

# ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1142120

## Details

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Other names	ASN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">07017607</a>
Registered	2011-05-26
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Union House 111 New Union Street Coventry CV1 2NT
Phone	07897 611593
Email	<a href="mailto:info@asn.org.uk">info@asn.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.asn.org.uk">www.asn.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO RELIEVE THE DIFFICULTIES, DISTRESS AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN WHO MAY BE FORCED TO TRAVEL TO ACCESS A SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION.

**Activities:** Abortion Support Network exists to relieve the financial hardship of people facing an unwanted pregnancy who are forced to travel from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Gibraltar, Malta and Poland to access a safe, legal abortion.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Gibraltar
- Ireland
- Isle Of Man
- Malta
- Northern Ireland
- Poland
- Throughout England

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£424,089	£600,680	-	-
2023-12-31	£484,895	£559,435	-	-
2022-12-31	£663,678	£557,994	£514,615	4
2021-12-31	£455,940	£367,907	-	-
2020-12-31	£364,616	£299,465	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alex Irving		2024-05-01
Catherine Kilfedder		2025-05-25
Chloe Monique Denise Hanse		2026-02-23
Ciara McHugh		2026-02-23
Clarisa Regina Rumbidzai Regede		2024-05-01
Dr Camille Alice Barbagallo		2025-05-25
Dr Ruth Fletcher		2023-07-06
Lesley Ann Storey		2025-05-25
Rachel Doran		2026-02-23

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142120

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# Accounts

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**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07017607 (England and Wales)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1142120**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

**FOR**

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**



Third Sector Accountancy  
Holyoake House, Hanover Street,  
Manchester, M60 0AS

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK  
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

07017607 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

1142120

**Registered office**

Union House  
111 New Union Street  
Coventry  
West Midlands  
CV1 2NT

**Trustees**

Dr E Campbell (elected 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023)  
Dr R Fletcher (Chair)(elected 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023)  
Ms K Przybyl (elected 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, resigned 31 May 2024-sp corrected 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023\*)  
Ms H Tipple (elected 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, resigned 1 Jul 2025)  
Ms J O'Sullivan (elected 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, resigned 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025)  
Ms B Cansfield (elected 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, resigned 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025)  
Ms C Regede (elected 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, corrected 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025\*)  
Ms L Flanagan (elected 1st May 2024)  
Mx A Irving (elected 1st May 2024)  
Ms E Nwaokolo (elected 1st May 2024)  
Ms Emma McCarthy (elected 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, resigned 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024)

Dr C Barbagallo (co-opted on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025)  
Ms C Kilfedder (co-opted on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025)  
Ms L Storey (co-opted on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

\*Ms Regede and Ms Przybyl have duplicate listings on Companies House because of clerical errors (incorrectly spelled names) hence the two start dates for both trustees). Ms Regede remains a trustee while Ms Przybyl resigned.

**Company Secretary**

**Alex Irving**

**Independent Examiner**

Abbas Shapuri  
Third Sector Accountancy

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

*"I have found out I'm pregnant and am not in a position to continue it, I have been made aware that due to how far along I am it most likely won't be an option to have an abortion in Ireland. I believe I am just over twelve weeks. Any help you can offer me would be greatly appreciated." - ASN client, 2024*

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Vision Mission Values**

**Vision**

A world where women and pregnant people have the information and means to access safe, legal abortions wherever they live.

**Mission**

To provide information, financial assistance and accommodation to those who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

**Values**

We believe that all those who need them have the right to safe and legal abortions. We believe in providing practical support to enable people to exercise this right. We are compassionate and respectful of abortion-seekers and their decisions.

**Charitable purpose (as set out in our governing document)**

To provide practical information and support to relieve the difficulties, distress and financial hardship experienced by women who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

**About ASN**

ASN is a charity that provides information, financial assistance, and other practical support to those forced to travel for abortions. We work with people all over Europe and in 2024 we supported people from the Republic of Ireland, Poland, Malta, France, Hungary, Spain and more than 35 other countries.

ASN was founded because we believe "I can't afford an abortion" should never be the only reason someone continues a pregnancy.

**Case study – Leila, France**

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*15-year-old Leïla\* contacted ASN from France, for support accessing abortion care. She was over the gestational limit to access abortion legally in France, and she was aware she was getting close to the legal gestational limit in the Netherlands. She was sure she wanted an abortion, but was feeling worried about how she was going to cover the costs of travelling. "I really need your help because time is running out. The amount is very high and very hard to achieve for me."*

*Leïla had managed to book an appointment for a week's time, and was receiving support from another organisation in France as she was under 18 years old. Our helpline team set up a call with Leïla to find out a bit more information and reassure her that we could support with the cost. Leïla was still at school and had none of her own money, but her adult sister was able to contribute as well as pay for their bus tickets and travel with her for support. But the total cost of the procedure was €1100 – an amount they just didn't have. We agreed we could pay the rest of the cost to the clinic and that Leïla would bring €200 with her. A few days later, Leïla travelled to the Netherlands with her sister and was able to access abortion care.*

### **Case study – Eniya, Ireland**

*In 2024 we were contacted by an Irish partner organisation who were supporting someone to try to access an abortion. Eniya\* was over the limit for care in Ireland, but due to her immigration status was not sure she would be permitted to travel to another country for an abortion. She was trying to arrange to travel to England, but this was more difficult than travelling to another EU country. Accessing care in the Netherlands was possible for another 6 weeks, but Eniya was facing an uncertain wait for permission to travel, as well as language barriers in the Netherlands and stress about covering the costs.*

*After contacting the ASN helpline, we advised Eniya on how to seek Ministerial permission to travel for a healthcare procedure. We also suggested she get legal advice and continue to get support from the partner organisation with this, as it's a complicated process. Eniya was a student, and had some financial support from her parents – but not the total cost needed for the procedure. We supported Eniya to book an appointment and provided a letter of support for her permission to travel, confirming the appointment, travel, accommodation and grant to cover the costs (€235). Eniya travelled safely to her appointment, accessed abortion care abroad and returned home to resume her studies.*

### **Case study – Natalya, Poland**

*Natalya\* contacted us from Poland at 22 weeks gestation, having just discovered the pregnancy. She had recently undergone surgery to try to alleviate her symptoms of illness, but the doctors did not tell her she was pregnant. After a few weeks, she returned to hospital as the symptoms had not subsided – this was when she had an*

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

*ultrasound and was told about the pregnancy. Natalya did not want to continue the pregnancy and was feeling very stressed and angry about her situation. Not only was it impossible for Natalya to access an abortion in Poland, but now she was over the limit for an abortion in most of Europe.*

*We spoke to Natalya about travelling to England for care, and checked that she had a passport. She told us that money was tight, but she could cover the cost of travel and accommodation. We worked together to try to find cheaper options for this, and sent Natalya practical information about travelling to the clinic from the airport and places she could access further emotional support in Poland. Natalya agreed to bring £200 to the clinic, and we agreed to cover the remaining £1,000. Natalya accessed abortion care in England and returned home.*

\*Names have been changed to protect identity and some details changed to ensure anonymity.

### **How ASN works**

ASN connects people who are without resources with those who can provide that support, whether financial or practical. The generous support of our funders and donors, whether that is via one-off contributions or regular donations, means we can provide the help people need to travel for abortion care. Our helpline team of staff and volunteers provides:

- clear, accurate, factual non-judgmental information
- help arranging abortion appointments as well as travel and accommodation
- translations of documents that are needed by clients or clinics
- signposting to other services or providers such as pills by post
- help for clients to overcome other barriers such as visa issues
- creative problem-solving to make sure clients get the overall support they need.

We have a team of 30 helpline volunteers, plus 5 translation and 4 accommodation volunteers, all managed by a full-time paid Service Manager and supported by two part-time paid Senior Helpline Coordinators.

### **How Abortion Without Borders works**

ASN is a member of Abortion Without Borders (AWB), a network comprised of 9 European groups working to provide information, support and funding to people in Poland who need abortions, either in Poland with abortion pills or abroad in clinics or hospitals.

Callers in Poland contact a local organisation, Kobiety w Sieci, which has been providing people in Poland with sexual health information, including unbiased, factual information about abortion since 2006. Kobiety w Sieci staffs the AWB helpline. Currently, ASN funds many of the second and third trimester abortions for AWB, and part-funds the costs of running the AWB helpline. Any caller who wishes to obtain an

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abortion will be referred to ASN or another partner organisation.

- People in Poland contact the AWB helpline. It is staffed with Polish speakers, and open 12 hours per day, 365 days a year.
- In the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, abortion at home via medical abortion pills is a safe, effective option for many people. The majority of people contacting AWB who have an abortion self-manage their abortions with pills.
- Anyone who cannot have a safe abortion using pills (for example due to the stage of pregnancy or existing health issues) or for whom the pills did not work is signposted to an AWB member organisation outside of Poland.
- ASN or a partner organisation helps the client arrange travel to Germany (up to 14 weeks), the Netherlands (up to 22 weeks), England (up to 24 weeks) or elsewhere in Europe, depending on their needs, current travel restrictions, language barriers and other issues.
- If needed, ASN or a partner organisation will arrange and pay for the abortion procedure, travel, accommodation, and assist with other barriers which may be standing in the way.

While abortion in Poland is heavily restricted, the activities undertaken by AWB are legal.

- Giving information about abortion is legal
- Travelling abroad for abortion is legal
- Calling the helpline or receiving funding from AWB is legal
- Ordering early medical abortion pills online is not against the law
- Taking early medical abortion pills is not against the law
- Prior to 22 weeks' gestation, self-managed abortion is not against the law

### **Why ASN's work is needed**

Abortion is essential healthcare but the ability to access it is increasingly under pressure. While some European states are liberalising abortion laws, others are tightening restrictions. ASN is part of a long tradition of ordinary people stepping in where governments fail to provide safe abortion care. Our clients include those who have experienced domestic abuse or rape; those who do not have passports or who need a visa to travel; those who discover their pregnancy or who find out about a foetal anomaly at too late a stage for an early termination; people on low incomes and those who simply cannot navigate how they go about having an abortion in another country and just need some advice and information.

But we do not ask why. The only thing that matters is whether they need our help.

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***Abortion access in Europe - 2024***

The fall of the Law and Justice government in Poland in December 2023 brought some hope of progress on abortion rights and welfare support. But abortion remains heavily restricted and with high-profile prosecutions of those seeking to provide support and care – including that of abortion doula Justyna Wydrzyńska – many are forced to travel abroad to access abortion care.

In Northern Ireland, all five healthcare trusts are providing medical abortions up to 24 weeks, and beyond in exceptional cases, while surgical abortion is available up to 20 weeks. Nonetheless stigma and misinformation continue to be a problem for abortion-seekers. Concerns continue to grow about the impact of anti-abortion organisations such as Stanton Healthcare who pose as pregnancy advice centres.

After a 2023 independent review in Ireland, the publicly funded abortion care service expanded gradually through the participation of general practitioners, reproductive health clinics and hospitals. Abortion is relatively accessible for up to 12 weeks gestation. The 12 week time limit (combined with poor access on the exceptional post 12 week pathways) forces many into a position where they must travel abroad to access abortion care. Advocates continue to call for action on the significant barriers that remain, particularly in cases where vulnerability poses health risks.

France made the news in 2024 for responding to the loss of abortion rights in the US with a constitutional change of its own. President Emmanuel Macron signed a right to abortion into French constitutional law in March. Little changed for abortion seekers however. They still faced difficulties in accessing abortion locally, particularly after the 16 week time limit and we saw a significant increase in the number of callers from France needing support to access abortion care.

Meanwhile in Britain, those experiencing pregnancy loss later in pregnancy faced criminalisation under Victorian abortion law as police investigated those suspected of unlawful abortion. Against this backdrop, abortion providers and other organisations worked on a campaign to decriminalise abortion. Diana Johnson's proposal to amend the Criminal Justice Bill in 2024, with an amendment making women and pregnant people exempt from criminal liability, fell when the Tory government fell in July 2024.

Across Europe the need grew for information, funds and assistance in overcoming barriers to abortion care and standing up to misogynist and far-right attacks on abortion-supporting communities. The strength and creativity of the gender diverse, differently abled and variously aged people that ASN meets every day in their search for bodily autonomy continued to be an inspiration.

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### **Investing in ASN**

ASN started as a small charity with a big mission. 15 years later, the organisation has grown significantly. In the last five years, our annual spend on abortion has tripled as the geographic remit of our work has changed in response to the ever-changing political landscape of abortion access across Europe. In 2023, trustees decided to utilise the large reserves held by the organisation to invest in much needed infrastructure. In 2024 the staff team grew from 4 members of staff (Fundraising and Communications Manager, Helpline Manager, Senior Helpline Coordinator and Volunteer and Administration Officer) to a team of 7 including a second senior helpline coordinator to support the team of 30 volunteers running the helpline and a digital campaigns officer.

Recruitment for the Managing Director was successful, and Camille Kumar joined ASN in December. Camille will lead on ensuring ASN has the resources we need to fulfil our purpose and develop our strategic direction. Camille has spent over 20 years working and organising in solidarity with people living at the intersection of race, gender, violence and migration, and has held a diverse range of leadership roles each connected by deep care and transformative justice.

### **ASN marks its 15th anniversary**

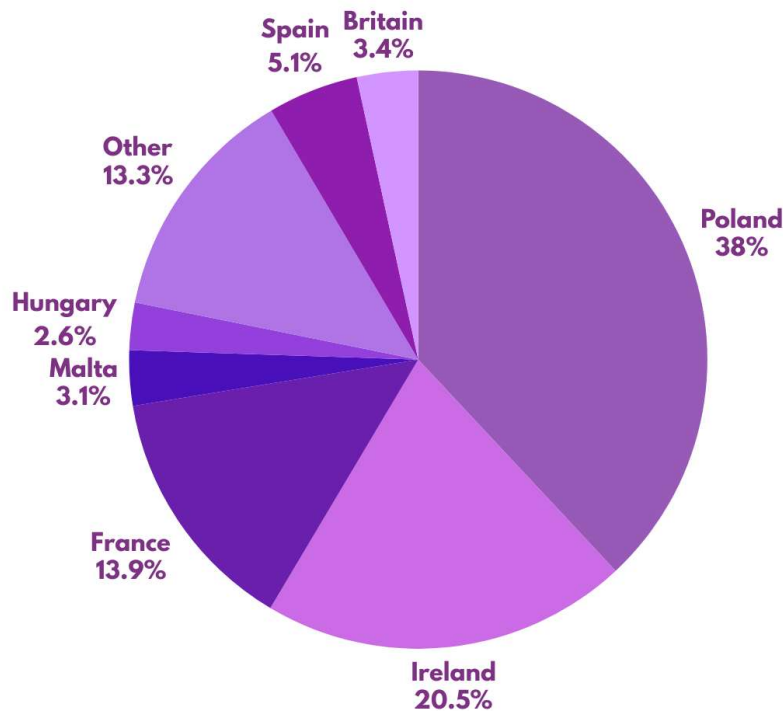
2024 saw the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASN's work supporting people from across Europe to travel to access a safe abortion. Since its founding in 2009 to the end of 2024, ASN has supported 10,078 clients from across Europe, and made grants of £1,489,736 to cover the costs of travelling and paying privately for an abortion procedure. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of ASN's volunteers, donors and supporters, whose hard work has helped to grow ASN from a small group of volunteers to an organisation helping more than 1,000 people a year.

### **RTÉ documentary**

In April 2024, ASN featured in *RTÉ Investigates: Ireland's Abortion Services*, a documentary which cast a light on the enduring lack of access to abortion services in the Republic of Ireland. The documentary team spent time filming and interviewing one of ASN's helpline volunteers, Vicki, who generously offered her time in order to demonstrate the work that goes into supporting people seeking abortions via the ASN helpline.



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In 2024 we heard from 31 people in Britain, making this our fifth largest country demographic. This reflects both a lack of abortion provision in some parts of Britain (including Scotland where abortion is not available after 20 weeks), and a hostile environment for migrants and refugees who often find it difficult to access health services.

***Our helpline was contacted by 1,008 people.***

This is a 4% increase from 2023, and an 83% increase from 5 years ago.

***We funded 303 clients.***

We made grants totalling £279,975, making our average grant £924. Our largest grant was for £4,946 and our smallest grant was for €10.

***We booked 127 nights of accommodation for 80 clients.***

Since 2020, we have used paid accommodation rather than a network of volunteer hosts.

***We translated medical documents for 18 clients.***

Our translation team is adept at providing translations of complex medical documents, often on a very tight deadline. These documents are often required by clients or clinics to ensure they get the best possible care.

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## **Client feedback**

Here is just some of the feedback our helpline team received in 2024:

*"Thank you for everything, you have been so kind from the beginning. You have saved my life."*

*"Thank you so much, I know that money doesn't come from the sky and yet, to the best of my ability, I would like to support you and by doing so, support other women and contribute to helping them because I believe in the goodness of others. I received the help I needed and I would like other women to have this opportunity too, the opportunity to choose and to know that there are people who will not leave them alone."*

*"Hello. I want to write to you THANK YOU. Your help and power has been good to me. Thank you so much."*

*"I wanted to let you know that I am already after the treatment which took place yesterday. Everything went well and the staff at the clinic was extremely understanding and helpful. Thank you so much for your help and support in this difficult situation. You guys are doing an amazing job! I am very grateful."*

*"I am home now, thank you so much for your help, you girls are great ❤️"*

*"Once again, thank you very much for your help. Thanks to you I breathed a sigh of relief and could cope with it mentally, you are a great support, thank you!"*

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Individual Donations**

ASN receives a significant proportion (70% in 2024) of its income from individual donors, that provide both one-off donations as well as monthly contributions. In 2024 we received financial support of £297,393 from 2,024 individual donors, and we would like to thank these many donors for making ASN's work possible.

### **Grants**

In 2024 we were awarded unrestricted grants of £65,114 from the National Network of Abortion Funds.

### **Community and fundraising campaigns**

In April we launched a community fundraising challenge, calling on supporters to walk, jog or run various distances during the month of April to raise funds for our

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work. This challenge raised £3,779 thanks to the support of 23 fundraisers.

We also took part in the Big Give Women's and Girls funding campaign, where donations were matched up to £10,000 for one week in October. This campaign raised £8,416, coinciding with ASN's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This anniversary raised an additional £2,246, through individuals fundraising and sales of commemorative t-shirts designed by Rosa Kusabbi.



**FUTURE PLANS**

In 2025, ASN will continue to be focused on our key mission, which is providing excellent and empathic care to abortion seekers across Europe. This will involve considering how to best meet the needs of new emerging client groups (e.g. abortion seekers with travel restrictions due to visa status) with new and adapted

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abortion pathways in an ever-challenging climate.

We will seek to diversify our funding sources to secure more funding from trusts and grants in addition to growing our donations from individuals.

In 2025 we will carry out strategic planning, involving staff, board and volunteers, and strengthen our partnership working in order to more effectively help those who contact our helpline.

## ***STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT***

### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, our Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

### **Governance and Management**

ASN is governed by our Board of Trustees who oversee our work, provide strategic leadership and ensure good governance. Our day-to-day work is led by our staff who in turn support our team of volunteers. You can learn more about our staff and volunteers on our website: <https://www.asn.org.uk/team-asn/>.

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

### Income and Expenditure

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Total Income	£424,089	£484, 895	-£60, 806
Total Expenditure	£606, 880	£559, 435	£47, 445

ASN's total income amounted to £424,089, which represents a decrease of £60,806 compared to 2023. This decline in income was primarily due to a decrease in donations and grants, which impacted ASN's overall revenue.

Total expenditure for the year was £606,880, compared to £559,435 in the previous year, reflecting a slight increase of £47,445. 85.1% of total expenditure was directed toward charitable activities in 2023, compared to 83.8% in the previous year, demonstrating ASN's continued prioritisation of the needs of abortion seekers.

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**Reserves**

The overall funds balance at the year-end stood at £257,284, a decrease from £440,075 in the previous year, reflecting the drop in income and an investment in supporting the service. At the end of the year our reserves are more in line with our reserves policy.

The board's policy is to hold at least three months of operating costs as general reserves and for the remainder to be held as an opportunity reserve to fund investment in the service model to support growth.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees review the reserves policy annually. We aim to hold unrestricted funds of three months' expenditure, which we estimate to be approximately £150,000.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of Abortion Support Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

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

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For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Alex Irving, Secretary

Ruth Fletcher, Chair

**Abortion Support Network  
Independent examiner's report to the trustees  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on the following pages.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



18 / 09 / 2025

Abbas Shapuri ACA  
Third Sector Accountancy Limited  
Holyoake House  
Hanover Street  
Manchester  
M60 0AS

**Abortion Support Network**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**including Revenue Account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	343,773	-	343,773	383,465	-	383,465
Charitable activities	4	74,113	-	74,113	33,666	62,575	96,241
Investment income	5	6,203	-	6,203	5,189	-	5,189
<b>Total income</b>		<b>424,089</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>424,089</b>	<b>422,320</b>	<b>62,575</b>	<b>484,895</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Cost of raising funds	6	90,042	-	90,042	90,612	-	90,612
Charitable activities	6	514,900	1,938	516,838	408,186	60,637	468,823
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>604,942</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>606,880</b>	<b>498,798</b>	<b>60,637</b>	<b>559,435</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>(180,853)</b>	<b>(1,938)</b>	<b>(182,791)</b>	<b>(76,478)</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>(74,540)</b>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>(180,853)</b>	<b>(1,938)</b>	<b>(182,791)</b>	<b>(76,478)</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>(74,540)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		438,137	1,938	440,075	514,615	-	514,615
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>257,284</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>257,284</b>	<b>438,137</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>440,075</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

**Abortion Support Network  
Company Number 7017607**

**Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024**

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14		-		-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>			-		-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	9,300		14,693	
Cash at bank and in hand		277,938		458,029	
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>287,238</b>		<b>472,722</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	13	(29,954)		(32,647)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>257,284</b>		<b>440,075</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			257,284		440,075
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>257,284</b>		<b>440,075</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
Restricted income funds			-		1,938
Unrestricted income funds			257,284		438,137
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<b>257,284</b>		<b>440,075</b>

The notes on pages 20 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 18 / 09 / 2025 and signed on their behalf

*Ruth Fletcher* .....

Ruth Fletcher  
.....

Ruth Fletcher

# Abortion Support Network

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

### 1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

#### a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Abortion Support Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £ sterling.

#### b Judgments and estimates

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

#### c Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### d Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

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

# Abortion Support Network

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

### e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

### f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

### g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising and the associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

### h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

### i Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

### j Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Office Equipment	33% straight line
------------------	-------------------

### k Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

# Abortion Support Network

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

### **l Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### **m Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

### **n Financial instruments**

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

### **o Pensions**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

### **p Donated goods and services**

Donated items are not included in the financial statements until they are sold or distributed on the basis that it is considered impractical to measure the fair value of donated goods.

The value recognised is the estimated value to the charity of the service or goods received.

## **2 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

## Abortion Support Network

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

#### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Donation income	313,275	-	313,275	356,216	-	356,216
Gift Aid	30,498	-	30,498	27,249	-	27,249
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	343,773	-	343,773	383,465	-	383,465
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

#### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Grant income	65,113	-	65,113	30,066	62,575	92,641
Sponsorship income	9,000	-	9,000	3,600	-	3,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	74,113	-	74,113	33,666	62,575	96,241
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

#### 5 Investment income

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. All investment income is unrestricted.

## Abortion Support Network

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

#### 6 Analysis of expenditure

	Charitable activities £	Cost of raising funds £	Total 2024 £	Charitable activities £	Cost of raising funds £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs of supporting clients	284,673	-	284,673	253,079	0	253,079
Staff costs	123,980	50,931	174,911	83,637	38,458	122,095
Platform fees and other fundraising	-	28,518	28,518	0	26,621	26,621
Support costs (see note 9)	105,685	10,593	116,278	111,488	25,533	137,021
Governance costs (see note 9)	2,500	-	2,500	20,619	-	20,619
	<u>516,838</u>	<u>90,042</u>	<u>606,880</u>	<u>468,823</u>	<u>90,612</u>	<u>559,435</u>

#### 7 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Support £	Governance £	Total 2024 £	Support £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	58,304	-	58,304	49,522	-	49,522
Recruitment and other staff costs	7,326	-	7,326	28,916	-	28,916
Volunteer costs	2,707	-	2,707	8,676	-	8,676
Travel and subsistence	7,819	-	7,819	9,280	-	9,280
Communication and marketing	2,178	-	2,178	1,951	-	1,951
Accountancy, legal and professional fees	5,180	2,500	7,680	17,993	20,619	38,612
Office costs	32,763	-	32,763	20,683	-	20,683
	<u>116,277</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>118,777</u>	<u>137,021</u>	<u>20,619</u>	<u>157,640</u>
<b>Split between:</b>						
Charitable activities	105,685	2,500	108,185	111,488	20,619	132,107
Cost of Raising Funds	10,593	-	10,593	25,533	-	25,533
	<u>116,278</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>118,778</u>	<u>137,021</u>	<u>20,619</u>	<u>157,640</u>

## Abortion Support Network

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

#### 8 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	-	-
Trustees' remuneration	-	-
Independent examiner's remuneration	2,500	3,500

#### 9 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	178,541	93,781
Social security costs	14,117	4,655
Pension costs	6,303	3,538
Freelance Staff	34,254	69,643
	233,215	171,617
<b>Allocated as follows:</b>		
Cost of raising funds	50,931	38,458
Charitable activities	123,980	83,637
Support costs	58,304	49,522
	233,215	171,617

No employees had employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

The average monthly number of staff employed during the period was 5 (2023: 3).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise Trustees and Managing Director. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel was £3,198. (2023: £43,392). Note that the Managing Director was in role from December 2024. In the prior year, the CEO resigned in July 2023 and was not replaced.

# Abortion Support Network

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

### 10 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No trustee or person closely related or connected with them received any remuneration during the year (2023: Nil)

Aggregate donations from trustees were £Nil (2023: £Nil).

There were no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties. (2023: £Nil)

### 11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

### 12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	9,000	3,600
Other debtors	300	300
Accrued income	-	10,793
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,300	14,693
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	18,494	20,247
Taxation and social security	5,665	5,536
Accruals	5,795	6,864
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	29,954	32,647
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## Abortion Support Network

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

#### 14 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

##### Current reporting period

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
International Planned Parenthood Federation - staff welfare	1,938	-	(1,938)	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,938)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

##### Previous reporting period

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2023 £</i>
Government of Belgium	-	4,258	(4,258)	-	-
International Planned Parenthood Federation	-	55,169	(55,169)	-	-
International Planned Parenthood Federation - staff welfare	-	3,148	(1,210)	-	1,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,575</b>	<b>(60,637)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,938</b>

##### Name of restricted fund

##### Description, nature and purposes of the fund

Government of Belgium

Funds for abortions for fatal foetal anomalies in Polish and Ukrainian clients.

International Planned Parenthood Federation

Funds for the provision of abortions for Polish and Ukrainian Clients from January 2023 to September 2023

International Planned Parenthood Federation - staff welfare

Funds to cover the supervision of helpline staff.

## Abortion Support Network

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

#### 15 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

##### Current period

	Balance at 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	438,137	424,089	(604,942)	-	257,284
<b>Total general funds</b>	<b>438,137</b>	<b>424,089</b>	<b>(604,942)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>257,284</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>438,137</b>	<b>424,089</b>	<b>(604,942)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>257,284</b>

##### Prior period

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>As at 31 December 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>General fund</i>	<i>514,615</i>	<i>422,320</i>	<i>(498,798)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>438,137</i>
<i>Total general funds</i>	<i>514,615</i>	<i>422,320</i>	<i>(498,798)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>438,137</i>
<i>Total unrestricted funds</i>	<i>514,615</i>	<i>422,320</i>	<i>(498,798)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>438,137</i>

**Name of  
unrestricted fund**  
General fund

**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**  
The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

## Abortion Support Network

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

#### 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

##### Current reporting period

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	257,284	-	-	257,284
<b>Total</b>	<b>257,284</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>257,284</b>

##### Previous reporting period

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	438,137	-	1,938	440,075
<b>Total</b>	<b>438,137</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>440,075</b>

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142120

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# Accounts

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Company no. 07017607  
Charity no. 1142120

**Abortion Support Network**  
**Report and Unaudited Financial**  
**Statements**  
**31 December 2023**

## Abortion Support Network

### Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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<b>Company number</b>	07017607
<b>Charity number</b>	1142120
<b>Registered office and operational address</b>	Union House 111 New Union Street Coventry CV1 2NT
<b>Trustees</b>	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Emma Campbell (appointed 6 July 2023) Bethan Cansfield (appointed 1 May 2024) Lisa Flanagan (appointed 1 May 2024) Dr Ruth Fletcher (appointed 6 July 2023) Alex Irving (appointed 1 May 2024) Emma McCarthy (appointed 1 May 2024) Ella Nwaokolo (appointed 1 May 2024) Janet O'Sullivan (appointed 6 July 2023) Clarisa Regede (appointed 1 May 2024) Hannah Tipple (appointed 6 July 2023) Sophie Bridge (resigned 19 June 2023) Victoria Mcgregor Elliott (resigned 6 July 2023) Charlotte Rothschild Fischer (resigned 6 July 2023) Sangeetha Navaratnam-Blair (resigned 6 July 2023) Katarzyna Przybyl (appointed 6 July 2023, resigned 31 May 2024)  Jane St. Pier (resigned 6 July 2023) Sarah Donaldson Wootton (resigned 6 July 2023)
<b>Company secretary</b>	Victoria Mcgregor Elliott (resigned 6 July 2023) Katarzyna Przybyl (appointed 8 September 2023 and resigned 31 May 2024)
<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Sam Smethers (resigned June 2023)
<b>Bankers</b>	HSBC UK PO Box 68 130 New Street Birmingham West Midlands B2 4JU
<b>Independent examiners</b>	Godfrey Wilson Limited Chartered accountants and statutory auditors 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective from January 2019).

“First of all, let me express my profound gratitude! ... You do so much for women in such situations, and you do it so naturally and effortlessly, as if it were the simplest thing in the world. I want you to know that here in Hungary, apart from my general practitioner, I haven't encountered this high level of empathy from anyone else!”

*Client in Hungary, December 2023*

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Vision Mission Values**

##### **Vision**

A world where women and pregnant people have the information and means to access safe, legal abortions wherever they live.

##### **Mission**

To provide information, financial assistance and accommodation to those who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

##### **Values**

We believe that all those who need them have the right to safe and legal abortions. We believe in providing practical support to enable people to exercise this right. We are compassionate and respectful of abortion-seekers and their decisions.

##### **Charitable purpose (as set out in our governing document)**

To provide practical information and support to relieve the difficulties, distress and financial hardship experienced by women who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

##### **A client we supported in 2023:**

When Maria\* and her partner Conor\* from Ireland reached out to Abortion Support Network, they were facing a difficult decision. They were waiting for test results related to their pregnancy but knew that if it was likely bad news and that they would have to travel to England for an abortion due to a foetal anomaly. They were over 12 weeks gestation, so would not qualify for access to an abortion in early pregnancy. Cases of foetal anomaly above 12 weeks are extremely difficult to prove in Ireland due to doctors having to confirm that the anomaly would be fatal. Maria\* and Conor\* did not know how they could afford to travel for an abortion above 12 weeks.

The ASN team explained how it would work if they did need to travel, and a week later, they confirmed the news they had been dreading: a foetal anomaly that didn't meet Ireland's strict criteria for termination. It was a devastating choice to terminate a wanted pregnancy, made all the more difficult by the prospect of needing to travel to receive a service they required.

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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Maria\* and Conor\* were already struggling financially. They had borrowed money from friends and family to cover travel, but they didn't know where they would find the remaining €700 to pay for the abortion service. And time was of the essence – if the appointment had to be moved back by even a week, the price would jump to more than €1,500.

The ASN team provided support to Maria over the phone, and we were able to cover the entire cost of the abortion, easing their financial burden during this already extremely difficult time and ensuring they received care in good time.

\*Names have been changed.

#### **About ASN**

ASN is a charity that provides information, financial assistance, and other practical support to those forced to travel for abortions. We work with people all over Europe and in 2023 we supported people from the Republic of Ireland, Poland, Malta, Gibraltar, France, Hungary, Spain and over 30 other countries.

ASN was founded because we believe "I can't afford an abortion" should never be the only reason someone continues a pregnancy.

#### **How ASN works**

ASN connects the people who are without resources, who need our help, with those who can provide that help, whether it be individual donors or institutional grant-giving foundations. The generous support of our funders and donors, whether that is via one-off contributions or regular donations, means we can provide the help they need to access abortions, and thanks to that support we have been able to help even more people over the past year than ever before. We:

- provide clear, accurate, factual non-judgmental information;
- help arrange abortion appointments as well as travel and accommodation;
- provide translations of documents that are needed by clients or clinics;
- signpost to other services or providers such as pills by post;
- help clients overcome other barriers such as visa issues; and
- use creative problem-solving and work quickly to make sure clients get the help they need.

We have a team of 28 helpline volunteers, plus 5 translation and 6 accommodation volunteers, all managed by a full-time paid Service Manager, supported by two part-time paid Senior Helpline Coordinators.

We also have a full-time Fundraising and Communications Manager who manages a team of fundraising, communications and donor-care volunteers. They are all supported by our Volunteer and Admin Assistant.

#### **How Abortion Without Borders works**

Abortion Without Borders (AWB) is an initiative comprised of groups working to provide information, support and funding to people in Poland who need abortions, either in Poland with abortion pills or abroad in clinics or hospitals.

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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Callers in Poland contact a local organisation, Kobiety w Sieci, which has been providing people in Poland with sexual health information, including unbiased, factual information about abortion since 2006. Kobiety w Sieci staffs the AWB helpline. Currently, ASN currently funds many of the second trimester abortions for AWB. Any caller who wishes to obtain an abortion will be referred to ASN or another partner organisation.

- People in Poland contact the AWB helpline. It is staffed with Polish speakers, and open 12 hours per day, 365 days a year.
- In the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, abortion at home via medical abortion pills is a safe, effective option for many people. The majority of people contacting AWB who have an abortion self-manage their abortions with pills.
- Anyone who cannot have a safe abortion using pills (for example due to the stage of pregnancy, or health issues, or in those cases where those pills do not work) is signposted to an AWB member organisation outside of Poland.
- ASN or a partner organisation helps the client arrange travel to Germany (up to 14 weeks), the Netherlands (22 weeks), Britain (24 weeks) or elsewhere in Europe, depending on their needs, current travel restrictions, language barriers and other issues.
- If needed, ASN or a partner organisation will arrange and pay for the abortion procedure, travel, accommodation, and assist with other barriers which may be standing in the way.

While abortion in Poland is criminalised under almost all circumstances, the activities undertaken by AWB are legal.

- Giving information about abortion is legal;
- Travelling abroad for abortion is legal;
- Calling the helpline or receiving funding from AWB is legal;
- Ordering early medical abortion pills online is not against the law;
- Taking early medical abortion pills is not against the law; and
- Prior to 22 weeks' gestation, self-managed abortion is not criminalised.

#### **Why ASN's work is needed**

Abortion is basic healthcare but the ability to access it is increasingly under pressure. While some European states are liberalising abortion laws, others are tightening restrictions. ASN is part of a long tradition of ordinary people stepping in where governments fail to provide safe abortion care. Our clients include those who have experienced domestic abuse or rape; those who do not have passports or who need a visa to travel; those who discover their pregnancy or who find out about a foetal anomaly at too late a stage for an early termination; people on low incomes and those who simply cannot navigate how they go about having an abortion in another country and just need some advice and information.

But we do not ask why. The only thing that matters is whether they need our help.

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### **WHAT HAPPENED in 2023**

##### **Trial of Justyna Wydrzyńska**

The need for abortion support services in Poland intensified in the same moment as Polish abortion supporters came under attack with the trial and conviction of Justyna Wydrzyńska. Justyna is a member of Abortion Dream Team and Kobiety w Sieci, both founding members of Abortion Without Borders. On 14 March 2023, Justyna was convicted of helping a woman access an abortion in Poland, after she gave safe abortion pills to a woman (known as Ania). She was sentenced to 10 months of community service, and said she would appeal the conviction.

It is not against the law in Poland to self-manage your own abortion with pills, but it is criminalised to help with abortion. Everyone at ASN and AWB believes Justyna has already carried out a vital service to her community in helping a woman get the abortion she needed. Ania\* was in an abusive relationship at the time and had been prevented from travelling to a clinic overseas once already by her partner. That same partner then reported both Ania and Justyna to the police when he discovered the abortion pills.

Later in 2023, a Polish woman was harassed by police after telling her psychologist that she had taken abortion pills – who then reported her. It is not a crime to take abortion pills in Poland, but Joanna was detained and strip-searched by police at the hospital, which they claimed was to find out if anyone had helped her access the abortion pills.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of a woman in Poland – Dorota – who was denied a life-saving abortion in a Polish hospital. Dorota died after complications with her pregnancy led to sepsis and multiple organ failure, while doctors claimed she could make a full recovery to her family. Polish doctors can legally provide abortion care to save a patient's life but there have been several cases where this hasn't happened leading to deaths of women in Polish hospital care.

February 2023 marked the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, and Abortion Without Borders shared that it had helped 1,814 people from Ukraine in that time. While the vast majority were able to access safe abortion pills via Women Help Women, 30 Ukrainian people were supported to travel to a clinic or hospital overseas and the network provided more than £50,000 in financial support.

In August 2023, Abortion Without Borders welcomed three new groups to the network: Ciocia Wienia, Ciocia Czesia, and Supporting Abortions for Everyone (SAFE).

##### **Investing in ASN**

In 2023, ASN implemented a plan to better invest in its helpline in order to ensure its sustainability and future growth. A Service Manager was appointed in April 2023 and a part-time Senior Helpline Coordinator recruited soon after. By the end of the year a second paid Senior Coordinator role was advertised.

ASN also grew its volunteer team, recruiting 16 new volunteers across the helpline and accommodation teams. By the end of the year, 39 people based in nine different European countries were engaged, enabling us to respond to the increased need for our service, as well as enabling us to have a volunteer team more representative of our clients.

ASN also started working with a consultancy partner to identify a database that would meet the needs of the helpline and cut down the amount of administrative work required from the team.

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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##### **Changes to the board of Trustees**

The departure of ASN's founder and long-time director at the end of 2022 brought ASN into a period of transition. At the start of 2023 there were extensive discussions between trustees, volunteers and partners about what the future of the organisation should look like.

There were differing opinions about the way ahead, and a new set of trustees came forward who felt able to lead the organisation in a way that was aligned with the views held by many of ASN's members at that time. The five new trustees were voted into post by ASN's membership at an Emergency Meeting on 6th July 2023. ASN's interim CEO also stepped down at this point and the ongoing recruitment process for a permanent CEO was paused while the new trustee board took time to consider what model of leadership would be right for the organisation. At the end of 2023, through consultation with staff, the decision was made to recruit a Managing Director.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members who resigned in 2023, as well as our former interim CEO, for all their contributions to ASN over the years.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

At ASN, our role is to fund abortions for people who need them, in the most cost-effective way possible, as quickly as possible, as suits the needs of each individual client. We don't ask how people got pregnant or why they want an abortion. We don't ask about gender identity, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, employment status or citizenship unless we have to, for example to help someone arrange a visa. Our only criteria are financial need and availability of funds and we keep our questions as few and non-invasive as possible. As a result, the information below is partial and limited, based on what clients chose to share.

##### **Our work in 2023**

In 2023 we were contacted by people in 37 different countries. For a long time, the helpline has been moving away from the idea that we focus our support on 'core countries' and 2023 cemented the reality that we are a pan-European service, working with anyone based in Europe. Our third biggest client group after people in Poland and Ireland was women and pregnant people based in France, and we formed a partnership with Le Planning Familial to offer better pathways to care for these clients. We also saw an increase in people contacting us from Hungary, Belgium and Spain.

##### **We were contacted by 969 people**

This was a 7% increase from 2022, bringing the total number of people that ASN has supported since its creation in 2009 to over 9,000.

##### **We funded 232 clients**

In total we gave £237,040 in grants, making the average grant £734. Our biggest grant was £4,423.26 and our smallest was just £21.99.

##### **We booked 87 nights in hotels**

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic we have continued to use paid accommodation rather than a network of volunteer hosts. The city in which we made the most hotel bookings in 2023 was Amsterdam, followed by London.

## Abortion Support Network

### Report of the trustees

#### For the year ended 31 December 2023

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#### **We translated medical documents for 36 clients**

Our translation team is adept at providing translations of complex medical documents, often on a very tight deadline. These documents are often required by clients or clinics to ensure they get the best possible care.

#### **Client feedback**

Here is just some of the feedback our helpline team received in 2023:

“I just wanted to write again to say thank you so much for all your help. I don’t know what I would have done if not for your help!”

- *Client in Poland, April 2023*

“Oh my god. Thank you so much for this. You don’t understand how much this [grant] has helped right now. I will most definitely make a donation back to you guys once I save a bit of money to repay you.”

- *Parent of a 17-year-old client in Ireland, May 2023*

“Thank you for replying so quickly. My abortion process is started, I am so relieved. The most precious time for me was when you spoke to me on the phone. I would like to say thank you for everything again.”

- *A Ukrainian refugee living in Romania, May 2023*

“I really really appreciate all of your help. ASN is a godsend to me, I cannot express how grateful I am for all kindness and charity given to me”

- *Client in Ireland, June 2023*

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Individual Donations**

ASN receives a significant proportion (over 75% in 2023) of its income from individual donors, that provide both one-off donations, as well as regular contributions. In 2023 we received financial support of £383,465 from 3,243 individual donors.

### **Grants**

In 2023, we were awarded a grant of \$37,199 by the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network to deliver the ‘Meeting the essential SRH needs of communities affected by the Ukraine Crisis in Poland’ project. The funding aimed to support 50 individuals in Poland, including Ukrainian refugees, to travel to Germany, the Netherlands and the UK to receive essential abortion care.

In addition to the above, we continued to receive small grants from the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men, Belgium, as well as the National Network of Abortion Funds.

### **Fundraising Events**

- In September 2023, we launched the **1 in 3 Challenge**, an initiative rooted in a powerful statistic: 1 in 3 UK women will have an abortion by the time they turn 45. Understanding the importance of this statistic, we called upon our dedicated supporters to take on our 1 in 3 community fundraiser, to support abortion access. The challenge saw individuals commit to moving (running, walking, swimming or cycling) for 3km every day in September.

## Abortion Support Network

### Report of the trustees

#### For the year ended 31 December 2023

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- In 2023, ASN implemented the Christmas Challenge, generously hosted by The Big Give in collaboration with The Reed Foundation. Through this initiative, ASN were able to receive an incredible 216 gifts in total throughout October 2023.

As we look ahead to 2024, we have regenerated our Fundraising Working Group, comprised of dedicated ASN staff and trustees. This team will focus on refining our fundraising strategies to navigate the increasingly competitive landscape. In 2024, ASN will be celebrating our 15th anniversary, a milestone we hope will generate enthusiasm and momentum for our mission. We will be spending time on cleaning and updating our fundraising database and building a Trusts and Foundations pipeline in the interests of future diversification of income.

#### FUTURE PLANS

In 2024, ASN will continue to be focused on our key mission, which is providing excellent and empathic care to abortion seekers across Europe. This will involve considering how to best meet the needs of new emerging client groups (e.g. abortion seekers with travel restrictions due to visa status) with new and adapted abortion pathways in an ever-challenging climate.

We will continue investing in staff and infrastructure in order to build capacity and turn knowledge of abortion-seeking into resources for improving abortion care. This will involve recruitment of a new Managing Director to lead on strategic development, review of IT provision, and rolling out a new database for information management.

Our fundraising team will build on existing strengths e.g. our network of individual donors and exploring new opportunities e.g. drawing down project-related funds. We will do this through expanding our community fund-raising team, developing a 15th anniversary fund-raising initiative, and preparing a pipeline for foundation and trusts grants.

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, our Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

##### Governance and Management

ASN is governed by our Board of Trustees who oversee our work, provide strategic leadership and ensure good governance. Our day-to-day work is led by our staff who in turn support our team of volunteers. You can learn more about our staff and volunteers on our website: <https://www.asn.org.uk/team-asn/>

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

##### Income and Expenditure

	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance
Total Income	£484,895	£663,678	-£178,783
Total Expenditure	£559,435	£557,994	£1,441

During the financial year, ASN's total income amounted to £484,895, which represents a decrease of £178,783 compared to the previous year's income of £663,678. This decline in income was primarily due to a decrease in donations and grants, which impacted ASN's overall revenue.

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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Total expenditure for the year was £559,435, compared to £557,994 in the previous year, reflecting a slight increase of 0.26%. Of this, 16.2% was allocated to raising funds in 2023, up from 14.4% in 2022, reflecting ASN's recognition of the current fundraising landscape. Meanwhile, 83.8% of total expenditure was directed toward charitable activities in 2023, compared to 85.6% in the previous year, demonstrating ASN's continued prioritisation of funding client services despite the slight decrease in income.

#### **Reserves**

The overall funds balance at the year-end stood at £440,075, a decrease from £514,615 in the previous year, reflecting the drop in income. This means our reserves have dropped by 14.5% in the last year, but are still healthy, and available to support investment in the service.

The board's policy is to hold at least three months of operating costs as general reserves and for the remainder to be held as an opportunity reserve to fund investment in the service model to support growth.

#### **Reserves policy**

The trustees review the reserves policy annually. We aim to hold unrestricted funds of around three months' total expenditure, which we estimate to be approximately £130,000. As our unrestricted funds as at 31 December 2023 are notably in excess of this target, we aim to reduce our funds in the coming year by continuing to fund vital services for abortion seekers.

#### **Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees 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.

## **Abortion Support Network**

### **Report of the trustees**

#### **For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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

The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

#### **Independent examiners**

Godfrey Wilson Limited were appointed as independent examiners to the charitable company during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 23 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

*A. Irving*

Alex Irving - Trustee

## **Independent examiner's report**

**To the trustees of**

### **Abortion Support Network**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Abortion Support Network (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 24.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

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

*Dougal Howard*

Date: 24 October 2024

**Dougal Howard ACA**

**Member of the ICAEW**

For and on behalf of:

**Godfrey Wilson Limited**

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

## Abortion Support Network

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

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2023 Total £	Restated 2022 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations	3	-	383,465	<b>383,465</b>	569,069
Charitable activities	4	62,575	33,666	<b>96,241</b>	93,836
Investments		-	5,189	<b>5,189</b>	773
<b>Total income</b>		<u>62,575</u>	<u>422,320</u>	<b>484,895</b>	<u>663,678</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		-	90,612	<b>90,612</b>	80,264
Charitable activities		<u>60,637</u>	<u>408,186</u>	<b>468,823</b>	<u>477,730</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	5	<u>60,637</u>	<u>498,798</u>	<b>559,435</b>	<u>557,994</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) and movement in funds</b>	6	1,938	(76,478)	<b>(74,540)</b>	105,684
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		-	514,615	<b>514,615</b>	<u>408,931</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>1,938</u>	<u>438,137</u>	<b>440,075</b>	<u>514,615</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 13 to the accounts.

The 2022 comparatives have been restated in line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). The restatements are purely reclassifications within expenditure and do not affect net income.

## Abortion Support Network

### Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	9	14,693		33,710
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>458,029</u>		<u>599,281</u>
		<b>472,722</b>		632,991
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	10	<u>(32,647)</u>		<u>(118,376)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u><b>440,075</b></u>	<u>514,615</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	12		<u><u><b>440,075</b></u></u>	<u><u>514,615</u></u>
<b>Funds</b>	13			
Restricted funds			<b>1,938</b>	-
Unrestricted funds			<u><b>438,137</b></u>	<u>514,615</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u><u><b>440,075</b></u></u>	<u><u>514,615</u></u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477(2), and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) ensuring that the Company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and
- (ii) preparing financial statements 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 profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

Approved by the trustees on 23 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by

*A. Irving*

Alex Irving - Trustee

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### a) General information and basis of preparation

Abortion Support Network is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Union House, 111 New Union Street, Coventry, CV1 2NT.

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

Abortion Support Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

##### b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### c) Income

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

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

##### d) Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

##### e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### f) Funds accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

##### g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

##### h) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities based on the proportion of total cost of each activity as follows:

	2023	2022
Raising funds	16.2%	14.4%
Charitable activities	83.8%	85.6%

##### i) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Office Equipment	33% straight line basis
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Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

##### j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 December 2023

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#### 1. Accounting policies (continued)

##### k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

##### l) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

##### m) Financial instruments

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

##### n) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

##### o) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

##### p) Accounting estimates and key judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying 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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1i above.

**Abortion Support Network**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**2. Prior period comparatives: statement of financial activities**

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restated 2022 Total
	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations	-	569,069	569,069
Charitable activities	66,636	27,200	93,836
Investments	-	773	773
	<u>66,636</u>	<u>597,042</u>	<u>663,678</u>
<b>Total income</b>	<u>66,636</u>	<u>597,042</u>	<u>663,678</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	-	80,264	80,264
Charitable activities	66,636	411,094	477,730
	<u>66,636</u>	<u>491,358</u>	<u>557,994</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>66,636</u>	<u>491,358</u>	<u>557,994</u>
<b>Net income and net movement in funds</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,684</u>	<u>105,684</u>

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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#### 3. Income from donations

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Donations	<b>356,216</b>	530,659
Gift aid	<b>27,249</b>	38,410
<b>Total income from donations</b>	<b><u>383,465</u></b>	<b><u>569,069</u></b>

All income from donations in both the current and prior year was unrestricted.

#### 4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	<b>2023</b>
	£	£	<b>Total</b>
			£
Grants	62,575	30,066	<b>92,641</b>
Sponsorship	-	3,600	<b>3,600</b>
<b>Total income from charitable activities</b>	<b><u>62,575</u></b>	<b><u>33,666</u></b>	<b><u>96,241</u></b>
<b>Prior period comparative:</b>			2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Grants	66,636	20,000	86,636
Sponsorship	-	7,200	7,200
<b>Total income from charitable activities</b>	<b><u>66,636</u></b>	<b><u>27,200</u></b>	<b><u>93,836</u></b>

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 5. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2023 Total £
Direct costs of supporting clients	-	253,079	-	<b>253,079</b>
Wages (note 7)	38,458	83,637	49,522	<b>171,617</b>
Recruitment and other staff costs	-	-	28,916	<b>28,916</b>
Volunteer costs	-	-	8,676	<b>8,676</b>
Travel and subsistence	-	-	9,280	<b>9,280</b>
Donation platform fees and other fundraising	26,621	-	-	<b>26,621</b>
Communications and marketing	-	-	1,951	<b>1,951</b>
Accountancy, legal and professional fees	-	-	38,612	<b>38,612</b>
Office costs	-	-	20,683	<b>20,683</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	65,079	336,716	157,640	<b>559,435</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	<u>25,533</u>	<u>132,107</u>	<u>(157,640)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>90,612</u></b>	<b><u>468,823</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>559,435</u></b>

Total governance costs were £20,619 (2022: £2,664).

#### Prior period comparative (restated)

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2022 Total £
Direct costs of supporting clients	-	237,625	-	237,625
Partnership grants (note 11)	-	95,463	-	95,463
Wages (note 7)	36,648	35,800	86,543	158,991
Recruitment and other staff costs	-	-	4,944	4,944
Volunteer costs	-	-	1,159	1,159
Travel and subsistence	-	-	6,483	6,483
Donation platform fees and other fundraising	25,329	-	-	25,329
Communications and marketing	-	-	744	744
Accountancy, legal and professional fees	-	-	17,832	17,832
Office costs	-	-	9,424	9,424
<b>Sub-total</b>	61,977	368,888	127,129	557,994
Allocation of support and governance costs	<u>18,287</u>	<u>108,842</u>	<u>(127,129)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>80,264</u></b>	<b><u>477,730</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>557,994</u></b>

The 2022 comparatives have been restated in line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). The restatements are purely reclassifications within expenditure and do not affect net income.

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 December 2023

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#### 6. Net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	-	132
Trustees' remuneration	<b>Nil</b>	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	<b>Nil</b>	Nil
Independent examiner's remuneration (excluding VAT)	<b>3,500</b>	2,220

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our examiners to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

#### 7. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	<b>93,781</b>	129,275
Social security costs	<b>4,655</b>	6,151
Pension costs	<b>3,538</b>	10,039
Freelance staff	<b>69,643</b>	13,526
	<b>171,617</b>	158,991

There were no redundancy costs in the current year (2022: included in salaries and wages is £33,146 for settlement and payment in lieu of notice, funded from general funds).

No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year (2022: one employee earned between £60,000 - £69,999).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £44,392 (2022: £94,117). Note that the CEO resigned in July 2023 and was not replaced for the remainder of the year.

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	No.	No.
Average head count	<b>3</b>	3

#### 8. Taxation

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

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 9. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,600	7,200
Other debtors	300	-
Accrued income	10,793	26,510
	<u>14,693</u>	<u>33,710</u>

#### 10. Creditors : amounts due within 1 year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	20,247	24,737
Grants payable (note 11)	-	48,439
Other taxation and social security	5,536	3,440
Accruals	6,864	41,760
	<u>32,647</u>	<u>118,376</u>

#### 11. Grants payable

	2023	2022
	£	£
<i>In 2022, grants were made to the following institutions (2023: nil):</i>		
Kobiety w Sieci (KWS)	-	82,337
Woman Help Woman	-	8,439
ANA	-	668
Justyna	-	4,019
	<u>-</u>	<u>95,463</u>

All grants to institutions were made in line with the charitable objective to relieve the financial hardship of people facing an unwanted pregnancy to access a safe, legal abortion.

Grant commitments are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant commitments at 1 January	48,439	-
Grants committed to during the year	-	95,463
Grants disbursed during the year	(48,439)	(47,024)
Grant commitments at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>48,439</u>

**Abortion Support Network**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**12. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	1,938	470,784	<b>472,722</b>
Current liabilities	-	(32,647)	<b>(32,647)</b>
<b>Net assets at 31 December 2023</b>	<b><u>1,938</u></b>	<b><u>438,137</u></b>	<b><u>440,075</u></b>
<b>Prior period comparative</b>			
	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	-	632,991	632,991
Current liabilities	-	(118,376)	(118,376)
<b>Net assets at 31 December 2022</b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>514,615</u></b>	<b><u>514,615</u></b>

## Abortion Support Network

### Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 13. Movements in funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 December 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Government of Belgium	-	4,258	(4,258)	-
International Planned Parenthood Federation	-	55,169	(55,169)	-
International Planned Parenthood Federation - staff welfare	-	3,148	(1,210)	<b>1,938</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,575</b>	<b>(60,637)</b>	<b>1,938</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	514,615	422,320	(498,798)	<b>438,137</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>514,615</b>	<b>422,320</b>	<b>(498,798)</b>	<b>438,137</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>514,615</b>	<b>484,895</b>	<b>(559,435)</b>	<b>440,075</b>

#### Purposes of restricted funds

##### Government of Belgium

Funds for abortions for fatal foetal anomalies in Polish and Ukrainian clients.

##### International Planned Parenthood Federation

Funds for the provision of abortions for Polish and Ukrainian Clients from January 2023 to September 2023.

##### International Planned Parenthood Federation - staff welfare

Funds to cover the supervision of helpline staff.

#### Prior period comparative

	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 December 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Rental of premises	-	66,636	(66,636)	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,636</b>	<b>(66,636)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	408,931	597,042	(491,358)	514,615
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>408,931</b>	<b>597,042</b>	<b>(491,358)</b>	<b>514,615</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>408,931</b>	<b>663,678</b>	<b>(557,994)</b>	<b>514,615</b>

**Abortion Support Network**

**Notes to the financial statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**14. Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions in the current or prior period.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142120

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# Accounts

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**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
(Registered Charity No. 1171903)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

**MYRUS SMITH**  
Chartered Accountants  
Norman House  
8 Burnell Road  
Sutton, Surrey  
SM1 4BW

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Reference and administrative details**

**Registered company number**

07017607

**Registered charity number (England and Wales)**

1142120

**Registered office**

Union House  
111 New Union Street  
Coventry  
West Midlands CV1 2NT

**Trustees**

Ms J K Davis		(resigned 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)
Professor S Sheldon		(resigned 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)
Ms V V M Elliott		(resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms S Navaratnam-Blair		(resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms J St Pier		(resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms S Wootton		(resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms C Fischer		(resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms S N Bridge		(resigned 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2023)
Ms E Campbell		(elected 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Dr R Fletcher	(Chair)	(elected 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms J O'Sullivan		(elected 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms K Przybyl		(elected 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)
Ms H Tipple		(elected 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)

**Company secretary**

Katarzyna Przybyl

**Chief executive**

Mara Clarke (left November 2022)

**Independent examiner**

Stephen Jones  
Myrus Smith, Chartered Accountants  
Norman House  
8 Burnell Road  
Sutton  
Surrey  
SM1 4BW

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

(.../cont'd)

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

***“Thank you once again for your help, it is terrible that the state does not offer me help in saving my health and life, so your help as an abortion team is irreplaceable. You are saving women, you have saved me.”***

**Vision, mission and values**

ASN's vision, mission, charitable purpose and values are set out below:

**Vision**

A world where women and pregnant people have the information and means to access safe, legal abortions, wherever they live.

**Mission**

To provide information, financial assistance and accommodation to those who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

**Charitable purpose** (as set out in our governing document)

To provide practical information and support to relieve the difficulties, distress and financial hardship experienced by women who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

**Values – external**

We believe that all those who need them have the right to safe, legal abortions. We believe in providing practical support to enable people to access this right. We are compassionate and respectful of abortion-seekers and their decisions.

**Public Benefit Statement**

The Trustees confirm that in exercising their powers and duties they have complied with their duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

**About ASN**

Abortion Support Network is a charity that provides information, financial assistance and other practical support to those forced to travel for abortions from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Poland, Malta, Gibraltar and the Isle of Man and occasionally elsewhere in Europe.

ASN was founded because we believe “I cannot afford an abortion” should never be the only reason someone continues with a pregnancy.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

(.../cont'd)

**How ASN works**

ASN connects the people who are without resources, who need our help, with those who can provide that help, whether it be individual donors or institutional grant-giving foundations. The generous support of our funders and donors, whether that is via one-off contributions or regular donations means we are able to provide the help they need to access abortions, and thanks to that support we have been able to help even more people over the past year than ever before. We:

- signpost to other services or providers such as pills by post
- provide clear, accurate, factual non-judgmental information
- help arrange travel and abortion care appointments
- help clients overcome other barriers such as VISA issues
- sometimes work miracles to make sure clients get the help they need.

We have a team of 18 helpline volunteers, plus translation and accommodation volunteers, all managed by a full-time paid Service Manager. We also have a full-time Fundraising and Communications Manager who manages a team of fundraising, communications and donor-care volunteers. They are all supported by our Volunteer and Admin Assistant.

**How Abortion Without Borders works**

Abortion Without Borders (AWB) is a coalition of individual activists and not-for profit organisations working to provide information, support and funding to people in Poland who need abortions either in Poland with abortion pills or by helping them to travel abroad to go to a clinic or hospital.

Callers in Poland contact a local organisation, Kobiety w Sieci (KwS), which has been providing people in Poland with sexual health information, including unbiased factual information about abortion since 2006. KwS runs a helpline on behalf of ANS and ASN provides funding for the KwS helpline staff. KwS is usually the first port of call for Polish clients. ASN funds the majority of second trimester abortions for AWB clients. Any callers will be referred to ASN if they need our help, or to one of the other AWB partner organisations.

People in Poland contact the AWB helpline. It is staffed by Polish speakers and open 8am – 8pm, 365 days per year.

In the early stages of pregnancy, abortion at home via medical abortion pills is a safe, effective option for many people. The majority of people contacting AWB who have an abortion self-manage their abortions with pills.

Anyone who cannot have a safe abortion using pills (for example due to the stage of pregnancy, health issues, or in those cases where the pills do not work) is signposted to an AWB member organisation outside Poland.

ASN or a partner organisation helps the client to arrange travel to Germany (up to 14 weeks), to the Netherlands (up to 22 weeks), to Britain (up to 24 weeks) or elsewhere in Europe depending on their needs, current travel restrictions, language barriers or other issues.

If needed, and after a financial assessment is carried out, ASN or a partner organisation will arrange and pay for the abortion procedure, travel, accommodation and assist with other barriers which clients may experience.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(.../cont'd)

Access to abortion in Poland is severely restricted, however the following activities are legal:

- Giving information about abortion is legal
- Travelling abroad for an abortion is legal
- Calling the helpline or receiving funding from AWB organisations is legal
- Ordering early medical abortion pills online is not against the law
- Taking early medical abortion pills is not against the law
- Prior to 22 weeks gestation, self-managed abortion is not criminalised

#### **Why ASN's work is needed**

The overturning of Roe v Wade in the US has placed a sharp focus on the importance of ASN's work in Europe. Abortion is basic healthcare but the ability to access it is increasingly under pressure. While some European states are liberalising abortion laws, others are tightening restrictions. Eight states in Europe allow abortions on demand at some point past twelve weeks, only five past 15 weeks, and in practice it can still be very difficult to obtain a first trimester abortion. ASN is part of a long tradition of ordinary people stepping in where governments fail to provide safe abortion care. Our clients include those who have experienced domestic abuse or rape; those who do not have passports or who need a visa to travel; those who discover their pregnancy or who find out about a foetal anomaly at too late a stage for an early termination; people on low incomes or in desperate circumstances and those who simply cannot navigate how they go about having an abortion in another country and just need some advice and information.

#### **But we do not ask why. The only thing that matters is whether they need our help.**

For the last few years, ASN has been watching the situation change both at home and across Europe. Campaigners in the Republic of Ireland won the campaign to repeal the 8th, and Northern Ireland fought for provision. Our partners in Poland are fighting increased restriction of abortion that has resulted in an almost complete ban. As the rules on entry requirements to the UK change post Brexit, we have been supporting more clients to go to the Netherlands rather than Britain. We've watched carefully as the UK appointed anti-choice ministers, prosecuted women for accessing abortion (it's still in our criminal code!), noting that 10 times the amount of money is coming into Europe to fund anti-abortion movements as ten years ago. Here's the bottom line: the fight for abortion access and reproductive justice is heating up, and our futures in Europe are bound. For the last three years we have expanded to support our client base in Poland, Romania, and Hungary as well as Malta, Gibraltar, Ireland and the Isle of Man. But the time has come where we cannot continue to do this in a piecemeal way. We need to properly build a pan-European strategy.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2022**

In recent years we have seen the profile of ASN's clients change from majority first trimester to now majority second trimester or later. In 2022, 8 in 10 of the abortions we fund are now 2nd trimester plus. These are people who have to travel for an abortion because their own countries do not provide access to the safe abortion care that they need, when they need it. A couple of years ago 80% of our cases were first trimester abortions. This is significant because second trimester abortions are more complicated and more expensive than abortions in the first trimester. This means ASN's costs per client are going up.

2022 was ASN's busiest year so far. Demand for ASN's services is increasing and we are funding more people than ever. Total inquiries increased from 852 to 908. We funded 307 clients, which is 20% more clients than the year before and our total spend increased at a similar rate (19%) from £197k to £235k.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

(.../cont'd)

Whilst spending on Polish clients still accounts for the biggest proportion of our client expenditure, clients from the Republic of Ireland accounted for a larger proportion of spend in 2022 than in 2021, indicating that, despite changes to abortion law in the Republic, the need for ASN's services remains stronger than ever in Ireland. Inquiries from Irish clients have increased by 30% since the previous year and spend on abortions for Irish clients almost doubled in 2022.

6 in 10 of ASN's funded clients come from Poland and over half those we funded were referred to us via our partnership with Abortion Without Borders (AWB). AWB's impact is considerably greater as they are reaching many more Polish clients, most of whom are first trimester cases which can be helped with abortion pills. In the second year since Poland's constitutional tribunal ruling (22 October 2021–17 October 2022), AWB partners helped more than 44,000 people in Poland with information and access to an abortion, and 1,200 of these were second trimester cases. Since AWB launched in December 2019, the organisations in the network have helped more than 100,000 people access an abortion, and the vast majority of these were with abortion pills.

Abortion costs for some of our clients are increasing, particularly in the UK. We now spend an average of £936 per Irish client compared with £750 in the previous year. The costs of Polish clients have remained virtually static however, with average per head spend in 2022 £633 and in 2021 it was £634. Our smallest grant was £54 and our largest grant was £4,701.

We funded 145 nights in hotels, an increase of 48% on last year (98 nights funded in 2021).

### **Who we help**

We do not routinely collect data from our clients on their reasons for wanting an abortion, or what their particular circumstances are. But some clients volunteer that information to us. Of those who told us:

### **What happened in 2022?**

#### **Trial of Justyna Wydrzyńska**

In 2022 charges were brought against Justyna Wydrzyńska, a Polish abortion activist and co-founder of Abortion Without Borders, for helping a woman access safe abortion pills in Poland. While taking abortion pills is not against the law in Poland, helping someone is criminalised. This was the first case in Europe of an activist being charged with aiding an abortion by providing pills.

The trial continued throughout 2022 with support from Amnesty International, members of European Parliament, FIGO and more than 12,000 letters of support from the public. We stand in support of Justyna and in solidarity with all activists in Europe who are facing intimidation and repression.

#### **Ukrainian clients**

Since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, ASN has been working with AWB partners to provide responsive support to those affected and displaced by the conflict. In 2022, the AWB helpline provided support to 764 Ukrainian people, with the majority of people able to access safe abortion pills by post. ASN provided financial assistance to 11 Ukrainian clients who needed to travel for a second trimester procedure overseas, with an average grant of £1,368 per person. The costs of arranging these was more expensive than our average client grant as these clients were generally very challenging circumstances. Many of them had no resources or support at all, and as such we provided more financial assistance for things like travel documentation and travel/accommodation than may be necessary for many other clients.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

(.../cont'd)

**Bidding farewell to Mara Clarke**

ASN's Director Mara Clarke left the organisation in November 2022. Since founding the organisation in 2009 she has made an immeasurable contribution to ASN and will be missed by many people in the organisation.

**FUNDRAISING**

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to ASN in 2022, including the more than 1,500 people who made monthly donations. Some of our fundraising highlights are below.

**Hamilton**

Lin-Manuel Miranda and hit musical Hamilton launched a fundraising campaign - #Ham4Choice - supporting abortion access in the USA and Europe, and we were thrilled to be chosen as one of the partners alongside AWB partner Ciocia Basia.

**Distance challenge**

12 pro-choice teams took part in our 'go the distance' campaign, taking on the challenge of walking, running and cycling miles and miles to raise vital funds for our work. Many also took part in a one-off 5k run on International Safe Abortion Day, and together we raised more than £3,500!

**The Big Give**

In December 2022 we were delighted to take part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge, and raised £27,661 towards our work with Abortion Without Borders. This funding is used to pay for AWB clients referred to ASN who need to travel for an abortion.

**Fundraising to support ASN's AWB work**

AWB has both an English-language and a Polish-language website. Funds raised via those websites are paid directly to ASN and are used to fund abortions, travel or accommodation costs for clients referred to ASN from our AWB partners. The funds raised via these websites do not fully cover the total costs of AWB clients that ASN supports. Additional fundraising, such as The Big Give campaign referred to above is necessary. ASN also uses its own funds to pay for AWB clients because funding people who need abortions is our core work. AWB enables us to reach more Polish clients than we would otherwise be able to, growing our impact.

**Grants**

We would like to thank the following institutions and organisations for supporting our work with grant funding in 2022:

- IPPF
- Network for Social Change
- Dischma Charitable Trust
- John Young Charitable Settlement
- Eric and Jean Beecham Charitable Trust
- Belgium Institute for the Equality of Women and Men

## **ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

### **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

(.../cont'd)

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

In 2023 ASN will continue to meet the needs of clients from Poland, the Ukraine, the Republic of Ireland, Malta and other clients from across Europe who need our help. We will also scope out ways to extend and grow our impact as our assessment is that there is significant unmet need in countries in Europe.

We will maintain a primarily volunteer-led model of service delivery, which is managed by and works alongside a small core staff team. We will seek to strengthen the core of the organisation to underpin any service growth by investing in a new database and improving our website. The board plans to gradually spend some of the charity's reserves in order to grow our impact over time.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing Document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, our Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is also a limited company, limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

##### **Governance and Management**

ASN is governed by our Board of Trustees who oversee our work, provide strategic leadership and ensure good governance. The operational running of the charity is led by our Chief Executive and small staff team who in turn support a larger team of volunteers. The board is accountable to our members. Those who volunteer or work for ASN have the option of becoming members of the charity.

Remuneration of all staff (including key management personnel) is set and established in conjunction with a benchmarking exercise comparing pay scales across the sector.

All new trustees are invited to attend induction training to gain knowledge of the charity's work and the role of trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend ASN training courses and participate in working groups and events in order to familiarise themselves with the core values of the organisation.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

ASN has had a successful fundraising year with total income secured at £663.7k, exceeding budgeted income by £158.7k. Grant income and individual donor income have performed particularly well. But we have also spent more on client costs, because we have seen increased demand for the service and also because in some cases, costs per client have gone up. Country costs were budgeted to be £292k but have in fact been £333k. In particular, spend on Irish clients has been almost double what was budgeted for the year. While spend on Polish clients is still our largest client country spend, it was actually down on what was budgeted. We have spent more on Ukrainian clients plus those travelling from a variety of countries across Europe. However, we have made savings elsewhere. In particular, because of the delay in recruiting a Service Manager and other staff changes we have seen during the year, we have spent less on staff costs than budgeted.

Fundraising costs were higher than budgeted for the year, but our total spend on fundraising is still relatively low at £25k equivalent to 5% of total expenditure.

Total expenditure for the year was £528k, £38k more than budgeted spend of £490k. However, we have still made a healthy surplus during the year of just over £105.6k, considerably more than was budgeted for at the beginning of the year. This puts ASN in a strong position for growth in the coming year and beyond.

##### **Reserves**

ASN has a healthy reserves balance at the end of the financial year, with reserves increasing from £409k to £515k, an increase of 26% over the reporting period. The board's policy is to hold at least three months of operating costs as general reserves and for the remainder to be held as an opportunity reserve to fund investment in the service model to support growth. We anticipate that at least some of the reserves balance will be invested in a new CRM system and an improved website over the next year, as well as recruiting additional staff capacity to deliver the service.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

(.../cont'd)

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also directors of Abortion Support Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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

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

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Katarzyna Przybyl

Trustee

8 September 2023

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of:**

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 10 to 18.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Stephen Jones FCA  
% Myrus Smith, Chartered Accountants  
Norman House  
8 Burnell Road  
Sutton, Surrey  
SM1 4BW

8 September 2023

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	569,069	-	569,069	434,417
Charitable activities	3	27,200	66,636	93,836	21,501
Investments	4	773	-	773	22
		<u>597,042</u>	<u>66,636</u>	<u>663,678</u>	<u>455,940</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	25,329	-	25,329	17,257
Charitable activities	5	466,029	66,636	532,665	350,650
		<u>491,358</u>	<u>66,636</u>	<u>557,994</u>	<u>367,907</u>
<b>Net income before transfers</b>		105,684	-	105,684	88,033
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		105,684	-	105,684	88,033
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		408,931	-	408,931	320,898
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	10,11	<u>£514,615</u>	<u>£Nil</u>	<u>£514,615</u>	<u>£408,931</u>

The notes form part of these Financial Statements

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	6		-		132
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	33,710		11,963	
Cash at Bank		599,281		425,573	
		<u>632,991</u>		<u>437,536</u>	
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(118,376)		(28,737)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>514,615</u>		<u>408,799</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>£514,615</u>		<u>£408,931</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds	10		514,615		408,931
Restricted Funds	11		-		-
			<u>£514,615</u>		<u>£408,931</u>

Approved on behalf of the Council on 8 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by



.....  
Ms K Przybyl  
Trustee

The notes form part of these Financial Statements

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net movement in funds per statement of financial activities	105,684	88,033
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	132	132
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(21,747)	(3,263)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	89,639	15,725
<b><i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i></b>	<b><u>173,708</u></b>	<b><u>100,627</u></b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	-	-
<b><i>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</i></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>173,708</b>	<b>100,627</b>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	425,573	324,946
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	<b><u>£599,281</u></b>	<b><u>£425,573</u></b>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>	2022	2021
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>£599,281</u>	<u>£425,573</u>

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### a) Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and under the historical cost convention. The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

##### b) Income recognition

Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Donated goods are included in the accounts at an estimated value to the charity when it is practicable to do so.

##### c) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure includes those costs which relate directly to each activity and also indirect costs, including governance costs that are necessary to support those activities.

##### d) Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds are those funds which are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for a particular purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

##### e) Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life at the following rates:

Office Equipment	33% straight line basis
------------------	-------------------------

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 /contd...

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES /contd...

##### f) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairments are recognised in expenditure.

##### g) Leases

Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

##### h) Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable under the scheme are charged the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate.

#### 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations	530,659	-	530,659	401,465
Gift Aid	38,410	-	38,410	32,952
	£569,069	£Nil	£569,069	£434,417
	£569,069	£Nil	£569,069	£434,417

All of the £434,417 recognised in 2021 related to unrestricted funds.

#### 3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Grants and contracts	20,000	66,636	86,636	-
Grants to support clients	-	-	-	6,947
Sponsorship	7,200	-	7,200	9,000
Support costs	-	-	-	5,554
	£27,200	£66,636	£93,836	£21,501
	£27,200	£66,636	£93,836	£21,501

All of the £21,501 recognised in 2021 related to unrestricted funds.

#### 4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Bank interest	£773	£Nil	£773	£22
	£773	£Nil	£773	£22

All of the £22 recognised in 2021 related to unrestricted funds.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 /contd...

#### 5. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Fundraising Costs £	Activities Undertaken Directly £	Support Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Analysis of expenditure on:</b>					
Grants to support clients	-	237,625	-	237,625	177,089
Partnership grants	-	95,463	-	95,463	17,000
Rent	-	-	-	-	48
Insurance	-	-	2,132	2,132	1,688
Wages	-	-	129,275	129,275	105,799
Social security costs	-	-	6,151	6,151	6,741
Pensions	-	-	10,039	10,039	10,447
Freelance staff	-	-	13,526	13,526	3,340
Telephone	-	-	4,610	4,610	5,274
Post and stationery	-	-	-	-	1,805
Advertising and web design	1,355	-	-	1,355	1,557
Travel and subsistence	-	-	8,574	8,574	2,029
Website and computer consumables	-	-	878	878	329
Sundry expenses	-	-	808	808	1,572
Accountancy	-	-	6,453	6,453	5,326
Subscriptions	-	-	197	197	761
Staff training	-	-	4,189	4,189	3,859
Recruitment	-	-	755	755	1,527
Conferences	-	-	-	-	520
Professional fees	-	-	8,715	8,715	968
Bank charges	-	-	479	479	3,430
Events and platforms	23,974	-	-	23,974	15,568
Depreciation	-	-	132	132	132
Governance costs					
Independent Examination fees	-	-	2,664	2,664	1,098
	<u>£25,329</u>	<u>£333,088</u>	<u>£199,577</u>	<u>£557,994</u>	<u>£367,907</u>

Of the £557,994 expenditure recognised this year (2021 : £367,907), £491,358 (2021 : £367,907) was charged to unrestricted funds and £66,636 (2021 : £Nil) was charged to restricted funds.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 /contd...

#### 6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<b>Office Equipment Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
Brought forward at 1 January 2022	693
Additions	-
Disposals	-
	693
Carried forward at 31 December 2022	693
<b>Depreciation</b>	
Brought forward at 1 January 2022	561
Charge for year	132
Depreciation on disposals	-
	693
Carried forward at 31 December 2022	693
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
At 31 December 2022	£Nil
At 31 December 2021	£132

#### 7. DEBTORS

	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	7,200	9,000
Other debtors	26,510	2,963
	£33,710	£11,963
	£33,710	£11,963

#### 8. CREDITORS

	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade creditors	73,176	20,425
Social security and other taxes	3,440	2,745
Other creditors	41,760	5,567
	£118,376	£28,737
	£118,376	£28,737

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 /contd...

9. STAFF COSTS	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	129,275	105,799
Social security costs	6,151	6,741
Other pension costs	10,039	10,447
	£145,465	£122,987

1 employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 in 2022 (2021 : 0).

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £94,117 (2021 : £52,87). Under FRS 102, employee benefits includes gross salary, benefits in kind, employers' national insurance and employers pension contributions.

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents was 3 (2021 : 3).

#### TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

No trustees' remuneration or other benefits were provided for the year ended 31 December 2022 (2021 : Nil).

#### Trustees' expenses

No trustees' expenses were reimbursed in the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and 2022.

#### 10. MOVEMENT IN UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2022
General Fund	£408,931	£597,042	£(491,358)	£Nil	£514,615
	£408,931	£597,042	£(491,358)	£Nil	£514,615

Comparative information for the movement in unrestricted funds in the previous year is as follows:

	Balance 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2021
General Fund	£320,898	£455,940	£(367,907)	£Nil	£408,931
	£320,898	£455,940	£(367,907)	£Nil	£408,931

#### 11. MOVEMENT IN RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2022
Restricted Fund Rental of premises	£Nil	£66,636	£(66,636)	£Nil	£Nil
	£Nil	£66,636	£(66,636)	£Nil	£Nil

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 /contd...

<b>12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>2022</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	632,991	-	632,991
Current liabilities	(118,376)	-	(118,376)
	£514,615	£Nil	£514,615
As at 31 December 2022	£514,615	£Nil	£514,615

Comparative information for the analysis of net assets between funds in the previous year is as follows:

<b>2021</b>	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	132	-	132
Current assets	437,536	-	437,536
Current liabilities	(28,737)	-	(28,737)
	£408,931	£Nil	£408,931
As at 31 December 2021	£408,931	£Nil	£408,931

### 13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2021 and 2022.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	530,659	401,465
Gift Aid	38,410	32,952
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	569,069	434,417
Grants and contracts	86,636	-
<b>Sponsorship</b>		
Sponsorships	7,200	9,000
<b>Support Costs</b>		
Kickstart contribution	-	5,554
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Grants	-	6,947
<b>Bank interest received</b>		
Bank interest received	773	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>663,678</b>	<b>455,940</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Advertising	1,355	1,557
Fundraising costs	23,974	15,568
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,329	17,125
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Grants to support clients	333,088	194,089
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	479	3,430
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Human resources</b>		
Wages	148,952	115,880
Pensions	10,039	10,447
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	158,991	126,327
	<hr/>	<hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

#### **Operational activities**

Insurance	2,132	1,688
Telephone	4,610	5,274
Postage and stationery	-	1,805
Sundries	808	1,572
Subscriptions	197	761
Rent	-	48
Website and computer consumables	878	329
Staff training	4,189	3,859
Travel and subsistence	8,574	2,029
Recruitment	755	1,527
Conferences	-	520
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	132	132
	<u>22,275</u>	<u>19,544</u>

#### **Governance costs**

Accountancy and legal fees	2,664	1,098
Legal fees	8,715	968
Bookkeeping	6,453	5,326
	<u>17,832</u>	<u>7,392</u>

Total resources expended	<u>557,994</u>	<u>367,907</u>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>£105,684</u></u>	<u><u>£88,033</u></u>
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**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142120

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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07017607 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1142120**

**ANNUAL REPORT,**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**  
**FOR**  
**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**



Cobbin Floyd Ltd Chartered Accountants 15a Station Road Epping  
Essex CM16 4HG

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

07017607 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

1142120

**Registered office**

Union House  
111 New Union Street  
Coventry  
West Midlands  
CV1 2NT

**Trustees**

Ms J K Davis  
A G Moffatt (resigned 13.5.21)  
Ms C Kelly  
Ms H M Christie (resigned 13.5.21)  
Ms P Hamilton (resigned 18.10.21)  
Professor S Sheldon  
Ms C Fischer

Ms S Wootton  
Ms S N Bridge (appointed 13.5.21)  
Ms V V M Elliott (appointed 13.5.21)  
Ms S Navaratnam-Blair (appointed  
13.5.21)  
Ms J St. Pier (appointed 13.5.21)

**Company Secretary**

Ms V V M Elliott

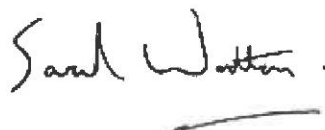
**Independent Examiner**

Cobbin Floyd Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
15a Station Road  
Epping  
Essex  
CM16 4HG

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22/9/22 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Ms J K Davis, Co-Chair



.....  
Ms Sarah Wootton, Co-Chair

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**CONTENTS OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

**AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

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<b>Balance Sheet</b>	18
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

***OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES***

**Vision Mission Values**

Vision

A world where women and pregnant people have the information and means to access safe, legal abortions wherever they live.

Mission

To provide information, financial assistance and accommodation to those who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

Values

We believe that all those who need them have the right to safe and legal abortions. We believe in providing practical support to enable people to exercise this right. We are compassionate and respectful of abortion-seekers and their decisions.

Client story:

When Anna\* wrote to us for help, it seemed like the whole world was against her. "I have found myself in a difficult, almost dramatic situation. You are my last hope," she told us. She was 17 weeks pregnant, and her community, including her doctors and the father of her child were trying to force her to continue the pregnancy. "The father of the child announced the pregnancy to everyone despite my misgivings," she said. "We also discovered there are foetal defects - the results and examinations were wilfully delayed by doctors and hospitals who wanted to force me to continue the pregnancy."

She was also struggling financially. "I was cut off from my source of income by people I trusted trying to dissuade me from MY decision and treated like a mindless thing reduced to an incubator. I did not want this pregnancy and I do not want to continue - I find myself on the verge of despair. I am asking for help and support."

With ASN's support, Anna was able to travel to England and get the abortion she wanted.

\* Not her real name

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REIVEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**About ASN**

Abortion Support Network (ASN) is a charity that provides information, financial assistance, and other practical support to those forced to travel for abortions from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Poland, Malta, Gibraltar, and the Isle of Man, and occasionally elsewhere in Europe.

ASN was founded because we believe "I can't afford an abortion" should never be the only reason someone continues a pregnancy

**How ASN works**

ASN connects people without resources to you, the people who reach out your hands or dig into your wallets to help. Your support lets us provide advice and practical assistance to hundreds of clients each year. Because of you, we are able to give them the help they need to access abortions

- A client contacts ASN by phone, email, text, or on social media
- ASN returns contact, using a translator if necessary
- We assess their need and provide practical, non-judgmental information
- The client arranges their procedure, transport, and accommodation
- If a grant is awarded, ASN pays the clinic, airline or hotel directly, reducing the amount the client pays.

*"I am terrified. I need help organising a trip abroad to terminate the pregnancy. Today I left the gynaecologist and it turned out that I was 22 weeks pregnant. Please contact me by phone, preferably in Polish. Please find a date for me as soon as possible, no matter when and what time it is, I need this. Would it be possible to help me book airline tickets? Please contact me, very urgently."*

**How Abortion Without Borders works**

Abortion Without Borders (AWB) is an initiative comprised of groups working to provide information, support and funding to people in Poland who need abortions, either in Poland with abortion pills or abroad in clinics or hospitals.

Callers in Poland contact a local organisation, Kobiety w Sieci, which has been providing people in Poland with sexual health information, including unbiased, factual information about abortion since 2006. Kobiety w Sieci staffs the AWB helpline. Currently, ASN currently funds the majority of second trimester abortions for AWB, and part-funds the costs of the Polish helpline, which is staffed and managed by Kobiety w Sieci. Any caller who wishes to obtain an abortion will be referred to ASN or another partner organisation.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

- People in Poland contact the AWB helpline. It is staffed with Polish speakers, and open 12 hours per day, 365 days a year.
- In the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, abortion at home via medical abortion pills is a safe, effective option for many people. The majority of people contacting AWB who have an abortion self-manage their abortions with pills.
- Anyone who cannot have a safe abortion using pills (for example due to the stage of pregnancy, or health issues, or in those cases where those pills do not work) is signposted to an AWB member organisation outside of Poland.
- ASN or a partner organisation helps the client arrange travel to Germany (up to 14 weeks), the Netherlands (22 weeks), Britain (24 weeks) or elsewhere in Europe, depending on their needs, current travel restrictions, language barriers and other issues.
- If needed, ASN or a partner organisation will arrange and pay for the abortion procedure, travel, accommodation, and assist with other barriers which may be standing in the way.

*"My boyfriend was going to help me with the costs but changed his mind. He says I can have the baby with him in Poland, or if I insist on having an abortion I should earn the money on the street."*

While abortion in Poland is criminalised under almost all circumstances, the activities undertaken by AWB are legal.

- Giving information about abortion is legal
- Travelling abroad for abortion is legal
- Calling the helpline or receiving funding from AWB is legal
- Ordering early medical abortion pills online is not against the law
- Taking early medical abortion pills is not against the law
- Prior to 22 weeks' gestation, self-managed abortion is not criminalised

### **Covid-19 pandemic**

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown up countless barriers for people needing a safe abortion, including in countries where abortion is legal. Many of these barriers directly increased the costs of accessing an abortion, meaning that more people have struggled to fund an abortion or been unable to access one. The ASN team became experts in navigating these barriers and have done a huge amount of creative problem solving to connect clients with the abortions they needed.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

Extra problems clients have faced due to the pandemic

- Paying for Covid testing
- Quarantine due to a positive Covid test causing delays in travel or treatment
- Increased red tape at borders resulting in people being turned away
- Borders closing, making travel harder or impossible
- Delays to visa and passport processing
- Postal delays hold up essential documentation
- Transport services reduced or shut: fewer or no planes, trains and buses running or services not connecting with each other
- Pausing our hosting service due to health concerns and closures of many types of accommodation, increasing costs
- Local or national lockdowns delaying or blocking travel or access to services
- Lack of availability of pregnancy and abortion services due to staff shortages as medical staff were ill, isolating or reallocated to front line Covid care
- Abortion services deemed 'non-essential' and shut down in some areas
- Delays in prenatal testing and diagnostic services
- Lack of childcare due to school closures
- Lack of funds due to pandemic related job losses and expenses
- Increased cost and reduced availability of hotel accommodation
- Delays to the mail service so early medical abortion pills didn't arrive in time
- Unable to leave an abusive partner or communicate without their knowledge due to lockdown

*"I am at the airport - my direct flight from Poland to England was cancelled and they rebooked me on a flight that stops in The Netherlands. Only now they say if I don't get a Covid test, I could be detained, prevented from getting on the connecting flight, or fined. Please help - what should I do?"*

## ***ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE***

### **Our work in 2021**

#### ***Covid-19 pandemic***

As overviewed in the previous section, we were able to continue service through the Covid-19 pandemic, despite the challenges and obstacles it presented to our services users and helpline teams.

#### ***Poland bans most abortion***

In January 2021, a ruling made in October 2020 by Poland's constitutional tribunal was enacted, outlawing abortion under almost all circumstances and leading to a surge in calls to the AWB helpline. 2021 also saw political repression of Polish abortion

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

activists, threats from the Polish government to make abortion laws even stricter, and the tragic deaths of three pregnant women who were denied an abortion in Poland.

***Abortion Without Borders has a record second year***

In its second year (December 2020 to December 2021), AWB helped more than 32,000 people in Poland (compared to 5,237 in 2020) and spent €248,440 on safe abortion pills, procedures in abortion clinics, travel, accommodation, and Covid testing (€78,453 in 2020). While the majority of people who contact AWB are able to safely self-manage their abortions with pills, AWB supported 1,186 people to travel to another country for an abortion in 2021 (compared to 262 in 2020).

***Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland***

Despite abortion now being legal, both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland still lack comprehensive, accessible abortion services and many are still forced to travel. In 2021, ASN contributed to the Abortion Rights Campaign report on provision in Ireland (Too Many Barriers: Experiences of Abortion in Ireland after Repeal) which highlighted facts like:

- More than half of respondents to the research did not know where to go to get an abortion in the Republic of Ireland
- The majority of respondents reported negative effects of the mandatory three-day waiting period
- The majority of respondents who had to travel for an abortion had received a diagnosis of foetal abnormalities that were 'not fatal enough' to qualify as eligible for an abortion in Ireland.

While people in Northern Ireland are able to access abortion care for free in Britain, Ministers are facing legal action over the lack of local provision in Northern Ireland itself.

***Gibraltar to allow abortion***

In June 2021, the people of Gibraltar voted to relax the country's strict abortion ban. One of the harshest laws in Europe, it included the threat of life in prison for anyone having an abortion or helping someone else get an abortion. The reform allows abortion in cases of fatal foetal abnormality; to prevent "grave permanent injury" or the death of the pregnant person; or (up to 12 weeks) where the risk to the pregnant person of continuing the pregnancy is greater than that of termination.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

***Malta: slow progress***

February 2021 marked the second anniversary of ASN's launch in Malta, and the legal landscape has not changed. However, there is a groundswell of pro-choice support with volunteers and organisations openly campaigning for decriminalisation as well as a group of volunteers who began providing factual pregnancy options counselling through the Family Planning Advisory Service (FPAS).

**Who we helped**

At ASN, our role is to fund abortions for people who need them, in the most cost-effective way possible, as quickly as possible, as suits the needs of each individual client. We don't ask how people got pregnant or why they want an abortion. We don't ask about gender identity, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, employment status or citizenship unless we have to, for example to help someone arrange a visa. Our only criteria are financial need and availability of funds and we keep our questions as few and non-invasive as possible. As a result, the information below is partial and limited, based on what clients chose to share.

Here's who we helped in 2021:

75% more than 12 weeks pregnant

Before the launch of AWB in Poland and the Repeal of Ireland's 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment, 75-80% of ASN service users were less than 12 weeks pregnant. In 2021, the reverse was true with around 75% being in the second or third trimester.

Mental health issues – 28

Suicidal – 6

Tried to self-harm/dangerously abort – 3

Drug/alcohol addiction/misuse – 53

Medical issues with pregnant person - 32

Domestic violence – 41

Foetal abnormalities – 229

Issues with previous pregnancy – 17

Pregnant as result of a crime – 13

Migrant or refugee – 56

Needed a visa to travel – 23

Over the limit for an abortion within Europe – 19

Homeless – 3

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

In 2021, we heard from 852 people in total and funded 255. There are a number of reasons why we fund many fewer people than we hear from: some people needed only information, but were able to afford an abortion without our financial help. Some were able to access abortion at home with pills. Some had miscarriages. Some decided to continue their pregnancy, and some, despite all our resources and assistance, were unable to overcome the obstacles between them and the abortion they sought.

In 2021 we heard from:

4 people from Gibraltar  
6 people from the Isle of Man  
27 people from Northern Ireland  
61 people from Malta  
175 people from the Republic of Ireland  
474 people from Poland

And 105 people from other countries or who did not tell us their country of residence.

*"Missing" people*

ASN and AWB do the best we can to ensure people know about the help we can provide. In Poland, the recent restrictions on abortion have only added to public awareness of AWB and our services. The Republic of Ireland is another matter. While many people have been able to access abortions in Ireland, we have concerns about those falling between the cracks of service provision. 2,879 people gave an Irish address at a UK abortion clinic in 2018, and while we expected this number to fall once the law changed, we worked with UK abortion providers to estimate that 600-800 people would still need to travel each year. However, in 2019, just 375 people gave an Irish address at a UK clinic, and in 2020 this number fell even further to just 194. We are looking into ways to reach the people who are most likely to need abortions over 12 weeks - the limit of the Irish law.

Client story

By the time Sarah\* called us, she was feeling desperate. She was a mother of three, living with an abusive, alcoholic partner, and living in a rural part of the country with very limited funds available to her. She called us for help arranging an appointment and managed to raise some money from her mother, a friend, and some saved back wages. She took the night bus to Dublin airport, covering the costs of her transport and Covid tests, and ASN was able to help with £579 towards the rest of the cost of the abortion.

\* Not her real name

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

## **How we helped**

In 2021, our clients faced a whole new set of challenges as Brexit and the pandemic combined with individual and local circumstances to make accessing abortion even harder for many people. For example, Brexit has meant that visitors to the UK who could previously travel using an ID card now need a passport while Covid testing, lockdowns and travel restrictions have made journeys more complex and expensive. Many of the people who contacted us were in more vulnerable or complicated positions than previously, for example due to pandemic related job losses or lockdown life with an abusive or coercive partner.

### ***852 heard from***

Our helpline team responded to thousands of calls and messages, many from non-English speakers. We heard from 474 people from Poland through the ASN helpline alone.

### ***255 clients funded***

We gave out grants totalling £197,922 to help people travel to access abortion. This was an average of £722 per client.

### ***98 nights in hotels***

Due to the ongoing pandemic, we have not asked our volunteer hosts to open their homes. Instead, the accommodation team booked 98 nights of accommodation for 54 clients.

### ***£5,582 difference between our largest and smallest grants***

The largest grant we gave was £5,599 and the smallest just £17. This shows the difference in need between individuals in different circumstances - and how much impact a small sum can have.

### ***Spotlight on the helpline***

Our helpline team is growing. We now have 18 volunteers on the helpline, including several Polish speakers. Our helpline team work in shifts of 3 people and take calls on our phone line, answer texts and emails, and monitor direct messages on our social media accounts. The majority of callers don't speak English, so volunteers are often communicating via online or telephone translation services.

Helpline volunteers help callers in a number of ways including:

- signposting other services, such as NHS services for Northern Ireland
- providing clear, accurate, factual and non-judgmental information
- helping arrange travel and abortion care appointments
- helping clients overcome other barriers, such as visa issues
- Signposting clients to reputable providers of medical abortion pills by post

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, our Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

***Governance and Management***

ASN is governed by our Board of Trustees who oversee our work, provide strategic leadership and ensure good governance. Our day-to-day work is led by our Director/CEO and staff who in turn support our team of volunteers. You can learn more about our staff and volunteers on our website: <https://www.asn.org.uk/team-asn/>.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Income**

ASN's fiscal year income for 2021 closed 7% above the budget. This increase was largely driven by an 11% increase in donors.

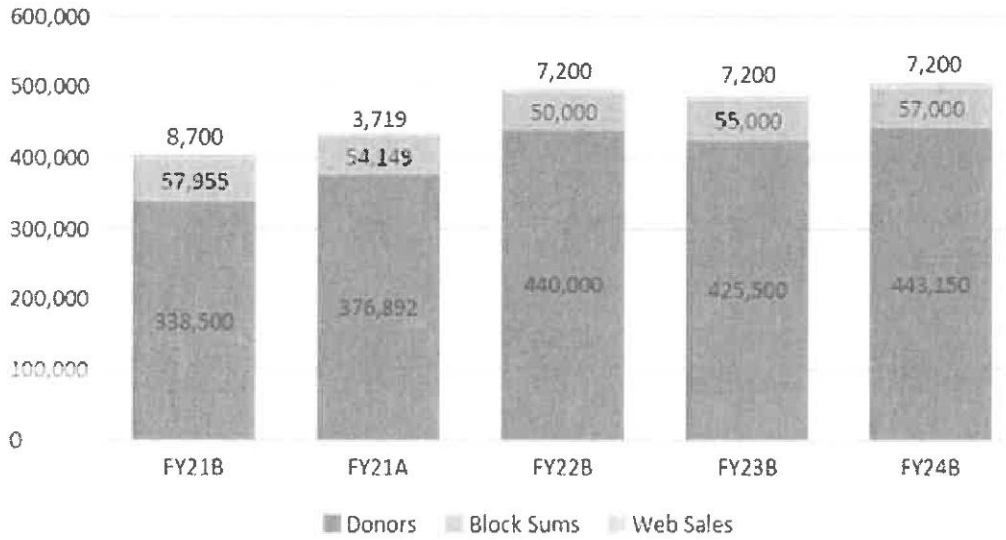
The significant achievements driving this growth were:

- In April the Just in Time campaign raised £16,177 in mostly one-off donations.
- In May the virtual pet show (community and challenge) raised £698.
- In July, we received £7,500 (unrestricted income) from an anonymous donor via IG advisors, which is our second grant via this brokerage.
- In September, the 'fairy godparents' campaign brought in new regular donors to the tune of £820 more a month, and has raised £3,787 to date.
- In October, the 'go the distance' community & challenge fundraiser made £13,736.
- The Big Give in December raised £45,341 (£30,050 through the big give online platform, an additional £13,000 in donations direct to our account + Gift Aid).

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

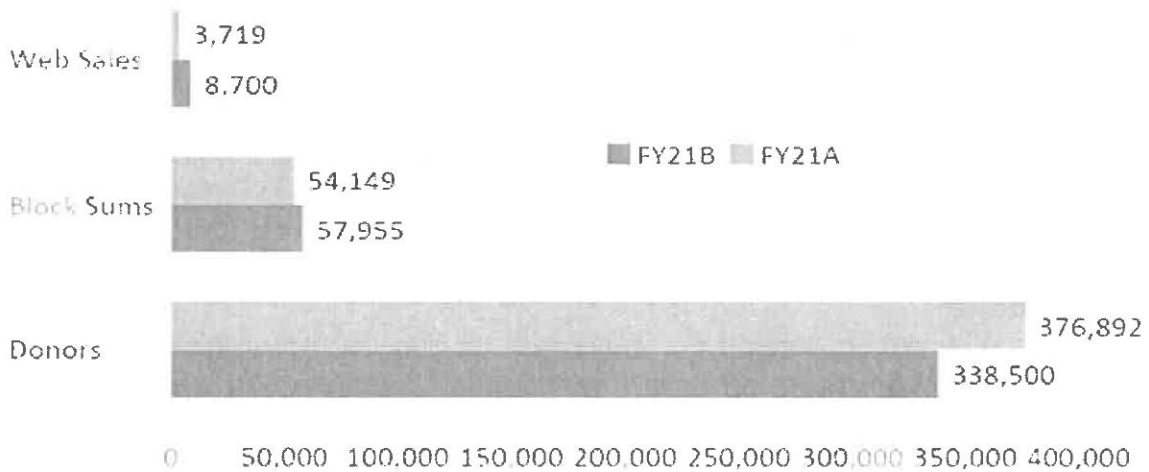
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**FY21 Budget, Actuals and FY22-24 Income Budget**



*Web sales refers to agreements we have with some UK clinics to provide links to their clinics on the ASN website. This funding is unrestricted.*

**FY21 Budget, vs Actuals**



**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

As evidenced by our income, ASN's supporters keep the helpline phone working, the website running, and let us be there to answer the clients when they call, give them the information they need to arrange their own abortion and fund their travel, accommodation, and procedure if they can't. Thanks to donations, there are fewer women selling their cars, their kids' toys, or skipping meals to pay for access to abortion services.

In 2021, ASN received:

- £132,671 in regular monthly donations
- £163,317 in one-off donations
- £32,952 in Gift Aid
- £16,684 from community fundraising and challenge events
- £9,993 from Facebook fundraisers

Unlike many charities, the bulk of ASN's funding comes from individual donors, either through regular giving or one-off donations. We are delighted that more than 1,000 people have set up regular monthly donations, as well as by everyone who has donated to ASN in 2021.

A few of this year's fundraising highlights are below:

**Just in Time**

In April 2021, the Just in Time campaign focused on Justyna\*, one of our clients who moved home to eastern Poland from abroad after the pandemic made her and her fiancé Mariusz\* unemployed. She was sold abortion pills and told by a doctor it was "almost too late" - and then the pills didn't work. This left Justyna, 18 weeks pregnant, unemployed, depressed, trapped - and running out of time, facing all the extra complications of Covid.

Our helpline team were able to help Justyna, but calls from clients just like her keep coming - and so we needed to raise £15,000 to help them. And we were thrilled that the campaign raised a fantastic £16,177 from more than 300 donors.

**Go the distance**

In October 2021, we challenged our supporters to run, swim, walk or cycle some of the distances AWB clients are forced to travel for abortions. We were blown away by the response. 17 teams of people managed to raise a total of £13,736.

**The Big Give**

ASN was chosen to be part of the Big Give, a match funding campaign which took place in December 2021. With two gifts of £12,500 from major donors, plus 363 in matched donations from our fantastic supporters, we ended up raising £45,341 in total.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**The Belgian Government**

In 2021, the Belgian government became the first country to fund travel for people in Poland who needed to leave the country to access abortion. Announced on International Safe Abortion Day, September 28, the grant of €10,000 (approximately £8,300) was given to AWB and will be managed by ASN.

**Sonic Youth fundraiser for ASN**

Iconic NYC band Sonic Youth launched 3 new t-shirt designs as well as releasing two vintage live sets available in full, with the proceeds from the sales split between ASN and Fund Texas Choice. Find out more about where you can get yours at: <https://www.asn.org.uk/sonic-youth-tshirts-raise-funds-for-abortion-support-network/>

**Celebrity Mastermind: Siobhán McSweeney**

Perhaps best known for her role as the straight-talking Sister Michael in Derry Girls, in 2021 Siobhán McSweeney featured on series 19 of Celebrity Mastermind, with Gene Wilder as her specialist subject and ASN as one of her chosen charities.

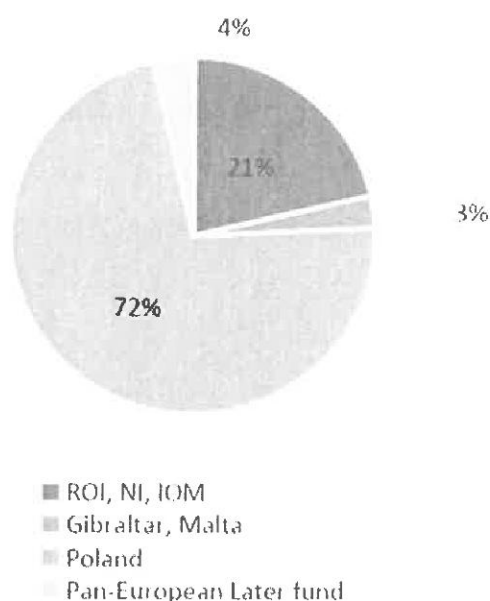
**EXPENDITURE AND RESERVES**

ASN's Cost of Sales, which reflects our operational activity, came in 12% below budget with only Poland exceeding the assumed cost for the year as expected. This has been addressed in ASN's FY22 budget.

Overall, expenditures came in 17% below budget and 23% ahead of the equivalent FY21 spend. Overall grants to clients increased by 56%, with the majority of that increase coming from increasing numbers of service users coming from Poland. Two new staff members also increased overall costs for the last six months of the year as budgeted.

**FY21 Direct Cost Breakdown**

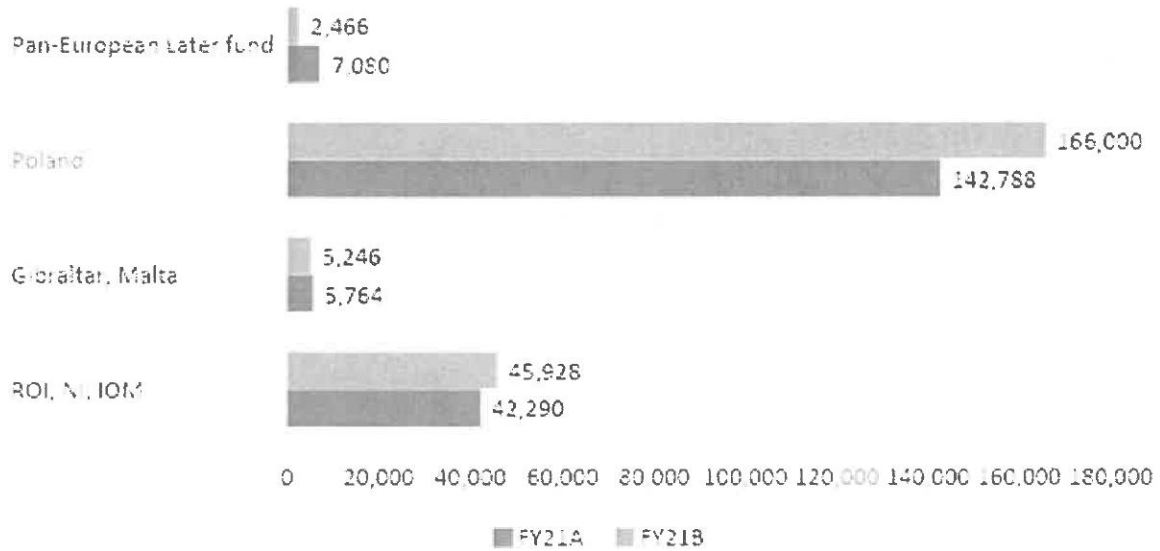
*(Costs per jurisdiction served by ASN.)*



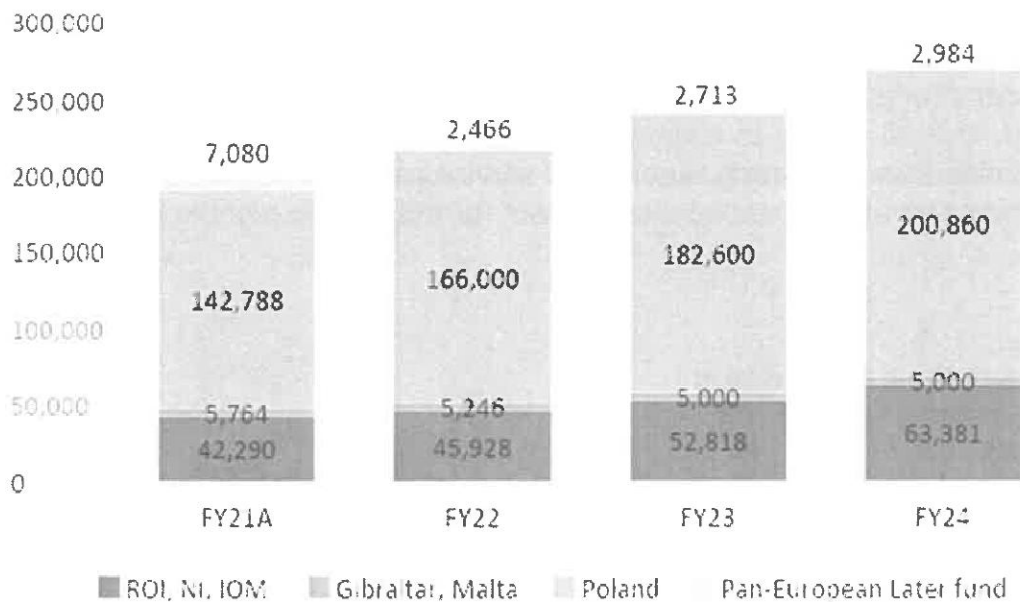
**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**FY21 Direct Cost Budget, vs Actuals**



**FY21 Budget, Actuals and FY22-24 Expenditure Budget**



**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**Reserves**

ASN's reserves policy was previously to hold approximately six months of operational costs in reserve, including any costs that would be incurred in winding up the charity and its activities. All funds that are not required for operational costs are to be spent on furthering the charity's objectives in line with ASN's grant giving policy. The Trustees, with guidance from the Treasurer, review this policy at least once per year.

In 2021, a total of £88k in net income was generated during the year, largely in the 2Q and 4Q, and which is added to our reserves position to take us to £408k in total reserves at end FY21.

As previously agreed by The Board, £170k of the reserves is being held as an Operating Reserve (reflecting a conservative six months of operating and wind up costs) and £145k has been identified as an Opportunity Reserve to fund continued operations, additional staff (and their recurring costs) and a small number of discrete projects to add to the efficient operations of ASN or grow particular areas of the offering. The opportunity Reserve has been allocated within the FY22-24 budget. Given the positive year end FY21, the Board approved an increase in the Opportunity Reserve to £185k, adding the residual to the Operating Reserve.

**Client thank yous**

*"I am writing to thank you once again for your support. In my country I currently have no support whatsoever from doctors or state institutions. I am very happy that organisations like yours exist and help women in this incredibly difficult situation. The decision to terminate the pregnancy itself is very stressful (at least for me) and knowing that our hands are tied adds to the stress. Thanks to your financial support everything could really take place, in the current situation I would not have had the chance to organise such an amount... You are doing a great job, thank you."*

"I cannot express my gratitude enough. I am after the operation now, everything went without complications, the medical care was very kind and helpful. Thank you very much, because here on the spot the doctors told me that the pregnancy threatened my life. So this abortion saved my life, but without your help I wouldn't have had this chance. Thank you so much again for all your help, support and for making my life better."

*"We are unspeakably grateful for everything - your understanding, your help, your answers, your patience, your reassurance and I'm so sorry for my panic and for my tension... you helped me see the path clearly."*

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES – YEAR IN REVIEW** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

*"Thank you very much for your help. You never know what will happen to you in life. If it wasn't for your help my life would have been a great trauma. I feel incapacitated in my country and I am ashamed that I live here and that I get help from people I have never seen from a foreign country and not from my own. I have read everything carefully and I know that after the procedure a stone will fall from my heart. Carrying such a sick child is probably every mother's worst nightmare. I will be grateful to you till the end of my life and I will support you as much as I can because I know that there will be more and more women like me because of the stupid law in this country."*

### **WHAT'S NEXT FOR ASN?**

In 2009, ASN opened its services to people from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. While need for our services in those places diminished due to law reform, we continue to hear from people who fall through the cracks of legal provision. In 2019, we opened our service to Malta and Gibraltar and in December 2019 we worked with partner organisations in Poland, Germany and the Netherlands to launch AWB to support people needing abortions in Poland.

In 2021, we began planning to expand our services to additional jurisdictions who need help accessing second trimester abortions, with an initial focus on Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, France, and Spain. We are very excited to expand our reach and help more people. However, we are doing this slowly so our growth can be both sustainable and scaleable, to ensure we are able to offer real help to the people who contact us from both existing and newer jurisdictions. We will also maintain our current policy of offering help people from anywhere in Europe on a case-by-case basis.

In 2022 we will also diversify our funding, seeking out additional funding from major donors, trusts and foundations, and other sources, as well as learning how to attract regular and one off individual donors from additional countries.

## **ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK – INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Abortion Support Network ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2021.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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



Simon Cobbin, FCAICAEW  
Cobbin Floyd Ltd Chartered Accountants 15a Station Road Epping  
Essex CM16 4HG

Date: ..... 22nd September 2022

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

		2021	2021		
	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		<b>434,417</b>	-	<b>434,417</b>	353,600
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants to support clients		<b>6,947</b>	-	<b>6,947</b>	3,979
Sponsorship	2	<b>9,000</b>	-	<b>9,000</b>	6,900
Support costs	3	<b>5,554</b>	-	<b>5,554</b>	-
Bank interest received		<b>22</b>	-	<b>22</b>	137
<b>Total</b>		<b>455,940</b>	-	<b>455,940</b>	364,616
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	4	<b>17,257</b>	-	<b>17,257</b>	28,520
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants to support clients		<b>222,635</b>	-	<b>222,635</b>	142,930
Partnership grants		<b>128,015</b>	-	<b>128,015</b>	128,015
<b>Total</b>		<b>367,907</b>	-	<b>367,907</b>	299,465
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>88,033</b>	-	<b>88,033</b>	65,151
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<b>320,898</b>	-	<b>320,898</b>	255,747
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>408,931</b>	-	<b>408,931</b>	320,898

The notes form part of these financial statements

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

**BALANCE SHEET 31ST DECEMBER 202**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total Funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	8	132	-	132	264
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	9	9,082	-	9,082	8,700
Prepayments and accrued income		2,881	-	2,881	-
Cash at bank		425,573	-	425,573	324,946
		<u>437,536</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>437,536</u>	<u>333,646</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(28,737)	-	(28,737)	(13,012)
		<u>408,799</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>408,799</u>	<u>320,634</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>408,799</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>408,799</u>	<u>320,634</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>408,931</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>408,931</u>	<u>320,898</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>408,931</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>408,931</u>	<u>320,898</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	11				
Unrestricted funds				408,931	320,898
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>408,931</u>	<u>320,898</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2021. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.


The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- a. ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- b. preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on *28 Sept 2022*...and were signed on its behalf by:

 .....

Ms J K Davis, Co-Chair

ASN Board of Trustees

 .....

Ms Sarah Wootton, Co-Chair

ASN Board of Trustees

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

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

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment                    - 33% on cost

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions when specified by the donor or when funds are realised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme.

Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**1. SPONSORSHIP**

	<b>2021</b>	2020	
£	£Sponsorships		<b>9,000</b>
	6,900		

**2. SUPPORT COSTS**

	<b>2021</b>	2020	
	£	£	
Kickstart contribution	<b>5,554</b>	-	=====

**3. RAISING FUNDS**

**Raising donations and legacies**

	<b>2021</b>	2020
	£	£
Advertising	<b>1,557</b>	1,874
Fundraising costs	<b>15,568</b>	26,415
Support costs	<b>132</b>	231
	=====	=====
	<b>17,257</b>	28,520

**4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<b>2021</b>	2020
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<b>132</b>	231

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2021 nor for the year ended 31st December 2020.

**Trustees' expenses**

In the year ended 31st December 2021, a trustee was reimbursed £272.22 for travel costs related to ASN meetings. There were no trustees' expenses reimbursed for the year ended 31st December 2020.

**6. STAFF COSTS**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Employees	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000

**8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Computer Equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021	<b>693</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1st January 2021	<b>429</b>
Charge for year	<b>132</b>
At 31st December 2021	<b>561</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31st December 2021	<b>132</b>
At 31st December 2020	264

**9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2021</b>	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	<b>9,000</b>	8,700
Other debtors	<b>82</b>	-
	<b>9,082</b>	8,700

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

**10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2021</b>	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	<b>20,425</b>	7,788
Social security and other taxes	<b>2,745</b>	3,245
Other creditors	<b>5,567</b>	1,979
	<hr/> <b>28,737</b>	<hr/> 13,012

**11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.21	Net Movement in funds	At 31.12.21
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<b>320,898</b>	<b>88,033</b>	<b>408,931</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>320,898</b>	<b>88,033</b>	<b>408,931</b>

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

**11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<b>455,940</b>	<b>(367,907)</b>	<b>88,033</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>455,940</b>	<b>(367,907)</b>	<b>88,033</b>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.1.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.20 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	255,747	65,151	320,898
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	255,747	65,151	320,898

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	364,616	(299,465)	65,151
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	364,616	(299,465)	65,151

**12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2021.

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>	<b>401,465</b>	328,143
Donations		
Gift aid	<b>32,952</b>	25,457
	<b>434,417</b>	353,600
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>9,000</b>	6,900
Sponsorships		
<b>Support costs</b>	<b>5,554</b>	-
Kickstart contribution		
<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>6,947</b>	3,979
Grants		
<b>Bank interest received</b>	<b>22</b>	137
Bank interest received		
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>455,940</b>	364,616
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>	<b>1,557</b>	1,874
Advertising		
Fundraising costs	<b>15,568</b>	26,415
	<b>17,125</b>	28,289
<b>Charitable activities</b>	-	1,033
Travel and subsistence		
Grants to support clients	<b>194,089</b>	118,569
	<b>194,089</b>	119,602
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Finance</b>	<b>3,430</b>	790
Bank charges		
<b>Human resources</b>	<b>115,880</b>	117,809
Wages		
Pensions	<b>10,447</b>	7,715
	<b>126,327</b>	125,524
<b>Operational activities</b>	<b>1,688</b>	1,904
Insurance		
Carried forward	<b>1,688</b>	1,904

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Operational activities</b>		
Brought forward	<b>1,688</b>	1,904
Telephone	<b>5,274</b>	3,017
Postage and stationery	<b>1,805</b>	997
Sundries	<b>1,572</b>	4,830
Subscriptions	<b>761</b>	658
Rent	<b>48</b>	3,472
Website and computer consumables	<b>329</b>	548
Staff training	<b>3,859</b>	2,815
Travel and subsistence	<b>2,029</b>	388
Recruitment	<b>1,527</b>	-
Conferences	<b>520</b>	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<b>132</b>	231
	<b>19,544</b>	18,860
	<b>4</b>	
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	<b>1,098</b>	1,044
Legal fees	<b>968</b>	1,200
Bookkeeping	<b>5,326</b>	4,156
	<b>7,392</b>	6,400
Total resources expended	<b>367,907</b>	299,465
<b>Net income</b>	<b>88,033</b>	65,151

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements



**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1142120

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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07017607 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1142120**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**  
**FOR**  
**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

S. Cobbin & Co Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
15a Station Road  
Epping  
Essex  
CM16 4HG

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

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## **ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The objects of Abortion Support Network are to relieve the financial hardship of people facing an unwanted pregnancy who are forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion.

We exist to help people who are forced to leave their country of residence in order to access safe, legal abortion care that they should be able to get at home. We were set up originally in 2009 to support the many people travelling to England from Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. In 2019, we expanded our reach to support people living in Malta, Gibraltar and Poland. We offer information, advice and financial assistance (where eligible and needed) to people from these six jurisdictions. We also provide information, advice and signposting to people contacting us from other places around the world. We will also provide accommodation if needed, previously with volunteer hosts or in paid accommodation but entirely in paid accommodation since March 2020 due to Coronavirus.

ASN carries out these objectives by providing:

- Confidential, non-judgmental information
- Financial assistance
- Accommodation with volunteers or in paid lodging

The trustees are pleased that the achievements and performance of the charity in relation to these activities, as set out below, demonstrate considerable progress and we are proud of all that we have achieved over the last financial year for those we support.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Public benefit, achievements and performance**

The Trustees are required to illustrate how in practice the activities of ASN meet the public benefit requirement. In accordance with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011, we have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

##### **Provision of confidential, non-judgmental information**

Between 1 January and 31 December 2020, ASN was contacted by and gave confidential, non-judgmental information to 786 people, an increase from just over 600 in 2019. This increase is in large part due to our December 2019 expansion to Poland as part of the Abortion Without Borders initiative, as well as increased need due to the impacts (financial and otherwise) of Covid-19.

504 of those service users contacted the ASN helpline team from our stated jurisdictions: Ireland, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Malta, Poland, and the Isle of Man (and one from Guernsey). A further 282 contacted us from outside of these countries and were signposted to local or international organisations who could help. Of those 282, 170 came via Facebook Messenger.

ASN is contacted by phone or email by people who need abortion services, either the pregnant person or in some cases by partners, friends, family or support workers.

ASN helpline volunteers can provide information to clients over the phone, by email or text. Volunteers provide information on the least expensive methods of abortion and travel, signpost clients to relevant local services and family planning agencies, assess financial need and award grants. Most of the clients who contacted us received some combination of confidential, non-judgmental information, financial assistance, and/or accommodation.

Since 11 December 2019, we have been providing services to people in Poland via our part in the Abortion Without Borders initiative. The pathway for these service users is slightly different. First contact is with a helpline in Poland, open 8am to 8pm seven days a week and 365 days per year. Most people contacting the Abortion Without Borders Polish helpline are early enough in pregnancy to have a safe abortion at home with pills. Anyone not able to access abortion with pills, or who has tried pills and they have not worked, is then signposted to one of the outside-of-Poland Abortion Without Borders partners to access a legal abortion in a clinic or hospital abroad. In 2020, more than 5,000 people contacted the Abortion Without Borders Polish helpline.

The following is a table detailing the multiplicity of issues that many clients were dealing with when they contacted ASN in 2020. One common factor in all the clients we fund, not mentioned in the table, is financial hardship. Please note that ASN's team do not ask questions about these circumstances. Our records are based only on information that has been volunteered by clients.

<b>Issues presented by clients as complicating factors in seeking safe, legal abortion</b>	<b>Number of clients 2019</b>	<b>Number of clients 2020</b>
Mental health issues	24	22
Drug or alcohol abuse	2	3
Domestic violence	25	26
Medical issues (pregnant person)	18	15
Foetal anomalies	32	68
Medical issues with previous pregnancies	9	5
Pregnant by rape	11	10
Migrant	28	20
Refugee	10	4
Traveller	1	1
Needed visa to travel	17	15
Homelessness	4	2
Tried to unsafely self-abort	0	2
Suicidal	6	9

#### **Provision of financial assistance**

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020, ASN gave grants to support 153 people totalling £104,520, with an average grant of £722. This is much higher in comparison to 2019, where we gave 112 people grants totalling £64,752 and the average grant was £578. This increase is due to our stronger focus on helping people unable to access safe abortion with pills, which means a higher percentage of our service users are having later, and therefore more expensive, abortions. The increase is also due to increased costs resulting from Covid-19. Grants given were made to help pay for treatment costs in clinics or hospitals, travel and accommodation.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

ASN's grant giving policy is that finances permitting, ASN will provide a grant to any person contacting us from one of our stated jurisdictions who would be unable to access an abortion without our financial assistance. Financial assistance is given to people from outside our jurisdictions on a case-by-case basis. People contacting us from any jurisdiction are provided with signposting and other information. ASN volunteers assess the situation according to the information clients provide about their financial situation and travel plans. In addition, to maximise the number of people we can help in the face of increased demand for our support, we have criteria aimed at reducing the costs of travel where possible in order to allow our limited finances to go further. These criteria are flexible, with phone volunteers implementing them according to the client's individual circumstances. We do not have any other criteria. It is our policy that we do not prioritise one client's need over another, and therefore if a client needs financial assistance and we have the funding available, we give them a grant.

#### **Accommodation and hosting**

Prior to mid-March 2020, service users needing to stay overnight in England, Germany or the Netherlands were generally accommodated in the homes of volunteers who provided service users with a place to sleep, meals and transportation to and from clinics and hospitals. After most of Europe imposed lockdown, we instead helped those needing overnight stays by helping to arrange paid accommodation. Given various regulations, this often required a sharp eye kept on hotel and B&B closures and regulations. While we still have volunteer hosts in West London, South London, Essex, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham (and our partners in The Netherlands and Germany have hosts in Amsterdam and Berlin) we are waiting until the world becomes a less contagious place before providing accommodation in volunteer homes again.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2020 we provided accommodation in volunteer homes for 6 people for 10 nights, and arranged accommodation for 68 people. 58 of those wound up both travelling and needing us to fund their accommodation and we purchased paid accommodation for 58 people for 115 nights. Keeping on top of hotel and B&B closures, while juggling frequent flight, ferry, train and bus cancellations during the early days of Covid-19 and the subsequently ever-changing lockdown rules in multiple countries was difficult but ultimately manageable. In 2019 we purchased paid accommodation for 19 clients. This increase was caused by the pandemic, compounded by an increase in the number of nights that people needed to stay over for due to later term abortions, limited travel pathways and longer distances between our clients and the clinics they attended.

#### **A note on Covid-19 and its impact on ASN**

Covid-19 is something that came out of nowhere and drastically changed the world. However, in the context of abortion funding, Covid-19 simply added additional obstacles to the pile of challenges already faced by people forced to travel to achieve abortion care.

Some of the additional burdens placed on our clients were (and continue to be):

- Closure of or reduced services at clinics
- More people scared about their economic prospects, which can make an unplanned pregnancy more of a crisis
- Lockdown making it harder for people to access contraception, and risk of being "trapped" with partners who do not respect boundaries around sex and contraception
- Planes, busses, trains and ferries running on limited schedules and with limited capacity, raising costs and increasing travel time
- Longer journeys requiring additional days of childcare.
- Difficulty of obtaining childcare when people are in lockdown
- Clinics closing or operating on reduced capacity due to strain on health care systems
- Lack of ability for us to provide volunteer hosts, and closures of hotels and guesthouses
- The need for various different types of Covid tests (PCR, rapid, etc) to be taken before leaving and entering countries
- And more...

Information about what is happening is very dynamic, requiring us to write and disseminate a weekly update to client facing volunteers.

In summary, Covid-19 was very much part of our work in 2020, but while it was often challenging, we rose to the occasion.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **Furthering our goals**

In 2018 we developed a three-year plan for the period 2019-21, building on the success of our previous strategic plan 2016-18. We began delivering on this, with great success, in 2019. While our objects and primary activities remain the same, we updated our vision and mission and set new strategic goals for the period 2019-22. In 2020, a lot of our plans were paused or pivoted while we waited to see what impact Covid-19 would have on our service users and our organisation, as well as the impact of events in Poland (detailed further along in the report) and for how long. Our goals remain largely the same, but with a slightly adjusted timeline that takes into account the 2020 reality that was very different from the one expected.

#### **Vision**

A world where pregnant people have the information and means to access safe, legal abortions wherever they live.

#### **Mission**

To provide information, financial assistance and accommodation to those who may be forced to travel to access a safe, legal abortion and to support the growth of the abortion funds movement by sharing our knowledge and expertise.

#### **Values**

- We believe that all those who need them have the right to safe and legal abortions
- We believe in providing practical support to enable people to exercise this right
- We are compassionate and respectful of abortion-seekers and their decisions
- We believe in sharing our knowledge, expertise and experience with others to grow the abortion funds movement and increase access to safe abortion

#### **Strategic goals 2020-22**

In the next three years, Abortion Support Network will maintain and grow our services. We will continue to provide service to people in Ireland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Malta and Gibraltar. While the legal situation and/or provision has changed in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, we do still hear from people in these places who need assistance, particularly in the Republic of Ireland where there is extremely limited provision of abortion beyond 12 weeks gestation.

We will continue to provide services to people resident in Malta and Gibraltar, and to work with the activists there who are fighting for law change by providing examples of the human cost of the restrictive laws in those countries. And we will continue to provide services to people resident in Poland, as members of the Abortion Without Borders initiative.

In 2020 we also began scoping the possibility of offering a pan-European second trimester abortion fund, and looked into options for how we could best package and share our experience as an abortion funder and practical support network to support and foster the growth of the abortion funds movement around Europe. The pandemic and events in Poland delayed some of this work, but we will continue cautious progress in 2021. We are delighted to report that in 2020 we've both streamlined and improved operations, as well as exceeded our revenue predictions, despite the pandemic.

In 2021 we will continue to scope the work of expanding our services to fund second trimester abortions for people in additional jurisdictions, to seek out the pathways to this care by creating and strengthening our relationships with clinics and hospitals, and, through talking about our work, increasing awareness of the need for abortion provision in the second trimester and beyond.

#### **Delivery to clients**

We want to be able to help every person who contacts us from our stated jurisdictions, with the ultimate goal of being able to help every person who contacts us from anywhere in Europe. To this end, in 2020, we will continue to provide information and funding to abortion seekers from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Malta, Gibraltar and Poland. We will also begin services to people resident in additional jurisdictions as part of determining how best to increase our operations to cover people from additional parts of Europe towards our goal of ensuring safe, legal care for anyone in Europe who needs or wants an abortion.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **Networking and our model**

We will codify and somewhat formalise our model, creating resource materials in order to encourage, foster and support the development of additional abortion funds and support networks in other parts of Europe.

#### **People**

We will ensure that our staff and volunteer structure is appropriate to meet the needs of our delivery. We will recruit and retain staff and volunteers to deliver our services, providing them with development opportunities and ensuring they are well supported.

#### **Income and Expenditure**

We will grow and diversify our income to meet the needs of people around Europe who need abortions.

Our budget will include expenditure to be allocated across each strand, according to the ambitions and goals set out within each strand, and development funds for organisational and employee growth.

We will maintain our healthy reserves to ensure the sustainability of our work and ongoing capacity to support our clients.

#### **Governance**

We will continue to strengthen our strategic board and will endeavour to ensure our board is representative of people from different backgrounds.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **2020 goals and achievements**

Our goals for 2020 were finalised and agreed in late 2019.

##### **Growing and sharing our model**

- We undertook outreach in Malta and Poland to ensure that everyone there who needed to travel for abortion knew that help from ASN and AWB is an option for them. We had planned outreach to hard-to-reach / marginalised people in Republic of Ireland, but all our plans required people seeing each other in person, e.g. distributing leaflets via agencies in Ireland; this activity will take place once it is safe to do so.
- In 2020 we began scoping what a pan-European second trimester abortion fund could look like. Despite travel restrictions, we were able to hold a planned workshop with abortion fund activists and second trimester abortion providers to share experiences and identify the needs of people travelling for second trimester abortions.
- We had also planned to develop an expansion model - through which we would begin to fund people from new jurisdictions - to be approved by the end of 2020 to begin delivery in 2021. This has been pushed back one year.
- While we did not begin work on our "abortion fund in a box" model as planned, we did continue our work growing the abortion support network movement around Europe. Work in this area included sharing our volunteer management, training, communications, and fundraising experience with groups in Malta, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Poland and elsewhere, and providing funding for a volunteer run family planning helpline in Malta and a doula service in Northern Ireland.

##### **Our people**

- Our new Operations & New Service Coordinator joined us in January 2020, but was put on full time and then part time furlough leave as part of the UK government's scheme from April 2020, coming back part time at the end of the summer and full time by November 2020.
- We onboarded six Polish speaking volunteers to our helpline team.
- We created an accommodation coordination team, designated volunteers who help arrange accommodation with volunteer hosts or in B&Bs/Guesthouses to reduce the level of work for our helpline team.
- We maintained our current volunteer levels and increased engagement with volunteers ("internal communications").
- We worked with fundraising consultants and freelancers to grow our fundraising activities in line with our ambitious goals.
- At the end of 2020, our Chief Executive Ruth Taylor gave notice, which led to our doing modelling on possible staff restructuring. The resulting changes are underway at the current time.

##### **Funding**

- Our financial goals for 2020 were a significant increase on 2019, with an aim of securing £100,000 more income in 2020, bringing in a total of £350,000.
- Despite the pandemic, we exceeded this goal.
- This was largely accomplished by increases in regular giving, one off donations, and almost £90,000 from major donors.
- Due to the pandemic, we were not able to achieve our ambitious goals for community fundraising, but this income was made up elsewhere.
- We will aim to build on our successes, as well as rebuild our community fundraising efforts to reflect the more digital world, further expand our regular giving, and work to develop a pipeline for major donors and trusts and foundations.

##### **Governance**

In 2020 we maintained the balance of our board and recruited two new Trustees with fundraising and growth experience to replace two Trustees who left due to changing circumstances. As we expand, we will continue to seek out Trustees with relevant experience to help us achieve our goals.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **Republic of Ireland**

2020 was the second year of provision of legal abortion services within the Republic of Ireland. The law in theory is pretty great - free provision of abortion on request to anyone under 12 weeks pregnant, with limited provision after 12 weeks for people with pregnancies diagnosed with fatal foetal abnormalities. As in 2019, we saw a reduction in the number of people who contacted ASN for help with abortion in the first trimester. And, as in 2019, we saw that the people requiring our help needed larger amounts of funding and support than prior to provision of abortion in Ireland.

For instance, we were contacted by a large number of women and couples who had been told that the catastrophic foetal anomaly affecting their pregnancy was "not fatal enough" and that they would need to travel to England. We helped a number of clients who were from countries outside the EU and had insecure immigration status, often living in Direct Provision with very little income. These clients usually had to travel to The Netherlands as the UK has been very unwilling to issue visas to people in this position since the Brexit vote.

Stirred into this came Covid-19, with people worried about going to the GP for abortion pills, leaving Ireland to access abortions, finding childcare, and a whole lot else. To its credit, Ireland was the first country in Europe to allow abortion pills by post for people in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. (Over 10 weeks of pregnancy, people needed to access abortion in one of ten Irish hospitals offering this service).

2020 also saw a number of groups preparing for the three year review of Ireland's abortion law. ASN is working with a number of organisations preparing submissions, including WHO (World Health Organisation), Ireland's Abortion Rights Campaign and the Health Services Executive in Ireland. Whilst not engaging in campaigning, ASN has been doing our best to use our data and unique experience to highlight the flaws in Ireland's abortion provision, including but not limited to:

- The fact that abortion pills sometimes don't work, and when this happens, if the person involved is beyond 12 weeks gestation, they have to travel abroad at their own expense to have an abortion.
- The fact that there is very limited provision of surgical abortions and women are sometimes given pills two or even three times.
- There is very little consistency in pathways or information for people who are over 12 weeks pregnant.
- The medically unnecessary three day wait period that has pushed at least 40 people that ASN knows of over the legal limit for abortion.
- International students, refugees and others told they didn't qualify for care in Ireland when they did.
- As Ireland's abortion provision is almost entirely medical abortion pills, which can cause heavy bleeding, cramping, chills, and other side effects, people without a home or a safe space where they live to spend hours having a miscarriage and exhibiting the associated symptoms.
- People delayed in accessing care by rogue crisis pregnancy centres.
- Women delayed by anti-choice GPs who lie to them and say they are not pregnant, were never pregnant, must have miscarried, but . . . they are pregnant.

During 2020 we were contacted by 158 people living in the Republic of Ireland, and provided financial support to 51 of them, to a total of £38,307.50.

#### **Case studies of clients we heard from in the Republic of Ireland**

The people who contacted us from Ireland in 2020 were largely getting in touch because they had discovered they were too far along in their pregnancy to access care in Ireland. However, during the pandemic, we heard from a number of people worried about access to care if they were to become pregnant.

"I found out I was pregnant at the end of September and decided to terminate, but then had a miscarriage. Or so I thought, until I discovered yesterday I'm 21weeks plus 2days, under law here I'm not entitled to an abortion and I cannot afford private abortion in the UK. I cannot have this baby. I need to terminate."

A refugee living in Ireland trying to escape an abusive situation with her children, who also needs an abortion. She found out she was pregnant just after she missed Ireland's legal cut off of 12 weeks, so we began the process of helping someone without any financial resources and the need for total secrecy about her plans. This case took weeks of time, countless phone calls, and help from multiple organisations in three countries, but eventually the client was able to have the abortion she wanted and also get back home without any danger to herself. We have signposted her to local groups that can provide support should she decide to leave her relationship and we hope she's ok.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

Two couples with pregnancies diagnosed with severe abnormalities. In both cases, these couples were told by their doctors (in two different hospitals in two different cities in Ireland) to delay travelling for abortion until they had done more tests. In both cases, the clients asked if these tests would reveal the abnormalities were serious enough to entitle them to an abortion (no) or if these tests would reveal there was no abnormality (no). Both were told, in much the same language, that "You would never forgive yourself for having an abortion without knowing the full details of what the issue is." Think about this. Both these couples have diagnosis of severe abnormalities. Both have decided to terminate their pregnancies. Both are being told - by doctors - to delay treatment until they are further into pregnancy.

A woman from Ireland who was twice given early medical abortions in Ireland, and both times it failed. Since this brought her over 12 weeks into her pregnancy, Ireland turned its back on her and told her she had to travel abroad, at her own expense, to terminate the pregnancy. We were able to book her flights and accommodation, as well as provide a grant towards the cost of the procedure.

A couple in Ireland who are non-EU nationals. Several fraught weeks later, in which the Dutch embassy in Ireland was thankfully reopened and able to issue a visa for travel, and The Netherlands reopened to travel by non UK/non EU nationals, we were able to help this couple travel to The Netherlands for their abortion care. (The UK having stopped issuing visas for non EU/UK nationals needing abortion care since the Brexit vote).

#### **Northern Ireland**

People living in Northern Ireland have been able to access free abortions in England on the NHS since 2017, with the Central Booking System in place since March 2018. In October 2020, Northern Ireland was ordered to begin providing abortions on the NHS for people from Northern Ireland, IN Northern Ireland, by no later than 1 April 2020. It's now more than a year beyond that, and services have not yet been commissioned.

While there is some provision of early medical abortion pills in Northern Ireland, this is only in person at a GP's office and only up to 9 weeks 6 days. Almost everyone else needs to travel abroad for care. While the cost of care, travel and accommodation is covered, navigating this during a pandemic can be quite tricky. And, of course, completely unnecessary. For many people, it was easier to order early medical abortion pills from reputable online providers.

In 2020, we only heard from three people from Northern Ireland but we did a lot of work with our friends at Alliance for Choice Northern Ireland, who set up a Doula and information service for people in Northern Ireland trying to navigate the system, as well as promote the availability of legal provision in country (something else the NI Department of Health failed to do...).

We have asked the campaigning organisations in Northern Ireland if they want us to take Northern Ireland off our list, but they've asked us to keep them in our materials to help illustrate that people from Northern Ireland are still travelling to access care.

#### **Case studies of clients we heard from in Northern Ireland**

In one case, we were able to provide funding for a young woman who had no way of getting to the airport for her flight to England. We were able to source and pay for a taxi for her.

#### **Isle of Man**

There is now abortion provision for the people of the Isle of Man! This provision is run by bpas in mainland UK, and callers are either sent to doctors on the Isle of Man or funded to travel to England for care there.

In 2020, we only heard from three people in the Isle of Man, and were able to signpost them to free, legal care.

As with Northern Ireland, we asked our friends on the Isle of Man if they want us to remove their country from our materials and they have asked us to keep them listed.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **Malta**

Malta holds the dubious honour of having the worst abortion law in Europe - abortion is legally permitted in zero circumstances (including to save a woman's life) and there are criminal charges that could be applied to women found to have caused their own abortions. In Malta we heard from 126 people in 2020, as opposed to 76 in 2019 but funded far fewer. This is largely because Malta's airport closed in March 2020 and remained closed off and on for the rest of the year. During this time we heard from many people in Malta, and, were asked, were able to provide information about reputable online providers of safe abortion pills. This was not without its issues - the pandemic had a lot of impact on postage times and we received many phone calls from women terrified the pills would not arrive in time.

One upside of Covid (yes, an upside) is that before the pandemic, Malta's abortion law was an inconvenience for people with money, and only catastrophic for those without money, or secure immigration status, or support networks. Covid, and the resulting restrictions on travel and closure of airports, gave everyone in Malta a taste of what it is like to be a poor person in a country with a bad abortion law.

We were also pleased to see that our prochoice colleagues in Malta were able to increase the number of people in Malta who consider themselves to be prochoice - 18.1% would be in favour of legal abortion in Malta. This is a 10% increase over 2019. There were also a few news reports and "exposés" about abortion in Malta and, particularly, about Abortion Support Network. This usually involved a reporter calling our helpline and playing our voicemail (detailing our services) on Maltese television, or, in one case, a politician putting a photo of a sticker of our web address and phone number on his heavily populated Facebook wall. We also sent letters to roughly 40 organisations in Malta to tell them about ASN and our services, and provided support to FPAS Malta, Malta's first ever un-biased, pro choice family planning service.

During 2020 we were contacted by 126 people living in the Malta, and provided financial support to 1 of them, to a total of £871.51.

#### **Case studies of clients we heard from in Malta**

A migrant living in Malta with her partner, who had financial means but had no idea how to go about arranging a termination. We were able to tell her the best clinics to travel to in the most convenient and expedient way.

"Hello I am stressed beyond words about potentially being pregnant, but before I take a test I want to make sure I know all my options, because I'm going insane at the thought. Malta closed their airport last night due to the coronavirus. What am I supposed to do if I need to travel to get a medical abortion if I need it? Please help me."

"Good morning, considering situation with Covid -19, me and my partner are both trapped in this country without the jobs we came here for. We are now stuck. I'm pregnant I'm not sure how long, maybe 9-10 weeks, but we are not able to keep this baby since we have no idea how long we will stay without job. This was a bad way to find out there is no abortion in Malta."

"I have some questions regarding ordering pills by post. I would like, if possible, to know about any repercussions I may face for having such a package delivered here to Malta. Can you advise?"

"I wonder if you could give me some advice. My daughter recently did the Harmony Test and it resulted that her much loved baby has a disability. She would like to do the amniocentesis test to find out for sure, but it isn't available in Malta. Do you have any advice on where she can get this test, as quickly as possible? Thank you so much."

#### **Gibraltar**

Gibraltar came SO CLOSE to legalising abortion in 2020. Polls taken two weeks before the scheduled 19 March 2020 referendum on abortion predicted a yes to changing the abortion law vote of more than 70%. Alas the referendum was postponed due to Covid - but has just been rescheduled for 24 June 2021.

In 2020, we heard from 10 people from Gibraltar and funded 1 of them for £238.

The following are people we heard from in Gibraltar

"I live and work in Gibraltar but have lost my job since the lockdown. I'm going to stay with my partner. I messaged Women On Web but unfortunately they said the pills wouldn't make it here. I'm basically looking for the cheapest way to get the pills as I called a couple places in Malaga and was quoted 600 euros which is just crazy."

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

A young woman in Gibraltar who was afraid to order abortion pills from Women Help Women or Women on Web, but also afraid to travel to Spain to a clinic as she doesn't speak Spanish. We were able to help her find a clinic in Spain that she could easily travel to where English language care was available.

#### **Poland**

In December 2019, we launched Abortion Without Borders, an initiative between Abortion Support Network (UK), Ciocia Basia (Germany), Abortion Network Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Abortion Dream Team (Poland), Kobiety w Sieci (Poland) and Women Help Women (international but based in The Netherlands). Our idea was to provide one point of entry for Polish abortion seekers. People in Poland first contact a helpline, which is staffed 12 hours a day, seven days per week, where their situation is assessed. Based on their gestation and circumstance, they are sent to an organisation that can help them, either with having an abortion at home with pills, or with having an abortion abroad in a clinic. It is legal to provide information about abortion, and legal to have an abortion, but helping someone get an abortion (by driving them to a clinic, or buying them abortion pills, for instance) can be prosecuted.

When we launched the Abortion Without Borders initiative on 11 December 2019, none of us could have guessed that within three months most of Europe would begin a more than year-long battle against a contagious disease. While Covid made life difficult in a variety of ways for most people, Covid made things especially difficult for people travelling for abortion. Like Malta, Poland quickly closed their airports, but then went the extra distance of cancelling all external busses and trains and setting up checkpoints at the borders. One-two day trips became two-six day trips, with people taking ground transport to the German border, walking across, and taking a different bus or train. That was in the beginning. Later we had more issues - mandatory quarantines, testing requirements, and more.

As surreal and challenging as helping people travel for abortions during a pandemic was, in 2020 Poland had an additional surprise for us. On 22 October, a Constitutional Tribunal ruled that having an abortion for foetal indication was unconstitutional. Prior to this, abortion was technically allowed (although often hard to obtain) in cases of rape, incest and foetal indication. Roughly 1000-2000 legal abortions were done each year in Poland, with 98% of them done for foetal indication. With this ruling, the constitutional tribunal basically made abortion in Poland illegal. Poland exploded with protests, and here's the bit that took us by surprise. Our partners in Poland had done such a good job of promoting the Abortion Without Borders initiative that our phone number and name became part of the protest. People held up signs with our number, changed our number at protests, and painted our number on every conceivable surface. A leftist politician held up a sign with our name and number in a televised session of Parliament. A song was written with our number as the refrain. Our Polish helpline, which had previously had about 300 callers per month, had, for a time, 200 callers per day.

To put this in context, in 2020, our Abortion Without Borders helpline in Poland received more than 7,000 calls from 5,237 individuals. Roughly the same number of people contacted the helpline from 1 January 2020 until 21 October 2020 as contacted us from 22 October 2020 to 31 December 2020. This does not include the numbers of people who contact Abortion Without Borders member organisations directly.

While it has been overwhelming and busy for all of us, it heartens us to know that a side effect of this horrible ruling, which officially went into effect 27 January 2021, is that everyone in Poland now knows that they can contact Abortion Without Borders for help accessing abortion care.

In 2020 we funded 100 people from Poland, for a total of £86,258.05

#### **Case studies of clients we supported from Poland**

A woman from Poland who tried to take medical abortion pills twice without success. She had spent what little money she had on abortion pills. A single mum and full-time caretaker for an adult family member, she was not able to work and on benefits. The Abortion Without Borders team stepped in to help, with Abortion Network Amsterdam covering travel costs and Abortion Support Network paying for the procedure.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

One Polish client got a lift to the Polish/German border, walked across, went to the train station and took the train to Berlin. Her flight from Berlin to England was cancelled and rebooked three times. The arranged hotel closed so we had to scramble to find accommodation. Worried about cancellations, we had her arrive in England a day before the first part of her two-day appointment, and booked her return flights the day after the second day. Her return flight was also cancelled and needed to be rebooked. From the time she left her home to the time she reached the Polish border on the return trip took six days, and the travel and procedure cost more than £2,300.

"I recently moved back to Poland from the UK with my kids last week, I can't believe I'm pregnant in what must be the worst place in Europe to need an abortion."

A woman from Poland who lost her job due to the pandemic. She purchased early medical abortion pills that did not work, and was then scammed by a "doctor" into paying ludicrous fees to obtain the results of her ultrasound. ASN and ANA helped her travel to The Netherlands to obtain an abortion.

A woman in Poland who went to hospital after being severely beaten by her partner, only to discover she was pregnant from an earlier physical and sexual assault. She was barely able to support herself, having lost her job due to Corona, let alone pay for an abortion. She was so low on funds that she couldn't afford the bus ticket to the Netherlands, so Abortion Network Amsterdam funded her travel and food for her stay (she came to the Netherlands with 10 euros cash, literally all she had) while ASN paid for the abortion and her hotel.

We heard from a woman living in Poland who had a pregnancy with a catastrophic abnormality. She should have been able to access care in Poland but was obstructed by doctors. She was more than 24 weeks pregnant which meant her only option was care in a hospital. Fortunately ONE hospital in Europe who provides abortion to people beyond 24 weeks in cases of foetal indication has begun allowing international clients to come (all others have closed and remain closed to international clients, THANKS COVID) and we were able to get her the treatment she needed as well as advise on how she and her partner could arrange for a funeral.

A woman from Poland with a high BMI, which meant she had a 50/50 chance of being turned away from a clinic and told she needed care in a hospital (when, as above, almost not hospitals are taking international clients). We were able to work with the medical director at one of the UK clinics to ensure this client was treated. The location of the clinic required this non-English speaking client to navigate herself from London to Bournemouth - a testament to the lengths that will be taken by people who do not wish to be pregnant.

#### **Other Countries**

While we postponed any official expansion of ASN and Abortion Without Borders due to Covid and increased client contacts from Poland, we did help people from outside our jurisdictions on a case-by-case basis. Here are a few examples:

"We live in France and my 14 year old daughter is 21 weeks pregnant, and she does not want to keep it. We have already consulted in France and it is too late to do so here. My daughter scares me because she says, if she can't abort, she's gonna kill herself. Help me."

A woman from Scotland who needed to travel to England for abortion care at 16 weeks. She had been incorrectly told that she would need to fund her own travel and accommodation. We were able to signpost her to help.

In a unique situation, we were able to help a woman resident in Denmark. She was stopped at Heathrow due to a new strand of Covid transmitted by minks. To add insult to injury, this woman was told four times by doctors at home that she was not pregnant but merely old. We were able to help her access care in another country.

A migrant living in the United Kingdom, not eligible for an NHS. We were able to help her access safe care that she could afford.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **Thank yous**

Just a few of the messages and emails that keep us going:

"Thank you I arrived home this morning - you are a wonderful organisation. What you do to help women, without judgement. I have never met people like you. Thank you for everything you have done for me."

"Hello, we just returned to the hotel. Everything went well. Wonderful people work in the clinic. I do not know how to thank you. Your help is invaluable to me. I would most willingly hug each of you individually. A huge stone has fallen from my heart and this is only thanks to you. For the rest of my life I will not forget what you have done for me and my family."

"I just finished my procedure and everything went smoothly. I am deeply overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation that you chose to help a total stranger like me make my regret a thing of the past. I am short for words but my heart is filled with gratitude. "

"It's nice to know that there are some people in this world helping others from goodness of their hearts I've so much thank you for I wish I could give you big hug or even half my heart. I owe my life to you, I've my life today because of you and your team. I don't know how to thank you enough I really don't."

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Principal funding sources**

ASN relies on a combination of grants, regular donations and single donations from our individual supporters and a small amount of funds generated at events. In 2020 we received £362,786 total income from all sources which was made up of:

- o £89,699 from one-off donations
- o £81,893 from major donors (individuals giving £500+)
- o £116,975 from regular monthly donations. We received an average monthly income of £9,572 per month
- o £25,457 in Gift Aid
- o £9,000 in sponsorship from abortion care partners who are sponsoring our website. Their logos will appear on our website throughout the year
- o £22,979 from charitable trusts
- o £6,957 from community fundraising, challenges and events
- o £13,540 from Facebook fundraising.

##### **Reserves policy**

The policy of ASN is to hold approximately three months of operational costs in reserve, including any costs that would be incurred in winding up. At the end of the 12-month financial period to 31 December 2020 that amount was calculated as £80,489. All funds that are not required for operational costs are to be spent on furthering the charity's objectives in line with ASN's grant giving policy. The Trustees, with guidance from the Treasurer, review this policy at least twice a year.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

Our high-level goals for 2021

#### **Shoring up our existing services**

- Following a model of "no one left behind" we will work with our partners in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Malta and Gibraltar to determine the best way to ensure that all people who need abortion care who cannot afford it know about our services and are able to contact us.
- Complete the one year review of our Abortion Without Borders initiative, including asking the hard questions about what could have been done better. Work this knowledge into future abortion fund and support network planning.

#### **Action research**

We will spend part of 2021 doing "action research" in terms of scoping out the best countries in Europe to expand second trimester funding to, and the best countries to outreach to in hopes of inspiring local activists to set up abortion funds and support networks. We will have conversations with activists on the ground in these target countries and begin to test travel pathways for people in those countries who need to travel to access second trimester abortion care.

#### **Movement building**

In 2021, we will reach out to some of the small groups that have cropped up in Europe after the ruling of the Polish constitutional tribunal and offer to share our resources and expertise. While these groups are almost entirely Polish ex pats seeking to help people from Poland, we believe this shows an appetite for this kind of work and we plan learn from these activists what tools would be most helpful to produce. We have set aside a small amount of 2021's budget to provide support to these groups if needed, such as training, cost of trainers, phone lines, web hosting, etc.

#### **Our people**

- Our Chief executive gave notice in December 2020, which gave us the opportunity to make a new staffing structure for 2021.
- Our founder is going to resume her Director role, our Operations & New Service Coordinator will pivot into a Volunteer and Operations Coordinator role, and we will recruit for a part time administrator as well as a head of fundraising and communications.
- We will continue to grow our helpline to meet the needs of our service users.
- We will put more resources towards volunteer management.
- We will maintain our current volunteer levels.
- We plan to work with a fundraising consultant to help build a major donors and/or trusts and foundations pathway.

#### **Funding**

- Our financial goals for 2021 are a conservative increase on 2020
- We aim to secure roughly £40,000 more income in 2021, bringing in a total of £400,000
- While we have ambitious plans to scale up our funding of second trimester abortions from additional jurisdictions and to start building the abortion fund movement, these expansion plans are very flexible and scalable, and we will be working on funding proposals as we go, while ensuring that we are able to provide care to the people who are contacting us every day for support.

#### **Governance**

In 2021 we will maintain the balance of our board and are currently seeking to recruit new trustees to replace planned departures and are seeking to do so in such a way that will enrich the diversity of the board and renew its expertise.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Organisational structure**

Abortion Support Network (ASN) was established in October 2009 to provide financial assistance, accommodation and confidential, non-judgmental information and practical support to women who may be forced to travel from Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man to access a safe and legal abortion. In its first two years ASN operated as a non-profit company registered with Companies House. We became a registered charity, number 1142120, in May 2011, having updated the ASN Memorandum and Articles of Association on file with Companies House with Memorandum and Articles of Association for a Charitable Company in March 2011.

ASN is a mostly volunteer-run organisation, with the equivalent of three full-time staff. In 2020 Ruth Taylor was employed as CEO and Fundraising Manager (full-time), Mara Clarke, ASN's Founder, as Service & Volunteer Manager (full-time), and Rhianydd York Williams as Operations and New Services Coordinator (full-time); all three were employed and PAYE. During Covid-19, Rhianydd was put on furlough for several months and Ruth reduced to four days per week. A Bookkeeper, Heather Campbell (0.2 FTE) is also contracted.

At the start of 2020, our board of trustees consisted of eight active members. Aroon Dugan and Katherine Stark stepped down in July 2020, and Charlotte Fischer and Sarah Wootton were appointed.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association allow for a minimum of three trustees, one-third of which are required to retire from office at each annual general meeting although they may be re-appointed. In this period Kat Stark, Andrew Moffat and Aroon Dugan stood down at the AGM, with Andrew Moffat being re-appointed.

During 2020, the day-to-day management of the charity was delegated to the CEO and the Service & Volunteer Manager. The staff work with our team of volunteers, consisting of roughly 90 individuals who undertook various roles, including phone volunteers who respond to calls, texts and emails from people who contact us for information and financial assistance; hosts who provide women with accommodation (when we are not in a pandemic) and an accommodation team that arranges hotels when we are; and other volunteers working on fundraising, outreach, communications, social media and administration. All ASN volunteers are carefully interviewed, screened and trained.

The contracted bookkeeper undertakes the day-to-day financial management activities associated with our donations, grant making and income and expenditures, overseen by the Director and the Treasurer who sits on the Board of Trustees.

During the period, salary payments totalling £58,991.82 were made to ASN's then chief executive Ruth Taylor.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Company number**

07017607 (England and Wales)

##### **Registered Charity number**

1142120

##### **Registered office**

Union House  
111 New Union Street  
Coventry  
Warwickshire  
CV1 2NT

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**Trustees**

Ms J K Davis  
A Dougan-Potts (resigned 29.7.20)  
A G Moffatt  
Ms K Stark (resigned 29.7.20)  
Ms C Kelly  
Ms H M Christie  
Ms P Hamilton  
Professor S Sheldon  
Ms C Fischer (appointed 29.7.20)  
Ms S Wootton (appointed 29.7.20)

**Company Secretary**

Ms H M Christie

**Independent Examiner**

S. Cobbin & Co Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
15a Station Road  
Epping  
Essex  
CM16 4HG

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 7th May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms J K Davis - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Abortion Support Network ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2020.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

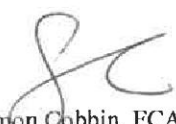
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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



Simon Cobbin, FCA  
ICAEW  
S. Cobbin & Co Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
15a Station Road  
Epping  
Essex  
CM16 4HG

Date: 7th May 2021

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		353,600	-	353,600	251,496
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants to support clients		3,979	-	3,979	-
Sponsorship	2	6,900	-	6,900	10,800
Bank interest received		<u>137</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>280</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>364,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>364,616</b>	<b>262,576</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	3	28,520	-	28,520	23,710
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants to support clients		142,930	-	142,930	20,482
Grants to clinics		-	-	-	52,804
Partnership grants		128,015	-	128,015	6,000
Support costs		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,633</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>299,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>299,465</b>	<b>213,629</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>65,151</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,151</b>	<b>48,947</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>255,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>255,747</b>	<b>206,800</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b><u>320,898</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>320,898</u></b>	<b><u>255,747</u></b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	7	264	-	264	100
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	8	8,700	-	8,700	17,756
Cash at bank		<u>324,946</u>	-	<u>324,946</u>	<u>244,173</u>
		333,646	-	333,646	261,929
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(13,012)	-	(13,012)	(6,282)
		<u>320,634</u>	-	<u>320,634</u>	<u>255,647</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>320,634</u>	-	<u>320,634</u>	<u>255,647</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>320,898</u>	-	<u>320,898</u>	<u>255,747</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>320,898</u>	-	<u>320,898</u>	<u>255,747</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	10				
Unrestricted funds				<u>320,898</u>	<u>255,747</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>320,898</u>	<u>255,747</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**BALANCE SHEET - continued**

**31ST DECEMBER 2020**

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 7th May 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J K Davis', written in a cursive style.

J K Davis - Trustee

## ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### **Income**

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

##### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

##### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**2. SPONSORSHIP**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Sponsorships	<u>6,900</u>	<u>10,800</u>

**3. RAISING FUNDS**

**Raising donations and legacies**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Advertising	1,874	5,056
Fundraising costs	26,415	18,654
Support costs	<u>231</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>28,520</u>	<u>23,710</u>

**4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2020	2019
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>231</u>	<u>99</u>

**5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2020 nor for the year ended 31st December 2019.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2020 nor for the year ended 31st December 2019.

**6. STAFF COSTS**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Employees	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Computer equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1st January 2020	298
Additions	<u>395</u>
At 31st December 2020	<u>693</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1st January 2020	198
Charge for year	<u>231</u>
At 31st December 2020	<u>429</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31st December 2020	<u>264</u>
At 31st December 2019	<u>100</u>

**8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	8,700	3,600
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>-</u>	<u>14,156</u>
	<u>8,700</u>	<u>17,756</u>

**9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,788	3,125
Social security and other taxes	3,245	2,161
Other creditors	<u>1,979</u>	<u>996</u>
	<u>13,012</u>	<u>6,282</u>

**10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	255,747	65,151	320,898
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>255,747</u>	<u>65,151</u>	<u>320,898</u>

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	364,616	(299,465)	65,151
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>364,616</u></u>	<u><u>(299,465)</u></u>	<u><u>65,151</u></u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.1.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.19 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	206,800	48,947	255,747
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>206,800</u></u>	<u><u>48,947</u></u>	<u><u>255,747</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	262,576	(213,629)	48,947
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>262,576</u></u>	<u><u>(213,629)</u></u>	<u><u>48,947</u></u>

**11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2020.

**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	328,143	235,929
Gift aid	<u>25,457</u>	<u>15,567</u>
	353,600	251,496
<b>Sponsorship</b>		
Sponsorships	6,900	10,800
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Grants	3,979	-
<b>Bank interest received</b>		
Bank interest received	<u>137</u>	<u>280</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>364,616</b>	<b>262,576</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Advertising	1,874	5,056
Fundraising costs	<u>26,415</u>	<u>18,654</u>
	28,289	23,710
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Travel and subsistence	1,033	8,533
Grants to support clients	<u>118,569</u>	<u>70,753</u>
	119,602	79,286
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	790	489
<b>Human resources</b>		
Wages	117,809	80,017
Pensions	<u>7,715</u>	<u>3,751</u>
	125,524	83,768
<b>Operational activities</b>		
Insurance	1,904	673
Telephone	3,017	1,710
Carried forward	4,921	2,383

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**ABORTION SUPPORT NETWORK**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>Operational activities</b>		
Brought forward	4,921	2,383
Postage and stationery	997	1,823
Sundries	4,830	2,517
Subscriptions	658	337
Rent	3,472	3,260
Website and computer consumables	548	2,991
Staff training	2,815	5,291
Travel and subsistence	388	2,811
Recruitment	-	395
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>231</u>	<u>99</u>
	<b>18,860</b>	<b>21,907</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,044	996
Legal fees	1,200	-
Bookkeeping	<u>4,156</u>	<u>3,473</u>
	<b>6,400</b>	<b>4,469</b>
Total resources expended	<u>299,465</u>	<u>213,629</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u>65,151</u>	<u>48,947</u>

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