



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Leicestershire Search & Rescue

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 January 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1150100

Set out on pages

3 - 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/01/2023.

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 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 (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

P.A. Glyn-Smith

Date:

13/11/2023

Name:

Philip Anthony Glyn-Smith

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

FCA

**Address:** HSP Tax & Accounts Limited  
Whiteacres, Cambridge Road  
Whetstone, Leicestershire, LE8 6ZG

## Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



## Leicestershire Search and Rescue Treasurer's Report AGM Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2023

### Introduction

This report is for the financial year from **1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 – January 31<sup>st</sup> 2023** and is in conjunction with the Income and Expenditure statement which you all have a copy of.

These accounts were produced by Phil Glyn - Smith FCA | Director of HSP Tax & Accounts Ltd, who will be signing them off and submitting them to the Charities Commission assuming that the members here today find them to be in good order. In addition, there has been the usual internal audit carried out of our financial transactions by Russell Frost and everything was found to be satisfactory. We are very grateful to Russell for continuing to provide this additional check.

### Income

Our budgets were set in Jan 2022, and unlike the previous year this was done with a good degree of optimism with the pandemic behind us. 2022 was to be a year of growth for the team, with investment planned for the introduction of a Swift Water team and significant medical training to get more members FREC3 qualified. So as not to reduce our cash reserves, it was decided that this growth was to be financed by grants. The dramatic rise in the cost of living in 2022 had a significant impact on our ability to generate income. Donations were significantly down, and the main focus of many grants was help with cost of living and fuel poverty, and our projects often failed to meet the grant criteria.

- Fundraising, Donations & Membership Subs - we only achieved 50% of the figure we had budgeted for fundraising and the shortfall was largely due an opportunity to Crowdfund not materialising. We had optimistically budgeted for £5000 of income from this.

- Likewise, donations were down by 50% for the reasons mentioned earlier. Over 60% of our donations came from the continued support of Next plc and the Dog & Gun pub in Syston.

We had also hoped to see some Corporate sponsorship this year but it became apparent during the year that this is an area that needs careful planning and structuring, something we will focus on going forward.

Memberships subs remained the same amount as in previous years.

- Grants – as stated at the beginning the focus of grants across the board changed dramatically in this financial year and we struggled to qualify for a large majority of those available. We had 5 successful applications for smaller grants which helped towards costs like new recruits uniforms, training and drone and medical equipment.
- Event Cover – with the return of most sporting events, our income from this returned to the expected level and we achieved 90% of our budget.
- VAT refunds – without the grants to invest in the new equipment as we had hoped, it follows that the amount received in VAT refunds was also much less than budgeted, at 40%.

In November the role of Fundraising officer was once again filled and with it came a new direction for fundraising, providing a more positive feel to the end of the year.

## **Expenditure**

The budget for expenditure was set high this year to match the anticipated income. It was hoped we would secure funding to develop our Swift Water team, but unfortunately this did not materialise and consequently expenditure on equipment was significantly lower than expected.

Additional medical equipment was purchased for specific training needs with funding from a grant along with upgrading some of our essential equipment.

Likewise, our drone team received a small grant to purchase their own laptop, some additional batteries and also for essential upgrades with our operating licence.

We also anticipated more training courses being made available to us this year. Some of these were grant dependent, but it was felt that after 2

years with very little team development a sizeable training budget should be set to allow this to take place.

- Vehicle maintenance - this was limited to essential repairs only due to the significant reduction in income so that came in well under the budgeted figure.
- Stationery/Office - expenditure for this was also less than the budgeted figure. This was largely due to the closure of Respond Tech, our old call out system for which we paid monthly, and the migration to Cube which is supplied free of charge.  
Also in September we vacated the storage unit at Western Fire Station and moved into our new premises at FHQ for which no rent is charged, a saving of £160 per month.
- Insurance - whilst both team and vehicle Insurance are significant expenses, we are very fortunate to have brokers for both who continue to negotiate very favourable rates for us. In fact, the cost of insuring the fleet has remained at £600 per vehicle for many years now. We are able to pay both in instalments which helps our cash flow greatly.
- Uniforms - the purchasing of uniforms for the new intake remains a major cost, and in previous years we have been fortunate to receive a grant to cover a large percentage of this cost. Unfortunately, this year we only received funding for less than 50% of that cost. Adding to this the price increase from Keela meant we exceeded the £5000 we had budgeted for uniforms.
- Fuel - as last year we budgeted for £1500 on fuel. This figure seems to reflect a 'normal' year's fuel consumption and 2022 was no different with the team fully active again. We came in very close to this figure at £1342.10.
- Training - although we budgeted for a much higher spend on training than we achieved, we did have the opportunity to further develop the team with a variety of courses this year.  
These ranged from Team Leader and Search Planner courses by Lowland Rescue, FREC3 training for some of our medics, GVC (general visual line of sight certificate) to enable our drone to be flown in built up areas, a Mental Wellbeing course for several of our members, Water safety training and also K9 first aid for our dog handlers.

## Summary

So, to summarise; our Income and Expenditure statement makes sobering reading this year when looked at in conjunction with our budgets, and clearly shows that our optimistic expectation for funding to return to pre-covid levels, both with donations and grants was not forthcoming as mentioned at the beginning.

As already mentioned, this did mean that specialisms that we really wanted to develop during the year did not happen, namely the investment in training and equipment for the Swift water team and the number of FREC3 qualified medics we would have liked to give us more scope for event cover.

However, on a positive note by cutting our expenditure accordingly we have again managed to keep our income and expenditure in line, with less than a £500 deficit in our income.

This therefore means that the balance carried forward into the current financial year of £23,244 very closely matches the opening balance for 2022, and again keeps us very much in line with where we need to be financially.

It is always the aim of the Trustees to move into a new financial year with sufficient funds in the bank to cover our day to day running costs for the forthcoming year.

That being said jumping ahead to the current year, we got off to a tremendous start with a very generous donation of £25,000 in February!

Finally, as our annual turnover exceeds £25,000 it is a legal requirement that we have an independent examiners report submitted to the Charity Commission, along with our accounts and this report.

We are very grateful to Phil Glyn-Smith of HSP Tax & Accounts Ltd for continuing to provide this service free of charge each year.



From Date 01-Feb-22

To Date 31-Jan-23



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

## LEICESTERSHIRE SEARCH & RESCUE.

### Income & Expenditure Statement

(All values reported in GBP Sterling)

#### Turnover

Balance bought forward from previous year:	£23,694.68
Fundraising, donations & membership subs	£15,561.96
Grants	£4,855.00
Event cover	£5,259.69
VAT refund	£2,724.80
Uniform sales	£153.00
Equipment sales	-
Miscellaneous receipts	£94.63

**Total Income for year** **£28,649.08**

#### Less Expenses

Equipment	£4,355.90
Rent / Hire charges	£1,120.00
Stationery / Office	£704.07
Vehicle Maintenance & Tax	£1,438.89
Insurances	£7,727.44
Uniforms	£5,767.78
Fuel	£1,342.10
Training	£4,933.30
Mobiles/Data	£774.55
Sundry expenses	£956.10

**Total Expenses for year** **£29,120.13**

**Surplus of expenses over income** **(£471.05)**

Surplus brought forward £23,694.68

Surplus carried forward £23,223.63