http://www.progress.org.uk/till-death-do-us-part-embryos-and-gametes-after-death-divorce-or-separation/)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/Zs9dYJvEB44>
- *Your Guide to Genetics and Genomics in the Fertility Clinic*  
Speakers: Dr Jonathan Berg, Dr Francesca Forzano, Professor Zosia Miedzybrodzka, Dr Nicola Williams  
Sponsor: Scottish Government  
BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-the-fertility-clinic/](http://www.progress.org.uk/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-the-fertility-clinic/)  
Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-t](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-guide-to-genetics-and-genomics-in-t)  
Film: <https://youtu.be/mMZFiR3T3XE>
- *100 Years of 'Daedalus': The Birth of Assisted Reproductive Technology*  
Speakers: Professor Nick Hopwood, Dr Chloe Romanis, Professor Max Saunders, Sandy Starr, Samanth Subramanian  
Sponsors: Anne McLaren Memorial Trust Fund, Cambridge Reproduction  
BioNews article:  
[www.progress.org.uk/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assisted-reproductive-technology/](http://www.progress.org.uk/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assisted-reproductive-technology/)

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Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assis](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/100-years-of-daedalus-the-birth-of-assis)

- *Understanding Miscarriage: Pregnancy Loss after Fertility Treatment*

Speakers: Ruth Bender Atik, Dr Justin Chu, Dr Ashleigh Holt-Kentwell, Professor Abha Maheshwari

Sponsor: Scottish Government

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss-after-fertility-treatment/](http://www.progress.org.uk/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss-after-fertility-treatment/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/understanding-miscarriage-pregnancy-loss)

- *When to Stop Storage: Improving Conversations About Unused Embryos*

Speakers: Anne Chien, Joanne Leitch, Sharon Martin

Sponsor: Scottish Government

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations-about-unused-embryos/](http://www.progress.org.uk/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations-about-unused-embryos/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/when-to-stop-storage-improving-conversations)

- *Fertility-Friendly Workplaces? Attitudes to Assisted Conception and Employment*

Speakers: Nickie Aiken MP, Dr Zeynep Gurtin, Becky Kearns, Anya Sizer, Natalie Sutherland

Sponsors: Carrot Fertility, Merck

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-to-assisted-conception-and-employment/)

[fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-to-assisted-conception-and-employment/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-to-assisted-conception-and-employment/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/fertility-friendly-workplaces-attitudes-)

- *Your Chance for Change: Shaping the UK's Fertility and Embryo Law*

Speakers: Dr Kay Elder, Dr Rachel Gregoire, James Lawford Davies, Venessa Smith, Peter Thompson

Sponsor: Merck

BioNews article:

[www.progress.org.uk/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-fertility-and-embryo-law/](http://www.progress.org.uk/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-fertility-and-embryo-law/)

Podcast: [www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-f](http://www.spreaker.com/user/16947315/your-chance-for-change-shaping-the-uks-f)

Film: <https://youtu.be/HWapgmEO9-Q>

In addition to these free-to-attend public events, PET also held its Annual Conference – for which there is an attendance fee – on 7 December 2022. The conference was entitled 'Making Fertility Treatment Fair: Equality in Access, Equality in Outcome?'. It explored equality and fairness in the context of fertility treatment, asking how barriers to treatment might be overcome.

The four conference sessions were as follows. Each session was the subject of a summary article published in BioNews.

- *Breaking Down Barriers: Who Will Lead the Way?*

Speakers: Julia Chain, Dr Gitau Mburu, Professor Dame Lesley Regan

Chair: Sarah Norcross



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BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/breaking-down-barriers-who-will-lead-the-way/](http://www.progress.org.uk/breaking-down-barriers-who-will-lead-the-way/)

- *Flying the Flag for Fairness: How Do Countries Compare?*

Speakers: Dr Diane De Neubourg, Dr Mete Işıkoğlu, Dr Giulia Scaravelli, Dr Andreas Tandler-Schneider

Chair: Professor Carlos Calhaz-Jorge

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/flying-the-flag-for-fairness-how-do-countries-compare/](http://www.progress.org.uk/flying-the-flag-for-fairness-how-do-countries-compare/)

- *Are Some Fertility Patients More Equal Than Others?*

Speakers: Dr Amanda Adeleye, Natalie Gamble, Deborah Gold, Vanessa Haye

Chair: Andrew Powell

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/are-some-fertility-patients-more-equal-than-others/](http://www.progress.org.uk/are-some-fertility-patients-more-equal-than-others/)

- *Fertility Preservation: Windows of Opportunity*

Speakers: Professor Melanie Davies, Professor Imogen Goold, Patrick Gordon, Professor Sheryl Homa

Chair: Fiona Fox

BioNews article: [www.progress.org.uk/fertility-preservation-windows-of-opportunity/](http://www.progress.org.uk/fertility-preservation-windows-of-opportunity/)

The conference was sponsored by the Anne McLaren Memorial Trust Fund, ESHRE, the Edwards and Steptoe Research Trust Fund, Vitrolife, Born Donor Bank, CooperSurgical, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Merck, Theramex, TMRW Life Sciences and the Institute of Medical Ethics.

PET received more than 550 completed evaluation forms from event attendees during the audit period. In summary:

- 94% thought the whole experience was 'excellent' or 'good'.
- 87% thought the opportunity to voice their opinion was 'excellent' or 'good'.
- 91% stated they were better informed.
- 40% had not attended a PET event before, up from 28% the previous year.

Freeform comments from attendees included the following.

- *'One of the best ever! I like these discussions on reproduction that involve different disciplines.'*
- *'It was honestly just very fun and very easy to engage with, I really enjoyed it.'*
- *'I was very impressed by the whole event, impressive use of time, no improvisations, clearly very well structured ahead and brilliantly chaired. Sound and image were perfect.'*
- *'On time and very organised. My brain is buzzing and I need to just time to process all this amazing information.'*
- *'Great v high quality, good to hear speakers voice my experiences.'*
- *'PET events are always high quality.'*
- *'PET continues to offer timely and excellent information through these panels and their availability via Zoom ensures all countries can benefit.'*

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- *'It is a very difficult subject and everyone will feel differently about how and when this should be done. All the speakers handled this with great care and all have different perspectives. Well done PET on another excellent presentation.'*
- *'It was a great exposition of the issues and a real spread of views and discussion.'*
- *'It was excellent – I'm a genetics clinician and found it interesting, engaging and I also learned something!'*
- *'Another blinder from PET – thank you.'*
- *'Much appreciated, amazing these events are still free of charge. Thank you!'*
- *'I really enjoyed it. Left work early so could join and am looking forward to attending the next session. Thank you.'*
- *'As always, an interesting, thoughtful and thought-provoking exploration of the topic, with excellent speakers and audience feedback and discussion.'*

### **Campaigning**

The prominent PET campaign #ExtendTheLimit – which calls for an extension to the length of time for which cryopreserved gametes and embryos can be legally stored within the UK – reached a successful conclusion during the audit period. A huge milestone was reached in April, when the Health and Care Act 2022 received Royal Assent.

This Act effectively abolished a distinction that had previously been made in the law, between 'medical' and 'non-medical' reasons for cryopreservation. This enabled all patients to renew their consent to continued storage every 10 years – for up to a maximum of 55 years – for the storage of gametes and embryos.

In addition to this, PET continued its longstanding campaign for more equitable public funding of fertility treatment, and for an end to the IVF 'postcode lottery'.

### **Policy work**

The main law that governs fertility treatment and embryo research in the UK – the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act – was originally passed in 1990 and was last given a thorough update in 2008. There are many respects in which the law fails to meet the present needs of patients, practitioners, researchers, regulators and others.

In February 2023, the UK's fertility regulator – the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) – launched a consultation on proposed changes to the HFE Act. The last public event PET held during the audit period – 'Your Chance for Change: Shaping the UK's Fertility and Embryo Law' – featured the Chief Executive of the HFEA, who discussed the consultation. Others on the speaker panel included experts and practitioners in fertility treatment, embryo research and related law.

PET assembled a group of research scientists and lawyers to begin setting out priorities for HFE Act reform, both in relation to the HFEA consultation and in relation to longer-term work with Government and policymakers. PET also began developing its own substantial response to the HFEA consultation, while the PET Director – in her capacity of Chair of the British Fertility Society's Special Interest Group on Law, Policy and Ethics – helped to develop that organisation's response to the consultation.

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**Social media**

During the audit period, PET continued to share its events programme, BioNews articles and other material on various social media platforms.

The main objectives of the charity's social media presence are:

- To drive followers to the PET website – encouraging them to read BioNews articles, watch PET films, listen to PET podcasts, subscribe to the BioNews email newsletter, register for PET events, volunteer with PET, and make donations.
- To increase PET visibility with all target audience groups.

All PET social media platforms have seen growth in followers during the audit period, through organic growth and engagement. The main social media platforms used by PET are Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

- *Twitter*

This is the most widely followed social platform for PET, with 6,922 followers (up from 6,732, a growth of 3%). Average engagement rates also increased during this period, from 1.5% (2022) to 2.5% (2023)

- *Facebook*

During this audit period, Facebook followers grew by 7%, from 1,830 to 1,969.

- *Instagram*

This is the newest social media platform to be used by PET and is used to promote the content which is considered most accessible to a general audience. During the audit period, Instagram followers grew by 29% to 721. This is small, but there is considerable potential for future growth.

- *LinkedIn*

This platform is of growing importance to PET, due to its ability to grow organically and also the younger profile of its users, who find the platform helpful in relation to their professional roles. The PET LinkedIn page has seen 15% growth in its number of followers.

- *YouTube*

Users who subscribe to the PET YouTube channel are notified of the publication of new PET films directly via YouTube, instead of (or in addition to) seeing these films embedded in BioNews articles on the PET website. During this audit period, subscribers to the PET YouTube channel grew by 40%, from 240 to 335.

## **4. FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Overview**

Total income was £270,969 (2022: £278,195) which is a small decrease of 2.5% in comparison with the previous financial year. This is due to a drop in conference income.

PET income from donations remained steady at £24,855 (2022: £25,721).

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Total expenditure, including support costs, amounted to £258,106 (2022: £206,369) which is an increase of 20% compared with the previous financial year. This increase in expenditure is largely due to the development of the new website together with improved levels of marketing and related activities raising the charity's profile marking its 30th birthday. The main expenditure item continued to be staff costs which at £172,817 (2022: £158,709) accounted for 67% (2022: 77%) of total expenditure.

Net assets at the Balance Sheet date were £364,618 (2022: £351,755) and all funds held were unrestricted.

Future financial viability of the charity is dependent on the continued financial support of grant funding bodies, clients for the PET writing and training work, sponsors of their events, advertisers and private donors.

Future viability will also depend upon the many greatly valued Friends, Volunteers and Advisers, without whose support the charity could not survive.

### **Reserves policy**

PET holds reserves for a number of purposes which include:

- Paying for unanticipated in-year costs such as maternity pay or long-term staff sickness.
- Paying for an unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds, e.g. an unexpected large repair bill or finding 'seed-funding' for an urgent project.
- Allowing Trustees to invest in new areas of work to achieve the long-term vision of PET.
- Covering a gap in funding if a core funding source were to unexpectedly shrink, to give the Trustees time to take action.
- Meeting planned commitments that cannot be funded by future income alone, e.g. plans for a major asset purchase or a significant project.
- Covering short-term deficits in a cash budget.

Trustees consider that, given current turnover and staffing, maintaining free reserves in the range between £100k and £250k makes adequate provision for these purposes.

This policy is reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finance of the charity, and have developed a risk management strategy which involves:

- A regular review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces.
- The establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate risks identified.
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The Trustees are very grateful to Wellcome for the Sustaining Excellence award which has placed them in the position of being able develop plans to expand our work during the coming financial year.

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**5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

During the next financial year, PET will do the following.

- Continue developing a substantial response to the HFEA consultation on HFE Act reform, while pursuing longer-term work on law reform with research scientists and lawyers.
- Launch a new research project, and accompanying campaign, highlighting the importance of offering three *full* cycles of NHS-funded IVF and thereby ending the IVF postcode lottery.
- Assess whether and how the UK Government is meeting its fertility-related goals in the Women's Health Strategy for England.
- Collaborate with Cambridge Reproduction, on a new project to develop a governance framework for the rapidly developing field of stem-cell-based embryo models.
- Seek opportunities to improve public understanding of advances and challenges in genomics.
- Recruit additional members of staff, to help realise the charity's potential and cope with its growing prominence and workload.

**6. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 October 2010, its predecessor charity of the same name having been originally established in May 1992 as an unincorporated charitable trust.

The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association and is managed by a board of Trustees who are the directors of the company and are appointed in accordance with the articles of association. The Trustees can appoint additional Trustees by invitation.

The articles of association state there must be a minimum number of Trustees in office of three and there is no maximum number.

The Trustees, who are directors of the company for the purposes of company law, and who served during the year were:

- Robin Lovell-Badge – Chair of Trustees
- Kerry Dyus
- Frances Flinter
- Alison McTavish
- Allan Pacey
- Chris Sivers
- Natalie Nicoll
- Peter Taylor

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company.

All Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute the sum of £10 each in the event of a winding up.

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All Trustees give freely of their time and no remuneration or benefits are paid to them.

During the audit period, £943 was paid in relation to an insurance policy that includes indemnity insurance for the Trustees.

All Trustees are kept up to date with ongoing developments in charity law and practice with appropriate training courses being considered if appropriate. It is the policy of the Trustees to provide new Trustees with all relevant information appertaining to the charity and its affairs upon induction in order that they can obtain a sufficient level of knowledge to enable them to perform their roles effectively.

The Trustees met five times during the year to provide additional support to the staff and to maintain extra vigilance on the charity during the pandemic. All the meetings have been held online. The decisions of the Trustees are recorded by written minutes. The Trustees refer to the Advisory Committee set up to assist them on matters relating to the activities of the charity.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to those risks.

### **Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee has a depth of skills and experience in genetics, embryology, assisted conception, stem cell research, clinical practice, media, education, information technology, marketing, business, commercial practices, law, medical ethics and charity management.

Peter Taylor (Trustee) chairs this committee. The Committee met twice during the audit period.

### **Patron**

The charity's Patron is Professor Marcus Pembrey, who is one of the founders of PET and was also a member of the charity's precursor organisation, the Progress Campaign for Research into Human Reproduction. He is Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Genetics at University College London's Institute of Child Health, and served as Chair of Trustees at PET for more than 20 years.

### **Staff**

During the period the charity had up to seven employees at any one time, filling two full-time and six part-time positions.

Sarah Norcross (Director) manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, supported by Sandy Starr (Deputy Director).

Jennifer Willows continued in her roles as both Projects Officer and BioNews Legal Editor. Amanda Cooney continued as Marketing Manager.

Dr Joanne Delange continued as BioNews Genetics Editor and Hannah Flynn continued as BioNews Science Editor.

Dr Paige Linnell was recruited in March 2023, in the new post of Fundraising Manager.

### **Volunteers**

**PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (including the Directors' Report)**  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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PET is extremely grateful for the help of highly motivated and professional volunteers. Volunteer opportunities in the PET office were limited, but the audit period again saw many new volunteer applications received from people wishing to write for BioNews and/or help the charity remotely.

PET is an equal opportunity organisation, and is committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability.

**7. AUDITORS**

Gerald Edelman are the appointed auditors to the company, a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put to the members.

**8. STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITORS**

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Robin Lovell-Badge  
Trustee





**Charity registration number 1139856**

**Company registration number 07405980 (England and Wales)**

**PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Robin Lovell-Badge - Chair of Trustees Kerry Dyus Frances Flinter Alison McTavish Allan Pacey Christine Sivers Natalie Nicoll Peter Taylor
<b>Advisory Committee</b>	Peter Taylor - Chair of Advisory Committee Professor Sir Colin Blakemore James Lawford Davies Jane Fisher Dr Kirsty Horsey Dr Dusko Ilic Professor Martin Johnson Stuart Lavery - IVF Consultant Dr Rachel Montgomery Professor Vardhman Rakyan Dr Christine Patch Fiona Fox Natasha Neill Dr Melanie Davies Dr Andy Greenfield Professor Gudrun Moore Daniel Malynn
<b>Patrons</b>	Marcus Pembrey
<b>Administrative Director</b>	Sarah Norcross
<b>Charity number</b>	1139856
<b>Company number</b>	07405980
<b>Registered office</b>	140 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8AX
<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Gerald Edelman LLP 73 Cornhill London EC3V 3QQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Royal Bank of Scotland 28 Cavendish Square London W1M 0DB  CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling

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# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

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Kent ME19 4QJ

Starling Bank  
3rd Floor, 2 Finsbury Avenue  
London  
EC2M 2PP

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# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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Balance sheet	7
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# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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The Trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts and the Trustees' Report (on pages 5 to 39) in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts 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 of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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



# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Progress Educational Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the 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 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

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

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

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

In the light of 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 directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud**

Our audit procedures were primarily directed towards testing the accounting systems in operation upon which we have based our assessment of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We planned our audit so that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting material misstatements in the financial statements resulting from irregularities, fraud or non-compliance with law or regulations.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Enquiring of management of whether they are aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Enquiring of management whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Enquiring of management their internal controls established to mitigate risk related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Discussions amongst the engagement team on how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, we identified potential for fraud in the following areas; posting of unusual journals; fraudulent expenses.
- Obtaining understanding of the legal and regulatory framework the company operates in focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act 2006, tax legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, health and safety and Charities Act 2016.

#### **Audit response to risks identified**

##### ***Fraud due to management override***

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries for appropriateness.
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in note 2 were indicative of potential bias.
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

##### ***Irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations***

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but are not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation claims.
- Reviewing correspondence with HMRC.

The test nature and other inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of any accounting and internal control system, mean that there is an unavoidable risk that even some material misstatements in respect of irregularities may remain undiscovered even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK). Furthermore, the more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely that we would become aware of non-compliance.

Our examination should therefore not be relied upon to disclose all such material misstatements or frauds, errors or instances of non-compliance that might exist. The responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the company and for the prevention and detection of fraud, error and non-compliance with law or regulations rests with the directors of the company.

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

# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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.



**Stephen Coleman ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Gerald Edelman LLP

12/12/2023

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

73 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3QQ

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	3	24,855	25,721
Charitable activities	4	244,892	252,033
Investments	5	1,222	441
<b>Total income</b>		<b>270,969</b>	<b>278,195</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	6	258,106	206,369
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>12,863</b>	<b>71,826</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		351,755	279,929
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>364,618</b>	<b>351,755</b>

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

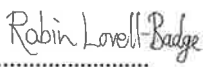
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	9		-		6,641
Tangible assets	10		761		-
			<u>761</u>		<u>6,641</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	11	17,594		22,135	
Cash at bank and in hand		407,352		379,313	
		<u>424,946</u>		<u>401,448</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(61,089)		(56,334)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>363,857</u>		<u>345,114</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>364,618</u>		<u>351,755</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>364,618</u>		<u>351,755</u>
			<u>364,618</u>		<u>351,755</u>

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12/12/23 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Robin Lovell-Badge  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07405980



# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

---

### **1 Accounting policies**

#### **Company information**

Progress Educational Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 140 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8AX.

#### **1.1 Accounting convention**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019. The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have departed from the charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version which is referred to in the regulations which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

#### **1.2 Going concern**

The accounts of the charitable company are prepared on a going concern basis which is dependant on the continued support of major funders. The Trustees have prepared budgets which confirm that sufficient resources will be available in the 12 months from the date of this report to continue activities at their current level.

#### **1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **1.4 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grants receivable are accounted for on an accruals basis to the extent that the notification of entitlement has been received and the amount agreed by the grant provider.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise when the charitable company has been notified of an impending distribution where the amount is known and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

#### 1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and the irrecoverable element of VAT is included in the expenses to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure relates to those costs incurred directly in achieving the main aims and objectives of the charitable company. Also included are governance costs represented by expenditure involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include those incurred with regard to strategic planning, legal and audit fees and meeting its statutory obligations.

#### 1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets acquired on business combinations are recognised separately from goodwill at the acquisition date where it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and the fair value of the asset can be measured reliably; the intangible asset arises from contractual or other legal rights; and the intangible asset is separable from the entity.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Software	25% Straight line
----------	-------------------

#### 1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	25% Straight line
-----------	-------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

#### 1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charitable company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### **1.11 Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### **1.12 Leases**

Rents payable under operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are payable.

#### **1.13 Taxation**

As a registered charity, the Society is exempt from taxation on its activities which fall within the scope of part 10 ITA 2007 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

### **2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charitable company'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.

### **3 Donations and legacies**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and gifts	24,855	25,721

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 4 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Sales within charitable activities</b>		
Sponsorship	173,704	125,380
Conference and events income	5,880	11,185
Consultancy income	37,758	64,181
Advertising income	8,370	9,475
Other Income	1,717	1,702
	<u>227,429</u>	<u>211,923</u>
<b>Grant receivable</b>	18,963	40,110
	<u>246,392</u>	<u>252,033</u>

### 5 Investment Income

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable	<u>1,222</u>	<u>441</u>

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 6 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs	172,817	158,709
Computer running costs	22,243	7,442
Office equipment	1,148	1,186
Insurance	1,088	716
Heat and light	781	672
Conference and events (Unrestricted)	6,823	3,749
Stationery and photocopying	362	939
Telephone and internet	1,318	1,251
Travel and subsistence	1,960	10
Sundry	192	310
Bank charges	364	388
Rent, rate and service charge	10,822	11,636
Advertising	20,021	4,968
Legal and professional	2,509	738
Other charitable expenditure	9,961	7,754
	<u>252,406</u>	<u>200,469</u>
Support costs including governance	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,900</u>
	<u>258,106</u>	<u>206,369</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	<u>258,106</u>	<u>206,369</u>

### 7 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	2022 £	Basis of allocation
Audit fees	-	5,700	5,700	5,900	Governance
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,900</u>	



# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel.

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Administration	6	6

Employees comprised 2 full time and 4 part time staff.

##### Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	159,490	147,840
Social security costs	9,936	7,765
Other pension costs	3,391	3,104
	172,817	158,709

The key management personnel of PET comprise the Director. The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were £64,084 (2022: £56,435).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were refunded to Trustees in the year under review (2022: £Nil).

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 9 Intangible fixed assets

	Software £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	26,561
<b>Amortisation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2022	19,920
Amortisation charged for the year	6,641
At 31 March 2023	26,561
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2023	-
At 31 March 2022	6,641

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2022	4,457
Additions	766
At 31 March 2023	5,223
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2022	4,457
Depreciation charged in the year	5
At 31 March 2023	4,462
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2023	761
At 31 March 2022	-

Tangible fixed assets are all used directly for charitable purposes.

### 11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	15,377	19,836
Prepayments and accrued income	2,217	2,299
	<u>17,594</u>	<u>22,135</u>

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	4,470	3,295
Accruals and deferred income	56,619	53,039
	<u>61,089</u>	<u>56,334</u>

### 13 Share capital

The company has no share capital being limited by guarantee. The guarantors will contribute a maximum of £10 in the event of liquidation.

### 14 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	9,000	9,000
Between two and five years	22,500	31,500
	<u>31,500</u>	<u>40,500</u>

### 15 Related party transactions

During the year, total donations of £381 (2022: £356) were made by the Trustees to the charity.

**Charity registration number 1139856**

**Company registration number 07405980 (England and Wales)**

**PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Robin Lovell-Badge - Chair of Trustees Kerry Dyus Frances Flinter Alison McTavish Allan Pacey Christine Sivers Natalie Nicoll Peter Taylor
<b>Advisory Committee</b>	Peter Taylor - Chair of Advisory Committee Professor Sir Colin Blakemore James Lawford Davies Jane Fisher Dr Kirsty Horsey Dr Dusko Ilic Professor Martin Johnson Stuart Lavery - IVF Consultant Dr Rachel Montgomery Professor Vardhman Rakyan Dr Christine Patch Fiona Fox Natasha Neill Dr Melanie Davies Dr Andy Greenfield Professor Gudrun Moore Daniel Malynn
<b>Patrons</b>	Marcus Pembrey
<b>Administrative Director</b>	Sarah Norcross
<b>Charity number</b>	1139856
<b>Company number</b>	07405980
<b>Registered office</b>	140 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8AX
<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Gerald Edelman LLP 73 Cornhill London EC3V 3QQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Royal Bank of Scotland 28 Cavendish Square London W1M 0DB  CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling

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# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

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Kent ME19 4QJ

Starling Bank  
3rd Floor, 2 Finsbury Avenue  
London  
EC2M 2PP

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# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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The Trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts and the Trustees' Report (on pages 5 to 39) in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts 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 of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

---

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Progress Educational Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the 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 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

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

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

---

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

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

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

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

In the light of 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 directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

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

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

#### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

#### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud**

Our audit procedures were primarily directed towards testing the accounting systems in operation upon which we have based our assessment of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

We planned our audit so that we have a reasonable expectation of detecting material misstatements in the financial statements resulting from irregularities, fraud or non-compliance with law or regulations.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Enquiring of management of whether they are aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Enquiring of management whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Enquiring of management their internal controls established to mitigate risk related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Discussions amongst the engagement team on how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, we identified potential for fraud in the following areas; posting of unusual journals; fraudulent expenses.
- Obtaining understanding of the legal and regulatory framework the company operates in focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act 2006, tax legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, health and safety and Charities Act 2016.

#### **Audit response to risks identified**

##### ***Fraud due to management override***

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries for appropriateness.
- Assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in note 2 were indicative of potential bias.
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

##### ***Irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations***

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but are not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation claims.
- Reviewing correspondence with HMRC.

The test nature and other inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of any accounting and internal control system, mean that there is an unavoidable risk that even some material misstatements in respect of irregularities may remain undiscovered even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK). Furthermore, the more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely that we would become aware of non-compliance.

Our examination should therefore not be relied upon to disclose all such material misstatements or frauds, errors or instances of non-compliance that might exist. The responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the company and for the prevention and detection of fraud, error and non-compliance with law or regulations rests with the directors of the company.

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

# **PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

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#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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.



**Stephen Coleman ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Gerald Edelman LLP

12/12/2023

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

73 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3QQ

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	3	24,855	25,721
Charitable activities	4	244,892	252,033
Investments	5	1,222	441
<b>Total income</b>		<b>270,969</b>	<b>278,195</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	6	258,106	206,369
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>12,863</b>	<b>71,826</b>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		351,755	279,929
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>364,618</b>	<b>351,755</b>

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	9		-		6,641
Tangible assets	10		761		-
			<u>761</u>		<u>6,641</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	11	17,594		22,135	
Cash at bank and in hand		407,352		379,313	
		<u>424,946</u>		<u>401,448</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(61,089)		(56,334)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>363,857</u>		<u>345,114</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>364,618</u>		<u>351,755</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>364,618</u>		<u>351,755</u>
			<u>364,618</u>		<u>351,755</u>

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12/12/23 and signed on their behalf by:



Robin Lovell-Badge  
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07405980



# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

---

### **1 Accounting policies**

#### **Company information**

Progress Educational Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 140 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8AX.

#### **1.1 Accounting convention**

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019. The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have departed from the charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version which is referred to in the regulations which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### **Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions**

The charity has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

#### **1.2 Going concern**

The accounts of the charitable company are prepared on a going concern basis which is dependant on the continued support of major funders. The Trustees have prepared budgets which confirm that sufficient resources will be available in the 12 months from the date of this report to continue activities at their current level.

#### **1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### **1.4 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Grants receivable are accounted for on an accruals basis to the extent that the notification of entitlement has been received and the amount agreed by the grant provider.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise when the charitable company has been notified of an impending distribution where the amount is known and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

#### 1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and the irrecoverable element of VAT is included in the expenses to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure relates to those costs incurred directly in achieving the main aims and objectives of the charitable company. Also included are governance costs represented by expenditure involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include those incurred with regard to strategic planning, legal and audit fees and meeting its statutory obligations.

#### 1.6 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill

Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets acquired on business combinations are recognised separately from goodwill at the acquisition date where it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and the fair value of the asset can be measured reliably; the intangible asset arises from contractual or other legal rights; and the intangible asset is separable from the entity.

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Software	25% Straight line
----------	-------------------

#### 1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computers	25% Straight line
-----------	-------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

#### 1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.10 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charitable company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### **1.11 Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

#### **1.12 Leases**

Rents payable under operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are payable.

#### **1.13 Taxation**

As a registered charity, the Society is exempt from taxation on its activities which fall within the scope of part 10 ITA 2007 and section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company'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.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations and gifts	24,855	25,721

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 4 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Sales within charitable activities</b>		
Sponsorship	173,704	125,380
Conference and events income	5,880	11,185
Consultancy income	37,758	64,181
Advertising income	8,370	9,475
Other Income	1,717	1,702
	<u>227,429</u>	<u>211,923</u>
<b>Grant receivable</b>	18,963	40,110
	<u>246,392</u>	<u>252,033</u>

### 5 Investment Income

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable	<u>1,222</u>	<u>441</u>

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 6 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs	172,817	158,709
Computer running costs	22,243	7,442
Office equipment	1,148	1,186
Insurance	1,088	716
Heat and light	781	672
Conference and events (Unrestricted)	6,823	3,749
Stationery and photocopying	362	939
Telephone and internet	1,318	1,251
Travel and subsistence	1,960	10
Sundry	192	310
Bank charges	364	388
Rent, rate and service charge	10,822	11,636
Advertising	20,021	4,968
Legal and professional	2,509	738
Other charitable expenditure	9,961	7,754
	<u>252,406</u>	<u>200,469</u>
Support costs including governance	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,900</u>
	<u>258,106</u>	<u>206,369</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	<u>258,106</u>	<u>206,369</u>

### 7 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	2022 £	Basis of allocation
Audit fees	-	5,700	5,700	5,900	Governance
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,900</u>	

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel.

##### Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Administration	6	6

Employees comprised 2 full time and 4 part time staff.

##### Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	159,490	147,840
Social security costs	9,936	7,765
Other pension costs	3,391	3,104
	172,817	158,709

The key management personnel of PET comprise the Director. The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were £64,084 (2022: £56,435).

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year. No expenses were refunded to Trustees in the year under review (2022: £Nil).



# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 9 Intangible fixed assets

	Software £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	26,561
<b>Amortisation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2022	19,920
Amortisation charged for the year	6,641
At 31 March 2023	26,561
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2023	-
At 31 March 2022	6,641

#### 10 Tangible fixed assets

	Computers £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2022	4,457
Additions	766
At 31 March 2023	5,223
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>	
At 1 April 2022	4,457
Depreciation charged in the year	5
At 31 March 2023	4,462
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 March 2023	761
At 31 March 2022	-

Tangible fixed assets are all used directly for charitable purposes.

#### 11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	15,377	19,836
Prepayments and accrued income	2,217	2,299
	17,594	22,135

# PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	4,470	3,295
Accruals and deferred income	56,619	53,039
	<u>61,089</u>	<u>56,334</u>

### 13 Share capital

The company has no share capital being limited by guarantee. The guarantors will contribute a maximum of £10 in the event of liquidation.

### 14 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	9,000	9,000
Between two and five years	22,500	31,500
	<u>31,500</u>	<u>40,500</u>

### 15 Related party transactions

During the year, total donations of £381 (2022: £356) were made by the Trustees to the charity.