

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1154667

Details

Other names	CSO
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07405401
Registered	2013-11-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Hoxton Mix Ltd, 86-90 Paul Street, LONDON
Postcode	EC2A 4NE
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Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY WORKING WITH PEOPLE IN WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF OR CREED (IN PARTICULAR, MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI COMMUNITY) TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF SUCH PEOPLE AND ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR BY:1. PROVIDING A LOCAL NETWORK GROUP THAT ENCOURAGES AND ENABLES MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY;2. INCREASING OR CO-ORDINATING, OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI COMMUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS TO ENABLE THOSE PROVIDERS TO ADAPT SERVICE ;3. PROVIDING EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TO SUPPORT AND ENABLE THE SOMALI COMMUNITY TO MAXIMISE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES;4. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE SOMALI COMMUNITY AND THEIR CHILDREN, BOTH GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION;5. PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT, FORUMS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF THAT COMMUNITY.

Activities: Our vision: To achieve cohesive, integrated and successful Somali communities in London.Our mission: To provide a strong, collective and credible voice for the Somali communities inLondon and

eventually across the UK and to articulate the aspirations and interests of Somalicomunities and diaspora.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£135,176	£133,624	-	-
2024-03-31	£169,669	£237,415	-	-
2023-03-31	£384,221	£366,020	-	-
2022-03-31	£312,396	£265,204	-	-
2021-03-31	£427,416	£406,908	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ABDIRAXMAN XIRSI	Chair	2019-03-28
Dr Fowia Ahmed Ibrahim		2021-11-04
Fadumo Saeed		2023-11-16
Mariam Ali Abdulle		2023-11-16

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1154667

Accounts



Company No. 07405401

Charity No. 1154667

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
(A company limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2025



Council of Somali Organisations (CSO)

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Council of Somali Organisations Ltd Directors' and Trustees' Annual Report For the 12 months ending 31st March 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual director's report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ended 31st March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name Council of Somali Organisations

Charity registration number 1154667

Company registration number 7405401

Registered office Hoxton Mix Ltd

86-90 Paul Street

LONDON

EC2A 4NE

Board of Trustees

The trustees and directors who served during the period were as follows:

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Vice Chair (elected 28th March 2019) (Elected Chair 4th November 2021)

Dr. Fowzia Ahmed Ibrahim (elected 4th November 2021)

Mrs. Hanna Ali Al Khleifat (elected 28th March 2019)

Mr. Shakiib Weheliye-Treasurer since 21st November 2019 (elected 12th June 2019 and resigned 15 May 2024)

Company Secretary Mr. Kahiye Alim (Appointed 1st November 2018)

Director Mr. Kahiye Alim

Independent Examiner R&A CONSULTANCY LTD

Chartered Certified Accountant

30 Roycroft Close, South Woodford,

London. E18 1DZ.

Bankers Barclays Bank

Barclays Retail Banking

London E19PL

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 2010, the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO) is an independent National charity. We were launched to deliver capacity-building support to increase the operational effectiveness of organisations supporting the Somali community.

More broadly, today, we work to:

- ★ Help integrate Somalis Community in the wider UK society;
- ★ Improve their conditions and quality of life;
- ★ Represent their interest and voice(s) when it comes to shaping policy that affects them.

We do this by delivering capacity building support to member voluntary and community organisations, events, by undertaking research and campaign or policy work and through empowerment training for the benefit of the Somali Community in the UK.

THE NEW RESTRUCTURE – 2020 Themes, Objectives, Outputs & Structures

The CSO has evolved over the last few years and reacted to changes in demand, needs,

problems and policies which affect the Somali Community in the UK. Although it has successfully supported organisations and individuals for over 10 years, it now becomes

more proactive in its approach, more strategic in what it offers and stronger in its demonstration of its expertise and knowledge.

CSO has become the leading equalities organisation representing the interest of the Somali community.

CSO has undergone major restructuring and changes with the appointment of a Somali

speaking director after 8 years and professionalization of the Board of Trustees. CSO has also its first ever woman Chair and a gender balanced board.

The proposed change to the structure represents a more coherent and coordinated approach to a rapidly changing environment. The use of a 'themed' based model will allow new projects, activities and interventions to be managed strategically and focused on pertinent issues facing the Somali community and Somali organisations in the UK over the next three years.

Four distinct but connected themes will oversee the operational delivery of projects and

activities, reporting directly to the Director, allowing him to manage and lead and be more

visible in the sector. The CSO's Board as result of the Member's Needs Assessment conducted in 2019 and a review of CSO's objectives has identified that the four major strategic themes for the next 3 years are;

- Education;
- Employment;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- and with the overarching theme of Criminal Justice across.

Each theme has a Working subgroup from CSO's members will have a combination of paid staff and volunteers with at least one allocated board member. With this in mind, CSO will endeavor to ensure that each theme has a strategic person from the board allocated to it – this will serve a dual purpose – supporting each theme to function with the vision and mission in mind as well as ensuring that the individual themes are continuously feeding into the organisations planning.

In addition, CSO members will be aligned to specific themes – allowing for a strong

cohort involved and representing each theme. This will give focus for member organisations and a more efficient use of time and capacity. (Each member can be aligned to more than one theme as long as their core work is linked).

Each themed department/subgroup will have three core functions: Policy, Voice and Development.

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

1. Policy: To be able to respond and influence policies at local and national level

including participating in consultations, writing reports and producing briefing papers as well as producing action research.

2. Voice: To be able to express and represent the needs, issues and narrative of

the Somali community and Somali community organisations. To be able to develop a collective voice at various platforms including social media, events, reports, consultations, Government level, mainstream media etc.

3. Development: to develop the skills and capacity of the Somali community

sector. This should be done from two separate but overlapping avenues:

Leadership development and organization development and should be done via

a range of tools, i.e. training, coaching, action learning and mentoring. It is

important to develop both the people and the structures.

Training and workshops should include the standard capacity building topics as there is

continued need for these (Writing better Funding Applications, Monitoring and

evaluation, perfecting pitches, H&S, Safeguarding, governance, strategic planning etc.),

however, there is a gap in areas such as marketing, messaging, social media, networking etc.

Objectives & Activities (Actions):

Objective 1 - Research

Action: produce an annual report, launched at CSO's annual conference. Produce quarterly reports on the thematic priorities that are circulated throughout the membership. Use research evidence in key meetings, boards, and other fora.

Objective 2 – Partnership

Action: to foster an environment of partnership and collaboration, creating opportunities

for people to work together for the good of the Somali community.

Objective 3 – Leadership and professional skills

Action:

1. Organising, amplifying and articulating the collective voice and needs of the Somali Community at Local, Pan-London and National level.
2. Building bridges within the Somali Community and also with the wider BAME communities.
3. Enabling the environment for the development of community leadership, especially women.

Our vision:

To achieve cohesive, integrated and successful Somali communities.

Our mission:

To provide a strong, collective and credible voice for Somali communities in the UK and

to articulate the aspirations and interests of Somali communities.

Our strategic objectives:

Our work is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

- ★ We will provide a local network group that encourages and enables members of the Somali community to participate more effectively with the wider community;
- ★ We will increase or coordinate opportunities for members of the Somali community to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adopt services;
- ★ We will provide education and information to support and enable the Somali community to maximise education opportunities;
- ★ We will raise public awareness of the issues affecting the Somali community and their children, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion;
- ★ We will provide development support, forums, advocacy and general support to better meet the needs of that community.

7. Our achievements & performance

Key Summary Achievements for the year 2024 to 2025:

1. CSO's membership has increased by 20% since the start of the pandemic from 236 across 275 across 15 metropolitan cities.
2. We have continued to deliver Benefits & Social Welfare law to build resilience in community advice services from September 2020.
3. We continue to roll out the UK Wide Somali Community Hub website and APP with increased membership usage.
4. We continued to work with the ONS in relation to the 2021 Census dissemination.

In the post Pandemic years, CSO ambitious program of resilience and capacity building for its membership continues but it has been restrained with funding gaps. This is the picture also for our membership even as it grows

We have also reached out to all our communities across 15 metropolitan areas by having dialogue with them through our working groups. This has resulted in the phenomenal growth in membership.

We are grateful to Trust for London, and the Legal Education Foundation for supporting CSO and the Somali Community in the UK.

CSO's Organisational Reach & Profile

CSO has increased its National and Pan London profile as the leading representative organisation of the Somali Community in the UK. CSO's role in raising awareness of the

issues facing the Somali Community and Somali led CVOs involves participating in the

following:

1. Funder Forums- LCRF, NET/UK Communities, Comic Relief, TNCLF and London Funders. We have invited funders to our workshops. We advise funders about the needs of the Somali community.
2. Race & Equality forums such as Coalition on Race Equality & HEAR, Operation Black Vote
3. Religious Forums- with the Church of England, Board of Deputies, Muslim Council of Britain.
4. Engaging and working with other Infrastructure Organisations such as Power to Change, BAME Funders and SIB Funders

5. Engaging with Government and Local Authorities- DLUHC, Home Office, Dfe, DoH, and GLA through the MRAP and Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, Metropolitan Police through the Somali MET Forum.
6. Working with Research Institutions and Universities on bidding for research funding on issues affecting the Somali Community.
7. CSO worked with the ONS on the design of the online Census 2021 and led in the planning of the media campaign.

Somalis in the UK

The United Kingdom is home to the largest Somali diaspora community in Europe. According to the 2021 Census for England and Wales, 108,921 individuals were born in Somalia. However, when including British-born children and descendants, the total Somali community is significantly larger. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 estimate for the "Somali" ethnic group population in England and Wales was 176,412. Community estimates often suggest a total UK population of Somali heritage ranging between 250,000 and 400,000.

The majority reside in England, with the largest concentration in London. Significant communities are established in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Sheffield, and Cardiff.

Historical Migration Waves The earliest Somali arrivals in the UK were lascars (seamen), merchants, and dock workers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A second small wave came during the Second World War, serving with or supporting the Royal Navy. The most significant wave of migration began in the late 1980s and intensified during the 1990s, driven by the Somali Civil War and subsequent instability, which created a large refugee population. This period forms the foundation of the modern UK Somali community.

Between 1985 and the mid-2000s, Somalia was consistently a top-ten source country for UK asylum applicants. Applications peaked at 7,495 in 1999, reflecting the height of the crisis. While primary asylum-led migration has decreased, family reunion and secondary migration from other European countries continue.

Demographic Profile and Socioeconomic Context: The Somali community represents one of the UK's largest Muslim ethnic minority groups. It comprises British citizens, refugees, asylum seekers, and individuals with other forms of leave to remain.

The 2021 Census provides updated settlement data: 40.3% of the Somalia-born population in England and Wales arrived between 2001-2011, while 31.3% arrived in 2011 or later, indicating continued migration from EU. Only 28.4% arrived before 2001, underscoring the community's relative recentness compared to other migrant groups.

Somali communities continue to face significant socioeconomic challenges. Census 2021 data highlights stark inequalities: the Somali ethnic group has one of the highest rates of economic inactivity due to long-term sickness or disability, and one of the lowest proportions of people in higher managerial or professional occupations. Somali organisations persistently advocate for targeted policy responses to address deep-seated ethnic inequalities in health, housing, employment, and education. They call for improved consideration of social value and culturally competent services in public sector health and social care commissioning.

Sources & Key Data Points:

- Country of Birth (Somalia-born): 108,921 (2021 Census, England & Wales)
- Somali Ethnic Group: 176,412 (ONS 2021 estimate, England & Wales)
- Period of Arrival: 40.3% (2001-2011); 31.3% (2011 onwards); 28.4% (pre-2001) (2021 Census).
- Historical Asylum Peak: 7,495 applications in 1999 (Home Office data).

Based on the 2021 Census data and related socioeconomic reports, here is a breakdown of inner-city wards with major Somali populations, their associated deprivation and unemployment rates, and the key challenges facing the community in the UK.

1. Inner-City Wards with Major Somali Populations, Poverty & Unemployment

The Somali population in the UK is highly urbanised and concentrated in some of the most deprived wards in the country. The following table highlights key wards, using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019)—where 1 is the most deprived decile nationally—and 2021 Census unemployment rates.

City/Region	Key Local Authority (Borough)	Key Wards (with high Somali concentration)	IMD 2019 Rank (Deprivation Decile)	Unemployment Rate* (2021 Census)	Notes
London	London Borough of Brent	Stonebridge , Harlesden, Kensal Green	Most are in Decile 1 (most deprived 10% nationally)	~9-12% (Brent avg. 6.3%)	Brent has the largest Somali-born population in the UK.
	London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Whitechapel , Spitalfields & Banglatown, Bethnal Green	Decile 1	~8-11% (borough avg. 6.0%)	Major hub alongside long-established Bangladeshi community.
	London Borough of Lambeth	Stockwell, Coldharbour	Decile 1	~9-13% (borough avg. 5.9%)	Long-standing Somali community centre around

					Stockwell.
	London Borough of Camden	King's Cross, Regent's Park	Decile 1 & 2	~7-10% (borough avg. 4.9%)	
West Midlands	City of Birmingham	Small Heath, Sparkbrook, Bordesley Green, Aston	Decile 1	~10-14% (city avg. 7.3%)	Birmingham has the second-largest Somali community. Wards are among the UK's most deprived.
South West	City of Bristol	Easton, Lawrence Hill	Decile 1	~9-12% (city avg. 4.8%)	A major Somali port city community with high concentration in these wards.

North West	City of Manchester	Moss Side, Hulme, Cheetham	Decile 1	~10-15% (city avg. 6.9%)	Historic Somali community, facing acute deprivation.
	City of Liverpool	Toxteth, Princes Park	Decile 1	~12-16% (city avg. 7.0%)	

*Note on Unemployment Rates: Ward-specific Somali unemployment data is not published in the Census. The rates above are estimates based on the known fact that unemployment rates for the "Somali" ethnic group are consistently 2-3 times the local authority average. The local authority average is provided for context (Source: ONS, 2021 Census, Employment by ethnic group).

Key Takeaway: The Somali population is overwhelmingly resident in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England, and experiences unemployment rates significantly higher than both the national and local averages.

2. Major Problems Facing Somalis in the UK

The concentration in deprived areas is both a cause and a consequence of interconnected, systemic challenges:

1. Acute Socioeconomic Disadvantage:

- **Employment:** One of the highest unemployment and economic inactivity rates of any ethnic group. Barriers include language skills, non-recognition of foreign qualifications, discrimination, and lack of UK work experience.
- **Poverty & Housing:** Overcrowding in socially-rented accommodation is common. High levels of child poverty and reliance on benefits due to low workforce participation.

- Educational Attainment: While there is a strong aspirational culture, outcomes are mixed. Somali pupils often perform well in primary school but face a significant "attainment gap" at GCSE level, linked to socioeconomic factors, language, and systemic barriers within the education system.

2. Health Inequalities:

- Poor Health Outcomes: Significantly higher rates of mental health issues (linked to trauma, war, and isolation), infant mortality, and diseases like diabetes and vitamin D deficiency.
- Barriers to Access: Difficulty navigating the NHS, cultural stigma around mental health, and a lack of culturally/linguistically appropriate services.

3. Social Integration & Discrimination:

- Racism and Islamophobia: Somalis face dual discrimination based on race and religion, affecting opportunities and social mobility.
- Intergenerational Tensions: A "clash of cultures" between the UK-born generation and older, more traditional parents can lead to conflict, particularly around issues of identity, gender roles, and autonomy.
- Political and Civic Under-representation: Despite the community's size, there is a notable lack of representation in local and national politics, the civil service, and other spheres of influence.

4. Immigration & Legal Precarity:

- Complex Family Reunion: Strict rules make it difficult for families separated by conflict to reunite, causing prolonged distress.
- "No Recourse to Public Funds" (NRPF): Affects many, pushing families into destitution.
- Legacy Asylum Cases: Some face prolonged uncertainty due to complex immigration statuses.

5. Specific Youth Challenges:

- Risk of Exploitation: Concentrated in areas with high gang activity, Somali youth are vulnerable to criminal exploitation (county lines drug networks) and radicalisation.

- Identity Crisis: Navigating a complex identity as Black, Muslim, British, and Somali can be challenging in a context of societal discrimination.

The targeting of Somali communities in the US, UK, and EU is a multifaceted phenomenon, driven by overlapping factors of geopolitics, domestic security policy, racism, and Islamophobia. While the context differs slightly between regions, the outcomes—increased scrutiny, discrimination, and securitization—are strikingly similar.

The targeting across these three regions is complex but interlinked.

1. In the United States

Primary Form of Targeting: National Security & Counterterrorism Framing

- **The "Shabab Narrative":** The primary lens through which Somali-Americans are viewed is that of terrorism recruitment and radicalization. Al-Shabaab's recruitment of a small number of Somali-American youths over a decade ago (notably from the Minneapolis-St. Paul "Little Mogadishu" community) created a lasting stigma. This led to the community being disproportionately targeted by FBI surveillance, informant programs, and Joint Terrorism Task Force operations.
- **Material Support Statutes:** Charitable giving (*zakat*), a pillar of Islam, has been criminalized when any funds are suspected of possibly reaching blacklisted organizations. This has created a climate of fear around remittances and humanitarian aid to Somalia, a country heavily reliant on diaspora support.
- **Travel Restrictions & "No-Fly" Lists:** Somali-Americans, including U.S. citizens, have faced disproportionate inclusion on no-fly lists and intense secondary screening at airports. The inclusion of Somalia in various iterations of the Trump-era "Muslim Ban" explicitly targeted Somali immigration and travel.
- **Impact:** This creates a "double bind": as a community, they are criticized for not doing enough to counter extremism, while simultaneously being viewed with such suspicion that cooperation with law enforcement is fraught with fear of entrapment or being implicated.

- **Trump Weaponisation:** Somalis have been demonised and called “Garbage” “Low IQ” and “Stupid” by the current president of the USA. He names Somalia as a failed state and attacks Reps Ilham Omar on regular basis.

2. In the United Kingdom

Primary Form of Targeting: Domestic "Prevent" Duty & Immigration Hostility

- **The "Prevent" Strategy:** The UK's counter-radicalization strategy places a legal duty on public sector workers (teachers, doctors, social workers) to report signs of potential radicalization. Critics argue it disproportionately targets Muslim communities, fostering a climate of suspicion. Somali students and families, due to their religious and ethnic identity and links to a conflict zone, are often subject to this scrutiny, leading to self-censorship and eroding trust in public institutions.
- **Gangs Matrix & Criminalization:** In cities like London, Birmingham, and Manchester, young Somali men are overrepresented in the controversial Gangs Matrix—a police database criticized for being discriminatory and stigmatizing. This frames social problems (like poverty and exclusion) as issues of criminality, leading to disproportionate stop-and-search and police harassment.
- **Hostile Environment & Immigration:** Despite many being refugees or citizens, Somalis face the broader UK "hostile environment" policies. They are subject to stringent document checks, NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds) conditions that cause destitution, and a rhetoric that conflates immigrants with illegal activity.
- **Media Portrayal:** UK media often frames Somalis through tropes of "failed integration," gang violence, and welfare dependency, ignoring the community's resilience and contributions, and reinforcing negative public perception.
- **UK Parliament:** Misleading figures are banded in UK Parliament calling them “welfare” sponges without understanding the historical background of Somalis in the UK.

3. In the European Union

Primary Form of Targeting: Securitization of Migration & Far-Right Populism

- **The "Migration-Security Nexus":** Across the EU, Somali migrants and refugees are caught in a policy framework that explicitly links migration with security threats. Following the 2015 migration crisis and terror attacks in Europe, Somalis are often categorized as a "high-risk" nationality in asylum and security assessments.
- **Politicization by Far-Right & Populist Parties:** In countries like Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, and Italy, Somali communities have become a political flashpoint. Far-right parties use them as examples of "failed multiculturalism," arguing they are unable to integrate and pose a cultural and economic threat. This has fueled policies aimed at limiting immigration, restricting family reunification, and enforcing assimilationist measures (e.g., Denmark's "ghetto laws").
- **Discriminatory Asylum Practices:** Somali asylum seekers often face skepticism and high rejection rates, with authorities sometimes wrongly designating parts of Somalia as "safe" for return. They also face prolonged detention in some member states.
- **Social Exclusion & Violence:** This political climate legitimizes everyday racism and Islamophobia. Somali communities report higher rates of hate crimes, discrimination in housing and employment, and police profiling.

Common Threads & Root Causes

1. **The "Triple Threat" Stereotype:** Somalis are often stereotyped as being simultaneously Refugees/Immigrants (burden), Muslims (security/cultural threat), and Black (racially inferior). This unique intersection makes them a target for multiple, overlapping forms of prejudice and policy.
2. **Geopolitical Shadow:** The persistent state of conflict and instability in Somalia, and the presence of groups like Al-Shabaab, cast a long shadow over diaspora communities, regardless of their individual political views or years of peaceful residence abroad.
3. **Securitization Over Integration:** State approaches frequently prioritize surveillance and security control over policies that address the root causes of marginalization: poverty, unemployment, educational gaps, and housing discrimination.

- 4. Erosion of Trust: The cumulative effect is a profound erosion of trust between Somali communities and state institutions (police, intelligence, schools, social services). This undermines social cohesion and can, perversely, create the very alienation that security services seek to prevent.**

Conclusion

The 2021 Census data solidifies the picture: the UK Somali community is predominantly located in the nation's most deprived urban wards, facing a syndemic of high unemployment, poor health, and educational barriers. Addressing these issues requires targeted, culturally intelligent policies that move beyond generic "BAME" categories to tackle the specific, entrenched disadvantages faced by this resilient yet underserved community.

In conclusion, Somali diaspora communities in the West are not just struggling with socioeconomic integration; they are navigating a pervasive reality of being politicized, securitized, and stigmatized. Their targeting is a bellwether for broader societal tensions around immigration, security, and racial and religious identity in the 21st century.



Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair
Date – 27/01/2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

Year ended 31st March 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Council of Somali Organisations ('the charity') for the year ended 31st March 2025

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the 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 the 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 the charity'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 Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.



Date: 27/01/2026

**Mohammad Gias Uddin, FCCA
R & A Consultancy LTD
Chartered Certified Accountant
30 Roycroft Close, South Woodford, London. E18 1DZ.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including income and expenditure account)
31st March 2025

Incoming / Expenditure Resources	Note	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL Funds 2025	TOTAL Funds 2024
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	8	-	134,624	134,624	166,891
Charitable activities:					
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	9	470	-	470	2,713
Investment Income	10	82	-	82	65
Total Income		552 =====	134,624 =====	135,176 =====	169,669 =====
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising	11	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities:	11	-	133,624	133,624	237,415
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	11	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		- =====	133,624 =====	133,624 =====	237,415 =====
Net Income / (expenditure) & net movement in funds		552	1,000	1,552	(67,746)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		25,679	28,138	53,817	121,563
Total funds carried forward		26,231 =====	29,138 =====	55,369 =====	53,817 =====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains & losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The notes on page 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of financial position
31st March 2025**

FIXED ASSETS	Note		2025		2024
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	19	-	31,668	-	39,584
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and hand		35,945		22,486	
Debtors	16	-		-	
Total Current Assets			35,945		22,486
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	-	(12,244)		(8,253)
Advance Received from Funder within the year	18	-	-	-	-
Net current Assets			23,701		14,233
Total Assets Total assets less current Liabilities			55,369		53,817
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted Funds	21		29,138		28,138
Unrestricted Funds:	21				
General funds			26,231		25,679
Total Funds			55,369 =====		53,817 =====

For the year ending 31st March 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' subject to the small Companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees & authorised for issue on 27/01/2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Signed  _____
Name: Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
	£	£	£
Net cash provided by / (used) operating activities	22	13,459	(54,946)
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	19	-	-
Cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	18	-	(12,000)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	23	13,459	(66,946)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		22,486	89,432
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		35,945 =====	22,486 =====

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31st March 2025

1. General Information

The Charity is a private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales and a registered charity in England & Wales. The address of the registered office is Second Floor, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting policies

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donation are included in incoming resources when they are receivable except when the donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donor's conditions have not been fulfilled, then income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross.

Donated services and facilities

Income from donated services and facilities is included in incoming resources at a valuation, which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual's basis, inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered. Expenditure, which is directly attributable to specific activities, has been included in these cost categories, where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost of generating funds on a basis consistent with the use of these resources. Cost of generating funds includes salaries, direct expenditure and overhead costs of the staff who promote fundraising including events. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purpose as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income & expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemption: - No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub- classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity: it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipts is probable, its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable, entitlement is established.
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor, or the estimated resale value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of those assets as follows:

Furniture & equipment	- 20% reducing balance.
Telephone System	- 33.33% Straight-line Method

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

4. Pensions and other post - retirement benefits

All staff has been offered a pension contribution recognised by HMRC. All staff has opted out so there are no pension assets to administer and there is no other post – retirement benefits funded by the charity.

5. Investment Income

6. None Funds are held in a non-interest-bearing bank account. There are no bank charges associated with the account and trustees believe the achieve value for money in respect to the services provided by the bank.

7. Financial Instruments:

Carrying amount: Debt instruments on the balance sheet represent real and fair value. Financial liabilities on the balance sheet represent real and fair value.

8. Income from donations and legacies

Grants, donations and legacies:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trust for London	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
CIVIC Power Fund	-	1,000	1,000	-
The Legal Education	-	83,624	83,624	75,000
City Bridge Trust	-	-	-	24,000
NHS England Vaccine Contact	-	-	-	17,891
TOTAL	- =====	134,624 =====	134,624 =====	166,891 =====

9. Income from Charitable Activities

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Other Income	-	-	-	103
Consultancy fees	470	-	470	2,610
TOTAL	470 =====	- =====	470 =====	2,713 =====

10. Income from Investments

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	82	-	82	65
Total	82 =====	- =====	82 =====	65 =====

11. Analysis of Expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Direct Charitable expenditure	Governance costs	Support costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
Remuneration/Salary (13)	-	41,202	-	-	41,202	63,766
Tax & Social Service (13)	-	-	-	-	-	14,144
Employers pension (13)	-	2,772	-	-	2,772	5,039
Premises & administration	-	2,303	-	-	2,303	7,036
Project Cost	-	70,963	-	-	70,963	128,256
Training & Org Development	-	1,060	-	-	1,060	1,831
Legal, Accountancy & IE	-	2,704	1,500	3,204	7,408	7,446
Depreciation	-	7,916	-	-	7,916	9,897
	-	128,920	1,500	3,204	133,624	237,415
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Governance Costs	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-	-
Support Costs	-	3,204	-	(3,204)	-	-
Total Expenses	-	133,624	-	-	133,624	237,415
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Support Costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity. Of the total expenditure (2024/2025), £0 was unrestricted and £125,950 was restricted.

12. Independent examination fees

	2025	2024
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,500	1,500
Total	1,500	1,500
	=====	=====

13. Staff Cost

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Remunerations/Salaries & Wages	41,202	63,766
Tax & National Insurance	-	14,144
Pension contributions	2,772	5,039
Total	43,974	82,949
	=====	=====

The average head count of employees during the year was 3 (2024:5). The average number of fulltime equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Number of management and administrative staff	2	4
Number of core service staff	1	1
Total	3	5

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2024: nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

SORP 2015 requires the following statements to be made:

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2024: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

15. Related parties:

There are no related party transactions during the year.

16. Debtors:

	2025	2024
	£	£
NHS England Vaccine	-	-
Total	=====	=====

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	8,744	4,753
Pension Payable	-	-
Accounts & Audit	3,500	3,500
Total	12,244	8,253
	=====	=====

18. Advance Received from The Funder within the year:

	2025	2024
	£	£
City Bridge Trust	-	-
Total	-	-
	=====	=====

19. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Furniture	Telephone & Software	Total
	£	£		£
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	42,779	6,018	9,737	48,637
Charge this period	5,935	835	1,146	7,916
At 31 March 2025	48,714	6,853	10,883	56,553
Net book value				
At 31 March 2025	23,743	3,339	4,586	31,668
At 31 March 2024	29,678	4,174	5,732	39,584

20. Movements in Funds

Funds:	Balance at 1st April 2024	Incoming Unrestricted	Incoming Restricted	Outgoing	Balance at 31st March 2025
	£	£		£	
Restricted Funds:					
Balance brought Forward	28,138	-	-	-	28,138
Trust for London	-	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
The Legal Education	-	-	83,624	(83,624)	-
Total Restricted Funds	28,138	-	133,624	(133,624)	28,138
Unrestricted Fund:					
Brought Forward	25,679	-	-	-	25,679
CIVIC Power Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
General Income/Funds	-	552	-	-	552
Total Unrestricted Fund	25,679	1,552	-	-	27,231
Total Fund Carried Forward	53,817	1,552	133,624	(133,624)	55,369

21. Analysis of net assets between Funds:

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Fund 2025
	£	£	£
Current assets	35,945	-	35,945
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(12,244)	(12,244)
Fixed Assets	-	31,668	31,668
Net Assets	35,945 =====	19,425 =====	55,369 =====

22. Reconciliation of net Income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	9,226	(67,746)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	-	8,104
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(3,683)	(5,201)
Depreciation	7,916	9,897
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	13,459 =====	(54,946) =====

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	22,486	13,459	35,945
Total cash and bank equivalents	22,486	13,459	35,945

24. Company Limited by guarantee

Council for Somali Organisations is a company Limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1154667

Accounts

Company No. 07405401

Charity No. 1154667

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

(A company limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2024

Council of Somali Organisations (CSO)

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Council of Somali Organisations Ltd Directors' and Trustees' Annual Report For the 12 months ending 31st March 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual director's report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ended 31st March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015).
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name Council of Somali Organisations

Charity registration number 1154667

Company registration number 7405401

Registered office 3rd floor, 86-90 Paul St, London EC2A 4NE,

Board of Trustees

The trustees and directors who served during the period were as follows:

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Vice Chair (elected 28th March 2019) (Elected Chair 4th November 2021)

Dr. Fowzia Ahmed Ibrahim (elected 4th November 2021)

Mr. Shakiib Weheliye-Treasurer since 21st November 2019 (elected 12th June 2019)

Ms Mariam Ali Abdulle (elected 16th November 2023)

Miss Fadum Saeed (elected 16th November 2023)

Mrs. Hanna Ali Al Khleifat (elected 28th March 19 resigned 31 March 23)

Company Secretary Mr. Kahiye Alim (Appointed 1st November 2018)

Director Mr. Kahiye Alim

Independent Examiner

R&A CONSULTANCY LTD

Chartered Certified Accountant

**30 Roycroft Close, South Woodford,
London. E18 1DZ.**

Bankers

Barclays Bank
Barclays Retail Banking
London E19PL

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 2010, the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO) is an independent National charity. We were launched to deliver capacity-building support to increase the operational effectiveness of organisations supporting the Somali community.

More broadly, today, we work to:

- ★ Help integrate Somalis Community in the wider UK society;
- ★ Improve their conditions and quality of life;
- ★ Represent their interest and voice(s) when it comes to shaping policy that affects them.

We do this by delivering capacity building support to member voluntary and community organisations, events, by undertaking research and campaign or policy work and through empowerment training for the benefit of the Somali Community in the UK.

THE NEW RESTRUCTURE – 2020 Themes, Objectives, Outputs & Structures

The CSO has evolved over the last few years and reacted to changes in demand, needs, problems and policies which affect the Somali Community in the UK. Although it has successfully supported organisations and individuals for over 10 years, it now becomes more proactive in its approach, more strategic in what it offers and stronger in its demonstration of its expertise and knowledge.

CSO has become the leading equalities organisation representing the interest of the Somali community.

CSO has undergone major restructuring and changes with the appointment of a Somali speaking director after 8 years and professionalization of the Board of Trustees. CSO has also its first ever woman Chair and a gender balanced board.

The proposed change to the structure represents a more coherent and coordinated approach to a rapidly changing environment. The use of a 'themed' based model will allow new projects, activities and interventions to be managed strategically and focused on pertinent issues facing the Somali community and Somali organisations in the UK over the next three years.

Four distinct but connected themes will oversee the operational delivery of projects and activities, reporting directly to the Director, allowing him to manage and lead and be more

visible in the sector. The CSO's Board as result of the Member's Needs Assessment conducted in 2019 and a review of CSO's objectives has identified that the four major strategic themes for the next 3 years are;

- *Education;*
- *Employment;*
- *Health and Wellbeing;*
- *and with the overarching theme of Criminal Justice across.*

Each theme has a Working subgroup from CSO's members will have a combination of paid staff and volunteers with at least one allocated board member.

With this in mind, CSO will endeavor to ensure that each theme has a strategic person from the board allocated to it – this will serve a dual purpose – supporting each theme to function with the vision and mission in mind as well as ensuring that the individual themes are continuously feeding into the organisations planning.

In addition, CSO members will be aligned to specific themes – allowing for a strong cohort involved and representing each theme. This will give focus for member organisations and a more efficient use of time and capacity. (Each member can be aligned to more than one theme as long as their core work is linked).

Each themed department/subgroup will have three core functions: **Policy, Voice and Development.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

1. **Policy:** To be able to respond and influence policies at local and national level including participating in consultations, writing reports and producing briefing papers as well as producing action research.
2. **Voice:** To be able to express and represent the needs, issues and narrative of the Somali community and Somali community organisations. To be able to develop a collective voice at various platforms including social media, events, reports, consultations, Government level, mainstream media etc.
3. **Development:** to develop the skills and capacity of the Somali community sector. This should be done from two separate but overlapping avenues: Leadership development and organization development and should be done via a range of tools, i.e. training, coaching, action learning and mentoring. It is important to develop both the people and the structures.

Training and workshops should include the standard capacity building topics as there is continued need for these (Writing better Funding Applications, Monitoring and evaluation,

perfecting pitches, H&S, Safeguarding, governance, strategic planning etc.), however there is a gap in areas such as marketing, messaging, social media, networking etc.

Objectives & Activities (Actions):

Objective 1 - Research

Action: produce an annual report, launched at CSO's annual conference. Produce quarterly reports on the thematic priorities that are circulated throughout the membership. Use research evidence in key meetings, boards, and other fora.

Objective 2 – Partnership

Action: to foster an environment of partnership and collaboration, creating opportunities for people to work together for the good of the Somali community.

Objective 3 – Leadership and professional skills

Action:

1. Organising, amplifying and articulating the collective voice and needs of the Somali Community at Local, Pan-London and National level.
2. Building bridges within the Somali Community and also with the wider BAME communities.
3. Enabling the environment for the development of community leadership, especially women.

Our vision

To achieve cohesive, integrated and successful Somali communities.

Our mission

To provide a strong, collective and credible voice for Somali communities in the UK and to articulate the aspirations and interests of Somali communities.

Our strategic objectives:

Our work is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

- ★ We will provide a local network group that encourages and enables members of the Somali community to participate more effectively with the wider community;

- ★ We will increase or coordinate opportunities for members of the Somali community to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adopt services;
- ★ We will provide education and information to support and enable the Somali community to maximise education opportunities;
- ★ We will raise public awareness of the issues affecting the Somali community and their children, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion;
- ★ We will provide development support, forums, advocacy and general support to better meet the needs of that community.

Our achievements & performance

Key Summary Achievements for the year 2023 to 2024:

- We continue to increase the membership of CSO which is now 270 plus including 43 Mosques. We have gained 45 new members across 14 metropolitan areas in the UK in the past 12 months.
- The use of our website and a UK Wide Somali Community Hub website continues to grow including the Community App.
- CSO Panel of Bid Writers continues to provide bid writing support to our members on PAYE basis since the end of the Lottery funding.
- Our Working Groups for our members continue to be the backbone of information sharing with our members.
- We now have a broad thematic based programming approach to our work. In the past 12 months we have focused on increasing our capacity building activities with the support and funding from the Legal Education Foundation to support 20 plus Somali CVO in Benefits training, Money & Debt and Housing law in partnership with The Benefits Training Company, Shelter and AdviceUK.
- It is clear the effect of the austerity and underfunding of the Third Sector has had a devastating effect on our membership in that they are in survival mode. This funding gaps has also impacted on CSO with very little funding for tier 2 organisations to support core activities.

- The period 2023/2024 has demonstrated with the result of the Needs Assessment that there is still a long way to go in building the capacity of Somali led VCO's.
- CSO continues to increase its National and Pan London profile as the leading representative organisation of the Somali Community in the UK. CSO's role in raising awareness of the issues facing the Somali Community and Somali led CVOs involves participating in the following:
 1. Funder Forums- LCRF, NET/UK Communities, Comic Relief, TNCLF and London Funders. We have invited funders to our workshops.
 2. Race & Equality forums such as Coalition on Race Equality & HEAR.
 3. Religious Forums- with the Church of England, Board of Deputies, Muslim Council of Britain. CSO has a board seat on the MCB.
 4. Engaging and working with other Infrastructure Organisations such as Power to Change, BAME Funders and SIB Funders.
 5. Engaging with Government and Local Authorities- DCMS, Dfe, DoH, and GLA through the MRAP and Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, Metropolitan Police through the Somali MET Forum.
 6. Working with Research Institutions and Universities on bidding for research funding on issues affecting the Somali Community.
 7. We helped member CVOs to develop professional networks, partnerships and collaborations, share resources, and to learn from other's success stories and challenges.
 8. We continued to work with the ONS on the dissemination of the Census 2021. CSO holds regular online briefings with the ONS on the data outcomes of the Census 2021.
 9. We continue to engage with the Refugee Council led RCO Forum which started in 2019. Our Director is the elected chair of the Forum once again.

We are grateful to Trust for London, The Legal Education Foundation and NHS England for supporting CSO and the Somali Community in the UK.

Somalis in the UK

The [United Kingdom](#) (UK) is home to the largest [Somali](#) community in [Europe](#), with an estimated 98,000 Somali-born [immigrants](#) residing in the UK in 2016 according to the [Office for National Statistics](#). The majority of these live in [England](#), with the largest number found in London. Smaller Somali communities exist in [Birmingham](#), [Bristol](#), [Manchester](#), [Liverpool](#), [Leicester](#), [Milton Keynes](#), [Sheffield](#) and [Cardiff](#).

The earliest Somali immigrants in the UK were [lascars](#), seamen and merchants who arrived in the 19th century. A second small group of seamen came during the [Second World War](#) with the [Royal Navy](#), and stayed in search of employment. During the 1980s and 1990s, the [civil war](#) in Somalia led to a large number of Somali immigrants, comprising the majority of the current Somali population in the UK.

Between 1985 and the end of 2006, Somalia was consistently one of the top ten asylum applicant producing countries in the UK.¹⁰ Asylum applications by Somalis to the UK rising from 305 in 1988 to a peak of 7,495 in 1999 and then dropping to 1,845 in 2006. The Somali community represents one of the largest [Muslim groups in the UK](#). The Somali community in the UK includes [British citizens](#), [refugees](#), [asylum seekers](#), persons granted exceptional leave to remain, [irregular migrants](#), and Somalis who have moved to Britain after being granted refugee status in other European states.

According to the 2011 Census, 36 percent of Somali-born residents of England and Wales arrived in the UK during the 1990s. The majority (57 per cent) arrived after 2001, with around 25 per cent arriving between 2001 and 2003.

There is an estimate of 463,000 Somalis in the United Kingdom (ONS, 2019). Somali communities in the UK are facing significant equalities challenges. Somali organisations have called on authorities for responses on how to address ethnic health inequalities experienced by these communities and for improved consideration of social value in public sector health and social care commissioning.

Services to the public

The Council of Somali Organisations provides benefit by improving the lives of the public through our support of community organisations across the UK, through training, mentoring, advice and guidance for staff, volunteers and trustees and through promoting equality, social justice and inclusion of the communities that we serve.

Almost all of our member VCOs provide front line services to the public, and in particular to members of the Somali community, so as to address disadvantage, inequality, social injustice and poverty. Our events, advocacy and seminars dealt with a number of public issues including cohesion, mental health and wellbeing, crime, drugs and substance misuse, welfare benefits, housing, immigration, refugee support, radicalisation and prevent agenda (government anti-terrorism programme). In addition to capacity building and research activities, CSO works to influence policy and to do this effectively we represent the voice and interest of the Somali community at a number of forums including the Mayor of London's Migrant and Refugee Forum.

In addition, we deliver roundtable discussions and forums on social and economic issues as they impact on Somali communities. The information gathered, together with the evidence from our research activities, is used to inform decision-making impacting the development of the Somali community in England. Some events delivered by CSO and also in partnership with other second tier organisations for example Islington Refugee Forum, Black Training Enterprise Group, and Evelyn Oldfield Unit.

Public benefit statement

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered S.17 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PD2)'. The achievements and activities above demonstrate the public benefit arising from the charity's activities.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Council of Somali Organisation is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks including maintaining a risk register, which is reviewed annually.

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair



Date – 20/12/2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Council of Somali
Organisations Ltd
Year ended 31st March 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Council of Somali Organisations ('the charity') for the year ended 31st March 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the 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 the 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 the charity'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 Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice

for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.



Date: 20/12/2024

**Mohammad Gias Uddin, FCCA
R & A Consultancy LTD
Chartered Certified Accountant
30 Roycroft Close, South Woodford, London. E18 1DZ.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including income and expenditure account)
31st March 2024

Incoming / Expenditure Resources	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL Funds 2024	TOTAL Funds 2023
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	8	-	166,891	166,891	377,784
Charitable activities:					
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	9	2,713	-	2,713	6,420
Investment Income	10	65	-	65	17
Total Income		2,778 =====	166,891 =====	169,669 =====	384,221 =====
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising	11	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities:	11	-	237,415	237,415	366,020
Total expenditure		- =====	237,415 =====	237,415 =====	366,020 =====
Net Income / (expenditure) & net movement in funds		2,778	(70,524)	(67,746)	18,201
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		22,901	98,662	121,563	103,362
Total funds carried forward		25,679 =====	28,138 =====	53,817 =====	121,563 =====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains & losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The notes on page 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.


Council of Somali Organisations Ltd					
Company Limited by Guarantee					
Statement of financial position					
31st March 2024					
FIXED ASSETS	Note		2023		2022
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	19	-	39,584	-	49,481
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and hand		22,486		89,432	
Debtors	16	-		8,104	
Total Current Assets			22,486		97,536
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(8,253)	(8,253)	(13,454)	
Advance Received from Funder within the year	18	-	-	(12,000)	(25,454)
Net current Assets			14,233		72,082
Total Assets Total assets less current Liabilities			53,817		121,563
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted Funds	21		28,138		98,662
Unrestricted Funds:	21				
General funds			25,679		22,901
Total Funds			53,817		121,563
			=====		=====

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' subject to the small Companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees & authorised for issue on 20/12/2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Signed  _____
Name: Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
	£	£	£
Net cash provided by / (used) operating activities	22	(54,946)	25,635
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	19	-	-
Cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	18	(12,000)	(21,750)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	23	(66,946)	3,885
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		89,432	85,547
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		22,486 =====	89,432 =====

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31st March 2024

1. General Information

The Charity is a private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales and a registered charity in England & Wales. The address of the registered office is Second Floor, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting policies

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donation are included in incoming resources when they are receivable except when the donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donor's conditions have not been fulfilled, then income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross.

Donated services and facilities

Income from donated services and facilities is included in incoming resources at a valuation, which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual's basis, inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure, which is directly attributable to specific activities, has been included in these cost categories, where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost of generating funds on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

Cost of generating funds includes salaries, direct expenditure and overhead costs of the staff who promote fundraising including events.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purpose as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income & expenditure. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemption: - No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity: it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipts is probable, its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable, entitlement is established.
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor, or the estimated resale value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned it unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of those assets as follows:

Furniture & equipment	- 20% reducing balance.
Telephone System	- 33.33% Straight-line Method

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are

recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

4. Pensions and other post - retirement benefits

All staff has been offered a pension contribution recognised by HMRC. All staff has opted out so there are no pension assets to administer and there is no other post – retirement benefits funded by the charity.

5. Investment Income

6. None Funds are held in a non-interest-bearing bank account. There are no bank charges associated with the account and trustees believe the achieve value for money in respect to the services provided by the bank.

7. Financial Instruments:

Carrying amount: Debt instruments on the balance sheet represent real and fair value. Financial liabilities on the balance sheet represent real and fair value.

8. Income from donations and legacies

Grants, donations and legacies:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trust for London	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trust for London Living cost	-	-	-	2,500
Macmillan Charity	-	-	-	5,980
B-Ham City Council	-	-	-	4,000
The Legal Education	-	75,000	75,000	-
Mayor's Office-MPS	-			27,000
City Bridge Trust	-	24,000	24,000	48,000
National Lottery (TNCLF)	-			217,500
City Bridge Trust- Cost of Living	-	-	-	4,800
NHS England Vaccine Contact	-	17,891	17,891	8,104
NHS England Vaccine Grant	-	-	-	9,900
TOTAL	- =====	166,891 =====	166,891 =====	377,784 =====

9. Income from Charitable Activities

	Un- restricted	Restrict ed	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Other Income	103	-	103	800
Consultancy fees	2,610	-	2,610	3,600
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	1,520
British Refugee council	-	-	-	500
TOTAL	2,713 =====	- =====	2,713 =====	6,420 =====

10. Income from Investments

	Un- restricted	Restrict ed	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	65	-	65	17
Total	65 =====	- =====	65 =====	17 =====

11. Analysis of Expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Direct Charitable expenditure	Governance costs	Support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
Remuneration/Salary (13)	-	63,766	-	-	63,766	127,836
Tax & Social Service (13)	-	14,144	-	-	14,144	48,247
Employers pension (13)	-	5,039	-	-	5,039	13,858
Premises & administration	-	7,036	-	-	7,036	17,725
Project Cost	-	128,256	-	-	128,256	128,114
Training & Org Development	-	1,831	-	-	1,831	2,233
Legal, Accountancy & IE	-	2,742	1,500	3,204	7,446	15,636
Depreciation	-	9,897	-	-	9,897	12,371
	-	232,711	1,500	3,204	237,415	366,020
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Governance Costs	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-	-
Support Costs	-	3,204	-	(3,204)	-	-
Total Expenses	-	237,415	-	-	237,415	366,020
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Support Costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity. Of the total expenditure (2023/20224), £0 was unrestricted and £237,415 was restricted.

12. Independent examination fees

	2024	2023
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,500	1,500
Total	1,500	1,500
	=====	=====

13. Staff Cost

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Remunerations/Salaries & Wages	63,766	127,836
Tax & National Insurance	14,144	48,247
Pension contributions	5,039	13,858
Total	82,949 =====	189,941 =====

The average head count of employees during the year was 5 (2023:8). The average number of fulltime equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Number of management and administrative staff	4	6
Number of core service staff	1	2
Total	5	8

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023: nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

SORP 2015 requires the following statements to be made:

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

15. Related parties:

There are no related party transactions during the year.

16. Debtors:

	2024	2023
	£	£
NHS England Vaccine	-	8,104
Total	- =====	8,104 =====

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	4,753	8,271
Pension Payable	-	1,683
Accounts & Audit	3,500	3,500
Total	8,253 =====	13,454 =====

18. Advance Received from The Funder within the year:

	2024	2023
	£	£
City Bridge Trust	-	12,000
Total	- =====	12,000 =====

19. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Furniture	Telephone & Software	Total
	£	£		£
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	35,359	4,974	8,304	48,637
Charge this period	7,420	1,044	1,433	9,897
At 31 March 2024	35,359	4,974	8,304	48,637
Net book value				
At 31 March 2024	29,678	4,174	5,732	39,584
At 31 March 2023	37,098	5,218	7,165	49,481

20. Movements in Funds

Funds:	Balance at 1st April 2023	Incoming Unrestricted	Incoming Restricted	Outgoing	Balance at 31st March 2023
Restricted Funds:	£	£		£	
Balance brought Forward	98,662	-	-	(70,524)	28,138
Trust for London	-	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
The Legal Education			75,000	(75,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	-	-	24,000	(24,000)	-
NHS VACCINE - Contract	-	-	17,891	(17,891)	-
Total Restricted Funds	98,662 -----	- -----	166,891 -----	(237,415) -----	28,138 -----
Unrestricted Fund:					
Brought Forward	22,901				22,901
General Income/Funds	-	2,778	-	-	2,778
Total Unrestricted Fund	22,901 -----	2,778 -----	-	- -----	25,679 -----
Total Fund Carried Forward	121,563 =====	2,778 =====	166,891 =====	(237,415) =====	53,817 =====
	=				=

21. Analysis of net assets between Funds:

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Fund 2024
	£	£	£
Current assets	22,486	-	22,486
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(8,253)	(8,253)
Fixed Assets	3,193	36,391	39,584
Net Assets	25,679 =====	28,138 =====	53,817 =====

22. Reconciliation of net Income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(67,746)	18,201
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	8,104	(8,104)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(5,201)	3,167
Depreciation	9,897	12,371
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	(54,946) =====	25,635 =====

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	89,432	(66,946)	22,486
Total cash and bank equivalents	89,432	(66,946)	22,486

24. Company Limited by guarantee

Council for Somali Organisations is a company Limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1154667

Accounts



Company No. 07405401

Charity No. 1154667

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
(A company limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2023



Council of Somali Organisations (CSO)

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Council of Somali Organisations Ltd Directors' and Trustees'
Annual Report For the 12 months ending 31st March 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual director's report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ended 31st March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Council of Somali Organisations Charity registration number 1154667
Company registration number	7405401
Registered office	10 Manor Gardens London N7 6LS

Board of Trustees

The trustees and directors who served during the period were as follows:

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Vice Chair (elected 28th March 2019) (Elected Chair 4th November 2021)

Dr. Fowzia Ahmed Ibrahim (elected 4th November 2021)

Mr. Shakiib Weheliye-Treasurer since 21st November 2019 (elected 12th June 2019)

Dr. Idil Osman-Chair (elected 12th June 2019) (resigned 4th November 2021)

Mrs. Hanna Ali Al Khleifat (elected 28th March 2019) (Resigned 31 March 2023)

Company Secretary Director	Mr. Kahiye Alim (Appointed 1 st November 2018) Mr. Kahiye Alim
---------------------------------------	--

Independent Examiner	R&A CONSULTANCY LTD Chartered Certified Accountant 30 Roycroft Close, South Woodford,
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Bankers

London. E18 1DZ.

Barclays Bank

Barclays Retail Banking

London E19PL

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 2010, the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO) is an independent National charity. We were launched to deliver capacity-building support to increase the operational effectiveness of organisations supporting the Somali community.

More broadly, today, we work to:

- ★ Help integrate Somalis Community in the wider UK society;
- ★ Improve their conditions and quality of life;
- ★ Represent their interest and voice(s) when it comes to shaping policy that affects them.

We do this by delivering capacity building support to member voluntary and community organisations, events, by undertaking research and campaign or policy work and through empowerment training for the benefit of the Somali Community in the UK.

THE NEW RESTRUCTURE – 2020 Themes, Objectives, Outputs & Structures

The CSO has evolved over the last few years and reacted to changes in demand, needs, problems and policies which affect the Somali Community in the UK. Although it has successfully supported organisations and individuals for over 10 years, it now becomes more proactive in its approach, more strategic in what it offers and stronger in its demonstration of its expertise and knowledge.

CSO has become the leading equalities organisation representing the interest of the Somali community.

CSO has undergone major restructuring and changes with the appointment of a Somali speaking director after 8 years and professionalization of the Board of Trustees. CSO has also its first ever woman Chair and a gender balanced board.

The proposed change to the structure represents a more coherent and coordinated approach to a rapidly changing environment. The use of a 'themed' based model will allow new projects, activities and interventions to be managed strategically and focused on pertinent issues facing the Somali community and Somali organisations in the UK over the next three years.

Four distinct but connected themes will oversee the operational delivery of projects and activities, reporting directly to the Director, allowing him to manage and lead and be more visible in the sector. The CSO's Board as result of the Member's Needs Assessment conducted in 2019 and a review of CSO's objectives has identified that the four major strategic themes for the next 3 years are;

- *Education;*
- *Employment;*
- *Health and Wellbeing;*
- *and with the overarching theme of Criminal Justice across.*



Each theme has a Working subgroup from CSO's members will have a combination of paid staff and volunteers with at least one allocated board member.

With this in mind, CSO will endeavor to ensure that each theme has a strategic person from the board allocated to it – this will serve a dual purpose – supporting each theme to function with the vision and mission in mind as well as ensuring that the individual themes are continuously feeding into the organisations planning.

In addition, CSO members will be aligned to specific themes – allowing for a strong cohort involved and representing each theme. This will give focus for member organisations and a more efficient use of time and capacity. (Each member can be aligned to more than one theme as long as their core work is linked).

Each themed department/subgroup will have three core functions: **Policy, Voice and Development.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

1. **Policy:** To be able to respond and influence policies at local and national level including participating in consultations, writing reports and producing briefing papers as well as producing action research.
2. **Voice:** To be able to express and represent the needs, issues and narrative of the Somali community and Somali community organisations. To be able to develop a collective voice at various platforms including social media, events, reports, consultations, Government level, mainstream media etc.
3. **Development:** to develop the skills and capacity of the Somali community sector. This should be done from two separate but overlapping avenues: Leadership development and organization development and should be done via a range of tools, i.e. training, coaching, action learning and mentoring. It is important to develop both the people and the structures.

Training and workshops should include the standard capacity building topics as there is continued need for these (Writing better Funding Applications, Monitoring and evaluation, perfecting pitches, H&S, Safeguarding, governance, strategic planning etc.), however there is a gap in areas such as marketing, messaging, social media, networking etc.

Objectives & Activities (Actions):

Objective 1 - Research

Action: produce an annual report, launched at CSO's annual conference. Produce quarterly reports on the thematic priorities that are circulated throughout the membership. Use research evidence in key meetings, boards, and other fora.

Objective 2 – Partnership

Action: to foster an environment of partnership and collaboration, creating

opportunities for people to work together for the good of the Somali community.

Objective 3 – Leadership and professional skills

Action:

1. Organising, amplifying and articulating the collective voice and needs of the Somali Community at Local, Pan-London and National level.
2. Building bridges within the Somali Community and also with the wider BAME communities.
3. Enabling the environment for the development of community leadership, especially women.

Our vision

To achieve cohesive, integrated and successful Somali communities.

Our mission

To provide a strong, collective and credible voice for Somali communities in the UK and to articulate the aspirations and interests of Somali communities.

Our strategic objectives:

Our work is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

- ★ We will provide a local network group that encourages and enables members of the Somali community to participate more effectively with the wider community;
- ★ We will increase or coordinate opportunities for members of the Somali community to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adopt services;
- ★ We will provide education and information to support and enable the Somali community to maximise education opportunities;
- ★ We will raise public awareness of the issues affecting the Somali community and their children, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion;
- ★ We will provide development support, forums, advocacy and general support to better meet the needs of that community.



Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. G. Uddin', is positioned to the left of the date.

Date: 07/12/2023

**Mohammad Gias Uddin, FCCA
R & A Consultancy LTD
Chartered Certified Accountant
30 Roycroft Close, South Woodford, London. E18 1DZ.**

Our achievements & performance

Key Summary Achievements for the year 2022 to 2023:

- 1. CSO's partnership network has increased substantially along our reputation as honest brokers to the Somali community and connecting our members with external partners.**
- 2. CSO's membership has increased by 165% since the start of the pandemic from 110 to 236 across 14 metropolitan cities.**
- 3. We have continued to deliver the Resilience Training to another 17 Somali led CVO's including 2 Somali led Mosques in Money & Debt. We have trained 51 Advisors in Money & Debt and 19 on FCA regulations. We had top up training for another 11 due the assessment process to increase their knowledge base.**
- 4. We have continued to produce videos about health and well being for the Somali Community in the UK. We have partnered with Afro Caribbean Diabetes Health Foundation to produce 5 Somali led videos explaining how to deal with Diabetes.**
- 5. We have for the first time partnered with NHS England in relation to raising Covid vaccination. We delivered 6 workshops in London, Bristol and Leicester.**
- 6. We have also for the first time partnered with Macmillan Cancer to do 3 focus group workshops in order to produce understanding of the Somali Community on the KPI's around cancer.**
- 7. We continued to work with the ONS in relation to the 2021 Census.**
- 8. We have started to attract diverse fundings from new funders such as NHS & Macmillan Cancer, and The Metropolitan Police Service.**
- 9. CSO has been advising funders such as City Bridge Trust, Trust for London, Youth Endowment Fund, The Phoenix Way and became a IVAR Peer Reviewer.**
- 10. Our Director continues to be elected as Chair of the London Refugee Advocacy Forum.**
- 11. CSO has a seat on the Board of Trustees of the Muslim Council of Britain held by our chair.**
- 12. Our Director has been appointed to the Mayor's Equality Diversity and Inclusion Panel.**

In the post Pandemic year, CSO has continued its ambitious program of resilience and capacity building for its membership. We were funded by the National Lottery to assist with the creation of 16 MOney & Debt centres. This funding has assisted us to continue our broad range of work representing the Somali community and supporting our



members who continue to increase. It has helped us to continue our influencing and policy work engaging with different stakeholders.

We are grateful to TNLCF, Trust for London, and City Bridge Trust for supporting CSO and the Somali Community in the UK.

CSO's Organisational Reach & Profile

CSO has increased its National and Pan London profile as the leading representative organisation of the Somali Community in the UK. CSO's role in raising awareness of the issues facing the Somali Community and Somali led CVOs involves participating in the following:

1. Funder Forums- LCRF, NET/UK Communities, Comic Relief, TNCLF and London Funders. We have invited funders to our workshops. We advise funders about the needs of the Somali community.
2. Race & Equality forums such as Coalition on Race Equality & HEAR, Operation Black Vote
3. Religious Forums- with the Church of England, Board of Deputies, Muslim Council of Britain.
4. Engaging and working with other Infrastructure Organisations such as Power to Change, BAME Funders and SIB Funders
5. Engaging with Government and Local Authorities- DLUHC, Home Office, Dfe, DoH, and GLA through the MRAP and Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, Metropolitan Police through the Somali MET Forum.
6. Working with Research Institutions and Universities on bidding for research funding on issues affecting the Somali Community.
7. CSO continues to work with the ONS on the Census 2021 outcomes.

Somalis in the UK

The United Kingdom (UK) is home to the largest Somali community in Europe, with an estimated 98,000 Somali-born immigrants residing in the UK in 2016 according to the Office for National Statistics. The majority of these live in England, with the largest number found in London. Smaller Somali communities exist in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Sheffield and Cardiff.

The earliest Somali immigrants in the UK were lascars, seamen and merchants who arrived in the 19th century. A second small group of seamen came during the Second World War with the Royal Navy, and stayed in search of employment. During the 1980s and 1990s, the civil war in Somalia led to a large number of Somali immigrants, comprising the majority of the current Somali population in the UK.

Between 1985 and the end of 2006, Somalia was consistently one of the top ten asylum applicant producing countries in the UK.¹⁰ Asylum applications by Somalis to

the UK rising from 305 in 1988 to a peak of 7,495 in 1999 and then dropping to 1,845 in 2006. The Somali community represents one of the largest Muslim groups in the UK. The Somali community in the UK includes British citizens, refugees, asylum seekers, persons granted exceptional leave to remain, irregular migrants, and Somalis who have moved to Britain after being granted refugee status in other European states.

According to the 2011 Census, 36 percent of Somali-born residents of England and Wales arrived in the UK during the 1990s. The majority (57 per cent) arrived after 2001, with around 25 per cent arriving between 2001 and 2003.

There is an estimate of 463,000 Somalis in the United Kingdom (ONS, 2019). Somali communities in the UK are facing significant equalities challenges. Somali organisations have called on authorities for responses on how to address ethnic health inequalities experienced by these communities and for improved consideration of social value in public sector health and social care commissioning.

Services to the public

The Council of Somali Organisations provides benefit by improving the lives of the public through our support of community organisations across the UK, through training, mentoring, advice and guidance for staff, volunteers and trustees and through promoting equality, social justice and inclusion of the communities that we serve.

Almost all of our member VCOs provide front line services to the public, and in particular to members of the Somali community, so as to address disadvantage, inequality, social injustice and poverty. Our events, advocacy and seminars dealt with a number of public issues including cohesion, mental health and wellbeing, crime, drugs and substance misuse, welfare benefits, housing, immigration, refugee support, radicalisation and prevent agenda (government anti-terrorism programme). In addition to capacity building and research activities, CSO works to influence policy and to do this effectively we represent the voice and interest of the Somali community at a number of forums including the Mayor of London's Migrant and Refugee Forum.

In addition, we deliver roundtable discussions and forums on social and economic issues as they impact on Somali communities. The information gathered, together with the evidence from our research activities, is used to inform decision-making impacting the development of the Somali community in England. Some events delivered by CSO and also in partnership with other second tier organisations for example Islington Refugee Forum, Black Training Enterprise Group, and Evelyn Oldfield Unit.

Public benefit statement

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered S.17 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PD2). The achievements and activities above demonstrate the public benefit arising from the charity's activities.



Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Council of Somali Organisation is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks including maintaining a risk register, which is reviewed annually.

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair

Date - 07/12/2023

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Council of Somali
Organisations Ltd
Year ended 31st March 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Council of Somali Organisations ('the charity') for the year ended 31st March 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the 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 the 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 the charity'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 Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including income and expenditure account)
31st March 2023

Incoming / Expenditure Resources	Note	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL Funds 2023	TOTAL Funds 2022
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	8	7,300	370,484	377,784	295,671
Charitable activities:					
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	9	6,420	-	6,420	16,725
Investment Income	10	17	-	17	-
Total Income		13,737 =====	370,484 =====	384,221 =====	312,396 =====
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising	11	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities:	11	-	366,020	366,020	265,204
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	11	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		- =====	366,020 =====	366,020 =====	265,204 =====
Net Income / (expenditure) & net movement in funds		13,737 =====	4,464 =====	18,201 =====	47,192 =====
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		14,164 =====	89,198 =====	103,362 =====	56,170 =====
Total funds carried forward		27,901 =====	93,662 =====	121,563 =====	103,362 =====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains & losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The notes on page 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.



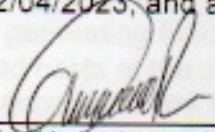
31 st March 2023					
FIXED ASSETS	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	19	-	49,481	-	61,852
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and hand		89,432		85,547	
Debtors	16	8,104		-	
Total Current Assets			97,536		85,547
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(13,454)		(10,287)	
Advance Received from Funder within the year	18	(12,000)	(25,454)	(33,750)	(44,037)
Net current Assets			72,082		41,510
Total Assets					
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted Funds	21		93,662		89,198
Unrestricted Funds:	21				
General funds			27,901		14,164
Total Funds			121,563		103,362
			=====		=====

For the year ending 31st March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' subject to the small Companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees & authorised for issue on 12/04/2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Signed 
Name: Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of cash flows For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Net cash provided by / (used) operating activities	22	25,635	74,893
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	19	-	(9,360)
Cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	18	(21,750)	(132,171)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	23	3,885	(66,638)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		85,547	152,185
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		89,432 =====	85,547 =====

**Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31st March 2023**

1. General Information

The Charity is a private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales and a registered charity in England & Wales. The address of the registered office is Second Floor, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting policies

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donation are included in incoming resources when they are receivable except when the donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donor's conditions have not been fulfilled, then income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross.

Donated services and facilities

Income from donated services and facilities is included in incoming resources at a valuation, which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual's basis, inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered. Expenditure, which is directly attributable to specific activities, has been included in these cost categories, where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost of generating funds on a basis consistent with the use of these resources. Cost of generating funds includes salaries, direct expenditure and overhead costs of the staff who promote fundraising including events. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purpose as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income & expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemption: - No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub- classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity: it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipts is probable, its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable, entitlement is established.
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor, or the estimated resale value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of those assets as follows:

Furniture & equipment	- 20% reducing balance.
Telephone System	- 33.33% Straight-line Method

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

4. Pensions and other post - retirement benefits

All staff has been offered a pension contribution recognised by HMRC. All staff has opted out so there are no pension assets to administer and there is no other post – retirement benefits funded by the charity.

5. Investment Income

6. None Funds are held in a non-interest-bearing bank account. There are no bank charges associated with the account and trustees believe the achieve value for money in respect to the services provided by the bank.

7. Financial Instruments:

Carrying amount: Debt instruments on the balance sheet represent real and fair value. Financial liabilities on the balance sheet represent real and fair value.

8. Income from donations and legacies

Grants, donations and legacies:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Trust for London	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trust for London Living cost	2,500	-	2,500	
Macmillan Charity	-	5,980	5,980	-
B-Ham City Council	-	4,000	4,000	-
National Lottery (Partnership & Debt Hub)	-	-	-	43,500
BBC CIN	-	-	-	4,934
People Postcode	-	-	-	9,940
Mayor's Office- MPS	-	27,000	27,000	-
City Bridge Trust	-	48,000	48,000	44,417
National Lottery (TNCLF)	-	217,500	217,500	131,296
UK Community Foundation	-	-	-	6,584
London Community Foundation (wave 4)	-	-	-	5,000
City Bridge Trust- Cost of Living	4,800	-	4,800	-
NHS England Vaccine Contact	-	8,104	8,104	
NHS England Vaccine Grant	-	9,900	9,900	-
TOTAL	7,300 =====	370,484 =====	377,784 =====	295,671 =====

9. Income from Charitable Activities

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Other Income	800	-	800	15,225
Consultancy fees	3,600	-	3,600	-
Consultancy fees	1,520	-	1,520	-
The Ubele Initiative	-	-	-	1,000
British Refugee council	500	-	500	500
TOTAL	6,420 =====	- =====	6,420 =====	16,725 =====

10. Income from Investments

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	17	-	17	-
Total	17 =====	- =====	17 =====	- =====

11. Analysis of Expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Direct Charitable expenditure	Governance costs	Support costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
Remuneration/Salary (13)	-	127,836	-	-	127,836	113,909
Tax & Social Service (13)	-	48,247	-	-	48,247	41,167
Employers pension (13)	-	13,858	-	-	13,858	12,666
Premises & administration	-	17,725	-	-	17,725	19,443
Project Cost	-	128,114	-	-	128,114	45,883
Training & Org Development	-	2,233	-	-	2,233	3,452
Legal, Accountancy & IE	-	-	6,830	8,806	15,636	10,983
Depreciation	-	12,371	-	-	12,371	17,701
	-	350,384	6,830	8,806	366,020	265,204
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Governance Costs	-	6,830	(6,830)	-	-	-
Support Costs	-	8,806	-	(8,806)	-	-
Total Expenses	-	366,020	-	-	366,020	265,204
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Support Costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity. Of the total expenditure (2022/20223, £880 was unrestricted and £362,336 was restricted.

12. Independent examination fees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the Independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,500	1,500
Total	1,500 =====	1,500 =====

13. Staff Cost

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Remunerations/Salaries & Wages	127,836	113,909
Tax & National Insurance	48,247	41,166
Pension contributions	13,858	12,666
Total	189,941	167,741
	=====	=====

The average headcount of employees during the year was 8 (2020:3). The average number of full time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Number of management and administrative staff	6	6
Number of core service staff	2	2
Total	8	8

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023: nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

SORP 2015 requires the following statements to be made:

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

15. Related parties:

There are no related party transactions during the year.

16. Debtors:

	2023	2022
	£	£
NHS England Vaccine	8,104	-
	8,104	-
Total	8,104	-
	=====	=====

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£

Trade Creditors	8,271	6,787
Pension Payable	1,683	-
Accounts & Audit	3,500	3,500
Total	13,454	10,287
	=====	=====

18. Advance Received from The Funder within the year:

	2023	2022
	£	£
City Bridge Trust	12,000	12,000
National Lottery (Partnership & Debt Hub)	-	21,750
Total	12,000	33,750
	=====	=====

19. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Furniture	Telephone & Software	Total
	£	£		£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	26,084	3,669	6,513	36,266
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge this period	9,275	1,305	1,791	12,371
At 31 March 2023	35,359	4,974	8,304	48,637
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023	37,098	5,218	7,165	49,481
At 31 March 2022	46,373	6,523	8,956	61,852

20. Movements in Funds

Funds:	Balance at 1st April 2021	Incomin g Unrestri cted	Incomin g Restrict ed	Outgoing	Balance at 31st March 2022
Restricted Funds:	£	£		£	
Balance brought Forward	89,198	-	-	(20,626)	68,572
Trust for London	-	-	50000	(50,000)	-
Trust for London Cost of	-	2,500	-	-	2,500

Living					
City Bridge Trust	-	-	48,000	(41,535)	6,465
City Bridge Trust Cost of Living	-	4,800	-	-	4,800
B-Ham City Council	-	-	4,000	(500)	3,500
National Lottery (TNCLF)	-	-	217,500	(212,500)	5,000
MAYORS OFFICE - MPS	-	-	27,000	(16,875)	10,125
MACMILLAN CHARITY	-	-	5,980	(5,980)	-
NHS VACCINE - Contract	-	-	8,104	(8,104)	-
NHS VACCINE – Fund	-	-	9,900	(9,900)	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	89,198	7,300	370,484	(366,020)	100,962
Unrestricted Fund:					
Brought Forward	14,164				14,164
General Income/Funds	-	6,437	-	-	6,437
Total Unrestricted Fund	14,164	6,437	-	-	20,601
Total Fund Carried Forward	103,362	13,737	370,484	(366,020)	121,563

21. Analysis of net assets between Funds:

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Fund 2022
	£	£	£
Current assets	30,088	67,448	97,536
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(13,454)	(13,454)
Fixed Assets	-	49,481	49,481
Advance Received from the Funder	-	(12,000)	(12,000)
Net Assets	30,088	91,475	121,563

22. Reconciliation of net Income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	18,201	47,192
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(8,104)	10,600

Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,167	(600)
Depreciation	12,371	17,701
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	25,635 =====	74,893 =====

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	85,547	3,885	89,432
Total cash and bank equivalents	85,547	3,885	89,432

24. Company Limited by guarantee

Council for Somali Organisations is a company Limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1154667

Accounts



Company No. 07405401

Charity No. 1154667

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

(A company limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2022



Council of Somali Organisations (CSO)

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Council of Somali Organisations Ltd Directors' and Trustees' Annual Report For the 12 months ending 31st March 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual director's report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ended 31st March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name Council of Somali Organisations
Charity registration number 1154667

Company registration number 7405401

Registered office 10 Manor Gardens
London N7 6LS

Board of Trustees

The trustees and directors who served during the period were as follows:

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Vice Chair (elected 28th March 2019) (Elected Chair 4th November 2021)

Dr. Fowzia Ahmed Ibrahim (elected 4th November 2021)

Mrs. Hanna Ali Al Khleifat (elected 28th March 2019)

Mr. Shakiib Weheliye-Treasurer since 21st November 2019 (elected 12th June 2019)

Dr. Idil Osman-Chair (elected 12th June 2019) (resigned 4th November 2021)

Company Secretary Mr. Kahiye Alim (Appointed 1st November 2018)
Director Mr. Kahiye Alim

Independent Examiner **BK COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANT LTD**
Chartered Certified Accountant
Arches 420-421 Burdett Road,
London. E3 4AA.

Bankers Barclays Bank
Barclays Retail Banking
London E19PL

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 2010, the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO) is an independent National charity. We were launched to deliver capacity-building support to increase the operational effectiveness of organisations supporting the Somali community.

More broadly, today, we work to:

- ★ Help integrate Somalis Community in the wider UK society;
- ★ Improve their conditions and quality of life;
- ★ Represent their interest and voice(s) when it comes to shaping policy that affects them.

We do this by delivering capacity building support to member voluntary and community organisations, events, by undertaking research and campaign or policy work and through empowerment training for the benefit of the Somali Community in the UK.

THE NEW RESTRUCTURE – 2020 Themes, Objectives, Outputs & Structures

The CSO has evolved over the last few years and reacted to changes in demand, needs, problems and policies which affect the Somali Community in the UK. Although it has successfully supported organisations and individuals for over 10 years, it now becomes more proactive in its approach, more strategic in what it offers and stronger in its demonstration of its expertise and knowledge.

CSO has become the leading equalities organisation representing the interest of the Somali community.

CSO has undergone major restructuring and changes with the appointment of a Somali speaking director after 8 years and professionalization of the Board of Trustees. CSO has also its first ever woman Chair and a gender balanced board.

The proposed change to the structure represents a more coherent and coordinated approach to a rapidly changing environment. The use of a 'themed' based model will allow new projects, activities and interventions to be managed strategically and focused on pertinent issues facing the Somali community and Somali organisations in the UK over the next three years.

Four distinct but connected themes will oversee the operational delivery of projects and activities, reporting directly to the Director, allowing him to manage and lead and be more visible in the sector. The CSO's Board as result of the Member's Needs Assessment conducted in 2019 and a review of CSO's objectives has identified that the four major strategic themes for the next 3 years are;

- *Education;*
- *Employment;*
- *Health and Wellbeing;*
- *and with the overarching theme of Criminal Justice across.*



Each theme has a Working subgroup from CSO's members will have a combination of paid staff and volunteers with at least one allocated board member.

With this in mind, CSO will endeavor to ensure that each theme has a strategic person from the board allocated to it – this will serve a dual purpose – supporting each theme to function with the vision and mission in mind as well as ensuring that the individual themes are continuously feeding into the organisations planning.

In addition, CSO members will be aligned to specific themes – allowing for a strong cohort involved and representing each theme. This will give focus for member organisations and a more efficient use of time and capacity. (Each member can be aligned to more than one theme as long as their core work is linked).

Each themed department/subgroup will have three core functions: **Policy, Voice and Development.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

1. **Policy:** To be able to respond and influence policies at local and national level including participating in consultations, writing reports and producing briefing papers as well as producing action research.
2. **Voice:** To be able to express and represent the needs, issues and narrative of the Somali community and Somali community organisations. To be able to develop a collective voice at various platforms including social media, events, reports, consultations, Government level, mainstream media etc.
3. **Development:** to develop the skills and capacity of the Somali community sector. This should be done from two separate but overlapping avenues: Leadership development and organization development and should be done via a range of tools, i.e. training, coaching, action learning and mentoring. It is important to develop both the people and the structures.

Training and workshops should include the standard capacity building topics as there is continued need for these (Writing better Funding Applications, Monitoring and evaluation, perfecting pitches, H&S, Safeguarding, governance, strategic planning etc.), however there is a gap in areas such as marketing, messaging, social media, networking etc.

Objectives & Activities (Actions):

Objective 1 - Research

Action: produce an annual report, launched at CSO's annual conference. Produce quarterly reports on the thematic priorities that are circulated throughout the membership. Use research evidence in key meetings, boards, and other fora.

Objective 2 – Partnership

Action: to foster an environment of partnership and collaboration, creating opportunities

for people to work together for the good of the Somali community.

Objective 3 – Leadership and professional skills

Action:

1. Organising, amplifying and articulating the collective voice and needs of the Somali Community at Local, Pan-London and National level.
2. Building bridges within the Somali Community and also with the wider BAME communities.
3. Enabling the environment for the development of community leadership, especially women.

Our vision

To achieve cohesive, integrated and successful Somali communities.

Our mission

To provide a strong, collective and credible voice for Somali communities in the UK and to articulate the aspirations and interests of Somali communities.

Our strategic objectives:

Our work is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

- ★ We will provide a local network group that encourages and enables members of the Somali community to participate more effectively with the wider community;
- ★ We will increase or coordinate opportunities for members of the Somali community to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adopt services;
- ★ We will provide education and information to support and enable the Somali community to maximise education opportunities;
- ★ We will raise public awareness of the issues affecting the Somali community and their children, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion;
- ★ We will provide development support, forums, advocacy and general support to better meet the needs of that community.

Our achievements & performance

Key Summary Achievements for the year 2021 to 2022:

- 1. CSO's membership has increased by 105% since the start of the pandemic from 110 to 236 across 12 metropolitan cities.**
- 2. We have gained 3 Somali led Mosques who have joined CSO increasing the number to 43.**
- 3. We have delivered the Resilience Training to 36 Somali led CVO's including 4 Somali led Mosques.**
- 4. We have delivered Bid writing support to 48 Somali led CVO's worth £5.4 million in funding applications.**
- 5. We have continued to deliver Benefits & Social Welfare law to build resilience in community advice services from September 2020.**
- 6. We have rolled out UK Wide Somali Community Hub website and APP.**
- 7. We have produced videos showcasing the contributions for the Somali Community in the UK.**
- 8. We continued to work with the ONS in relation to the 2021 Census.**

In the second year of the Pandemic, CSO has continued its ambitious program of resilience and capacity building for its membership. We have also reached out to all our communities across 12 metropolitan areas by visiting and having dialogue with them. This has resulted in the phenomenal growth in membership.

We are grateful to TNLCF, Trust for London, National Emergencies Trust, City Bridge Trust, People's Postcode Trust, The Clothworkers Trust and UK Community Foundation for supporting CSO and the Somali Community in the UK.

CSO's Organisational Reach & Profile

CSO has increased its National and Pan London profile as the leading representative organisation of the Somali Community in the UK. CSO's role in raising awareness of the issues facing the Somali Community and Somali led CVOs involves participating in the following:

- 1. Funder Forums- LCRF, NET/UK Communities, Comic Relief, TNCLF and London Funders. We have invited funders to our workshops. We advise funders about the needs of the Somali community.**
- 2. Race & Equality forums such as Coalition on Race Equality & HEAR, Operation Black Vote**
- 3. Religious Forums- with the Church of England, Board of Deputies, Muslim Council of Britain.**
- 4. Engaging and working with other Infrastructure Organisations such as Power to Change, BAME Funders and SIB Funders**

5. Engaging with Government and Local Authorities- DLUHC, Home Office, Dfe, DoH, and GLA through the MRAP and Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, Metropolitan Police through the Somali MET Forum.
6. Working with Research Institutions and Universities on bidding for research funding on issues affecting the Somali Community.
7. CSO worked with the ONS on the design of the online Census 2021 and led in the planning of the media campaign.

Somalis in the UK

The United Kingdom (UK) is home to the largest Somali community in Europe, with an estimated 98,000 Somali-born immigrants residing in the UK in 2016 according to the Office for National Statistics. The majority of these live in England, with the largest number found in London. Smaller Somali communities exist in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Sheffield and Cardiff.

The earliest Somali immigrants in the UK were lascars, seamen and merchants who arrived in the 19th century. A second small group of seamen came during the Second World War with the Royal Navy, and stayed in search of employment. During the 1980s and 1990s, the civil war in Somalia led to a large number of Somali immigrants, comprising the majority of the current Somali population in the UK.

Between 1985 and the end of 2006, Somalia was consistently one of the top ten asylum applicant producing countries in the UK. 10 Asylum applications by Somalis to the UK rising from 305 in 1988 to a peak of 7,495 in 1999 and then dropping to 1,845 in 2006. The Somali community represents one of the largest Muslim groups in the UK. The Somali community in the UK includes British citizens, refugees, asylum seekers, persons granted exceptional leave to remain, irregular migrants, and Somalis who have moved to Britain after being granted refugee status in other European states.

According to the 2011 Census, 36 percent of Somali-born residents of England and Wales arrived in the UK during the 1990s. The majority (57 per cent) arrived after 2001, with around 25 per cent arriving between 2001 and 2003.

There is an estimate of 463,000 Somalis in the United Kingdom (ONS, 2019). Somali communities in the UK are facing significant equalities challenges. Somali organisations have called on authorities for responses on how to address ethnic health inequalities experienced by these communities and for improved consideration of social value in public sector health and social care commissioning.

Services to the public

The Council of Somali Organisations provides benefit by improving the lives of the public through our support of community organisations across the UK, through training, mentoring, advice and guidance for staff, volunteers and trustees and through promoting equality, social justice and inclusion of the communities that we serve.

Almost all of our member VCOs provide front line services to the public, and in particular to members of the Somali community, so as to address disadvantage, inequality, social injustice and poverty. Our events, advocacy and seminars dealt with a number of public issues including cohesion, mental health and wellbeing, crime, drugs and substance misuse, welfare benefits, housing, immigration, refugee support, radicalisation and prevent agenda (government anti-terrorism programme). In addition to capacity building and research activities, CSO works to influence policy and to do this effectively we represent the voice and interest of the Somali community at a number of forums including the Mayor of London's Migrant and Refugee Forum.

In addition, we deliver roundtable discussions and forums on social and economic issues as they impact on Somali communities. The information gathered, together with the evidence from our research activities, is used to inform decision-making impacting the development of the Somali community in England. Some events delivered by CSO and also in partnership with other second tier organisations for example Islington Refugee Forum, Black Training Enterprise Group, and Evelyn Oldfield Unit.

Public benefit statement

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered S.17 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PD2). The achievements and activities above demonstrate the public benefit arising from the charity's activities.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Council of Somali Organisation is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks including maintaining a risk register, which is reviewed annually.

Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair

Date – 02/06/2022



**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Council of Somali
Organisations Ltd
Year ended 31st March 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Council of Somali Organisations ('the charity') for the year ended 31st March 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the 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 the 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 the charity'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 Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial

Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.



Date: 02/06/2022

Md Iqbal Hossain MBA, ACCA
BK COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANT LTD
Chartered Certified Accountant
Arches 420-421 Burdett Road, London. E3 4AA.

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including income and expenditure account)
31st March 2022

Incoming / Expenditure Resources	Note	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL Funds 2022	TOTAL Funds 2021
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	8	-	295,671	295,671	426,466
Charitable activities:					
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	9	500	16,225	16,725	947
Investment Income	10	-	-	-	3
Total Income		500 =====	311,896 =====	312,396 =====	427,416 =====
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising	11	-	-	-	2,880
Charitable Activities:	11	-	265,204	265,204	378,040
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	11	-	-	-	25,988
Total expenditure		- =====	265,204 =====	265,204 =====	406,908 =====
Net Income / (expenditure) & net movement in funds		500 =====	46,692 =====	47,192 =====	20,508 =====
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		13,664 =====	42,506 =====	56,170 =====	35,662 =====
Total funds carried forward		14,164 =====	89,198 =====	103,362 =====	56,170 =====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains & losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The notes on page 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of financial position
31st March 2021**

FIXED ASSETS	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	19	-	61,852	-	70,193
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and hand		85,547		152,185	
Debtors	16	-		10,600	
Total Current Assets			85,547		162,785
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(10,287)			(10,887)
Advance Received from Funder within the year	18	(55,500)	(65,787)		(165,921)
Net current Assets			19,760		(14,023)
Total Assets			81,612		56,170
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted Funds	21		67,448		47,506
Unrestricted Funds:	21				
General funds			14,164		8,664
Total Funds			81,612 =====		56,170 =====

For the year ending 31st March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' subject to the small Companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees & authorised for issue on 02/06/2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Signed 
Name: Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Chair

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of cash flows For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
	£	£	£
Net cash provided by / (used) operating activities	22	74,893	59,025
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities	19	(9,360)	(88,758)
Cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	18	(132,171)	165,921
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	23	(66,638)	136,187
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		152,185	15,998
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		85,547 =====	152,185 =====



Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31st March 2022

1. General Information

The Charity is a private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales and a registered charity in England & Wales. The address of the registered office is Second Floor, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (charities SORP(FRS 102)) and the charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting policies

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donation are included in incoming resources when they are receivable except when the donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donor's conditions have not been fulfilled, then income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross.

Donated services and facilities

Income from donated services and facilities is included in incoming resources at a valuation, which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual's basis, inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered. Expenditure, which is directly attributable to specific activities, has been included in these cost categories, where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost of generating funds on a basis consistent with the use of these resources. Cost of generating funds includes salaries, direct expenditure and overhead costs of the staff who promote fundraising including events. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purpose as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income & expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemption: - No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub- classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity: it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipts is probable, its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable, entitlement is established.
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of those assets as follows:

Furniture & equipment	- 20% reducing balance
Telephone System	-33.33% Straight-line
Method	

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

4. Pensions and other post - retirement benefits

All staff has been offered a pension contribution recognised by HMRC. All staff has opted out so there are no pension assets to administer and there is no other post – retirement benefits funded by the charity.

5. Investment Income

6. None Funds are held in a non-interest-bearing bank account. There are no bank charges associated with the account and trustees believe the achieve value for money in respect to the services provided by the bank.

7. Financial Instruments:

Carrying amount: Debt instruments on the balance sheet represent real and fair value. Financial liabilities on the balance sheet represent real and fair value.

8. Income from donations and legacies

Grants, donations and legacies:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Trust for London	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trust for London (LCRF)	-	-	-	25,000
National Lottery (Partnership & Debt Hub)	-	43,500	43,500	-
BBC CIN	-	4,934	4,934	4,934
People Postcode	-	9,940	9,940	9,940
Clothworkers Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
LCRF Infrastructure Support	-	-	-	5,000
City Bridge Trust	-	44,417	44,417	28,583
National Lottery (TNCLF)	-	131,296	131,296	262,591
UK Community Foundation	-	6,584	6,584	13,168
London Community Foundation (wave 4)	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
City Bridge Trust Top UP	-	-	-	12,250
GLA	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	=====	295,671	295,671	426,466

9. Income from Charitable Activities

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Other Income (HMRC)	-	15,225	15,225	947
The Ubele Initiative	-	1,000	1,000	-
British Refugee council	500	-	500	-
TOTAL	500	16,225	16,725	947

10. Income from Investments

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	-	-	-	3
Total	-	-	-	3

11. Analysis of Expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Direct Charitable expenditure	Governance costs	Support costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
Remuneration/Salary (13)	-	113,909	-	-	113,909	118,496
Sessional staff (13)	-	-	-	-	-	6,812
Staff pension (13)	-	12,666	-	-	12,666	1,663
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premises & administration	-	19,443	-	-	19,443	23,258
Project Cost	-	45,883	-	-	45,883	178,716
Training & Org Development	-	3,452	-	-	3,452	8,209
Legal, Accountancy & IE	-	-	6,000	4,983	10,983	13,193
Tax & Social Service (13)	-	41,167	-	-	41,167	37,996
Depreciation	-	17,701	-	-	17,701	18,565
	-	254,221	6,000	4,983	265,204	406,908
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Governance Costs	-	6,000	(6,000)	-		
Support Costs	-	4,983	-	(4,983)		
Total Expenses	-	265,204	-	-	265,204	406,908
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Support Costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity.

Of the total expenditure (2021/2022), £0 was unrestricted and £265,204 was restricted.

12. Independent examination fees

	2022	2021
Fees payable to the Independent examiner for:	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,500	1,500
Total	1,500	1,500
	=====	=====

13. Staff Cost

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Remunerations/Salaries & Wages	113,909	118,496
Sessional Staff	-	6,812
Tax & National Insurance	41,166	37,996

Pension contributions	12,666	1,663
Total	167,741 =====	164,967 =====

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2020:3). The average number of fulltime equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Number of management and administrative staff	6	6
Number of core service staff	2	2
Total	8	8

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2020: nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

SORP 2015 requires the following statements to be made:

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

15. Related parties:

There are no related party transactions during the year.

16. Debtors:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Clothworkers Foundation	-	10,000
Refugee Council RCO Forum	-	600
Total	- =====	10,600 =====

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade Creditors	6,787	6,387
Tax and Social Security Costs	-	-
Accounts & Audit	3,500	4,500
Total	10,287 =====	10,887 =====

18. Advance Received from The Funder within the year:

	2022	2021
	£	£
National Lottery (TNCLF)	-	131,296
City Bridge Trust	12,000	8,167
London Community Foundation (Wave4)	-	5,000
National Lottery (Partnership & Debt Hub)	21,750	-
BBC CIN	-	4,934
UK Community BAME Support	-	6,584
People Postcode	-	9,940
Total	33,750 =====	165,921 =====

19. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Furniture	Telephone & Software	Total
	£	£		£
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	72,457	10,192	6,109	88,758
Additions	-	-	9,360	9,360
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	72,457	10,192	15,469	98,118
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	14,491	2,038	2,036	18,565
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge this period	11,593	1,631	4,477	17,701
At 31 March 2022	26,084	3,669	6,513	36,266
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	46,373	6,523	8,956	61,852
At 31 March 2021	57,966	8,154	4,073	70,193

20. Movements in Funds

Funds:	Balance at 1st April 2021	Incomin g Unrestric ted	Incomin g Restrict ed	Outgoing	Balance at 31st March 2022
	£	£		£	
Restricted Funds:					
Balance brought Forward	42,506	-	-	-	42,506
Trust for London	-	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
People Postcode	-	-	9,940	(9,940)	-
BBC CIN	-	-	4,934	(4,934)	-
City Bridge Trust			44,417	(42,298)	2,119
National Lottery (TNCLF)			131,296	(131,296)	-
UK Community BAME Support			6,584	(6,584)	-
Clothworkers			10,000	-	10,000
London Community Foundation (Wave4)			5,000	(5,000)	-
National Lottery (Partnership & Debt Hub)			43,500	(8,927)	34,573
Other income (HMRC)			15,225	(15,225)	-
The Ubele			1,000	(1,000)	-
Total Restricted Funds	42,506	-	321,896	(275,204)	89,198
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Unrestricted Fund:					
Brought Forward	13,664				13,664
General Income/Funds	-	500	-	(0)	500
Total Unrestricted Fund	-	500	-	(0)	14,164
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Fund Carried Forward	56,170	500	321,896	(275,204)	103,362
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

21. Analysis of net assets between Funds:

	Unrestricte d Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Fund 2022
	£	£	£
Current assets	18,099	67,448	85,547
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(10,287)	(10,287)
Fixed Assets	-	61,852	61,852
Advance Received from the Funder	-	(55,500)	(55,500)
Net Assets	18,099	63,513	81,612
	=====	=====	=====

22. Reconciliation of net Income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	47,192	20,508
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	10,600	15,555
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(600)	4,397
Depreciation	17,701	18,565
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	74,893 =====	59,025 =====

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	152,185	(66,638)	85,547
Total cash and bank equivalents	152,185	(66,638)	85,547

24. Company Limited by guarantee

Council for Somali Organisations is a company Limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

COUNCIL OF SOMALI ORGANISATIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1154667

Accounts



Company No. 07405401

Charity No. 1154667

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
(A company limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2021



Council of Somali Organisations (CSO)

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Council of Somali Organisations Ltd Directors' and Trustees' Annual Report For the 12 months ending 31st March 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual director's report together with the financial statements of the charity for the 12 months ended 31st March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Effective 1 January 2015).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name Council of Somali Organisations
Charity registration number 1154667

Company registration number 7405401

Registered office 10 Manor Gardens
London N7 6LS

Board of Trustees

The trustees and directors who served during the period were as follows:

Dr. Idil Osman-Chair (elected 12th June 2019)
Mr. Abdirahman Xirsi-Vice Chair (elected 28th March 2019)
Mrs. Hanna Ali Al Khleifat (elected 28th March 2019)
Mr. Shakiib Weheliye-Treasurer since 21st November 2019 (elected 12th June 2019)

Company Secretary Mr. Kahiye Alim (Appointed 1st November 2018)
Director Mr. Kahiye Alim

Independent Examiner **BK COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANT LTD**
Chartered Certified Accountant
Arches 420-421 Burdett Road,
London. E3 4AA.

Bankers Barclays Bank
Barclays Retail Banking 737
Barking Road Plaistow,
London E19PL

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 2010, the Council of Somali Organisations (CSO) is an independent National charity. We were launched to deliver capacity-building support to increase the operational effectiveness of organisations supporting the Somali community.

More broadly, today, we work to:

- ★ Help integrate Somalis Community in the wider UK society;
- ★ Improve their conditions and quality of life;
- ★ Represent their interest and voice(s) when it comes to shaping policy that affects them.

We do this by delivering capacity building support to member voluntary and community organisations, events, by undertaking research and campaign or policy work and through empowerment training for the benefit of the Somali Community in the UK.

THE NEW RESTRUCTURE – 2020 Themes, Objectives, Outputs & Structures

The CSO has evolved over the last few years and reacted to changes in demand, needs, problems and policies which affect the Somali Community in the UK. Although it has successfully supported organisations and individuals for over 10 years, it now becomes more proactive in its approach, more strategic in what it offers and stronger in its demonstration of its expertise and knowledge.

CSO has become the leading equalities organisation representing the interest of the Somali community.

CSO has undergone major restructuring and changes with the appointment of a Somali speaking director after 8 years and professionalization of the Board of Trustees. CSO has also its first ever woman Chair and a gender balanced board.

The proposed change to the structure represents a more coherent and coordinated approach to a rapidly changing environment. The use of a 'themed' based model will allow new projects, activities and interventions to be managed strategically and focused on pertinent issues facing the Somali community and Somali organisations in the UK over the next three years.

Four distinct but connected themes will oversee the operational delivery of projects and activities, reporting directly to the Director, allowing him to manage and lead and be more visible in the sector. The CSO's Board as result of the Member's Needs Assessment conducted in 2019 and a review of CSO's objectives has identified that the four major strategic themes for the next 3 years are;

- *Education;*
- *Employment;*
- *Health and Wellbeing;*
- *and with the overarching theme of Criminal Justice across.*



Each theme has a Working subgroup from CSO's members will have a combination of paid staff and volunteers with at least one allocated board member.

With this in mind, CSO will endeavor to ensure that each theme has a strategic person from the board allocated to it – this will serve a dual purpose – supporting each theme to function with the vision and mission in mind as well as ensuring that the individual themes are continuously feeding into the organisations planning.

In addition, CSO members will be aligned to specific themes – allowing for a strong cohort involved and representing each theme. This will give focus for member organisations and a more efficient use of time and capacity. (Each member can be aligned to more than one theme as long as their core work is linked).

Each themed department/subgroup will have three core functions: **Policy, Voice and Development.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

1. **Policy:** To be able to respond and influence policies at local and national level including participating in consultations, writing reports and producing briefing papers as well as producing action research.
2. **Voice:** To be able to express and represent the needs, issues and narrative of the Somali community and Somali community organisations. To be able to develop a collective voice at various platforms including social media, events, reports, consultations, Government level, mainstream media etc.
3. **Development:** to develop the skills and capacity of the Somali community sector. This should be done from two separate but overlapping avenues: Leadership development and organization development and should be done via a range of tools, i.e. training, coaching, action learning and mentoring. It is important to develop both the people and the structures.

Training and workshops should include the standard capacity building topics as there is continued need for these (Writing better Funding Applications, Monitoring and evaluation, perfecting pitches, H&S, Safeguarding, governance , strategic planning etc.), however there is a gap in areas such as marketing, messaging, social media, networking etc.

Objectives & Activities (Actions):

Objective 1 - Research

Action: produce an annual report, launched at CSO's annual conference. Produce quarterly reports on the thematic priorities that are circulated throughout the membership. Use research evidence in key meetings, boards, and other fora.

Objective 2 – Partnership

Action: to foster an environment of partnership and collaboration, creating opportunities

for people to work together for the good of the Somali community.

Objective 3 – Leadership and professional skills

Action:

1. Organising, amplifying and articulating the collective voice and needs of the Somali Community at Local, Pan-London and National level.
2. Building bridges within the Somali Community and also with the wider BAME communities.
3. Enabling the environment for the development of community leadership, especially women.

Our vision

To achieve cohesive, integrated and successful Somali communities.

Our mission

To provide a strong, collective and credible voice for Somali communities in the UK and to articulate the aspirations and interests of Somali communities.

Our strategic objectives:

Our work is underpinned by the following strategic objectives:

- ★ We will provide a local network group that encourages and enables members of the Somali community to participate more effectively with the wider community;
- ★ We will increase or coordinate opportunities for members of the Somali community to engage with service providers, to enable those providers to adopt services;
- ★ We will provide education and information to support and enable the Somali community to maximise education opportunities;
- ★ We will raise public awareness of the issues affecting the Somali community and their children, both generally and in relation to their social exclusion;
- ★ We will provide development support, forums, advocacy and general support to better meet the needs of that community.

Our achievements & performance

Key Summary Achievements for the year 2020 to 2021:

1. CSO's membership has increased by 95% since the start of the pandemic from 110 to 215 across 12 metropolitan cities.
2. We have identified 39 Somali led Mosques who have joined CSO.
3. We have delivered the Resilience Training to 36 Somali led CVO's including 4 Somali led Mosques.
4. We have delivered Bid writing support to 22 Somali led CVO's including 2 Somali led Mosques
5. We have trained 223 participants in Benefits & Social Welfare law to build resilience in community advice services from September 2020.
6. We have the first ever UK Wide Somali Community Hub website and APP.
7. We have embedded CSO's online training infrastructure across 12 metro cities and across 90 Somali led CVO and Mosque by distributing tablets and headsets.
8. We have produced 5 videos and co-produced two videos for the Somali Community in the UK.

In response to the Pandemic, CSO has responded with an ambitious program of resilience and capacity building for its membership. We have also reached out to all our communities across 12 metropolitan areas by visiting and having dialogue with them. This has resulted in the phenomenal growth in membership.

We are grateful to TNLCF, Trust for London, National Emergencies Trust, City Bridge Trust, People's Postcode Trust, The Clothworkers Trust and UK Community Foundation for supporting CSO and the Somali Community in the UK.

★ CSO Capacity Building Program- Support for Members, Training and Information

The funding received has enabled CSO to do the following;

- ❖ The delivery of support of information to the Somali Community UK wide,
- ❖ Support the infrastructure needs of CSO- Social Media, Website & CRM development
- ❖ The coordination of targeted fund raising support for members
- ❖ Delivery of the Resilience Training - Benefits & Social Welfare Law
- ❖ Coordination with Members in getting information to Somali Community
- ❖ Coordination of the Needs Assessment of Somali Mosques in the UK.
- ❖ Continues Needs Assessment of the Membership with 5 surveys.

Resilience Training

The original plan was to deliver training to 30 organisations and 300 volunteers including unemployed Somali Graduates in cohorts of 20 x 15 sessions. The training started on 28th September 2020 is continuing until the end of March 2021. The training was delivered by AdviceUK and The Benefits Training Company.

The format of the training was the delivery over 10 consecutive days of half days with two cohorts every two weeks. We have delivered the training to 36 organisations and 223 staff and volunteers.

★ Housing Law and Mental Health Training Videos

We are on track to produce the two videos. These will be available to registered participants and organisations and be made available on CSO Website and Youtube channel.

★ Mosques

We have identified 39 Somali mosques in England and Wales in 12 metro cities. We have established links with all of them and of these four have participated in the Resilience Training program to train 16 of their Imams, staff and volunteers. We designed a needs assessment analysis questionnaire with the assistance of the Muslim Council of England and two Somali Local Councilors and have completed the report to be published June 2021.

We have also obtained funding from the LCRF Wave 4 to work with 20 Somali led mosques in London on supporting them with advocating for the benefits of the Covid-19 Vaccine.

★ Infrastructure for Information dissemination

In response to the Pandemic, CSO had invested significantly in technology and equally given that our membership is spread across 12 metropolitan areas in the UK this was a strategic decision.

We have commissioned and deployed the following infrastructure for information, advice and support for the Somali Community in the UK;

- UK Somali Community Hub website
- CSO Website
- CSO Somali Community APP [funded by Trust for London under LCRF Wave 3].
- Salesforce CRM and its integration with the two websites and APP.

We have invested significantly in the development of CSO capabilities and capacity to deliver services, membership management infrastructure and community information.

★ Video Content for UK Community Hub and CSO

We have obtained funding from TNLCF, People's Postcode Lottery and City Bridge Trust for the development of video content.

With the above, we aim to produce the following;

- Myth-busting video on the CoronaVirus vaccine supported by the Mosques and Somali Medical doctors.
- Hero Content to show the positive contributions of the Somali Community in the UK.
- Video Documentary on the Impact of Covid-19 on Somali led CVO's in the UK.

★ Infrastructure for Training

We have distributed 200 tablets and headsets to our membership. Our membership has increased from 110 to 215 since April 2020 as word of our work spreads through the Somali Community.

★ Support for CSO Members to Access Funding grants

CSO's 200+ members have accessed CSO's panel of 30 Freelance Bid writers from November 2020. We have held 5 rounds of bid support and have completed 22 funding applications. Each organisation so far has been supported in writing the following:

- Annual budget with core costs identified from 12 months bank statements.
- Project budget taking into account their core costs.
- Management Accounts if they have no previous experience of annual accounts.
- Bid writing.

We are on track of the original target of 45 organisations to be supported with bid writing subject to funding opportunities which have diminished.

★ CSO Infrastructure Re Office

CSO was previously based in shared office space run by Voluntary Action Islington. Since the Covid-19 regulations came in on March 2020, we have operated from home and only at the beginning of October 2020, it became clear that the space at VAI was no longer viable for it to be used as an appropriate office given the shrinkage of distancing requirements. On 1st December 2020, we signed a lease agreement for bigger office space at 10 Manor Gardens. London N7 6LS.

★ CSO Staffing levels

We now have a total of 8 staff and 3 consultants who are working across the organisation [from staff level of 3 at March 2020].

Somalis in the UK

The United Kingdom (UK) is home to the largest Somali community in Europe, with an estimated 98,000 Somali-born immigrants residing in the UK in 2016 according to the Office for National Statistics. The majority of these live in England, with the largest number found in London. Smaller Somali communities exist in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester, Milton Keynes, Sheffield and Cardiff.

The earliest Somali immigrants in the UK were lascars, seamen and merchants who arrived in the 19th century. A second small group of seamen came during the Second World War with the Royal Navy, and stayed in search of employment. During the 1980s and 1990s, the civil war in Somalia led to a large number of Somali immigrants, comprising the majority of the current Somali population in the UK.

Between 1985 and the end of 2006, Somalia was consistently one of the top ten asylum applicant producing countries in the UK. 10 Asylum applications by Somalis to the UK rising from 305 in 1988 to a peak of 7,495 in 1999 and then dropping to 1,845 in 2006. The Somali community represents one of the largest Muslim groups in the UK. The Somali community in the UK includes British citizens, refugees, asylum seekers, persons granted exceptional leave to remain, irregular migrants, and Somalis who have moved to Britain after being granted refugee status in other European states.

According to the 2011 Census, 36 percent of Somali-born residents of England and Wales arrived in the UK during the 1990s. The majority (57 per cent) arrived after 2001, with around 25 per cent arriving between 2001 and 2003.

There is an estimate of 463,000 Somalis in the United Kingdom (ONS, 2019). Somali communities in the UK are facing significant equalities challenges. Somali organisations have called on authorities for responses on how to address ethnic health inequalities experienced by these communities and for improved consideration of social value in public sector health and social care commissioning.

Services to the public

The Council of Somali Organisations provides benefit by improving the lives of the public through our support of community organisations across the London region, through training, mentoring, advice and guidance for staff, volunteers and trustees and through promoting equality, social justice and inclusion of the communities that we serve.

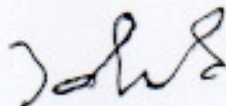
Almost all of our member VCOs provide front line services to the public, and in particular to members of the Somali community, so as to address disadvantage, inequality, social injustice and poverty. Our events, advocacy and seminars dealt with a number of public issues including cohesion, mental health and wellbeing, crime, drugs and substance misuse, welfare benefits, housing, immigration, refugee support, radicalisation and prevent agenda (government anti-terrorism programme). In addition to capacity building and research activities, CSO works to influence policy and to do this effectively we represent the voice and interest of the Somali community at a number of forums including the Mayor of London's Migrant and Refugee Forum. In addition, we deliver roundtable discussions and forums on social and economic issues as they impact on Somali communities. The information gathered, together with the evidence from our research activities, is used to inform decision-making impacting the development of the Somali community in England. Some events delivered by CSO and also in partnership with other second tier organisations for example Islington Refugee Forum, Black Training Enterprise Group, and Evelyn Oldfield Unit.

Public benefit statement

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered S.17 of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PD2). The achievements and activities above demonstrate the public benefit arising from the charity's activities.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Council of Somali Organisation is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks including maintaining a risk register, which is reviewed annually.



Dr. Idil Osman-Chair

Date - 20/05/2021

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Council of Somali
Organisations Ltd
Year ended 31st March 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Council of Somali Organisations ('the charity') for the year ended 31st March 2021

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the 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 the 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

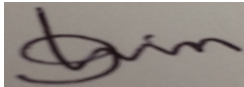
Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), which is one of the listed 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial

Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.



Date: 20/05/2021

**Md Iqbal Hossain MBA, ACCA
BK COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANT LTD
Chartered Certified Accountant
Arches 420-421 Burdett Road, London. E3 4AA.**

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(Including income and expenditure account)
31st March 2021

Incoming / Expenditure Resources	Note	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL Funds 2021	TOTAL Funds 2020
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies	8	-	426,466	426,466	64,867
Charitable activities:					
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	9	947	-	947	1,755
Investment Income	10	3	-	3	-
Total Income		950 =====	426,466 =====	427,416 =====	66,622 =====
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising	11		2,880	2,880	7,720
Charitable Activities:	11		378,040	378,040	
Training, events, capacity building and business mentoring	11	2,977	23,011	25,988	74,732
Total expenditure		2,977 =====	403,931 =====	406,908 =====	82,452 =====
Net Income / (expenditure) & net movement in funds		(2,027) =====	22,535 =====	20,508 =====	(15,830) =====
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		10,691 =====	24,971 =====	35,662 =====	51,492 =====
Total funds carried forward		8,664 =====	47,506 =====	56,170 =====	35,662 =====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains & losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The notes on page 17 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

**Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of financial position
31st March 2021**

FIXED ASSETS	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	19	-	70,193	-	-
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and hand		152,185		15,998	
Debtors	16	10,600		26,155	
Total Current Assets			162,785		42,153
Current Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17		(10,887)		(6,491)
Advance Received from Funder within the year	18		(165,921)		
Net current Assets			(14,023)		35,662
Total Assets			56,170		35,662
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted Funds	21		47,506		24,971
Unrestricted Funds:	21				
General funds			8,664		10,691
Total Funds			56,170 =====		35,662 =====

For the year ending 31st March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' subject to the small Companies regime and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees & authorised for issue on ~~20/05/2021~~, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Signed 
Name: Dr Idil Osman, (Chair & Trustee)

Council of Somali Organisations Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of cash flows For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Net cash provided by / (used) operating activities	22	59,025	(40,518)
Cash provided by /(used in) investing activities	19	(88,758)	-
Cash provided by /(used in) financing activities	18	165,921	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	23	136,187	(40,518)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		15,998	56,516
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		152,185 =====	15,998 =====



Council of Somali Organisations Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the financial statements
Year ended 31st March 2021

1. General Information

The Charity is a private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England & Wales and a registered charity in England & Wales. The address of the registered office is Second Floor, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP.

Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (charities SORP(FRS 102)) and the charities Act 2011.

2. Accounting policies

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donation are included in incoming resources when they are receivable except when the donors specify that they must be used in future accounting periods or donor's conditions have not been fulfilled, then income is deferred. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross.

Donated services and facilities

Income from donated services and facilities is included in incoming resources at a valuation, which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party.

Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual's basis, inclusive of any VAT, which cannot be recovered. Expenditure, which is directly attributable to specific activities, has been included in these cost categories, where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost of generating funds on a basis consistent with the use of these resources. Cost of generating funds includes salaries, direct expenditure and overhead costs of the staff who promote fundraising including events. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purpose as laid down by the donor. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income & expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemption: - No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub- classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity: it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipts is probable, its amount can be measured reliably.
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable, entitlement is established.
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of those assets as follows:

Furniture & equipment	- 20% reducing balance
Telephone System	-33.33% Straight-line
Method	

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee without share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

4. Pensions and other post - retirement benefits

All staff has been offered a pension contribution recognised by HMRC. All staff has opted out so there are no pension assets to administer and there is no other post – retirement benefits funded by the charity.

5. Investment Income

6. None Funds are held in a non-interest-bearing bank account. There are no bank charges associated with the account and trustees believe the achieve value for money in respect to the services provided by the bank.

7. Financial Instruments:

Carrying amount: Debt instruments on the balance sheet represent real and fair value. Financial liabilities on the balance sheet represent real and fair value.

8. Income from donations and legacies

Grants, donations and legacies:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Trust for London	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trust for London (LCRF)	-	25,000	25,000	-
BBC CIN	-	4,934	4,934	9,867
People Postcode Clothworkers Foundation	-	9,940	9,940	-
LCRF Infrastructure Support	-	10,000	10,000	-
City Bridge Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
National Lottery (TNCLF)	-	28,583	28,583	-
UK Community Foundation	-	262,591	262,591	-
London Community Foundation (wave 4)	-	13,168	13,168	-
City Bridge Trust Top UP	-	5,000	5,000	-
GLA	-	12,250	12,250	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	5,000
	=====	426,466	426,466	64,867
	=====	=====	=====	=====

9. Income from Charitable Activities

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Other Income	947	-	947	255
Hear Equality	-	-	-	-
Refugee council RCO Forum	-	-	-	1,500
TOTAL	947	-	947	1,755
	=====	=====	=====	=====
				=

10. Income from Investments

	Un-restricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest	3	-	3	-
Total	3	-	3	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====

11. Analysis of Expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Direct Charitable expenditure	Governance costs	Support costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
Remuneration/Salary (13)	-	116,396	-	2,100	118,496	51,906
Sessional staff (13)	2,880	-	-	3,932	6,812	4,320
Staff pension (13)	-	-	-	1,663	1,663	46
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	-	-	780
Premises & administration	-	20,458	-	2,800	23,258	11,188
Project Cost	-	178,716	-	-	178,716	-
Training & Org Development	-	5,909	-	2,300	8,209	4,820
Legal, Accountancy & IE	-	-	6,317	6,876	13,193	3,500
Tax & Social Service (13)	-	37,996	-	-	37,996	5,892
Depreciation	-	18,565	-	-	18,565	-
	2,880	378,040	6,317	19,671	406,908	82,452
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Governance Costs		6,317	(6,317)			
Support Costs	-	19,671	-	(19,671)		
Total Expenses	2,880	404,028	-	-	406,908	82,452
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Support Costs have been allocated on the basis of staff hours engaged in each activity.

Of the total expenditure (2020/2021), £2,977 was unrestricted and £408,003 was restricted.

12. Independent examination fees

	2021	2020
Fees payable to the Independent examiner for:	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,500	500
Total	1,500	500
	=====	=====

13. Staff Cost

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Remunerations/Salaries & Wages	118,496	51,906
Sessional Staff	6,812	4,320
Tax & Social Service	37,996	5,892

Employer's pension contributions	1,663	46
Total	164,967 =====	62,164 =====

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2020:3). The average number of fulltime equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Number of management and administrative staff	6	2
Number of core service staff	2	1
Total	8	3

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2020: nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

SORP 2015 requires the following statements to be made:

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2020: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £nil).

15. Related parties:

There are no related party transactions during the year.

16. Debtors:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trust for London	-	25,000
Clothworkers Foundation	10,000	-
Refugee Council RCO Forum	600	1,050
Other Debtors	-	105
Total	10,600 =====	26,155 =====

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	6,387	5,990
Tax and Social Security Costs	-	-
Accounts & Audit	4,500	500
Total	10,887 =====	6,490 =====

18. Advance Received from The Funder within the year:

	2021	2020
	£	£
National Lottery (TNCLF)	131,296	-
City Bridge Trust	8,167	-
London Community Foundation (Wave4)	5,000	-
BBC CIN	4,934	-
UK Community BAME Support	6,584	-
People Postcode	9,940	-
Total	165,921	-
	=====	=====

19. Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment	Furniture	Telephone System	Total
	£	£		£
Cost				
At 1 April 2020	-	-		-
Additions	72,457	10,192	6,109	88,758
Disposals	-	-		-
At 31 March 2021	72,457	10,192	6,109	88,758
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2019	-	-		-
Disposals	-	-		-
Charge this period	14,491	2,038	2,036	18,565
At 31 March 2020	14,491	2,038	2,036	18,565
Net book value				
At 31 March 2021	57,966	8,154	4,073	70,193
At 31 March 2020	-	-		-

20. Movements in Funds

Funds:	Balance at 1st April 2021	Incomin g Unrestric ted	Incomin g Restrict ed	Outgoing	Balance at 31st March 2021
Restricted Funds:	£	£		£	
Balance brought Forward	19,971	-	-	-	19,971
Trust for London	-	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
Trust for London (LCRF) Wave 3	-	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
People Postcode	-	-	9,940	(4,970)	4,970
BBC CIN	-	-	4,934	(4,934)	-
City Bridge Trust			28,583	(18,176)	10,407
National Lottery (TNCLF)			262,591	(250,433)	12,158
Clothworkers Foundation			-	(10,000)	(10,000)
LCRF Infrastructure Support			5,000	(5,000)	-
UK Community BAME Support			13,168	(8,168)	5,000
London Community Foundation (Wave4)			5,000	(5,000)	-
City Bridge Trust Top Up			12,250	(7,250)	5,000
Greater London Authority	-	-	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Total Restricted Funds	-	-	416,466	(393,931)	42,506
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Unrestricted Fund:					
Brought Forward	15,691				15,691
General Income/Funds	-	950		(2,977)	(2,027)
Total Unrestricted Fund	-	950		(2,977)	(2,027)
	-----	-----		-----	-----
Total Fund Carried Forward	35,662	950	416,466	(396,908)	56,170
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

21. Analysis of net assets between Funds:

	Unrestric ted Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Fund 2021
	£	£	£
Current assets	8,664	154,121	162,785
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(10,887)	(10,887)
Fixed Assets	-	70,193	70,193
Advance Received from the Funder	-	(165,921)	(165,921)
Net Assets	8,664	47,506	56,170
	=====	=====	=====

22. Reconciliation of net Income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	20,508	(15,830)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	15,555	(26,155)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,397	1,466
Depreciation	18,565	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	59,025 =====	(40,518) =====

23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2020	Cash flows	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	15,998	136,187	152,185
Total cash and bank equivalents	15,998	136,187	152,185

24. Company Limited by guarantee

Council for Somali Organisations is a company Limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.