

THE LIBERTARIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1154784

Details

Other names	STATEWATCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	08480724
Registered	2013-11-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	C/o Mdr 88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
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Activities

Objects: 1. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE SUBJECT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROMOTION AND UNDERTAKING OF STUDY AND RESEARCH AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE USEFUL RESULTS THEREOF.2. TO PROMOTE THE SOUND ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAW RELATING TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING (WITHOUT LIMITATION) BY:2.1 ADVANCING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES AND HOW THE UK, EU INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER DEMOCRACIES UPHOLD AND ENFORCE SUCH LAWS;2.2 PROVIDING SEARCHABLE AND REGULARLY UPDATED DATABASES, NEWS AND REPORTS ON LEGISLATIVE MEASURES IN RELATION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES PASSING THROUGH THE UK, EU INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER DEMOCRACIES; AND2.3 PROVIDING NEWS, EXPERT ADVICE AND ANALYSIS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING LAWS IN RELATION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES.

Activities: The advancement of education in the subject of civil rights and liberties of the individual in society, in particular but not exclusively by the promotion and undertaking of study and research and the dissemination of the useful results thereof. To promote the sound administration and development of the law relating to the civil rights and liberties of the individual (without limitation)

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£153,002	£195,370	-	-
2023-12-31	£312,289	£193,414	-	-
2022-12-31	£44,280	£112,451	-	-
2021-12-31	£139,779	£72,106	-	-
2020-12-31	£97,167	£76,153	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jonathan Michael Bloch		2021-01-01
Laure Baudrihaye-Gerard		2023-01-01
Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche		2023-01-01
Nadine Finch		2021-01-01
VICTORIA CANNING		2017-09-14

THE LIBERTARIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1154784

Accounts

Company registration number: 08480724

Charity registration number: 1154784

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as

Statewatch

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 ORB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

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Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche Laure Baudrihayé-Gérard Jonathan Bloch Victoria Canning Nadine Finch
Secretary	Jonathan Bloch
Charity Registration Number	1154784
Company Registration Number	08480724
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales. 88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road Blackheath SE3 ORB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Introduction

2024 made even clearer what many of us have been saying for some time: authoritarianism and racism are firmly on the rise, and despite many brave and important struggles against it, definitive responses are yet to be found. Our work throughout the year reflected this ongoing tension; it also shows reasons for optimism, despite the gloomy political outlook.

We exposed, reported on and analysed ongoing attempts to undermine the rule of law, basic rights and liberties, and democratic safeguards: plans to offshore asylum processing; the influencing of police and internal security officials over new laws; increased surveillance powers; and crackdowns on protest and free speech. In doing so, we continued to provide a vital resource for activists, advocates, journalists and others.

That reporting and analysis is, in and of itself, a form of opposition to these nefarious developments. Within the terms of our charitable status, we also gave our support to movements and campaigns seeking to oppose them more directly: amongst others, those demanding that states uphold the rights of refugees and the right to asylum; halt new measures for ethnic profiling; ensure democratic scrutiny of border externalisation policies; ban invasive and authoritarian surveillance technologies; and to halt European governments' complicity in breaches of international law in Palestine.

That complicity has helped to further derail and undermine the international norms and institutions created to halt military violence against civilians and civil infrastructure. This has had horrifying consequences for those subject to displacement, and to attacks on the ground and from the air. Faced with widespread popular protest against these positions, many European governments have resorted to unjustifiable restrictions on protest and freedom of speech, including through the use of criminal and anti-terrorism laws.

It is however by no means an entirely new situation. Foreign policy has always been linked to domestic repression and rights abuses.

It was demonstrations against the Vietnam War in 1968 that led to the formation of Britain's Special Demonstration Squad, an undercover police unit tasked with infiltrating and undermining left-wing and progressive movements. Europe's strategic alliance with Turkey means supporters of Kurdish autonomy and independence continue to face suspicion (at the very least) from European authorities. The 'war on terror' was and is animated by racism and criminalisation, in particular against Muslims – but it was prefigured by history, such as the British response to campaigns for self-determination in Ireland and other colonies.

As Tony Bunyan, Statewatch's founder, Director (1991-2020) and Director Emeritus (2020-24) wrote in 2006:

Five years on we know that the 'war on terrorism' is going to be permanent, not temporary. This is not just because of 11 March 2004 (Madrid), 7 and 21 July 2005 (London) and terrible terrorist bombings elsewhere. It is also because the pre-conditions for further attacks persist and show no signs of abating – Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, US militarism, Guantanamo Bay, rendition and global free market economics which perpetuate poverty and gross inequality.

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In September last year, Tony passed away. Though age slowed him towards the end of his life, his commitment to the cause never wavered: he was constantly planning, plotting and proposing. He was born in 1941, and his early experiences and involvement in political activism in the 1960s and 1970s profoundly influenced his outlook on the world for the rest of his remarkable life. He made profound contributions to the struggle against state secrecy and for civil liberties, and while he himself never set foot outside Europe, he was deeply-aware of and informed by political events and struggles elsewhere in the world.

He took this view with him when he founded Statewatch, along with a similar-minded group of other activists, journalists and lawyers in 1991. We have always been primarily concerned with the state of civil liberties in the European Union and the UK, but Europe is not an isolated island – the very reason it remains one of the richest parts of the world is because plunder, exploitation and expropriation carried out elsewhere.

This history, the present it has created, and the implications of both are becoming increasingly well-known – though there of course legions of people doggedly opposed to honest discussion and dissection of the legacies of racism, colonialism and empire.

It is this latter group that have been in the political ascendancy for some time now. Halting their ongoing attacks on rights and liberties is no small task, but it is more urgent than ever. It would be simple to say that the results of failing to do so do not bear thinking about – but, in fact, the results of failure can already be seen, from Los Angeles, to the Mediterranean Sea, to Gaza.

With that in mind, it might seem difficult to be optimistic. Yet there are still many reasons for optimism. They can be seen throughout the campaigns and movements we worked alongside throughout 2024, and will continue to provide information and analysis to in the future. And they can be seen in the growing number of groups and organisations that, regardless of growing state repression, continue to stand up for the rights of themselves and others.

It is these struggles that Statewatch has always sought to support with its work. Into 2025 and beyond we will build upon our legacy and past achievements, to increase our role in the struggle against state secrecy and repression, for rights and freedoms, and, ultimately, for a better world.

Objective 1

Strengthen civil society's access to information

Key developments and impact

1 training workshop on access to information

2 workshops on data protection, immigration and asylum

1 online panel on digitalisation and the security state

80 news articles and 20 in-depth analyses

50 official documents made public

9 publications in collaboration with other groups and individuals

Visits to the Statewatch Library & Archive from students, lawyers and researchers

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1.1. Training and education: Workshops and courses

Objective: Provide individuals and organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to investigate complex powers, policies, procedures and practices.

Access to EU information and documents

In January we led a training workshop for members of the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN). The workshop covered access to EU information and documents, in particular in relation to budgets for immigration and border controls. There were 14 people in attendance. The training was very well-received and BVMN have confirmed that they have used the knowledge and skills shared in their work.

Data protection, immigration and asylum

In November and December, we hosted the first two in a series of workshops on using data protection law to uphold the rights of migrants and refugees. The workshops form a key part of our project on data protection, immigration and asylum.

The two workshops had a total of 30 attendees. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all the respondents to a survey saying they would recommend the workshop to others interested in the topic. Further workshops were to be held in 2025.

Digitalisation and the security state

Material we produced in collaboration with Fundación Karisma (Colombia) on “digitalisation and the security state” were part of the curriculum for an online course run by the Transnational Institute. We moderated an online panel on the topic in mid-May. There were around 90 attendees.

1.2. Providing resources for rights

Objective: Work with national and international groups to support their campaigns and advocacy on EU justice and home affairs policies by making use of our unique level of access to official EU documents

Over the course of the year, we published a total of 80 news articles and 20 analyses across all our thematic areas. Alongside these articles we published 50 internal EU documents that would not otherwise have been made public. Articles produced in cooperation with other organisations are detailed below. Others are detailed under the relevant headings in this report.

These articles provided a vital resource for journalists, researchers and campaigners working on EU justice and home affairs policies, including many of those listed in the next two sections of this report. We cooperated with a range of outlets and organisations to make documents and information public.

We also published dozens of internal EU documents published as part of our bulletin on border externalisation (discussed further in section 2.3).

EU funding for Israeli drones

In March, we worked with the German organisation Informationsstelle Militarisierung (IMI, Information Centre on Militarisation) to publish an article on EU funding for Israeli drone technology. This revealed that drones supported with EU research funding being used in the war on Gaza. The article was cited multiple times in international press outlets.

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The article followed our publication of a statement calling for the EU to stop providing research funding to Israeli entities. The statement was initiated and open for signature by academics. The initiators approached us to publish and host the statement, which ultimately received more than 500 signatures. It was subsequently cited in the press.

Later in the year, we supported other initiatives on European support for Israel's war on Gaza: a statement condemning the renewal by the European Commission of 'data adequacy' status for Israel; a call to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement; and the publication of a case filed at the ICC calling for the prosecution of Israeli officials for incitement to genocide.

Who's using our work?

'EU funding drone technology used by Israel in Gaza war, claim monitors', euronews

'EU funds multiple Israeli drone projects used in Gaza: Watchdogs', Al Mayadeen

'Armi e droni made in Europe complici della devastazione della Striscia', Il Manifesto

'EU finanziert Drohnentechnik aus Israel', nd

'Opazovalci: EU Financira tehnologijo brezpilotnih letal, ki jo je Izrael uporabljal v vojni v Gazi', Senior24

'BE financon teknologjinë e dronëve të përdorur nga Izraeli në luftën me Gazën, pohojnë monitoruesit', Klan Kosova

'Uni Eropa (UE) Danai Pengembangan Drone Israel yang Digunakan Serang Warga Gaza', Fusilat News

'L'argent européen pour la guerre à Gaza: comment le financement de la recherche par l'UE soutient l'industrie israélienne de l'armement', Agence Media Palestine

'EU sponsert Israels Drohnen', Junge Welt

Frontex collaboration with the so-called Libyan coast guard

With journalists from the Sveriges Television programme Mission Investigate, we jointly published an article on Frontex's collaboration with the so-called Libyan coast guard to arrange 'pullbacks' of the refugee boats in the Mediterranean.

Digital technologies at European borders

We worked with two organisations to produce magazine articles based on a report we published in 2023, on the digital technologies deployed at Europe's borders. Gisti, the publisher of Plein Droit, is a French organisation working on migrants' rights, and Welt Sichten is a magazine associated with the German anti-militarist movement.

Who's using our work?

'Le techno-contrôle des migrations', Plein Droit, 19 June

'Grenzschutz mit Drohnen und Datenkraken', Welt Sichten, 11 April

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Frontex transparency and EU-Arab League police cooperation

We co-published two articles with The New Arab in 2024. The first exposed how the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) is collaborating with the Arab League's political extradition body in spite of its human rights obligations. The second examined how a complaint to the European Ombudsman had forced EU border agency Frontex to improve its transparency measures.

Who's using our work?

Bailiwick of Guernsey Data Protection Authority, 'Beyond our Shores – August', 30 August

EU-Tunisia migration deal

We produced two articles in collaboration with Migration-Control.info that analysed leaked documents on the EU-Tunisia migration control deal. Migration-Control.info are the co-publishers of our bulletin on EU border externalisation (examined in more detail below).

Police access to encrypted data

Working with journalist and longstanding Statewatch contributor Staffan Dahllöf, we obtained a Swedish government note circulated to other EU member states that called for weakening data protection safeguards to ease police access to data. An article based on the document was published by EUobserver.

Who's using our work?

'How Sweden pushes for EU access to encrypted data', EUobserver, 24 July

Reception conditions on the Greek islands

We supported the Boat Refugee Foundation with a number of access to documents requests to the European Commission about reception conditions on the Greek islands. The responses, due in 2025, were to form the basis of a report.

Colonial continuities in migration control measures

Working with our long-standing friends from Bürgerrechte & Polizei, we published a translation of an article from their regular journal, on the colonial continuities in past and present migration control measures in the West Africa.

1.3. Learning from history: 'activating' the Statewatch Library & Archive

Objective: 'Activate' our extensive Library & Archive through targeted events and output related to key themes in our work, in order to inform the present by learning from the past.

Throughout the year we received visits from researchers, lawyers and students interested in exploring material in the Library & Archive, including:

- a solicitor representing non-state core participants in the Undercover Policing Inquiry;
- international relations students from the University of Westminster researching western interference/intervention in Global South countries;
- students from the University of Essex studying EU asylum law;

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- researchers from the Criminal Justice & Policing Accountability Project (India), investigating policing, biometrics and surveillance during British colonial rule; and
- a filmmaker interested in producing video material to support our work, and a documentary on the history and activities of Statewatch.

In January, we participated in the MayDay Rooms open day, which saw several dozen people visit the Library & Archive and learn about its history and content.

In March, our Director also gave a presentation to post-graduate students at Gettysburg College (USA) on the history and work of Statewatch.

1.4. Barriers to implementing our objectives

Taking action against state secrecy

Objective: Ensure compliance with the law and improve access to information for all

The aim of this objective was to take complaints to the European Ombudsman in order to improve access to information and documents, following on from our previous work on Europol and Frontex. With no dedicated funding for this work, it has been impossible to take it forward. At a time of increasing EU institutional secrecy, opacity and obfuscation, including outright attacks on transparency rules, we will continue to seek funds for this important line of work.

Training on access to EU information and documents

Objective: Provide individuals and organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to investigate complex powers, policies, procedures and practices.

We have managed to develop the best part of a 'curriculum' for a training course on access to EU information and documents, and one session was provided to Border Violence Monitoring Network, as noted above. However, a lack of dedicated funding has prevented the full development of a training course, which needs more time to finalise the curriculum, plan and organise the structure of the course, and promote and manage it. We continue to seek funding for this activity.

'Activating' the Statewatch Library & Archive

Objective: 'Activate' our extensive Library & Archive through targeted events and output related to key themes in our work, in order to inform the present by learning from the past.

The Library & Archive remains an under-utilised resource, due to a lack of dedicated funding to organise, promote and 'activate' the collection. We did not identify any potential funding sources in 2024, but will continue to seek opportunities in 2025.

Objective 2

Expose and challenge new means of surveillance, coercion and control

Key developments and impact

1 in-depth report

1 public event

1 evidence submission to the UN

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At least 27 references in the press

At least 17 public citations by other civil society organisations

1 event bringing together migrant and refugee rights organisations facing state repression

4 events bringing together researchers, campaigners, activists, elected officials and others working on border externalisation

2 sets of parliamentary questions

Working with and supporting 10+ other organisations

2.1. Challenging international police data-sharing

Objective: Challenge the development of a network of police facial recognition databases linking EU and UK authorities

This work concerns the EU's 'Prüm' system of interconnected national databases, letting police conduct cross-border searches and sharing of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data. The UK continues to participate in the system as part of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

In early 2024 an updated Prüm Regulation was approved by the European Parliament and the Council. We have been unable to undertake any further substantive work on this issue due to a lack of dedicated funding.

Nevertheless, our Director gave an interview on the topic to Civicus Lens, and we have informed the UK-based Stop Facial Recognition Coalition of the law and its potential impacts. The coalition is organised by Big Brother Watch. Other organisations involved include Liberty, Open Rights Group, Privacy International and Race on the Agenda.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of the new law in the EU and the UK's potential involvement in the expanded system, and engage with developments when possible.

2.2. Limiting travel surveillance and passenger profiling

Objective: Prevent schemes for the automated police surveillance of travel and profiling of passengers being extended from air to rail and sea transport

Through the introduction of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) schemes, states and international organisations are implementing an integrated, networked global system for the surveillance of travel and the police profiling of passengers. These schemes are currently largely reserved to air travel, but there have been longstanding plans to extend them to rail, boat and coach journeys. There is a clear need to ensure, at the very least, strict controls and limitations on the introduction of such systems.

Throughout 2024 we continue to work towards this objective through a research project with the Funders Initiative for Civil Society. This seeks to establish an evidence base on the scale, scope, and potential effects of the "transnational security architecture" in particular with regard to civic space. The term "transnational security architecture" encompasses the global establishment of API, PNR and other systems for the international gathering and exchange of personal data, in the name of security and counter-terrorism.

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Initially intended for publication in 2024, the research will now be published in 2025, due to the need to balance this work with other projects. The intention is to lay the foundation for further empirical research in a number of states around the globe that will look at the effects of transnational security obligations and new technologies upon civic space.

In 2024, along with continuing research and writing, in January we hosted a session at Privacy Camp in Brussels to explain and discuss our work in this area, with Privacy International, the academic Monish Bhatia and Caitlin Chandler, an investigative journalist.

We also used our research for a submission to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' call for input on Use of Administrative Measures in Counter-Terrorism.

Who's using our work?

'The EU will soon have the largest hoard of biometric data on earth – and travellers could suffer', The Telegraph, 9 December

2.3. Exposing and opposing the externalisation of borders

Objective: Establish an evidence base on the EU's "operational partnerships" with third countries for the externalisation of border controls

In March, we began working towards this objective through a project funded by four German organizations: Brot für die Welt, Medico International, Miseror and Pro Asyl. The aim is to inform and facilitate the work of campaign and advocacy groups, journalists and elected officials seeking to hold states to account for the human rights violations that accompany the border externalisation agenda.

The project involves the production of a regular bulletin that uncovers and explains developments in the EU's border externalisation projects and policies. The bulletin is based on the systematic monitoring of European and international institutions, agencies and bodies, access to documents requests, and access to leaked documents.

In 2024, we published four editions of the bulletin, alongside which we published nearly 70 official documents that would not otherwise have been made public.

We also held four meetings that brought together campaigners, researchers, MEPs and parliamentary assistants, lawyers and others, to discuss the content of each bulletin and related issues. These provided a useful forum to share information, ideas and to jointly plan and strategise.

A dedicated mailing list for the bulletin and events had almost 200 subscribers at the end of 2024, including researchers, campaigners, parliamentarians and their assistants, journalists and academics.

Articles and documents published with the bulletin have been used by the media, parliamentarians and civil society organisations, as listed below. Journalists from El Salto, and The New Humanitarian, and a researcher from Strasbourg University, also sought our expertise on border externalisation to inform their work in 2024.

Who's using our work?

'Egypt and Tunisia 'not interested' in migrant deals with EU', The Telegraph, 21 October

'Egypt and Tunisia reportedly reluctant to co-operate with EU on migration deals', European Council on Refugees and Exiles, 17 October

'Egypt and Tunisia show 'little interest' in EU migration deal despite billions', EUobserver, 14 October

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'EU deflects blame as ICC prosecutor asked to look into Tunisia migrant abuse scandal', EurActiv, 25 September

Parliamentary question: 'Human rights violations by EU-funded forces in Tunisia', European parliamentary question, 24 September

'EU brushes off report it funds Tunisian forces accused of mass rape', EUobserver, 24 September

'The brutal truth behind Italy's migrant reduction: beatings and rape by EU-funded forces in Tunisia', The Guardian, 19 September

'Fallstricke der Externalisierung der europäischen Migrationspolitik', Stiftung Leben und Umwelt, 11 September

'The role of Courts in the era of EU externalization policies: A focus on Libya, Tunisia, and Niger', Refugee Law Initiative, 19 July 2024

'Política de externalización migratoria, o 'yo te pago y tú me paras a los migrantes'', RTVE, 9 May 2024

'Europa atrapada en su propia trampa', RTVE, 9 May 2024

'EU-Tunisia Deal Outlines Different Measures Addressing Migration by Tunisians & Non-Tunisian Nationals', European Council on Refugees and Exiles, 22 March

Frontex and externalisation

An in-depth research project looking at the role of EU border agency Frontex in the externalisation of the EU's borders continued throughout the year. The report, which will be co-published with the Transnational Institute, has been subject to a number of delays, but is due for release in 2025.

2.4. Identifying and challenging the 'collateral damage' caused by attacks on immigration and asylum

Objective: Contribute to efforts to halt the ongoing criminalization of human rights defenders, obstruction of journalists and undermining of the rule of law as a consequence of immigration control measures

The 'security playbook'

Throughout 2024, we worked towards this objective in cooperation with the Fund for Global Human Rights. Research was carried out in 2023 and early 2024 on the 'security playbook': the use of security narratives and measures to justify crackdowns on migrant and refugee rights activism. An internal report detailing the findings was produced in April, and served as the basis for a convening of FGHR grantees in Tirana, Albania in December.

Working with a professional facilitator and FGHR staff, we crafted an agenda and plan for the convening that allowed time to discuss the research, its implications, other relevant information from the participants, and strategies for dealing with the ongoing criminalization and repression of refugee and migrant rights activism.

Participants provided positive feedback about the event, the organization and the discussions that took place; we therefore consider we successfully achieved the immediate goal of supporting the holding of the convening. There are however longer-term questions – in particular, strategies and actions for dealing with criminalization and repression – that remain open. We will seek to pursue further work on this topic in 2025.

Who's using our work?

30+ grantee organisations of the Fund for Global Human Rights facing or working on the repression and criminalisation of support for and solidarity with migrants and refugees

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Criminalising solidarity: the EU Facilitation Package

Through the year we engaged with other civil society organisations on the EU's proposed Facilitation Package. This revises a 2002 law on the facilitation of irregular migration, which provides one of the key legal loopholes that lets member states punish acts of solidarity/humanitarianism – for example providing food, clothes, or information to people crossing borders.

The new law would introduce more severe criminal penalties and introduces extra-territorial jurisdiction for punishing facilitation and related crimes, amongst other things. The new Facilitation Directive was published alongside a proposal to increase the powers of Europol.

There has been substantial civil society advocacy on both the Facilitation Directive and the Europol proposal. We have supported this by publishing news, analysis and official documents, and contributing directly to the work of the #ProtectNotSurveil coalition on the Europol proposal.

Two of our articles on the Facilitation Directive were produced by external contributors: one, an individual from the group working on advocacy on the law, and the second by a member of staff at the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migration.

At the February meeting of the Europol Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group, Saskia Bricmont MEP used information we provided to question Europol officials on their work on migrant smuggling. Our work on this topic has also been referenced by the European Parliamentary Research Service.

Who's using our work?

La Strada International, 'EU Members Reach Agreement on Law on Migrant Smuggling', 16 December

'Immigration : l'Europe veut « mieux criminaliser » les exilés et leurs soutiens', l'Humanité, 21 August

'Stronger role for Europol to fight migrant smuggling and human trafficking', European Parliamentary Research Service, March

2.5. A watchdog for EU justice and home affairs policies

Objective: Monitor the activities of EU justice and home affairs institutions and agencies in order to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards

Following the roadmap: unmasking the EU's security AI plans

Work continued to finalise our report on the EU's development and deployment of AI for security purposes, due for publication in early 2025.

Data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders

This project aims to improve lawyers' and refugee and migrant rights organisations' ability to challenge the use of secret evidence against an immigration or/and asylum decision in the states that make up the Schengen area. Part of the project involved the workshops discussed in section 1.1 of this report.

Throughout the year we also conducted research on the issue of secret evidence and international data exchange affecting migrants and refugees arriving in Europe. This involved desk research, access to documents requests, a public questionnaire that was distributed in nine languages, and interviews with lawyers and NGO workers in Lesbos, Greece. Outputs based on this research will be published in 2025.

The project was also presented at a meeting of the EuroMed Rights network in Athens in May.

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Monitoring European police

Working with European Digital Rights, Refugee Project Egypt and other organisations, we prepared an open letter to the European Commission on plans to increase cooperation between Europol and the Egyptian police, for publication in January 2025.

That cooperation would be based on a working arrangement between Europol and Egyptian authorities. Although this type of arrangement does not allow the exchange of personal data, the letter warned that “even limited information exchange risks “whitewashing further human rights violations in Egypt and in the EU.”

In Egypt, torture and ill-treatment by police officers, prison guards and military personnel is widespread, as are unlawful arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, unfair trials and use of the death penalty.

This was part of our ongoing cooperation with the Resist Europol network, an open group of activists, researchers, lawyers, journalists, prison and police abolitionists, civil society organisations and more with a shared concern of the expanding EU policies, practices and agenda driven by criminalisation, surveillance and punishment. We regularly participated in discussions with the group in 2024, and helped to organise an in-person meeting in Amsterdam.

Who's using our work?

Saskia Bricmont MEP and Mounir Satouri, ‘Europol-Egypt working arrangement’, Question for written answer E-002718/2024, 2 December

‘Going dark’: police access to data

Working with European Digital Rights and member organisations IT-Pol Denmark and Privacy International, we helped to develop a paper on new EU proposals to make it easier for law enforcement agencies to access digital data.

The paper was submitted in February to the High-Level Working Group, “Going Dark”, convened by the European Commission to deal with the supposed problem of law enforcement agencies being unable to access certain types of digital data – for example, due to encryption.

Funding for police and border agencies

Reports we have published in recent years that explain state funding for and expenditure on new security and surveillance technologies continue to provide an important resource for other civil society organisations. These include our 2022 report on the EU’s security, defence and border budgets for the 2021-27 period, another report from 2022 on EU funding for AI-powered border technologies, and many other publications on similar topics going back almost two decades.

We were also interviewed by a journalist from La Via Libera on EU policing, borders and security budgets, and from Follow the Money on Europol. We also gave an online talk to students and staff at the University of Amsterdam on how EU research funds are distributed to Israeli entities, including military and security companies.

Who's using our work?

‘The Automated Fortress Europe: No Place for Human Rights’, Algorithm Watch, May

‘Automation on the Move — Bibliography’, AlgorithmWatch, 13 November

‘EU migration policy as a global health crisis’, Salud por Derecho, October

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'Technologies, migration, and human rights: the role of European NHRIs', European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, September

Technologies of surveillance, security and control

As with our work on budgets and funding, past work on technologies of surveillance, security and control continues to remain highly relevant. In 2024, reports from as far back as 2014 were cited by a range of organisations. Staff were also interviewed on this topic by a Danish documentary filmmaker and a journalist from The Sunday Times.

We presented some of our work on border security technologies at an AlgorithmWatch workshop in Berlin in May, and in December at a conference organised by HIAS Greece (online).

Who's using our work?

'What happens if I'm rejected for an Etias – and can I appeal?', the i paper, 26 August

'Cyfrowe granice. Jak algorytmy mają strzec Europy [wywiad]', Fundacja Panoptykon, 14 June

'The Digital Border: Migration, Technology and Inequality', 21 May, Amnesty USA

'Spotlight on European and French funding in Tunisia: Migration cooperation at the cost of human rights?', CCFD and Terre Solidaire, May

'Between privacy and border control: Tech in the Migration Pact', EurActiv, 19 April

Migration, deportation, databases, policing, and more

Our regular provision of news and analysis on both EU and national state powers, policies and practices continues to provide a vital source of information to journalists, civil society organisations and others. As well as the links below, we were also regularly interviewed by Radio Blackout (Italy) and Radio Student (Slovenia) to discuss developments in EU and UK immigration and security policies. We were also present at a meeting held by The Left group in the European Parliament (April) on ways to deal with the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum, and presented an overview of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum at the Berlin Humanitarian Congress in October.

Who's using our work?

'Will Frontex's expansion lead to more oversight and accountability?', The Parliament, 4 December

Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, 'Das europäische Einreise-/Ausreisensystem', December

'Deutschland drängt auf EU-weite Verfolgung und Überwachung von Fahrzeugen', Heise Online, 17 November

'Fondettes: une galerie expose « Calais après la jungle »', La Nouvelle Republique, 15 November

'Deutschland treibt EU-weites Abhören in Fahrzeugen voran', Netzpolitik, 14 November

'Spain asks Frontex to patrol African waters to curb migration', InfoMigrants, 11 October

'EU und Kanada: Neues Abkommen zur Übermittlung von Fluggastdaten steht', Heise Online, 4 October

Så gick Frontex från liten myndighet till högteknologisk propagandamaskin, Dagens ETC, 3 October

'Bundespolizei für Internetüberprüfung von Schengen-Reisenden', nd, 19 September

'How should Europe deal with its migration crisis?', Al Jazeera, 16 September

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'Le Maroc n'accepte que 8% des expulsions de ses ressortissants émises par l'UE, selon un rapport', *Telquel*, 12 September 2024

'Marruecos solo acepta el 8% de las expulsiones de sus nacionales emitidas por la UE', *El País*, 11 September

'Planned new European travel restrictions follow US precedents and pressure', *Papers, Please!*, 6 September

'Frontex goes drone shopping as EU looks to keep migrants out', *EurActiv*, 21 August

'Come funzionano i voli di rimpatrio forzato dall'Italia alla Tunisia', *Internazionale*, 24 June

Expulsion des Tunisien·nes d'Italie : la complicité discrète des compagnies aériennes, *Inkyfada*, 24 June

Meijers Committee, 'Comment on Europol's data subject categorisation based on the amended Europol Regulation', May

Met police to pay 'five-figure sum' to French publisher arrested under anti-terror laws, *The Guardian*, 29 April

'How the EU Death Machine Works', *Verfassungsblog*, 27 February

2.6. 'Global Britain' and civil liberties

Objective: Monitor the activities of the new law enforcement and security institutions set up by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as other cooperation initiatives between the UK and other states, to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards.

We continue to monitor the situation in the UK and the UK's cooperation with the EU and other states and entities. Our ability to produce any outputs on this topic is extremely limited due to a lack of dedicated funding.

Nevertheless, we produced a small number of articles and signed joint statements and open letters throughout 2024, on topics including:

- UK-German cooperation against migration across the Channel;
- facial recognition;
- police accountability for privacy invasions;
- automated decision-making;
- the Rwanda Bill; and
- accountability for state-related deaths.

We are also members of a number of UK coalitions. While we are not particularly active in these, they remain a useful way to receive and share information and occasionally contribute to advocacy or campaigning efforts. Those networks are:

- the Digital Sanctuary coalition, coordinated by Open Rights Group;
- the Human Rights Act coalition, coordinated by Liberty; and
- the Stop Facial Recognition coalition, coordinated by Big Brother Watch.

Who's using our work?

'Migration 5: The truth about the shadowy scheme to check identities', *The New Zealand Herald*, 16 June 2024

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2.7. Other

The right to a fair trial

In March, we published a report by exiled Turkish lawyers on an important case at the European Court of Human Rights: *Yüksel Yalçınkaya v. Türkiye*. The case concerned the prosecution of an individual for the use of an encrypted messaging app, ByLock, which the Turkish government alleges is solely used by individuals involved in the organisations that allegedly launched the 2016 coup attempt.

Thousands of people have been imprisoned because they have used the app, with no substantive evidence presented against them. The ECtHR judgment provides a corrective to this disturbing practice, though the Turkish government is yet to implement. The judgement also sets out important standards on the use of digital evidence in criminal trials.

The report itself was covered in Turkish-language press and was well-received on social media. It was cited in a decision of the Austrian Administrative Court in December. We co-signed a letter to the Council of Europe in July, requesting that the Committee of Ministers ensure that judgment is properly implemented by the Turkish authorities.

Who's using our work?

Austrian Federal Administrative Court ruled: 'The Hizmet Movement is not a terrorist organization', 30 December

Objective 3

Build a more sustainable and more effective organisation

Key developments and impact

Expenditure of £195,370 and income of £153,002

New communications strategy

Development of a visual rebrand for the organisation

5 new funding partners

20% increase in website visits

32% increase in website visitors

Ongoing cooperation with our networks

3.1. A more sustainable organisation

Objective: Obtain an increased amount of core funding over the next four years, seeking a diverse range of funding sources for different elements of our strategy; continue to seek project funding for activities that align with our strategy

Funding

In 2024 our total expenditure was £195,370 and our total income was £153,002. While our expenditure was therefore greater than our income, we ended the year with a balance of £160,576.

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The overall financial picture for the year was relatively healthy, it remains the case that Statewatch generally lacks long-term, stable financial support. This support would need to be both underpinned by, and to enable, a shift away from the short-term project-based model upon which we have now been reliant for many years.

One contact made with a foundation in 2024 will, we hope, play a part in facilitating that shift. Elsewhere, we received funding from two new sources:

- the European AI & Society Fund (EASIF), for a project on the EU's development and use of artificial intelligence for police, border, immigration and criminal justice purposes; and
- European Digital Rights, for a project undertaken in collaboration with an investigative journalist, designed to complement the EASIF-funded work.

Towards the end of the year, we were also able to agree another grant with EASIF to undertake a project on predictive policing that was effectively abandoned by another organisation. It took some nine months to organise, and we are grateful to EASIF for their patience, assistance and support during that time.

In 2024, our work was supported by:

- Brot für die Welt, Misereor, medico international and Pro Asyl
- European AI & Society Fund
- European Digital Rights
- Friends of Statewatch
- Funders Initiative for Civil Society
- Garden Court Chambers
- Global Fund for Human Rights
- Open Society Foundations

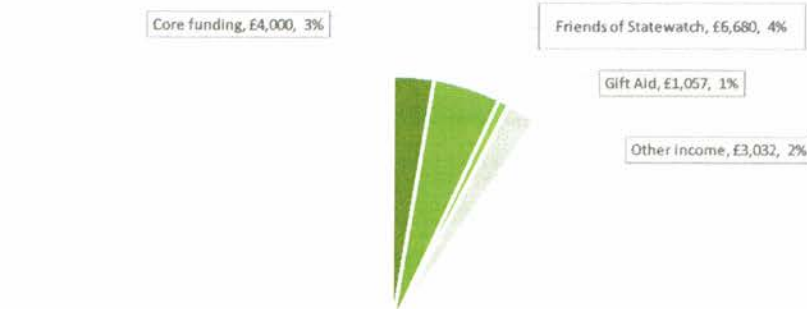
We are grateful for the support of all our funders and supporters and hope to continue working with them into 2025 and beyond. We will continue to seek new funding partners so that we can work towards the objectives set out in our strategic plan that, as highlighted in this report, we were unable to work on in 2024 due to a lack of dedicated resources.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

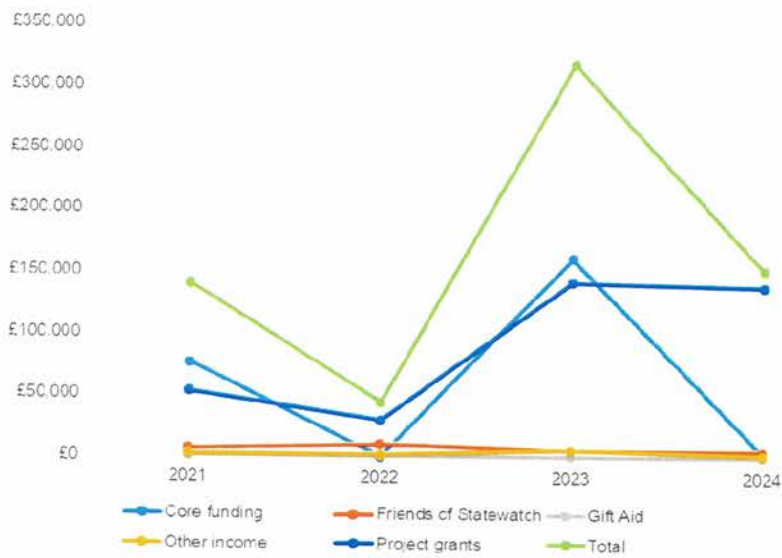
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Income in 2024



Project grants, £138,233, 90%

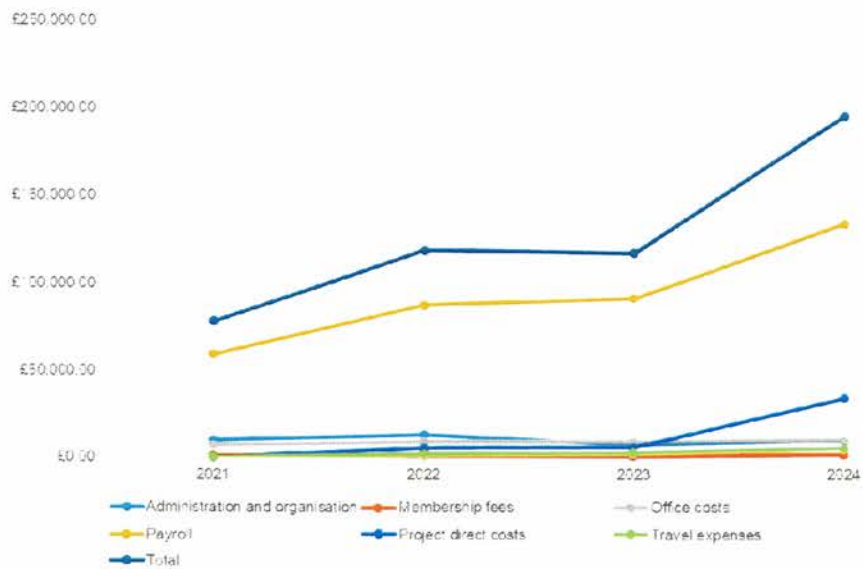
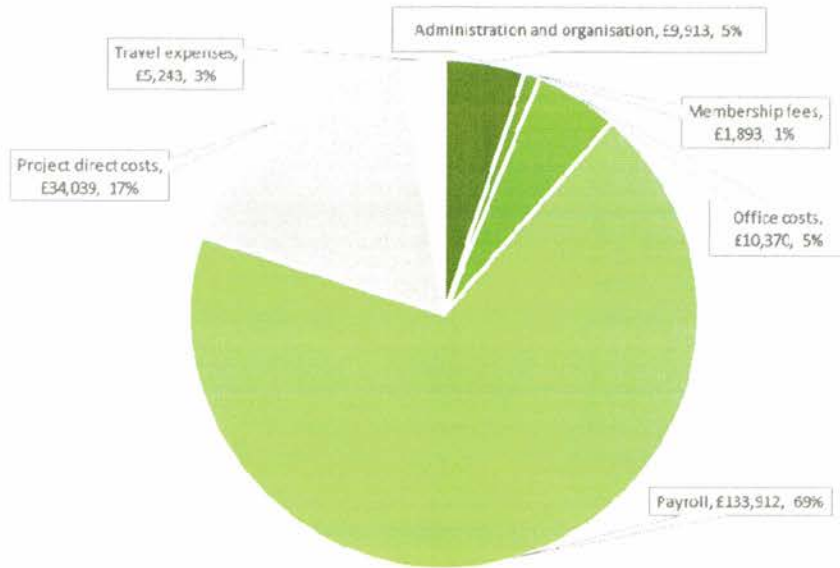


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Expenditure in 2024



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Friends of Statewatch

Regular payments from the 64 Friends of Statewatch provided £5,556.94 to the organisation in 2024. This is a decrease compared to 2023, when 58 Friends of Statewatch provided £6765. In 2024 we also received 22 one-off donations with a total value of £738.57.

Financial management and administration

In October 2024, the board of trustees adopted a Financial Procedures Manual for the first time, to ensure our financial management and administration is carried out in a transparent, coherent and consistent manner.

Statewatch in the EU

Objective: Establish a formal presence in EU jurisdiction to mitigate possible risks for our work caused by Brexit

Since the Brexit vote we have explored options for establishing a formal Statewatch presence within EU jurisdiction and now have a clear overview of what those options are and how to pursue them if deemed necessary. So far, the effects of Brexit have only caused minor procedural obstacles to our work, for example the ability to make requests for access to documents as a UK-based organisation. The option to establish a presence in EU jurisdiction remains open to us, if and when deemed necessary.

3.2. A more effective organisation

Objective: Ensure that Statewatch has the people, knowledge, skills and contacts needed to achieve its objectives

We seek to meet this objective by ensuring that learning and development is at the centre of our work, that we thoroughly monitor and evaluate the way we work, that we are able to make good use of the voluntary work that people are willing to offer the organisation, and that we play an active and meaningful role in the networks of which we are a part.

Learning and development

Our strategic plan commits us to adopting a staff learning and development programme and individual learning and development plans for each member of staff. In practice, these goals are met by keeping the question of learning and development as a standing item on our weekly staff meetings and in monthly one-to-one meetings between each member of staff and the director. These took place every month apart from in August (for the summer break) and September (due to the death of Tony Bunyan, Statewatch founder and, until his death, Director Emeritus).

During the year, staff participated in the following training courses and events:

- 'From activist to manager' Leadership Programme, European AI & Society Fund
- Fundraising, European AI & Society Fund and Slovak Fundraising Center
- Charity finance strategy, National Council of Voluntary Organisations
- Retreat on strategic litigation, Digital Freedom Fund

Materials and resources provided during training courses are made available to all staff and volunteers for reference.

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Monitoring and evaluation

In June, staff and some members of the board of trustees were able to meet in London for a valuable mid-term evaluation of our strategic plan. It also allowed for broader reflection on the increasingly-difficult environment in which we work, and how we go about our work. This was also the first opportunity for a number of the staff and trustees to meet one another in person – something that is made difficult due to the distributed locations of our staff and board, and the fact that we usually have to operate with restricted funding.

Maintain and develop the Statewatch contributors group

We stayed in contact with the contributors group throughout the year, primarily via the mailing list but also through individual contact and conversations. We developed a plan to increase engagement with and contributions from the group, but it proved difficult to fully carry this out.

As a first step, a questionnaire was sent to all members of the group to better understand their interests and availability. Unfortunately, it was not possible to make progress beyond this point.

Over the course of the year, 18 articles were written by external contributors, either on an ad-hoc basis following a request to the contributors mailing list, or through another form of cooperation, such as the Outsourcing Borders bulletin.

Contributed articles

EU: New migrant smuggling law to ensure criminalisation of solidarity, 10 December

Frontex's increasing role in reintegration policy and its effects in West Africa, 25 November

Ignoring the root causes of disaster: the EU and Sudan, 14 October

Frontex flights and fatalities in the Channel, 13 September

EU watchdog intervention forces Frontex to improve transparency, 20 August

Implementing the Pact: obligation for fundamental rights monitoring, 16 July

EU: Council lowers threshold for migrant smuggling prosecutions, 15 July

How the EU police training agency is cosyng up to the Arab League's political extradition body, 2 July

Frontex collaboration with Libya: "we call them and try to persuade them to take them back", 12 June

Analysis: The politics behind the EU-Mauritania migration partnership, 29 April

Policing migration: when "harm reduction" means "multipurpose aerial surveillance", 9 April

European money for the war in Gaza: how EU research funding supports the Israeli arms industry, 22 March

"Action file" on Tunisia outlines EU's externalisation plans, 15 March

Parliamentary lawyers: democratic oversight needed for EU-Tunisia migration agreement, 15 March

ByLock Prosecutions and the Right to Fair Trial in Turkey: The ECtHR Grand Chamber's Ruling in *Yüksel Yalçinkaya v. Türkiye*, 13 March

The case of *Civipol*: commodified mobility policing in West Africa and its colonial continuities, 28 February

Deportations: EU considers stepping up visa sanctions after Iraq and Gambia change policies, 13 February

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Germany: Fatal police shootings in 2022, 8 January

A more active and effective role in our networks

Burgerrechte & Polizei (Civil Liberties & Policing, CILIP)

We remain in regular contact with CILIP and in 2024 published translations of two articles originally published in the CILIP journal.

European Digital Rights

We are regularly in touch with European Digital Rights (EDRI) staff and member organisations. In 2024 we attended the general assembly in Crete (in May) and the year participated in the working group redesigning the network's internal complaints procedure.

Migreurop

In 2024 we continued in our role as a co-president of Migreurop's conseil administrative, and continued to engage with the internal working group on Frontex. We attended the conseil meeting in Tunisia in May, which was an important opportunity to meet in-person and to show solidarity with Tunisian organisations targeted by state repression. We also attended the general assembly in Marseille in November. In September we presented a report on migration and asylum policies in the UK to other members of the network.

#ProtectNotSurveil

We remain up-to-date with the work of the #ProtectNotSurveil coalition and participate actively when possible, given time constraints. In 2024 we contributed to the network's position paper on a proposal to give Europol more powers, ostensibly to deal with migrant smuggling. This was due for publication in 2025.

This Is What Police Tech Looks Like

We attended a number of meetings held by This Is What Police Tech Looks Like, to share information with other groups from across Europe, and also attended an in-person meeting in Greece in May.

Other relevant events

We attended back-to-back conferences organised by Systemic Justice, and Weaving Liberation/Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice in Berlin in June.

Improving our communication

Head of Communications

At the end of 2023 we were able to recruit, for the first time, a member of staff to work solely on communications. This was an important step for the organisation and led to an improvement in our external and internal communication throughout 2024, which we expect to continue into 2025 and beyond.

Communications strategy

The communications strategy was approved in May and implemented from that point onwards. A full review is yet to be conducted, but it has already led to more consistent and clear writing and social media output.

Staff and the board agreed upon a visual rebrand for Statewatch in autumn, which was due to be implemented for public outputs (reports, social media material, and so on) as of 1 January 2025. A rebrand of the website is also planned but requires dedicated funding.

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Internal communication and coordination

In autumn we began using project management software for the first time, to improve internal coordination for the multiple projects we have ongoing at any one point. While this is likely to take some time to fully embed use of the software in the organisation, it is a welcome step.

Use of our resources

Compared to 2023, the total number of visits to our website grew by 20% in 2024, to a total of 201,177. While this figure may be slightly skewed by lower-than-expected figures in 2023, due to server downtime, it is nevertheless impressive. The total number of individual visitors also grew substantially: by 32%, from 133,486 in 2023 to 176,041 in 2024. The total number of downloads, however, fell by 11%, from 17,586 to 15,691. This may be a result of the publication of fewer documents in 2024 than in 2023.

The total number of followers across all our social media accounts (Twitter/X, Facebook, LinkedIn, BlueSky, Mastodon) grew steadily, but slowly, increasing from 16,396 in January to 17,614 in December.

At the end of the year, the number of subscribers to our mailing list stood at around 11,500, a small increase from around 11,100 at the end of 2023.

Policy on reserves

At year end 2024 the organisation had £160,576 available, though no specific amount of this was dedicated to reserves that would make it possible to meet any unexpected shortfall in income, or meet any necessary expenditure to protect or expand the Trust's work. Trustees will endeavour to increase reserves if income permits. Although we have taken steps towards the adoption of a formal reserves policy, no such policy has yet been finalised or adopted by the board.

Changes to board membership in 2024

After joining us in early 2023, Gabriel Almeida stepped down from his post on the board due to taking up employment that prevented him acting as a charity trustee. We are grateful for his input and insight, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Risk analysis

Staff development and retention

Statewatch employees are employed part time and are highly skilled in our specialist field of work. Our priority is to improve the working conditions of current staff whilst acquiring enough funding to recruit additional staff members, in order to better fulfil our mission.

In recent years we have been able to significantly increase staff wages. In 2021 and 2022 we implemented an across-the-board pay increase of 10. In 2023 there was a 15% pay rise for all staff, and a further 10% in 2024. This has made a significant contribution to bringing our salary levels closer to a decent level for our sector.

Review and monitor action to reduce our projected pension deficit

We have an action plan in place with the Pensions' Trust, our pension provider, to reduce our deficit by paying additional annual contributions. The estimate from the Pensions Trust of employer liability on withdrawal is £4,621 (as at September 2024), an increase from £4,209 in September 2023.

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Operating environment

One risk for the organisation is an increasingly hostile operating environment, driven by government and media attacks on independent, critical voices. In relation to our work, this manifested in 2024 in the form of a European parliamentary question about a leaked document that we published.

An MEP for the extreme right-wing Patriots for Europe group asked the European Commission whether it was “considering taking action against the Statewatch website and does it strive to ensure that restricted-access EU documents are not published online, whether that be by Statewatch or any other organisation, person or entity?”

While no such “action” has emerged, this intervention highlights the importance of source protection and ensuring that we have access to adequate legal support, should the need arise.

Annex: Projects in 2024

Data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders

Funder: Privacy International

Duration: September 2023-May 2025

This project aims to improve lawyers' and refugee and migrant rights organisations' ability to challenge the use of secret evidence against an immigration or/and asylum decision in the states that make up the Schengen area. It will do this by:

- investigating the scale and scope of the use of secret evidence, the extent to which target groups make use of data protection law in all stages and types (administrative, pre-judicial, judicial) of proceedings against the use of secret evidence and the extent to which authorities, supervisory bodies and courts are enforcing data protection standards;
- informing the target groups about the possibilities of using data protection law as a means to seek access to an effective remedy for individuals threatened by a migration or asylum decision informed by secret evidence;
- pushing for more rigorous oversight and enforcement of data protection law by EU bodies in relation to existing and forthcoming databases and information exchange mechanisms through advocacy and campaigning with other civil society organisations, and by supporting the work of other organisations addressing related issues.

The project will explore a new avenue to support due process rights in immigration and asylum proceedings, in particular the equality of arms between the applicant and the authority in the context of the use of secret evidence, in accordance with articles 8 and 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (the rights to a fair trial and an effective remedy in this proposal should be understood as reference to general questions of due process, and not freestanding rights in and of themselves).

Following the roadmap: unmasking the EU's security AI plans

Funder: European AI & Society Fund

Duration: January-December 2024

The goal of this project is to increase democratic scrutiny and oversight of the EU's ongoing security AI plans. We will do this through an investigation of the 'state of play' of the security AI roadmap and the projects it encompasses, as well as other related ongoing work (for example, that carried out under the auspices of Europol's Innovation Hub).

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Outsourcing borders

Funders: Brot für die Welt, Misereor, medico international and Pro Asyl

Duration: March 2024-February 2025

This project aims to make the EU's border externalisation policies, plans and practices public. In doing so it seeks to highlight their impact on the rights of people on the move, as well as democratic standards, transparency and accountability. It addresses a lack of public information by publishing relevant EU documents, in this phase primarily those produced or discussed by the Council of the EU. It also tackles the overflow of information that results from a variety of EU institutions, working groups and national governments involved in the externalisation agenda by summarising thematic and regional developments, and by analysing key issues in depth.

Transnational security architecture, civic space and human rights

Funder: Funders Initiative for Civil Society

Duration: February 2023-September 2025 (extended due to delays)

Our research aims to complement and support nascent civil society and local, activist-led research and advocacy in this area. We will do this by:

- establishing a more substantial evidence base on the establishment, financing and implementation of international counter-terrorism and security norms and their implementation at the national level, in particular as regards:
 - o the bodies and agencies involved, including informal and private bodies;
 - o the actual or potential adverse effects of those norms and measures on civic space and human rights;
 - o the pathways through which those norms (and, in particular, key emerging priorities such as biometrics, travel surveillance and 'watchlisting') are generated and implemented and the implications for democratic scrutiny, oversight, accountability and the involvement of civil society;
 - o the interaction of the international, regional and national levels in the making of global security law and governance;
- identifying targets, pathways and potential allies for change, in particular by:
 - o analysing how emerging priorities in international security governance are or can be used to restrict human rights and civic space;
 - o identifying how those international norms shape localised counter-terrorism responses pathways through which those norms are implemented;
 - o identifying key actors involved in the generation, financing and implementation of norms and states and/or institutions that may be amenable to/supportive of efforts to counter negative developments;
 - o broadening the array of civil society actors aware of and engaged with efforts to counter international counter-terrorism and security norm-setting that undermines civic space and human rights.

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The project aims to provide a springboard for campaigning and advocacy that seeks to ensure, at a bare minimum, greater democratic and public scrutiny and oversight of transnational security institutions, with the long-term aim of rolling back and ultimately halting the development of an unaccountable, invasive and harmful global security architecture.

The "security playbook" and migrants' rights activism

Funder: Fund for Global Human Rights

Duration: October 2023-May 2024 (research), July 2024-January 2025 (convening)

A research project investigating how states are using security discourses and measures to repress migrant and refugee rights activism. In 2024, we also supported the organisation of a convening in Albania, for groups affected by state repression to discuss our research and to consider strategies in response.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

- Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche
- Laure Baudrihayé-Gérard
- Jonathan Bloch
- Victoria Canning
- Nadine Finch
- Lilana Keith (resigned 30 April 2025)
- Gabriel Almeida (resigned 3 June 2024)

Secretary: Jonathan Bloch

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

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Trustees' Report

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

The financial statements on pages 29 to 45 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Jonathan Bloch
Company secretary and trustee

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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes on pages 29 to 45.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

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.



Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

18 September 2025

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust
known as Stawatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Total		Total			
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £		
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	11,737	128,211	139,948	169,498	129,048	298,546
Charitable activities	4	12,905	-	12,905	13,675	-	13,675
Investment income	5	149	-	149	68	-	68
Total income		24,791	128,211	153,002	183,241	129,048	312,289
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	(19,966)	(175,404)	(195,370)	(32,222)	(86,653)	(118,875)
Total expenditure		(19,966)	(175,404)	(195,370)	(32,222)	(86,653)	(118,875)
Net income/(expenditure)		4,825	(47,193)	(42,368)	151,019	42,395	193,414
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(2,646)	2,646	-
Net movement in funds		4,825	(47,193)	(42,368)	148,373	45,041	193,414
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		155,751	47,193	202,944	7,378	2,152	9,530
Total funds carried forward	17	160,576	-	160,576	155,751	47,193	202,944

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 33 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)**

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 17.

The notes on pages 33 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,088	1,200
Current assets			
Debtors	12	38,728	18,613
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>132,178</u>	<u>211,363</u>
		170,906	229,976
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(6,797)</u>	<u>(24,023)</u>
Net current assets		<u>164,109</u>	<u>205,953</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		165,197	207,153
Provisions	15	<u>(4,621)</u>	<u>(4,209)</u>
Net assets		<u>160,576</u>	<u>202,944</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		-	47,193
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>160,576</u>	<u>155,751</u>
Total funds	17	<u>160,576</u>	<u>202,944</u>

For the financial year ending 31 December 2024 the charity 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 charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 33 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

The financial statements on pages 29 to 45 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 18 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Jonathan Bloch
Company secretary and trustee

The notes on pages 33 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

88 Fleet Street

London

EC4Y 1DH

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 18 September 2025.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

In common with many similar organisations who receive the majority of their income from public funding, the viability of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust is dependent on finding continuing sources of funding. As set out in the trustee's report, the company's financial situation remains challenging, but the trustees are working to address these issues. Accordingly, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	General £	Restricted £		
Donations and legacies;				
Committed giving	6,680	-	6,680	6,707
Gift aid reclaimed	1,057	-	1,057	1,195
Grants, including capital grants;				
European Digital Rights	-	5,929	5,929	-
Garden Court	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Open Society Institute	-	-	-	157,596
Privacy International	-	34,505	34,505	11,501
Fund for Global Human rights	-	40,148	40,148	19,254
Funders' Initiative for Civil Society	-	-	-	98,293
Network of European Foundations	-	47,629	47,629	-
	<u>11,737</u>	<u>128,211</u>	<u>139,948</u>	<u>298,546</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	General £		
Service level agreement	10,022	10,022	7,101
Fees and supplies	484	484	366
Other income	2,399	2,399	6,208
	<u>12,905</u>	<u>12,905</u>	<u>13,675</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>149</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>68</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	9	85,829	67,950
Computer software and maintenance		7,545	3,731
Printing, postage and stationery		134	287
Trade subscriptions		1,214	1,321
Sundries		312	15
Project costs		34,039	5,663
Travel and subsistence		5,243	2,732
Support costs	8	<u>61,054</u>	<u>37,176</u>
		<u>195,370</u>	<u>118,875</u>

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

8 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Rent	7,500	9,555
Insurance	972	693
Accountancy	-	180
Independent examination	2,484	2,412
Consultancy	48,083	22,987
Legal and professional	13	817
Bank charges	276	132
Foreign currency (gains)/losses	1,230	-
Depreciation of office equipment	496	400
	<u>61,054</u>	<u>37,176</u>

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	80,206	65,207
Social security costs	1,407	153
Pension costs	4,151	2,392
Other staff costs	65	198
	<u>85,829</u>	<u>67,950</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Charitable activities	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2024	1,600	1,600
Additions	<u>384</u>	<u>384</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,984</u>	<u>1,984</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	400	400
Charge for the year	<u>496</u>	<u>496</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>896</u>	<u>896</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,088</u>	<u>1,088</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

12 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	981	2,499
Accrued income	36,691	14,919
Other debtors	1,056	1,195
	<u>38,728</u>	<u>18,613</u>

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	<u>132,178</u>	<u>211,363</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	3,063	2,564
Accruals	3,734	3,620
Deferred income	-	17,839
	<u>6,797</u>	<u>24,023</u>

15 Provisions

	Pension contributions provision £	Total £
At 1 January 2024	(4,209)	(4,209)
Utilised during the period	(412)	(412)
At 31 December 2024	<u>(4,621)</u>	<u>(4,621)</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	155,751	24,791	(19,966)	160,576
Restricted				
PI Project	5,462	34,505	(39,967)	-
The Fund for Global Human Rights	-	40,148	(40,148)	-
Funders' Initiative for Civil Society	41,731	-	(41,731)	-
European Digital Rights	-	5,929	(5,929)	-
Network of European Foundations	-	47,629	(47,629)	-
	<u>47,193</u>	<u>128,211</u>	<u>(175,404)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>202,944</u>	<u>153,002</u>	<u>(195,370)</u>	<u>160,576</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted					
<i>General</i>					
General Funds	7,378	183,241	(32,222)	(2,646)	155,751
Restricted					
PI Project	2,152	11,501	(8,191)	-	5,462
The Fund for Global Human Rights	-	19,254	(21,900)	2,646	-
Funders' Initiative for Civil Society	-	98,293	(56,562)	-	41,731
	<u>2,152</u>	<u>129,048</u>	<u>(86,653)</u>	<u>2,646</u>	<u>47,193</u>
Total funds	<u>9,530</u>	<u>312,289</u>	<u>(118,875)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>202,944</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Protecting Migrants Communities by Future-Proofing the Immigration system

Funder: Privacy International

Summary: In order to inform civil society organisations, journalists and European and national parliamentary representatives about EU justice and home affairs agencies' roles in this complex information network and its impact on individuals' rights, this project produced an interactive online 'map' and a series of short briefings to explain and critically analyse:

- the processing of personal data by Frontex, Europol and the EU Asylum Agency in the context of the EU's 'interoperability' initiative, including new roles and powers granted to the agencies in relation to interoperable systems and how this compares to the status quo ante as well as their more general data processing powers; and
- the impact of that data processing on fundamental rights.

Transnational security policy, civic space and human rights

Funder: Funders Initiative for Civil Society

Summary: Investigating transnational security and counter-terrorism obligations originating from the UN Security Council, their implementation by international and regional intergovernmental organisations, and their impacts and effects on civic space and human rights at national level.

Transparency on AI technologies in migration: Europe's techno-border

Funder: EuroMed Rights

Summary: A study to provide an overview of the links between European migration policies - namely specific files contained in the so-called EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, such as the Screening Regulation - and the use of security-focused technologies, including AI. The study included a focus on Italy and Spain, as key countries for the implementation of screenings of asylum applicants at external borders.

Civic space, security, and Migrants' Rights Research; the security playbook and migrants' rights activism

Funder: Fund for Global Human Rights

Summary: A project investigating how governments in Europe and beyond have used security narratives and measures to crack down on migrant/refugee rights work.

Data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders

Funder: Privacy International

Summary: This project investigates the use of secret evidence in asylum and immigration proceedings in the EU, and looks at how data protection law may be used to provide improved access to an effective remedy for people in those proceedings.

Advocacy and Campaign

actions at national level related to the AI Act and its implementation

Funder: European Digital Rights

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The goal of this project is to increase democratic scrutiny and oversight of the EU's ongoing security AI plans. We will do this through an investigation of the 'state of play' of the security AI roadmap and the projects it encompasses, as well as other related ongoing work (for example, initiatives carried out under the auspices of Europol's Innovation Hub).

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 December 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,088	1,088
Current assets	170,906	170,906
Current liabilities	(6,797)	(6,797)
Provisions	(4,621)	(4,621)
Total net assets	160,576	160,576

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,200	-	1,200
Current assets	182,783	47,193	229,976
Current liabilities	(24,023)	-	(24,023)
Provisions	(4,209)	-	(4,209)
Total net assets	155,751	47,193	202,944

THE LIBERTARIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1154784

Accounts

Company registration number: 08480724

Charity registration number: 1154784

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as

Statewatch

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 ORB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

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The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche Laure Baudrihay-Gérard Jonathan Bloch Victoria Canning Nadine Finch Lilana Keith Gabriel Almeida
Secretary	Jonathan Bloch
Charity Registration Number	1154784
Company Registration Number	08480724
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales. 88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road Blackheath SE3 0RB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023 which have been prepared in compliance with current statutory requirements, The Companies Act 1985, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011; and with the charity's governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Statewatch is the working name of the Libertarian Research and Education Trust (LRET), which was established as a trust in 1981. On 3 December 2013 the charity was incorporated, again with the name The Libertarian Research and Education Trust. The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission as a successor to the Trust (company number: 08480724, charity number: 1154784). The assets and liabilities of the Trust have been transferred to this company, and from 3 December 2013 the company has taken over all of the activities of the trust. The Trust does not have a corporate opinion.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Appointment of Trustees

Any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26 of Articles of Association, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

We provide Trustees with the Charity Commission and NCVO guidance for Trustees. We have also contracted external expertise to provide legal advice on contracts and policies. They have prepared a Staff and volunteers Handbook and are currently working on a Handbook for Trustees. This will cover recruitment, policies, induction and training.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche (appointed 13 February 2023)
	Laure Baudrihaye-Gérard (appointed 13 February 2023)
	Jonathan Bloch
	Victoria Canning
	Nadine Finch
	Lilana Keith
	Gabriel Almeida (appointed 13 February 2023)
	Fiona Godfrey (resigned 12 February 2023)
Chair:	Ann Singleton (resigned 12 February 2023)
Secretary:	Jonathan Bloch

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Civil liberties in an era of crisis and turmoil

“It has been said that history repeats itself. This is perhaps not quite correct; it merely rhymes,” the Austrian psychoanalyst Theodor Reik once wrote. At a time of growing support for parties and movements of the extreme right, and the adoption of their ideas by mainstream political parties; rising geopolitical tension between the world’s most powerful states; outright war and military conflict; flagrant racism and xenophobia; and growing economic inequality, it is sobering to think that the 2020s may rhyme with the 1920s.

It is in this context that European states, and “the west” more broadly, are seeking to define themselves in opposition to their geopolitical foes – primarily Russia and China. Both these countries have vastly different forms of government to those of European states, marked by a disturbing level of state control over both individual and collective activities, and brutal human rights violations. Nevertheless, events in Europe increasingly appear to suggest that the differences between the “old continent” and its current rivals are of degree, rather than kind. Europe has plenty of its own authoritarian tendencies, and these are increasingly coming to the surface.

The most obvious and longstanding example is that of Hungary, where the far-right *Fidesz* government has been in power for over a decade. But Italy is now governed by a coalition of the far-right, with a prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, whose political life began in neo-fascist movements. Meloni has, in turn, apparently forged close links with UK prime minister Rishi Sunak, whose governing programme has largely been based on trying to appease the most right-wing elements of the Conservative Party. Meanwhile, in France and Germany – the EU’s two most powerful states – the far-right is increasing popular with the electorate. Examples abound within and without the EU, across the European continent, and beyond.

Predictions for the European Parliament elections consistently show a substantial increase in support for parties explicitly opposed to universal rights and freedoms. At the same time, amongst EU institutions and member states there is a broad consensus that forging alliances with and funding authoritarian leaders abroad is a price worth paying to halt the arrival of unwanted migrants and refugees, a policy goal that is also seeing increasing restrictions on and repression of those defending migrant and refugee rights, and those saving lives in the Mediterranean and Aegean. The ongoing attempts to delegitimise protest movements – for racial justice, action against climate change, or in solidarity with Palestine – including by painting them as extremist or even terrorist, has made the political colours of many European governments increasingly clear.

The claims advanced by European governments that they are steadfast supporters of human rights, civil liberties and democratic standards – an idea often bundled up in the phrase “European values” – is starting to ring hollow to a growing number of people. It is likely to become increasingly so for as long as governments that claim to support those values continue to undermine them domestically, and through the influence they exert over the institutions of the EU and other supranational fora. In this context, the role of an independent, critical and contentious civil society, understood in the broadest possible sense – a civil society of associations, organisations, trade unions, campaign groups, journalists, lawyers, researchers and beyond – becomes more important than ever.

Throughout 2023 we continued to support that vision of civil society. Our core tasks of reporting, documentation and analysis – focusing on police powers, border controls, state secrecy, surveillance and security technologies – have supported campaigns and movements seeking to defend and extend the values and principles that are being actively undermined by governments across the continent.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

We remain a widely-used and well-respected resource: our website received almost 170,000 visits over the course of the year, our work was cited in the press more than once per fortnight, and at least 18 other civil society organisations or initiatives have publicly-cited our work. We were closely involved in projects and activities undertaken by our networks, and participated in a wide range of events that helped to disseminate our work and foster the development of new ideas and projects. Our staff, trustees and contributors can be immensely proud of what we have achieved in 2023, and we are grateful to all those who supported our work, financially or otherwise.

Nevertheless, there remains much that we can do to improve, both with regard to the work we produce, and how we produce it. Some of those improvements began in 2023: at the end of the year, we employed our first ever member of staff to work on solely on communications, which in 2024 will change the way our work is publicly presented. This will help us to disseminate the findings of our research and reporting in clearer and more accessible ways, broadening our audience and aiding their understanding of our work.

We still have much to do in terms of working more closely within our networks and with organisations and associations of people at the sharp end of state power to gain a better understanding of what it is they want and need from our work. This will require increased coordination and cooperation across groups and countries, and will require us taking more time to explore topics and ideas before diving into research and writing. The increased income we have enjoyed in 2023, which we aim to see continue in 2024 and beyond, will help us with this. This will also make it possible for us to achieve the more mundane, but crucial, objective of increasing staff remuneration and conditions to a level that ensures we can recruit and retain people over the long-term – something we have made substantial progress with in recent years, but on which we still have much to do.

Ultimately, we also need to gain a better understanding of how civil society can work together in an increasingly repressive political environment to defend and, in the longer-term, extend the rights and freedoms that everyone in society should be able to exercise and enjoy. Our part in that struggle is to conduct research and investigations into policies and practices that undermine those rights and freedoms, and to oppose them through campaigning and advocacy alongside others. In the years to come, we will build on our existing knowledge, connections and practices to do that work even more effectively.

Objective 1

Strengthen civil society's access to information

Key developments and impact

- 139 news articles and 17 in-depth analyses
- 135 official documents made public
- At least 31 citations in 28 media outlets
- At least 18 public citations by other NGOs
- At least 2 citations in institutional publications

Taking action against state secrecy

Objective: Ensure compliance with the law and improve access to information for all

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With this line of work we aim to follow up on previous successful efforts to improve transparency in government institutions, for example by ensuring that EU agencies comply with transparency legislation. In 2023 we did not have the dedicated resources to pursue specific activities towards this objective.

Nevertheless, much of our reporting and research continues to rely upon access to documents and freedom of information requests (see the following section), and one request – to Europol – led to the publication of a number of key internal documents from the agency that would not otherwise have been published.

Publications

Key Europol documents only made public following access request

- Key Europol documents only made public following access request

Providing resources for rights

Objective: Work with national and international groups to support their campaigns and advocacy on EU justice and home affairs policies by making use of our unique level of access to official EU documents

Objective: Work with national and international groups to support their campaigns and advocacy on EU justice and home affairs policies by making use of our unique level of access to official EU documents

We have pursued this objective by continuing to regularly publish news and analyses on key topics, legislative developments and policy issues, often working with partner organisations and individuals to determine when and how a publication will have the most useful impact. This has led to ongoing substantial use of our output by journalists and other civil society organisations (both publicly and privately, for example in their advocacy activities), as well as by public institutions.

In 2023 we published **139 news articles and 17 in-depth analyses**, covering vital issues such as:

- ② The externalisation and militarisation of European migration controls
- ② Legislative negotiations on the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum
- ② Government attempts to obstruct civilian search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean
- ② The activities and development of EU agencies such as Europol and Frontex
- ② Police surveillance and infiltration of political groups and activists
- ② EU: Travel surveillance: member state comments on "improving compliance" with court ruling
- ② EU: Member states ponder blanket police surveillance of ferry, rail and bus passengers
- ② European Parliament sidelined in adoption of new travel surveillance agreement with Canada
- ② UN travel surveillance system needs "pause and urgent review", says Special Rapporteur
- ② New technologies having devastating impact on rights in counter-terrorism policy, says UN Special Rapporteur

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Many of those articles were based on or made use of internal Council of the EU documents that were published with the articles and would not otherwise have been publicly available. Over the course of the year, we published 135 such documents, providing access to vital primary source material for researchers, activists, advocates and journalists.

This and previous work was publicly cited by at least 18 civil society initiatives and organisations in 2023:

- Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Associazione Diritti e Frontiere
- Border Violence Monitoring Network
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights
- EuroMed Rights
- European Digital Rights
- European Council on Refugees and Exiles
- German Institute for International Politics and Security
- Guerre di Rete
- Just Security
- Melting Pot
- Osservatorio Repressione
- North Rhine Westphalia Refugee Council
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
- ProAsyl
- Transnational Institute
- Verfassungsblog
- Von Unten

We also received two institutional citations in 2023:

- *Algorithmic persecution in Turkey's post-coup crackdown: the FETO-Meter system* (published in 2022), was cited in the UK government's country policy and information note on the Gülenist movement in Turkey, written to inform decision-making on asylum applications citing persecution by the Turkish government; and
- *Europe's techno-borders* was cited by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

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Our work is widely-used by mainstream media outlets across Europe and the wider world. In 2023 our news, articles, analyses and publications were cited at least 31 times by at least 28 different media outlets – at least once every fortnight.

- Altreconomia (Italy)
- ARTE (European)
- BBC News (UK)
- BBC World Service (global)
- Bergens Tidende (Norway)
- Computer Weekly (UK)
- Dagens ETC (Sweden)
- El País (Spain)
- EUobserver (EU),,
- EurActiv (Europe)
- Freedom News
- Haber7 (Turkey)
- Heise (Germany)
- i (UK)
- Il Fatto Quotidiano (Italy)
- In These Times (international)
- InfoMigrants (international)
- la Repubblica (Italy)
- La Via Libera (Italy)
- Masr al-Youm (Egypt)
- Morning Star (UK)
- ND (Germany)
- Netzpolitik (Germany)
- Radio Blackout (Italy)
- Radio Student (Slovenia)
- Republik (Switzerland)
- The Guardian (UK)
- The Local (France)

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We cooperated with newspaper *La Directa* to publicise their investigations revealing extensive and deeply-intrusive Spanish police infiltration of and spying upon social movements in Catalonia, and joined almost 90 other organisations in signing a statement of support for those effected. Echoing police infiltration of social movements and protest groups by British police – currently the subject of the Undercover Policing Inquiry, set up in 2015 – many of the Spanish police officers in question formed intimate relationships with those in their target groups. At the end of 2023, the Catalan parliament established a commission of inquiry to look into the revelations in more detail.

We also worked with Lydia Emmanouilidou, a Greek journalist and recipient of a Pulitzer grant, to support her investigation into the deployment of new technologies for migration and border control in Greece. Using our knowledge of EU access to documents rules, we sought to obtain access to official documentation on a number of EU-funded projects involving the Greek authorities that sought to develop and deploy new surveillance and security technologies at the country's borders and within detention centres.

Barriers to implementing our objectives

Workshops: How to access information

Objective: Provide individuals and organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to investigate complex powers, policies, procedures and practices.

We aim to host workshops for civil society organisations, journalists, lawyers, students and others on how to access information on EU institutions, agencies and decision-making processes. In 2022 we were able to start drafting a 'curriculum' for the workshops, but a lack of dedicated funding for this objective meant that in 2023 we could not complete it or put it into use.

Learning from history: 'activating' the Statewatch Library & Archive

Objective: 'Activate' our extensive Library & Archive through targeted events and output related to key themes in our work, in order to inform the present by learning from the past.

The Statewatch Library & Archive remains little-used due to a lack of resources available to promote and 'activate' the materials held within it. However, we welcomed a number of guests through our participation in the MayDay Rooms' annual winter open day in January, and hosted a small number of users throughout the year. This included one doctoral student from France, who spent five days combing through our EU document archives to support their research on the EU's 'Dublin' system of allocating responsibility for asylum applications, and an academic from the UK researching the history of public order policing. It is evident that with the necessary resources, the Library & Archive would prove to be a valuable historical resource for informing present-day study and political struggles.

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Objective 2

Expose and challenge new means of surveillance, coercion and control

Key developments and impact

- 4 in-depth reports
- 3 public events
- Dozens of news articles
- 2 evidence submissions
- 4 sets of parliamentary questions

Challenging international police data-sharing

Objective: Challenge the development of a network of police facial recognition databases linking EU and UK authorities

The 'Prüm II' proposals



**International police facial recognition system:
Parliament must ensure democratic debate**



In December 2021, the European Commission quietly published a proposal for a law that would vastly expand a network of police databases known as 'Prüm', which interconnects EU member states' DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration systems. The proposal sought to add facial recognition and "police records" databases to the network, making vast new pools of data available for cross-border searches by police and laying the foundations for infrastructures of biometric mass surveillance. The UK remains part of the system due to the post-Brexit Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and can be invited to join an expanded network once the EU has approved new legislation.

In 2022 we worked with other member organisations and staff of *European Digital Rights* to develop a detailed position paper on the proposal. The work of EDRI staff based in Brussels saw almost all the proposed amendments based on that paper tabled for votes in the European Parliament, with many of them making it into the civil liberties committee's position. However, few of these survived the secret "trilogue" negotiations with the Council of the EU and European Commission. The final text was due to be voted on by the Council and the Parliament in early 2024.

At the same time as the proposal was being discussed in EU institutions, we sought to draw attention to it in the UK parliament. Due to the nature of the UK's agreement with the EU, it would be possible for the government to opt in to an expanded Prüm scheme, once agreed by the EU, without parliamentary consultation or debate.

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In a statement supported by 14 other organisations working internationally, in the EU, and in Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Norway and the UK, we called for parliamentarians to ensure an “open, thorough, democratic debate,” to ensure that the government did not ignore parliament’s wishes, as it has done previously in relation to participation in the Prüm system. Once the EU law is officially adopted in 2024 there will be a need for further pressure on UK institutions.

Statewatch’s work on this topic led to our Director, Chris Jones, being quoted in an article in *The Guardian* on UK government plans to give police access to the country’s driving licence database.

Publications

UK participation in “unnecessary” police facial recognition system needs “open, thorough, democratic debate”

Statements

International police facial recognition system: Parliament must ensure democratic debate

Press coverage

Police to be able to run face recognition searches on 50m driving licence holders, *The Guardian*

Security-related information sharing

In early 2023 it became apparent that the EU was working on a proposal to set up a “security-related information sharing system between frontline officers in the EU and key partner countries.” According to the European Commission, the intention is “to produce a European solution allowing, through one single channel, frontline officers in all Member States systematic and instant access to security-related information from partner countries, and frontline officers in partner countries access to such information provided by all Member States.”

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Documents published by UK institutions indicate that the EU’s proposal was tied up with an initiative pursued by the UK government following Brexit and the loss of access to EU data systems. A system called I-LEAP is being introduced to UK police forces, in the first phase to provide access to Interpol data, and in an intended second phase to allow direct connections to EU member state police forces.

We submitted a joint response to a public consultation on the plan with *Access Now*, *Border Violence Monitoring Network*, *EuroMed Rights*, *European Digital Rights*, *European Network Against Racism*, *Homo Digitalis*, the *Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants*, *Privacy International* and the *Refugee Law Lab (York University)*, as well as the academics Dr Derya Özkul and Dr Niovi Vavoula. The submission argued that the plan should be discarded, on the grounds that it was unnecessary and disproportionate, would expedite the externalisation of borders, and undermine basic data protection safeguards.

At the end of the year the state of play of the Commission’s proposal remained unclear. It had been slated for publication in the third quarter of the year, but nothing had been published by the end of 2023. We will continue to monitor this and related initiatives.

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Publications

International police data-sharing: what are the UK and EU cooking up?

Limiting travel surveillance and passenger profiling

Objective: Prevent schemes for the automated police surveillance of travel and profiling of passengers being extended from air to rail and sea transport

Through the introduction of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) schemes, states and international organisations are implementing an integrated, networked global system for the surveillance of travel and the police profiling of passengers. These schemes are currently largely reserved to air travel, but there have been longstanding plans to extend them to rail, boat and coach journeys. There is a clear need to ensure, at the very least, strict controls and limitations on the introduction of such systems.

Throughout 2023 we worked towards this objective through a research project with the *Funders Initiative for Civil Society*, which seeks to establish an evidence base on the scale, scope, and potential effects of the “transnational security architecture” in particular with regard to civic space. The term “transnational security architecture” encompasses the global establishment of API, PNR and other systems for the international gathering and exchange of personal data, in the name of security and counter-terrorism.

The research is due to be published in 2024, with the aim of laying the foundation for further empirical research in a number of states around the globe that will look at the effects of transnational security obligations and new technologies upon civic space. Throughout the course of 2023, we also published a number of articles providing updates on the development of travel surveillance and passenger profiling scheme, including a new EU-Canada PNR agreement on the day it was due for approval, having not previously been made available to either the European Parliament or the public.

Publications

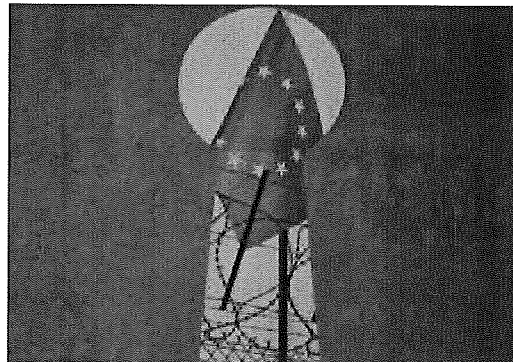
EU: Travel surveillance: member state comments on "improving compliance" with court ruling

Exposing and opposing the externalisation of borders

Objective: Establish an evidence base on the EU's "operational partnerships" with third countries for the externalisation of border controls

Secrecy and externalisation

Following an online event in November 2022,⁶¹ in March 2023 we published a report with the *Heinrich Böll Stiftung* looking at the ways in which secrecy is used to undermine accountability for the EU's border externalisation agenda. The report, *Access denied: Secrecy and the externalisation of EU migration control*, was based on almost two dozen freedom of information and access to documents requests in the EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco and Niger. The report was accompanied by a press release and an op-ed in *EUobserver*, and was covered by Cypriot and Algerian media.



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We followed up on the findings of the research with a number of parliamentary questions, submitted by Tineke Strik (Greens/EFA) and Cornelia Ernst (The Left).

The externalisation of borders and asylum remains a key goal for both the EU, its member states, and the UK. It is also an issue that remains cloaked in secrecy, undermining efforts to uphold human rights and prevent the strengthening of authoritarian regimes. We will continue to work on the topic in the coming years, with the aim of ensuring greater transparency of policy-making in ways that facilitate campaigning and advocacy.

Publications

Access denied: Secrecy and the externalisation of EU migration control

- Access denied: Secrecy and the externalisation of EU migration control
- European interior ministers agreed new deportation scheme in secret
- The secrecy behind the EU's plans to 'externalise' migration

Press coverage

Deportation scheme agreed upon by EU interior ministers in secret, *KNews*

- Deportation scheme agreed upon by EU interior ministers in secret, *KNews*
- خطة جديدة لترحيل الحرافة (EU sets out new plan to deport migrants), *Ennahar*

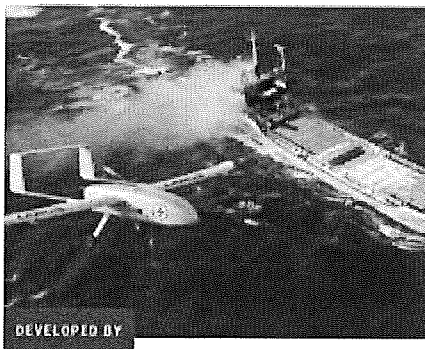
Parliamentary questions

Tineke Strik, Joint declaration entitled 'Regional Return Mechanism, Return Partnerships'

- Tineke Strik, Joint declaration entitled 'Regional Return Mechanism, Return Partnerships'
- Cornelia Ernst, Frontex's joint committee with Morocco

Telling the story of EU border militarization

TELLING THE STORY OF EU BORDER MILITARIZATION



Unlike much of our other work, which is geared towards research, reporting, documentation and analysis, this publication takes a different approach. As part of work towards the broader goal of ending European border violence, it seeks to offer framing messages, guiding principles and suggested language for individuals and organisations working on this topic.⁶⁹

Produced in cooperation with *Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice*, *EuroMed Rights*, *Privacy International*, the *Transnational Institute* and a number of other organisations, it aims to support work towards a common narrative and language on European border militarization, and "to help organisations think about how to structure specific products - interviews, press release quotes, or reports - and to foster shared thinking on the scale of and necessity of long-term change."

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Frontex and externalisation

An in-depth research project looking at the role of EU border agency Frontex in the externalisation of the EU's borders continued throughout the year, with findings from the research presented at the event 'Externalising the EU border regime: Frontex and other security actors in West Africa', hosted by *Brot für die Welt*, *Migration-Control.Info* and the *Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung*. The report, which will be co-published with the *Transnational Institute*, is due for release in 2024.

Related work

Publications

Externalisation of migration control: from the 1990s to the present

- Externalisation of migration control: from the 1990s to the present
- Digital rights and the protection of the right to asylum in the Charter of the European Union

Statements

Tunisia is neither a safe country of origin nor a place of safety for those rescued at sea

- Tunisia is neither a safe country of origin nor a place of safety for those rescued at sea
- The externalisation of migration policies to the South is not the solution to the structural crisis of reception in the North

Identifying and challenging the 'collateral damage' caused by attacks on immigration and asylum

Objective: Contribute to efforts to halt the ongoing criminalization of human rights defenders, obstruction of journalists and undermining of the rule of law as a consequence of immigration control measures

In 2023 we began work on this objective in partnership with the *Global Fund for Human Rights*. A report to be published in mid-2024 will examine the use of security narratives and powers to obstruct and prevent the work of migrant and refugee support organisations and activists. The report will be based on interviews with a number of activists who have been targeted by state agencies in three regions – Greece and Turkey, Spain and Morocco, and the Western Balkans – as well as a review of existing literature and secondary sources. In May, Yasha Maccanico travelled to Rio de Janeiro for a convening of the Global Fund for Human Rights to present the research to grantees and obtained input and feedback.

The work is particularly timely given the announcement by the European Commission in December 2024 of a proposal to revise the Facilitation Directive, a 2002 EU law that makes it possible for states to criminalise acts of humanitarianism and solidarity. The proposal to revise the Facilitation Directive was published alongside a power to expand the powers of Europol in relation to migrant smuggling and human trafficking. We are in contact with coalitions of organisations working on both proposals and will continue to work with them throughout 2024 in order to oppose or, where possible, improve the legislation.

Related work

Publications

- Germany: Legal change could criminalise sea rescue and humanitarian assistance
- EU mulls intelligence-gathering obligations for search and rescue operations
- Prosecuting solidarity: extracts from a new book on the Riace case
- Migration policy overspill: access to information in peril

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Statements

- Arrivals in Lampedusa: Solidarity and resistance in the face of Europe's reception crisis!
- Urgent warning: more deaths at sea, NGO ships blocked
- Statement against the racist and securitarian drift in Tunisia: Call for action and solidarity
- Arbitrary arrests and hate campaigns against sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia
- Against the anti-migrant and anti-Black policies of the EU and Tunisia

A watchdog for EU justice and home affairs policies

Objective: Monitor the activities of EU justice and home affairs institutions and agencies in order to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards

Frontex and interoperable databases: knowledge as power?

Frontex and interoperable databases

Knowledge as power?

Since 2016 we have worked hard to decipher, analyse, explain and challenge the EU's "interoperability" project, which interconnects vast quantities of biometric and biographic data from six different large-scale policing and migration databases. Following on from a report on Europol published in 2022,⁸⁴ in 2023 we published the report 'Frontex and interoperable databases: Knowledge as power?'⁸⁵

The report explains the types of data those large-scale databases hold; when, how and why Frontex is able to access them, and what the agency can do with the data. This is also detailed in an interactive map on EU agencies and interoperable databases, which was first published in 2022 and updated for the publication of this report.⁸⁶

The report considers the agency's use of data from two different perspectives – operational and statistical – and provides an overview of the agency's role in the EU's emerging "travel intelligence" architecture. It is aimed at informing understanding, analysis and critique of the agency and its role, with a view to making it possible to better understand, engage with and challenge future developments in this area. It has been cited extensively by the *Border Violence Monitoring Network*.⁸⁷

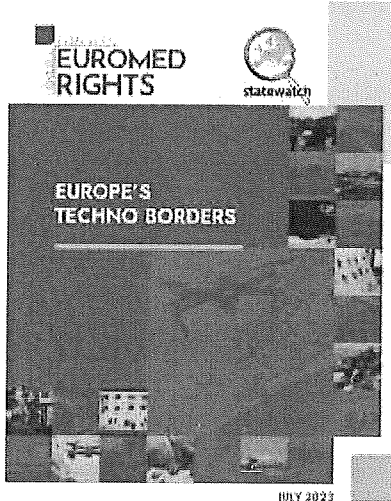
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Europe's techno-borders



The digital technologies deployed as part of Europe's techno-borders underpin invasions of privacy, brutal violations of human rights, and make the border 'mobile', for example through the increased use of biometric identification technologies, such as handheld fingerprint scanners. This report, published in partnership with *EuroMed Rights*, analyses the past, present and future of Europe's "techno-borders," the infrastructure put in place over the last three decades to provide authorities with knowledge of – and thus control over – foreign nationals seeking to enter or staying in EU and Schengen territory.⁸⁸

The report was designed primarily to serve as a reference point on the topic for *EuroMed Rights'* member organisations, of which there are almost 70 across the Euro-Mediterranean region. It was launched at an online event attended by more than 100 people, with presentations from *Statewatch* Director, Chris Jones, as well as representatives from *EuroMed Rights* and *Access Now*.⁸⁹

The report was listed as one of July's best publications on asylum and immigration by the website *Open Migration* and has been cited in reports by the *Data Justice* Lab and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Press coverage and citations

Greek data watchdog to rule on AI systems in refugee camps, *Computer Weekly*

How to request access to your personal data stored by Europol: a guide

Europol's powers have been constantly bolstered over the last decade, which has led to it playing an increasing role in police activities and operations. This includes the processing of data on political activities, travel passengers, as well as non-EU nationals. Europol plays an active role in the increasing criminalisation of social movements, protests and community organising in Europe, and its annual 'Terrorism Situation and Trend Report' illustrates how EU member states and the agency itself use an extensive definition of terrorism, particularly when it is applied to left-wing movements.

Working with *Access Now*, *European Digital Rights* and *IT-Pol*, we produced a guide to encourage individuals to request access to data stored on them by Europol, making use of the rights afforded by the Europol Regulation, the General Data Protection Regulation and the Regulation on data protection EU institutions, offices and agencies. The guide will help to bolster understanding of the extent of the problem, increase scrutiny of the agency and aid investigation of Europol's data-gathering and processing practices.

The guide was launched with an online event attended by around 80 people, and accompanied by an op-ed in *EUobserver*. We will continue to promote the guide in the years to come.

Publications

- How to request access to your personal data stored by Europol: a guide
- Scrutinising European police surveillance of activists: new guide on personal data requests
- Why your data might already be on a Europol list, *EUobserver*

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Events

- Webinar: Activists and NGOs under watch! Are you in Europol's databases?

The Artificial Intelligence Act

After the proposal for an EU Artificial Intelligence Act was published in 2021, we worked with *European Digital Rights* staff, member organisations and partners to develop amendments to the law that would protect fundamental rights, and in 2022 published a research briefing on the Act and its implications. In 2023, with no dedicated resources to work on the ongoing legislative negotiations, our work was primarily limited to supporting civil society statements on the negotiations. We also published one news article indicating interest from the EU's internal security authorities in the AI Act and other digital policies.

Publications

- Exceptions, loopholes and carve-outs: Presidency wants "internal security needs" recognized in EU digital policies

Statements

- Civil society calls on legislators to ensure the AI Act upholds the rule of law
- Police AI needs strict limits and controls, warn civil society organisations
- EU: Dangerous loophole in the AI Act must be closed to protect rights
- EU: Civil society calls for rights to be prioritised in secret AI Act "trilogue" negotiations
- Open Letter to the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union: Ensuring the protection of fundamental rights on the AI Act

Events

- Statewatch Director, Chris Jones, gave a presentation on the AI Act at an online event organised by *Novact* in March: *Tecnologías: conflictos, fronteras y control social*

Related work

Events

- ② In January, We organised a workshop at Privacy Camp in Brussels, Belgium: Policing the crisis, policing as crisis: the problem(s) with Europol at Privacy Camp in Brussels, Belgium
- ② Also at Privacy Camp, Chris Jones spoke at another workshop: Police partout, justice nulle part / Digital police everywhere, justice nowhere
- ② In May, Yasha Maccanico gave a presentation at the Sabir Festival in Trieste, in a panel in association with Transform Europe! and ASGI, 'You were never here': human rights violations in the EU's internal and external border regions'
- ② In June, Yasha Maccanico participated and gave a presentation on EU databases in migration policy enforcement in a panel at the Future Factory '23 in Rome, organised by the Transnational Institute and Transform Europe!
- ② In August, Yasha Maccanico gave an online presentation about Frontex and resistance from civil society over time to a workshop in Dakar, Senegal, "Atelier de concertation sur la migration irreguliere", organised by REMIDEV, CONGAD and the Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung

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☐ In October, Chris Jones attended an event organised by the University of Maastricht on borders, to participate as a discussant in a session on the powers and practices of EU justice and home affairs agencies

☐ In November, Chris Jones gave an online presentation to students at the University of Amsterdam on EU funding for Israeli military and security technology development, following an invitation from academics

☐ Yasha Maccanico gave a lecture at Salerno University about Statewatch's work and critical approaches for researching EU migration and justice and home affairs policies, as part of a 'Global Studies and the EU' MA course.

'Global Britain' and civil liberties

Objective: Monitor the activities of the new law enforcement and security institutions set up by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as other cooperation initiatives between the UK and other states, to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards.

Alongside our work on EU-UK initiatives, (see 'Challenging international police data-sharing', above), in 2023 we continued to monitor developments in the UK to produce news and analysis on under-reported topics, and to support the work of UK civil society coalitions seeking to challenge increasingly repressive and restrictive government policy. While we are – as far as we know – the only organisation that has taken a dedicated interest in the EU-UK security and policing institutions set up after Brexit, and the powers and practices afforded to them, this remains an under-resourced area of our work.

Publications

UK government's disrespect for rights could jeopardise cooperation with EU, warn MEPs

Statements

- UK: Joint civil society statement on the passage of the Illegal Migration Act
- UK: Rights-destroying clause in Illegal Migration Bill must be removed
- UK: New campaign calls for action on state failures to respond to and prevent deaths

Objective 3

Build a more sustainable and more effective organisation

Key developments and impact

- Income from donations
- Recruitment of Communications Worker
- 1 meeting of the contributors group
- 1 fellowship placement
- Continued working with volunteers
- 3 new funding partners
- Ongoing focus on staff development
- Increase in followers, web users and subscribers

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A more sustainable organisation

Objective: Obtain an increased amount of core funding over the next four years, seeking a diverse range of funding sources for different elements of our strategy

Funding

Our total expenditure in 2023 was £118,875 and our total income was £312,289. The divergence between these two figures is explained by renewed grant income from *Open Society Foundations* (almost £160,000) that was received during the summer and is due to be spent over a two-year period ending in 2025, a new grant from the *Funders Initiative for Civil Society* (£98,000) for a research project on global counter-terrorism policy (running from February 2023 to January 2024), and a new grant from the *Fund for Global Human Rights* (£19,000) for a research project on the repression of refugee and migrant rights defenders in Europe (running from September 2023 until May 2024).

Throughout the year, our work was supported by:

- *EuroMed Rights*
- *Friends of Statewatch*
- *Funders Initiative for Civil Society*
- *Garden Court Chambers*
- *Global Fund for Human Rights*
- *Open Society Foundations*

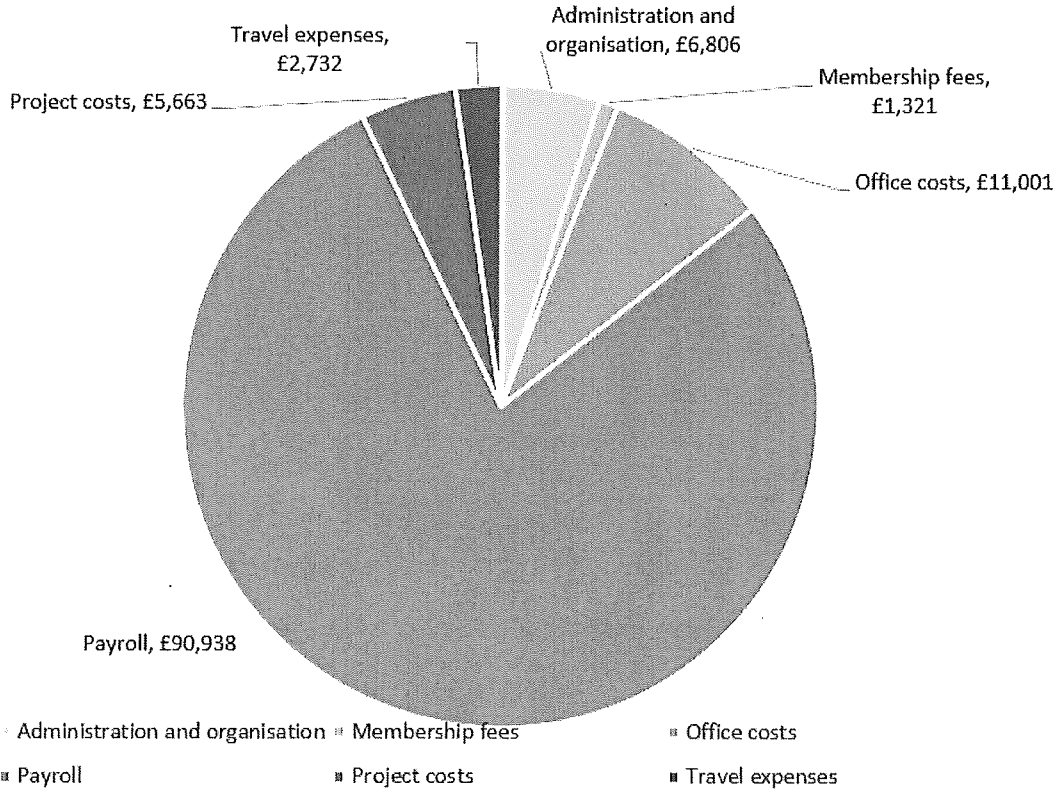
During the year we also agreed a renewed project grant with *Privacy International* and a new project with the *European AI & Society Fund*, with work due to be carried out in 2024. We are grateful for the support of all our funders and supporters and hope to continue working with them into 2024 and beyond. We will continue to seek new funding partners so that we can work towards the objectives set out in our strategic plan that, as highlighted in this report, we were unable to work on in 2023 due to a lack of dedicated resources.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Expenditure in 2023



Expenditure 2021-23

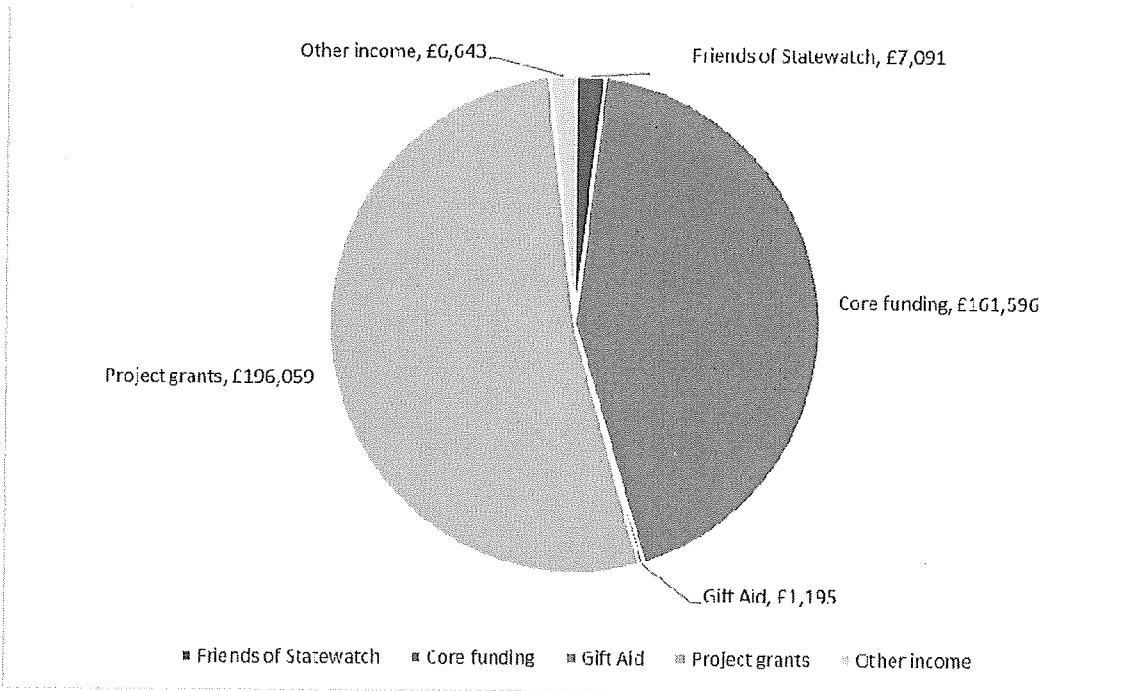
	2021	2022	2023
Administration and organisation	£7,967	£11,185	£6,806
Membership fees	£1,282	£1,173	£1,321
Office costs	£7,157	£8,969	£11,001
Payroll	£80,982	£84,072	£90,938
Project costs	£1,000	£5,795	£5,663
Travel expenses	£318	£928	£2,732
Other	£- 000	£329	£414
Total	£98,706	£112,451	£118,875

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Income in 2023



Income 2021-23

	2021	2022	2023
Friends of Statewatch	£7,182	£11,003	£6,706
Core funding	£76,338	£-	£161,596
Project grants	£53,118	£29,756	£136,149
Gift Aid	£970	£1,254	£1,195
Other income	£2,748	£2,267	£6,643
Total	£140,356	£44,280	£312,289

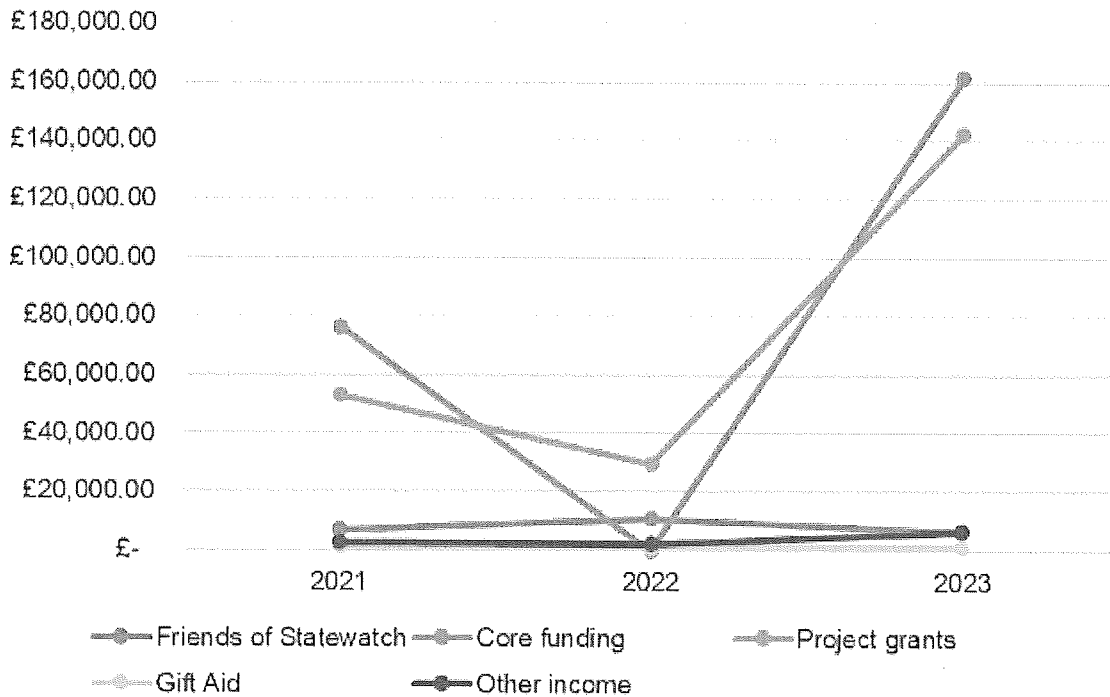
Friends of Statewatch

Regular payments from the 50 *Friends of Statewatch* provided £5,473 to the organisation in 2023, alongside eight one-off donations with a total value of £739. This is a substantial drop compared to 2022, due to the fact that in that year we received three one-off donations worth over £4,000. One facet of our new communications strategy, due to be put in place in 2024, will be to maintain the existing *Friends of Statewatch* and to expand the number of regular donors.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report



Regular payments from the 50 *Friends of Statewatch* provided £5,473 to the organisation in 2023, alongside eight one-off donations with a total value of £739. This is a substantial drop compared to 2022, due to the fact that in that year we received three one-off donations worth over £4,000. One facet of our new communications strategy, due to be put in place in 2024, will be to maintain the existing *Friends of Statewatch* and to expand the number of regular donors.

Statewatch in the EU

Objective: Establish a formal presence in EU jurisdiction to mitigate possible risks for our work caused by Brexit

Since the Brexit vote we have explored options for establishing a formal Statewatch presence within EU jurisdiction and now have a clear overview of what those options are and how to pursue them if deemed necessary. So far, the effects of Brexit have only caused minor procedural obstacles to our work, for example the ability to make requests for access to documents as a UK-based organisation. The option to establish a presence in EU jurisdiction remains open to us, if and when deemed necessary.

A more effective organisation

Objective: Ensure that Statewatch has the people, knowledge, skills and contacts needed to achieve its objectives

We seek to meet this objective by ensuring that learning and development is at the centre of our work, that we thoroughly monitor and evaluate the way we work, that we are able to make good use of the voluntary work that people are willing to offer the organisation, and that we play an active and meaningful role in the networks of which we are a part.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Learning and development

Our strategic plan commits us to adopting a staff learning and development programme and individual learning and development plans for each member of staff. In practice, these goals have been met by keeping the question of learning and development as a standing item on our weekly staff meetings and in monthly one-to-one meetings between each member of staff and the director.

In 2023, in response to a request, one member of staff attended a training course on good practices in volunteer management. An internal training session was also organised on digital security practices. Materials and resources provided during training courses are made available to all staff and volunteers for reference.

Monitoring and evaluation

We monitor and evaluate our work regularly, on an overall basis and for individual projects, generally by measuring whether we have achieved intended outcomes. This continued throughout 2023, in anticipation of a mid-term strategy evaluation meeting in 2024.

Maintain and develop the Statewatch contributors group

At the end of 2023 the Statewatch contributors group was made up of 52 people based in 15 different countries. Excluding staff, trustees and the Director Emeritus, there are 39 'external' contributors in the group.

At the end of October, 10 contributors attended our annual online meeting, only the second since 2020 after a pause forced upon us during the pandemic. This provided a valuable opportunity to connect with one another, to share information and updates from across Europe and beyond, and to discuss key themes and ideas for the year to come. Nevertheless, the low level of participation, compared to the number of people in the contributors group, indicates a need to develop new ways of working with the group to increase engagement.

Throughout the year, three analyses and 10 news articles were authored by contributors. A contributor also provided visualisations of data on deportation flights coordinated by EU border agency Frontex for a special feature published in January.

Between October and December, we hosted a fellow of the Mercator Foundation, who requested a placement with us as part of their fellowship to conduct a research project on sexualised violence at Europe's borders. They were a significant asset to our small team, assisting with our research and writing as well as conducting their own project, and found their time with us very useful: "I'm impressed by the high output, both in terms of quality and quantity, that Statewatch achieves despite its small size, and I think you all do a really great job and I could learn a lot from how you approach different research topics. Especially compared to other organisations I have worked for, I have found the working atmosphere to be quite relaxed and relatively low pressure." They remain part of the contributors group.

A more active and effective role in our networks

We remain active in multiple national and international civil society networks, working on issues related to digital rights, migration and asylum and policing.

Bürgerrechte & Polizei (Civil Liberties & Policing, CILIP)

CILIP is a German magazine that since 1978 has produced regular reports, analyses and news on policing, the secret services, internal security and their effects and interrelation with civil rights. *Statewatch* has maintained close links with *CILIP* for over three decades, and we remain in regular contact with their editorial collective on topics of mutual interest. In 2022 the magazine published an article authored by Statewatch Researcher Yasha Maccanico and Statewatch Director Chris Jones; in early 2023 we published an English version of the text.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Digital Freedom Fund

The Digital Freedom Fund (DFF) exists to support the digital rights community in Europe to advance and protect human rights in digital spaces and reduce the negative impact of technology in the world.

In March, Chris Jones attended the DFF Annual Strategy Meeting in Berlin, which is organised to provide a space for individuals and organisations working on a wide range of digital rights issues across Europe and beyond to come together to connect in person to pool ideas, creativity, and resources, as well as to reflect on how we can synchronise our efforts, better work together, and spark new initiatives. Whilst there, he hosted a workshop on access to information and documents in the EU.

Statewatch Researcher, Romain Lanneau, participated in the DFF project 'Charter Rights are Digital Rights', attending a workshop in Berlin and authoring an essay looking at digital rights and the protection of the right to seek asylum, Article 18 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

2023 also saw the Decolonising Digital Rights process, organised by *Digital Freedom Fund* and *European Digital Rights*, come to an end, with a launch event in Brussels in October. Chris Jones participated since the beginning of the process, which has developed a programme of work aimed at challenging the structural causes of oppression and their manifestations within the digital rights field. This will be used to propel work that develops a digital rights field in which all groups in society have their voices heard and which works to protect the digital rights of all. Participating in the process has provided an important way for us to reflect on our own work and practices and we expect the programme of work to provide a further means to do so. We will continue to engage with this work in the years to come.

European Digital Rights

European Digital Rights (EDRi) is a network of NGOs, experts, advocates and academics working to defend and advance digital rights across the continent. It has over 50 organisational members and for over two decades has served as the backbone of the digital rights movement in Europe.

Throughout the year we participated in the network's working groups on the Prüm II proposals, Europol, surveillance and the AI Act, with particular involvement in the first two. In May, Statewatch Director Chris Jones attended the network's general assembly in Belgrade, and in October a meeting in Brussels intended to start a process for developing a renewed shared vision for the network, prior to the drafting of a new strategic plan in 2024.

In January, Statewatch Director Chris Jones and Research Consultant Romain Lanneau organised a well-attended workshop on Europol, the EU policing agency, at the Privacy Camp conference, which is co-organised by *EDRi*. The panel was composed of Laure Baudrihay-Gérard (former Legal Director of Fair Trials and a *Statewatch* trustee), Saskia Bricmont (MEP, Greens/European Free Alliance), Fanny Coudert (European Data Protection Supervisor), and Sabrina Sanchez (Executive Director, European Sex Workers Rights Alliance). It was chaired by Chloé Berthélémy (Senior Policy Advisor, *EDRi*).

Migreurop

Migreurop is a Euro-African network of human rights organisations, activists and researchers. Its aim is to identify, publicise and denounce the consequences of European migration policies on the living conditions and the respect of the rights of people on the move.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

In October we were elected for a second term as one of three co-presidents of *Migreurop's Conseil Administratif*, alongside *L'association Marocaine des Droits Humains*, and two individual members. We will continue to use this role to improve the functioning and impact of the network. Statewatch Researcher, Yasha Maccanico, attended the network's general assembly in Marseilles in May.

Yasha Maccanico was also involved in organising, hosting and giving a presentation at a Migreurop public webinar to analyse ongoing EU reforms on migration and asylum and their impact, in cooperation with La Cimade, Ciré, CNCD-11.11.11 and Statewatch. It provided information on current EU legal reforms under the Pact on Migration and Asylum and highlighted the impacts of these reforms on the ground in Europe (France, Greece, Italy and Bulgaria) and Africa (Niger, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia). Almost 500 people attended the webinar.

Through the year we also continued to share information and advice amongst member organisations, and to participate in a number of long-standing and ad-hoc working groups within the network, on issues such as border externalisation, Frontex and the situation in Israel and Palestine.

Protect Not Surveil

The *Protect Not Surveil* coalition was born out of a need to coordinate civil society demands for the EU's AI Act to ensure protections for migrants and refugees. It is made up of 14 organisations, three individuals and has over 300 supporters. At the end of 2023, with negotiations on the AI Act coming to a close, the network was beginning the process of how to continue working on the important issue of digital technologies, migration and borders.

This Is What Police Tech Looks Like

This Is What Police Tech Looks Like is a project hosted by researchers at the London School of Economics that brings together a network of individuals and organisations from across Europe working on issues related to policing and technology. *Statewatch* has participated in the project since its inception in 2022 with a number of online meetings, and in May 2023 Statewatch Researcher Yasha Maccanico attended the first in-person meeting in Belgrade to give a presentation as part of a session on "police tech harms across Europe." We also presented our work and participated in further online sessions throughout 2022.

Other relevant events

Our longstanding work and reputation in the field saw us invited to speak about the Statewatch's history, methods and approaches to our work:

- In October, Chris Jones gave an online presentation to students at Bard College (USA), following an invite from a member of the academic staff;

Improving our communication

Communications Worker

In autumn we launched the recruitment procedure for a Communications Worker, marking the first time that *Statewatch* has employed a dedicated member of staff to work on communications. The successful candidate was appointed in December, to start developing a communications strategy for *Statewatch* at the beginning of 2024. The successful development and implementation of that strategy is a key objective in our 2022-26 strategic plan, and will allow us to increase the reach, engagement with, and use of our work by different audiences.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Use of our resources

Even without a dedicated plan or employee, many of the key figures that we use to measure our reach continued to grow throughout 2023. **The total number of visits to our website grew by 3% in 2023 (to a total of 168,232)** compared to the previous year (162,987) – despite the fact that due to circumstances beyond our control, our website faced significant periods of downtime in August, October and November. This downtime likely contributed to a decrease in other web statistics:

- a 9% drop in the total number of visitors (from 146,769 to 133,486);
- a 3% drop in the number of page views (from 281,415 to 272,360); and
- a 13% drop in the number of files downloaded from the site (from 20,292 to 17,586).

Due to changes in the way X (formerly Twitter) produces statistics and data, records of the number of new followers obtained every month are no longer available. However, between January and September we obtained 715 new followers, a slightly higher amount than over the same period in 2022, indicating that we likely acquired some 900 new followers over the course of 2023.

Over the course of the year the number of subscribers to our mailing list increased by over 100, to a total of 11,114 by the end of 2023.

Policy on reserves

At year end our reserves stood at £9,530. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected shortfall in income and to meet any necessary expenditure to protect or expand the trust's work. Trustees will endeavour to increase the reserves if income permits. Increasing staff wages is also a priority, subject to meeting our other legal commitments.

Risk analysis

Staff development and retention

Statewatch employees are employed part time and are highly skilled in our specialist field of work. Our priority is to retain and develop current staff. In 2021 we implemented an across-the-board pay increase of 10% and committed to introduce a further 10% increase in 2022, funding permitting. This was an important first step in bringing our salaries up to an adequate level for the sector.

Review and monitor action to reduce our projected pension deficit

We have an action plan in place with the Pensions' Trust, our pension provider, to reduce our deficit by paying additional annual contributions over ten years 2013 - 2023. The estimate from the Pensions Trust of employer liability on withdrawal is £4,209 (as at September 2023) and was £6,069 (as at September 2022).

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

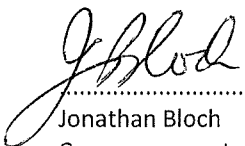
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

The financial statements on pages 29 to 43 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 31 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....

Jonathan Bloch
Company secretary and trustee

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes on pages 29 to 43.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Libertarian Research and Education Trust'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 , 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 Libertarian Research and Education Trust as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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



.....
Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

29/8/2024

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	169,498	129,048	298,546	12,257	17,216	29,473
Charitable activities	4	13,675	-	13,675	14,807	-	14,807
Investment income	5	68	-	68	-	-	-
Total income		183,241	129,048	312,289	27,064	17,216	44,280
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	(32,222)	(86,653)	(118,875)	(97,387)	(15,064)	(112,451)
Total expenditure		(32,222)	(86,653)	(118,875)	(97,387)	(15,064)	(112,451)
Net income/(expenditure)		151,019	42,395	193,414	(70,323)	2,152	(68,171)
Transfers between funds		(2,646)	2,646	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		148,373	45,041	193,414	(70,323)	2,152	(68,171)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		7,378	2,152	9,530	77,701	-	77,701
Total funds carried forward	17	155,751	47,193	202,944	7,378	2,152	9,530

The notes on pages 33 to 43 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 17.

The notes on pages 33 to 43 form an integral part of these financial statements.
Page 30

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,200	-
Current assets			
Debtors	12	18,613	2,875
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>211,363</u>	<u>16,577</u>
		229,976	19,452
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(24,023)</u>	<u>(3,852)</u>
Net current assets		<u>205,953</u>	<u>15,600</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		207,153	15,600
Provisions	15	<u>(4,209)</u>	<u>(6,070)</u>
Net assets		<u><u>202,944</u></u>	<u><u>9,530</u></u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		47,193	2,152
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>155,751</u>	<u>7,378</u>
Total funds	17	<u><u>202,944</u></u>	<u><u>9,530</u></u>

For the financial year ending 31 December 2023 the charity 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 charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 33 to 43 form an integral part of these financial statements.

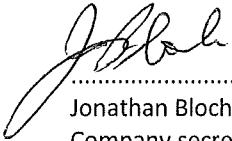
The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

The financial statements on pages 29 to 43 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 31 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Jonathan Bloch
Company secretary and trustee

The notes on pages 33 to 43 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

88 Fleet Street
London
EC4Y 1DH

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 29 July 2024.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

In common with many similar organisations who receive the majority of their income from public funding, the viability of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust is dependent on finding continuing sources of funding. As set out in the trustee's report, the company's financial situation remains challenging, but the trustees are working to address these issues. Accordingly, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	General £	Restricted £		
Donations and legacies;				
Committed giving	6,707	-	6,707	11,003
Gift aid reclaimed	1,195	-	1,195	1,254
Grants, including capital grants;				
Garden Court	4,000	-	4,000	-
Open Society Institute	157,596	-	157,596	-
Privacy International	-	11,501	11,501	17,216
Fund for Global Human rights	-	19,254	19,254	-
Funders' Initiative for Civil Society	-	98,293	98,293	-
	<u>169,498</u>	<u>129,048</u>	<u>298,546</u>	<u>29,473</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	General	2023	2022
	£	£	£
Service level agreement	7,101	7,101	12,540
Fees and supplies	366	366	540
Other income	6,208	6,208	1,727
	<u>13,675</u>	<u>13,675</u>	<u>14,807</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Total
	funds	2023
	General	£
	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income; Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total	Total
		2023	2022
		£	£
Staff costs	9	67,950	69,497
Computer software and maintenance		3,731	5,856
Printing, postage and stationery		287	216
Trade subscriptions		1,321	1,173
Sundries		15	195
Project costs		5,663	5,795
Travel and subsistence		2,732	929
Support costs	7	<u>37,176</u>	<u>28,790</u>
		<u>118,875</u>	<u>112,451</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

7 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Rent	9,555	7,765
Insurance	693	663
Accountancy	180	300
Independent examination	2,412	2,340
Consultancy	22,987	14,575
Legal and professional	817	2,832
Bank charges	132	184
Depreciation of office equipment	400	-
(Gain)/loss on programme related investments	-	131
	<u>37,176</u>	<u>28,790</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	65,207	69,448
Social security costs	153	293
Pension costs	2,392	(577)
Other staff costs	198	333
	<u>67,950</u>	<u>69,497</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No	No
Charitable activities	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment	Total
	£	£
Cost		
Additions	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,600</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,600</u>
Depreciation		
Charge for the year	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

12 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments	2,499	1,621
Accrued income	14,919	-
Other debtors	1,195	1,254
	<u>18,613</u>	<u>2,875</u>

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	<u>211,363</u>	<u>16,577</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	2,564	-
Accruals	3,620	3,852
Deferred income	17,839	-
	<u>24,023</u>	<u>3,852</u>

15 Provisions

	Pension contributions provision £	Total £
At 1 January 2023	(6,070)	(6,070)
Credited to the statement of recognised gains and losses	1,861	1,861
At 31 December 2023	<u>(4,209)</u>	<u>(4,209)</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted					
<i>General</i>					
General Funds	7,378	183,241	(32,222)	(2,646)	155,751
Restricted					
PI Project	2,152	11,501	(8,191)	-	5,462
The Fund for Global Human Rights	-	19,254	(21,900)	2,646	-
Funders' Initiative for Civil Society	-	98,293	(56,562)	-	41,731
	<u>2,152</u>	<u>129,048</u>	<u>(86,653)</u>	<u>2,646</u>	<u>47,193</u>
Total funds	<u><u>9,530</u></u>	<u><u>312,289</u></u>	<u><u>(118,875)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>202,944</u></u>

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted				
<i>General</i>				
General Funds	77,701	27,064	(97,387)	7,378
Restricted				
PI Project	-	17,216	(15,064)	2,152
Total funds	<u><u>77,701</u></u>	<u><u>44,280</u></u>	<u><u>(112,451)</u></u>	<u><u>9,530</u></u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Protecting Migrants Communities by Future-Proofing the Immigration system
Funder: Privacy International

Summary: In order to inform civil society organisations, journalists and European and national parliamentary representatives about EU justice and home affairs agencies' roles in this complex information network and its impact on individuals' rights, this project produced an interactive online 'map' and a series of short briefings to explain and critically analyse:

- the processing of personal data by Frontex, Europol and the EU Asylum Agency in the context of the EU's 'interoperability' initiative, including new roles and powers granted to the agencies in relation to interoperable systems and how this compares to the status quo ante as well as their more general data processing powers; and
- the impact of that data processing on fundamental rights.

Transnational security policy, civic space and human rights
Funder: Funders Initiative for Civil Society

Summary: Investigating transnational security and counter-terrorism obligations originating from the UN Security Council, their implementation by international and regional intergovernmental organisations, and their impacts and effects on civic space and human rights at national level.

Transparency on AI technologies in migration: Europe's techno-border
Funder: EuroMed Rights

Summary: A study to provide an overview of the links between European migration policies – namely specific files contained in the so-called EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, such as the Screening Regulation – and the use of security-focused technologies, including AI. The study included a focus on Italy and Spain, as key countries for the implementation of screenings of asylum applicants at external borders.

Civic space, security, and Migrants' Rights Research; the security playbook and migrants' rights activism
Funder: Fund for Global Human Rights

Summary: A project investigating how governments in Europe and beyond have used security narratives and measures to crack down on migrant/refugee rights work.

Data exchange, exclusion and denial at the borders
Funder: Privacy International

Summary: This project investigates the use of secret evidence in asylum and immigration proceedings in the EU, and looks at how data protection law may be used to provide improved access to an effective remedy for people in those proceedings.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,200	-	1,200
Current assets	188,245	41,731	229,976
Current liabilities	(24,023)	-	(24,023)
Provisions	(4,209)	-	(4,209)
Total net assets	<u>161,213</u>	<u>41,731</u>	<u>202,944</u>

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
Current assets	17,300	2,152	19,452
Current liabilities	(3,852)	-	(3,852)
Provisions	(6,070)	-	(6,070)
Total net assets	<u>7,378</u>	<u>2,152</u>	<u>9,530</u>

THE LIBERTARIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1154784

Accounts

Company registration number: 08480724

Charity registration number: 1154784

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as

Statewatch

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Jonathan Bloch Victoria Canning Nadine Finch Lilana Keith Gabriel Almeida Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche Laure Baudrihayé-Gérard
Secretary	Jonathan Bloch
Charity Registration Number	1154784
Company Registration Number	08480724
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales. 88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road Blackheath SE3.0RB

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Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2022 which have been prepared in compliance with current statutory requirements, The Companies Act 1985, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011; and with the charity's governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Statewatch is the working name of the Libertarian Research and Education Trust (LRET), which was established as a trust in 1981. On 3 December 2013 the charity was incorporated, again with the name The Libertarian Research and Education Trust. The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission as a successor to the Trust (company number: 08480724, charity number: 1154784). The assets and liabilities of the Trust have been transferred to this company, and from 3 December 2013 the company has taken over all of the activities of the trust. The Trust does not have a corporate opinion.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Appointment of Trustees

Any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26 of Articles of Association, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

We provide Trustees with the Charity Commission and NCVO guidance for Trustees. We have also contracted external expertise to provide legal advice on contracts and policies. They have prepared a Staff and volunteers Handbook and are currently working on a Handbook for Trustees. This will cover recruitment, policies, induction and training.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Jonathan Bloch
	Victoria Canning
	Nadine Finch
	Lilana Keith
	Gabriel Almeida (appointed 13 February 2023)
	Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche (appointed 13 February 2023)
	Laure Baudrihayé-Gérard (appointed 13 February 2023)
	Fiona Godfrey (resigned 12 February 2023)
Chair:	Ann Singleton (resigned 12 February 2023)
Secretary:	Jonathan Bloch

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

Rights, freedom and democracy: the struggle is continuous

In a media and information environment dominated by clickbait, sensationalism, misinformation and outright propaganda, the work of Statewatch remains uniquely valuable for its commitment to cold, hard, facts; clear and critical analysis; and straightforward language.

In the midst of multiple ongoing crises that are, in various ways, being used to enhance state power and accelerate militarisation and 'securitisation' - wars, the mass displacement of people, racism, the growing normalisation of the far-right, huge increases in the cost of living, ecological devastation - we have continued to carry out our core task of providing critical research, policy analysis and investigative journalism that aims to contribute to the movements and struggles that seek to address them.

In 2022, we did so in the framework of the new strategic plan that we drew up over the course of 2021. This is the first time that Statewatch has adopted such a detailed, long-term plan. It does not introduce any fundamental changes in what we do or why, but has provided an invaluable framework and reference to guide our work, clarity over our objectives, and has already led to some important achievements.

Our first overarching objective is to strengthen civil society's access to information. In 2022, the primary means by which we pursued this objective was by providing direct access to official documentation that would otherwise not be public: we published more than 100 documents that allow people to see for themselves what is normally discussed behind closed doors, enabling interventions by civil society organisations into secretive legislative deliberations that should take place in public, democratic fora.

Our second overarching objective is to expose and challenge new means of surveillance, coercion and control. We have undertaken in-depth investigations into the externalisation of EU border controls, the new powers granted to EU police agency Europol, post-Brexit policing and security cooperation between the UK and EU, and published an in-depth guide to the EU's ballooning security budgets.

These issues may not always have immediate impact, nor obvious media appeal - but they represent broader structural changes in state activity that will have a substantial impact over the years to come. The fact that many of our investigations from previous years continue to be cited by other civil society organisations demonstrates the long-term value of this approach.

At the same time, we have also sought to address more 'immediate' issues. Our work on the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act has contributed to a vital civil society effort to seek human rights protections in a law that, if it does as its drafters intend, will shape the global regulatory environment for a key technology for many years to come, and which will have substantial effects on policing, security, immigration and criminal justice policy. Equally, our news service continued to provide a vital source of information to campaigners, advocacy organisations and journalists seeking up-to-date information: over the course of 2022, we published almost 160 news articles to draw attention to key developments in ongoing legislative and policy discussions.

The third overarching objective set out in our strategic plan is to build a more effective and sustainable organisation. This has required making more time for one-to-one discussions between the director and other staff, ensuring that questions of training, learning and staff development are regularly discussed, and that any problems or concerns can be frankly and openly discussed. It has also required an improvement in material conditions: despite our work largely being financed by grants for projects, it was possible to institute a pay increase for all staff. As always, the board has been invaluable in providing advice, guidance and support with these and other questions.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

These improvements should not disguise the fact that all our work was carried out on a limited budget and with extremely limited staff time - a total of just 14 working days per week. The size of the organisation is a constant surprise to people familiar with our work but unfamiliar with our internal administration, and the amount achieved in 2022, as every year, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff, the board and Statewatch's network of contributors and volunteers.

As this report demonstrates well, 2022 was another productive year for Statewatch. Our reporting, analysis and publications continue to be widely-used by advocacy groups, campaigning organisations, lawyers and many others, and our work is regularly featured in the press across Europe and the wider world, influencing public and political debate. Our audience continues to grow steadily and our work is considered reliable, authoritative and timely. The question for 2023 and beyond is how to build upon these foundations so that we can more effectively contribute to the movements for rights, freedoms and democracy that are so desperately needed in Europe and beyond.

Objective 1: Strengthen civil society's access to information

Key developments and impact

- Pushing for transparency at EU agencies

In 2022 we continued to seek implementation of the new access to documents framework for EU justice and home affairs agencies that was set out by the European Ombudsman, in response to a complaint we filed in 2020.

- 159 news articles and 8 in-depth analyses

In 2022 we published 159 news articles (an average of three per week) and eight in-depth analyses, providing a vital resource for activists, researchers, journalists, civil society organisations, and others.

- 100+ official documents made public

Along with those articles we made more than 100 official documents (primarily from the Council of the EU) public, providing access to key primary sources on crucial policy-making and legislative discussions.

- 39 citations in 19 media outlets

Our work received 39 citations in 19 media outlets operating across seven individual countries, as well as regionally and globally, including la Repubblica (Italy), South China Morning Post (Hong Kong/global), Público (Spain) and Wired (global).

- 24 public citations by NGOs

Our work received citations in public reports by at least 24 civil society organisations including Algorithm Watch, Human Rights Watch, the Global Investigative Journalism Network, the Mixed Migration Centre and ProAsyl. Our work has also been used for advocacy by organisations including European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migration, European Digital Rights and Amnesty International.

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Trustees' Report

- 8 citations in institutional publications

Our work was cited in seven reports produced for the European Parliament, as well as the Danish government's foreign policy and security strategy

Taking action against state secrecy

Objective: Ensure compliance with the law and improve access to information for all

- Seeking implementation of our successful 2021 transparency complaint
- Calling for an end to secret law-making in the EU

In 2022 we continued to follow up on the new access to documents framework for EU justice and home affairs agencies that was set out by the European Ombudsman, in response to a complaint we filed in 2020. Our complaint resulted in Frontex and Europol committing to establish and maintain public registers of documents - a crucial tool to facilitate scrutiny by elected representatives and civil society, and thus to ensure accountability.

Working with parliamentarians, we sought more information on the agencies' progress in implementing the action plans they set out in response to our complaint. Frontex launched a new register of documents, but in doing so removed a number of previously-available documents from its website - a problem that will require ongoing pressure on the agency to ensure meaningful levels of transparency.

Europol has been more thorough in following the Ombudsman's decision, but its work to comply with the decision demonstrates the shortcomings of that decision, which failed to take into account our call for specific requirements to include the Executive Director's decisions, internal working group agendas and minutes, evaluation and assessment reports, and more. The fight for greater transparency in the EU's increasingly powerful justice and home affairs agencies continues.

Our work to increase transparency at EU justice and home affairs agencies was presented by our researcher Jane Kilpatrick at the conference 'Access to Information - Achievements and Challenges', organised by Access Information Programme, Bulgaria, at the end of January.

Secrecy also continues to plague the law-making process in the EU, making a mockery of the requirements of the Lisbon Treaty: "Decisions shall be taken as openly and as closely as possible to the citizen." One of the key issues in this regard is the ongoing use of secret "trilogues" negotiations to agree on new legislation. In March, along with 40 other organisations, we signed an open letter calling for "transparent and easily-accessible" trilogue negotiations. The letter brought visibility to a long-standing problem and our objective is to continue work on these issues.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

Providing resources for rights

Objective: Work with national and international groups to support their campaigns and advocacy on EU justice and home affairs policies by making use of our unique level of access to official EU documents.

Throughout 2022 we continued to leverage our unique level of access to internal EU documents to publish news and analysis that provides a vital information resource for activists, researchers, civil society organisations and the mainstream media.

We published 159 news articles and eight in-depth analyses, covering vital issues such as:

- Our 'Tracking the Pact' series, on the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum
- The implementation of the EU's ongoing interconnection of its policing and migration databases, through the "interoperability" architecture
- The growing powers of EU agencies, in particular Europol and Frontex
- The EU's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act, which has major implications for civil liberties and human rights
- European government plans to breach online privacy and security by undermining encryption

Many of those articles were based on or made use of internal Council of the EU documents that were published with the articles and would not otherwise have been publicly available. Over the course of the year, we published more than 100 such documents, providing access to vital primary source material for researchers, activists, advocates and journalists. The international dissemination and uptake of this work continues to be profound.

Our work is widely-used by mainstream media outlets across Europe and the wider world. In 2022, our news articles, analyses and publications were cited by at least 21 different media outlets.

Altreconomia (Italy, here and here)	Limburger Zeitung	South China Morning Post
Biometric Update	Mediapart (France)	Syre (Sweden)
EUobserver	Middle East Eye	The Dissenter
European Data Journalism	Netzpölitik (Germany, here and here)	The Local (France)
Heise (Germany)	Público (Spain)	The Local (Italy)
InfoMigrants (here and here)	Radio Student (Slovenia)	TVXS (Greece)
Libya Observer	Repubblica (Italy)	Wired

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We also continued to provide a vital resource for a wide variety of other civil society organisations, 24 of whom cited our work publicly.

Algorithm Watch	German Marshall Fund	Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa
Article 19	Global Investigative Journalism Network	Osservatorio Nazionale sui Minori Stranieri non Accompagnati in Italia
Austrian Institute for International Affairs	Human Rights Watch	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
Borderline Europe	Institute of Race Relations	Pro Asyl
Children's Health Defense	Journalists and Writers Foundation	Social Europe
Drone Wars UK	mEUterei	Stop Wapenhandel
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (also here, here, here)	Migration-Control	Transform! Europe
German Council on Foreign Relations	Mixed Migration Centre	Welcome! Initiative

Our work was also used for advocacy purposes by Access Now, Amnesty International, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), European Digital Rights (EDRI) and Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), as well as by their member organisations – ECRE, EDRI and PICUM are all European networks with a collective membership of hundreds of organisations.

Official institutions also made use of our work, with seven reports produced for the European Parliament citing our publications, as well as the Danish government's foreign policy and security strategy.

***“The material on the
Pact is very useful
for us as well as our
member
organisations”***

Head of advocacy at a European
network

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

Counterterrorism policies, measures and tools in the EU: An assessment of the effectiveness of the EU counterterrorism policy	EU migration and asylum funds for third countries
EU migration and asylum funds for third countries	European Parliament scrutiny of Frontex
Impact of COVID-19 measures on democracy and fundamental rights: Best practices and lessons learned in the Member States and third countries	Strengthening Europol's mandate
Preventing Radicalisation in the European Union: How EU policy has evolved	Unaccompanied migrant children in Greece

Barriers to implementing our objectives

- Workshops: How to access information

Objective: Provide individuals and organisations with the skills and knowledge needed to investigate complex powers, policies, procedures and practices.

We aim to host workshops for civil society organisations, journalists, lawyers, students and others on how to access information on EU institutions, agencies and decision-making processes. We were able to start drafting a 'curriculum' for the workshops, and with increased resources would be able to finish that curriculum and put it into use.

- Learning from history: 'activating' the Statewatch Library & Archive

Objective: 'Activate' our extensive Library & Archive through targeted events and output related to key themes in our work, in order to inform the present by learning from the past.

The Library & Archive remained open to the public and received a small number of visitors throughout the year. With funding for a dedicated staff member, we would be able to properly manage, promote and make use of the collection, ensuring increased usage of this valuable resource.

Objective 2: Expose and challenge new means of surveillance, coercion and control

Key developments and impact

- 5 in-depth reports

We published five in-depth investigative reports in 2022, examining:

- post-Brexit EU-UK policing and security cooperation;
- the use of new biometric technologies by European police forces;
- the EU's ballooning security and migration budgets;
- the EU's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act and the need to include protections for migrants and refugees; and
- the expanded powers granted to EU policing agency Europol.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

●2 public events

We organised two online public events in 2022, with a total of 148 attendees in 32 different countries, primarily in Europe but also Canada, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey and the United States of America:

- AI at the borders: Negotiations, regulations and fundamental rights
- Secrecy and the externalisation of EU migration control

●Dozens of news articles

Through our regular publication of news on key topics - the expansion and implementation of identity databases, the development of new security technologies, the expansion of police powers, the reinforcement of border controls, and the growing powers of EU agencies, we continued to provide a vital source of information for other civil society organisations, journalists, activists, researchers, lawyers and many others.

●2 evidence submissions

We coordinated a joint submission to the European Parliament's Frontex Scrutiny Working Group drafted by members of our Frontex researchers' network, and submitted a response to a European Commission's call for evidence for its evaluation of the 2019 Frontex Regulation.

●1 interactive map

We launched an interactive map to help people inform and educate themselves about the EU's vast biometric identity infrastructure for policing and migration. The map will serve as a long-term resource that can be expanded and edited as the EU's "interoperability" infrastructure is developed further.

●2 joint position papers

Working with other members of European Digital Rights (EDRI) and staff from the EDRI office in Brussels, we supported the drafting of two position on papers on important new EU legislation: the Artificial Intelligence Act and the Prüm network of police databases.

●2 parliamentary questions

Our research was used as the basis for two questions put forward in the European Parliament, on the issues of the surveillance, artificial intelligence and algorithms to be used against people travelling to the EU; and the extensive new powers given to EU police agency Europol. The questions were directed to Frontex and Europol officials and the chief executive of Europol, respectively. The information provided in response was neither particularly detailed nor useful, but the questions themselves demonstrate the value of our work to elected representatives.

●1 meeting with MEPs

Our Executive Director, Chris Jones, met with a delegation of MEPs from the European Parliament's LIBE committee, who were visiting London on a fact-finding mission about the UK's proposed data protection reforms and the potential impact upon EU-UK trade and law enforcement cooperation.

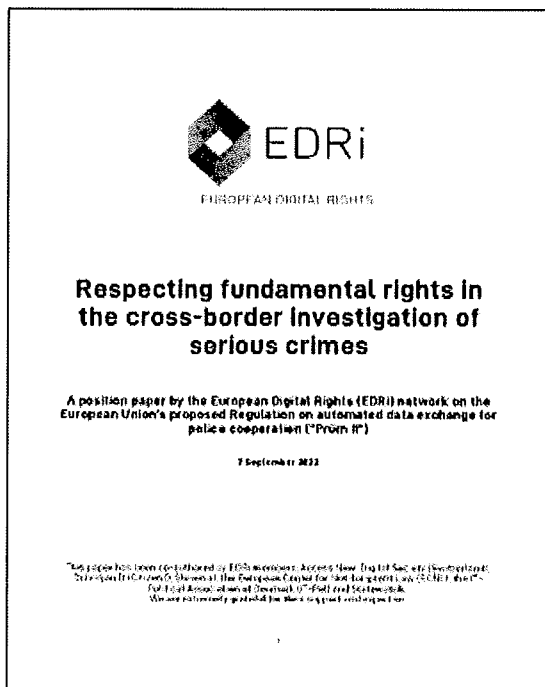
The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Trustees' Report

Challenging international police data-sharing

Objective: Challenge the development of a network of police facial recognition databases linking EU and UK authorities.



In December 2021, the European Commission quietly published a proposal for a law that would vastly expand a network of police databases known as 'Prüm', which interconnects EU member states' DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration systems. The UK remains part of the system due to the post-Brexit Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and can be invited to join an expanded network once the EU has approved new legislation.

The Prüm II proposals would add facial recognition and driving licence databases to the network, making vast new pools of data available for cross-border searches by police and laying the technical foundations for infrastructures of biometric mass surveillance.

Working with other members and staff of European Digital Rights, we produced a detailed briefing paper highlighting this and other problems with the proposal, and proposing specific amendments that were put forward to MEPs. The majority of those amendments were put forward for votes planned for spring 2023.

Throughout the year we also monitored discussions in the Council, obtaining and publishing internal documents whenever possible. We revealed that the Council wants to add driving licence databases to the network; that the French Presidency sought the automated exchange of facial images between police forces; and that the European Commission has spent years funding a system intended to act as the foundation for Prüm II, despite the law being a long way from approval.

Press coverage

WIRED

[Gli Stati europei vogliono mettere tutti i volti di chi ha una patente in un maxi-sistema di riconoscimento facciale](#)

BIOMETRIC
UPDATE.COM

[EDRI, Statewatch call for ban of EU-wide police facial recognition system](#)

[Driving license biometrics could form pan European 'perpetual police line-up': Statewatch](#)

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Trustees' Report

Limiting travel surveillance and passenger profiling

Objective: Prevent schemes for the automated police surveillance of travel and profiling of passengers being extended from air to rail and sea transport

Through the introduction of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) schemes, states and international organisations are implementing an integrated, networked global system for the surveillance of travel and the police profiling of passengers. These schemes are currently largely reserved to air travel, but there have been longstanding plans to extend them to rail, boat and coach journeys. There is a clear need to ensure, at the very least, strict controls and limitations on the introduction of such systems.

Although we did not take on this issue as a priority in 2022, we nevertheless continued to monitor developments and published three news articles through the year on key events: an EU advocate-general's opinion on the 2016 Passenger Name Record Directive; EU member states' responses to the judgement that followed that opinion; and the approval by the EU of UK derogations from safeguards in the EU-UK Passenger Name Record agreement.

Press coverage

euobserver [EU states want to keep hoarding passenger data, despite ECJ ruling](#)

Exposing and opposing the externalisation of borders

Objective: Establish an evidence base on the EU's "operational partnerships" with third countries for the externalisation of border controls

● Secrecy and externalisation

In spring we began a project investigating how state secrecy is used to advance the externalisation of the EU's border controls. Funded by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, the project involved the submission of almost two dozen freedom of information and access to documents requests in the EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Morocco and Niger. We were supported in that work by three external researchers, whom we contacted through our wider network.

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In November we held an online event to discuss the findings of the research, with a panel made up of Tineke Strik (MEP, Greens/EFA group), Luisa Izuzquiza (transparency activist at Brussels lead for *FragDenStaat*), Giacomo Zandonini (Investigative journalist) and Nidžara Ahmetašević (journalist and researcher).

The event was attended by 81 people from 24 countries. Feedback indicated that people found the event very useful (average score of 4.4/5) and felt the information was very clearly-presented (4.5/5). The report based on the research was published in early 2023, and is intended to provide the basis for parliamentary questions and further research into the issue of secrecy and externalisation.

Secrecy and the externalization of European migration control

Speakers:

- Statewatch staff
- Tineke Strike (MEP, Greens/EFA)
- Luisa Izuzquiza (FOI activist, Brussels lead for *FragDenStaat*)
- Giacomo Zandonini (journalist)

Online event
17 November 2022
16:00 GMT / 17:00 CET
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
Register at statewatch.org

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG BRUSSELS
statewatch

“Thank you for all the work you do”

Attendee at the event on secrecy and externalisation

● Frontex and externalisation

An in-depth research project looking at the role of EU border agency Frontex in the externalisation of the EU's borders also continued throughout the year, with findings from the research presented:

- to the Migration-Control.info West Africa research group;
- at the RiVolti ai Balcani conference in Udine, Italy;
- at the 'Investigating Fortress Europe' event hosted by the Evens Foundation, Brussels; and
- at an international conference on border externalisation at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

● Statements, articles and events

We jointed multiple civil society statements for more humane migration policies, including a call for “bridges between people, not walls,” directed at European Union and African Union heads of state; an appeal to the Italian government, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to withdraw the Italy-Libya memorandum on immigration control (covered in *Libya Observer*); and we gave our support to the *vidas sin rastro* (lives without a trace) campaign, for the rights of dead and missing migrants at Spain's southern border.

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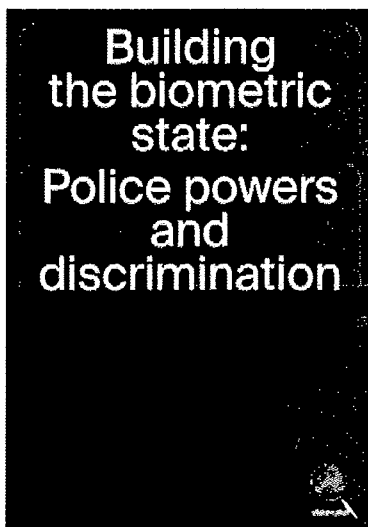
Trustees' Report

Our researcher Yasha Maccanico was invited to publish articles by two other outlets: Arrested Lawyers Initiative and EU Law Analysis. He spoke at a panel at the European Consortium for Political Research annual conference in August; and at two sessions at the Transborder Summer Camp in Nantes in July, alongside members of Migreurop and AlarmPhone. Alongside Chris Jones and Jane Kilpatrick (director and researcher, respectively), he also spoke at an online screening by University College London of the documentary 'Libya; no escape from hell' in January.

A watchdog for EU justice and home affairs policies

Objective: Monitor the activities of EU justice and home affairs institutions and agencies in order to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards

- Vast databanks, more powerful agencies



Over the past eight years we have worked hard to decipher, analyse, explain and challenge the EU's "interoperability" project, which Interconnects vast quantities of biometric and biographic data from six different large-scale policing and migration databases. That work continued in 2022, and began with the publication of the report *Building the biometric state: Police powers and discrimination*, based on research conducted in 2021 and funded by Privacy International.

The report examines the development and deployment of biometric identification technologies by police and border forces in Europe, and how they are intended to be used in conjunction with the interoperability architecture to increase identity checks. It warns that the increasing use of the technology is likely to exacerbate existing problems with racist policing and ethnic profiling. As we revealed in May, there continue to be high-level political demands for increased biometric identity checks.

The findings of the report have been presented at events organised by the Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers and Refugees project; the Oxford Migration Studies Seminar (Oxford University), This Is What Police Tech Looks Like; the annual conference of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Control in Turin, Italy; and at a learning session for members of the Privacy International network.

Press coverage



Überwachung: EU-Rat drängt auf biometrische Identitätskontrollen "vor Ort"

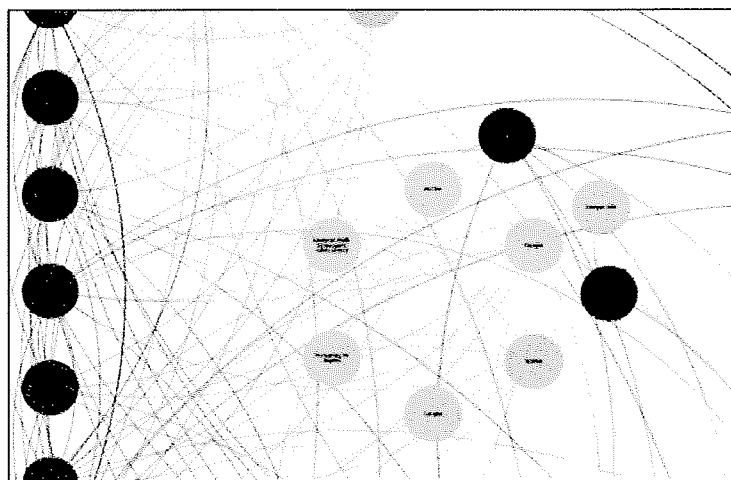
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Throughout the year we also reported on developments in the interoperability scheme, ranging from delays in the construction and entry into use of new systems; plans to increase the surveillance and profiling of travellers, including through the potential use of “artificial intelligence”; and how the interoperability architecture will be used for the “screening” of people seeking protection at the EU’s borders. Our publication of an internal report by a secretive Europol-Frontex “Future Group on Travel Intelligence” provoked questions from the Dutch Green MEP, Tineke Strik, to Frontex and Europol officials.

In November we launched an online map of the EU’s interoperable policing and migration databases, as part of a project – on EU agencies and interoperability – following on from the previous one funded by Privacy International. The map aims to facilitate understanding and further investigation into that architecture. The map is the first of its kind and seeks to highlight the relationship between EU justice and home affairs agencies and the interoperability architecture – in particular, Europol and Frontex.



Press coverage



Digital Fortress Europe #2: Trapped in a digital surveillance system

NETZPOLITIK.ORG

Europol will mit Israel biometrische Daten austauschen

EU-Gesetze zu „elektronischen Beweismitteln“ angeblich auf der Zielgeraden

THE LOCAL

REVEALED: Countries fear non-EU travellers face delays under new EES border checks

France to use iPads to check biometric data of travellers from UK



The West will soon be sharing their citizens' biometric data

South China Morning Post

Throughout the year we continued our longstanding work on EU border agency Frontex, including a joint submission to the European Parliament’s Frontex Scrutiny Working Group drafted by members of our Frontex researchers’ network; and submitted a response to a European Commission call for evidence for its forthcoming evaluation of the 2019 Frontex Regulation. Our researcher Jane Kilpatrick provided the keynote speech at the Freedom Not Fear conference in Brussels in September, on the topic of border technologies, and in June ATTAC Italia published an article by our researcher Yasha Maccanico, ‘Il problema Frontex riguarda il suo ruolo strutturale’.

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Press coverage

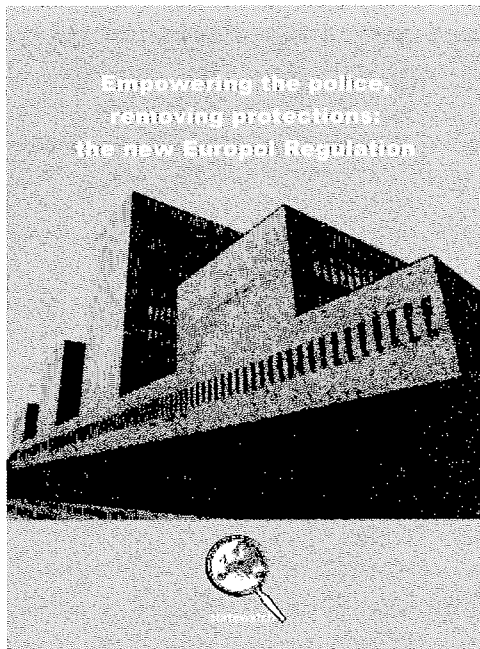


[Frontex arme de plus en plus ses agents pour les années à venir](#)

[Frontex planning operations in Senegal and Mauritania, claims NGO](#)

•New European police powers

In 2022 we continued working with others in civil society to try to ensure safeguards and limits in the new Europol Regulation. Despite our efforts, the Regulation came into force in June and legalised previously illegal practices regarding the collection and processing of huge quantities of personal data - something that we were the first to make public, as part of our ongoing monitoring of the legislative process. We later revealed that the agency's Management Board was in breach of the rules governing the agency as soon as they came into force.



As we explained in a detailed report published in November, the new powers granted to Europol are not accompanied by equivalent rights protections. Indeed, those protections have largely been reduced or removed. The agency has also been granted access to the majority of the EU's interoperable databases, providing a further source for its extensive data harvesting.

The report was cited by EUobserver and covered in depth by Repubblica and Altreconomia; the findings were also presented at the conference 'Welfare After Digitalization' at the IT University of Copenhagen in November. Questions based on the research were also raised in a European Parliament hearing with Europol's executive director, Catherine de Bolle. We will continue to disseminate the research throughout 2023, as we work with other groups and individuals to challenge the agency's new powers.

Press coverage

Altreconomia

[Sorvegliare in nome della sicurezza: le Agenzie Ue vogliono carta bianca](#)

euobserver

[Europol given 'blank cheque' to do what it wants, say critics](#)

**BIOMETRIC
UPDATE.COM**

[Europol's new rules enable sourcing of 'third country' biometric data](#)

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Trustees' Report

● Following the money

Over the past 20 years the size of the EU's budgets for policing and migration has ballooned, providing an ample source of funding for implementing new surveillance technologies, brutal border control policies, and extended police powers. Yet how the budgets work remains a mystery to many - they are shrouded in jargon and labyrinthine bureaucratic procedures.

◦ Explanation and analysis

To shed some light on the size, aims and functioning of those budgets, we worked with the Transnational Institute to produce a guide for civil society on how EU budgets work. The guide shows the vast expansion of security budgets for the 2021-27 period in comparison to the previous 2014-20 period, provides a series of thematic analyses and gives a detailed summary of six different budgets.

◦ Informing advocacy

As well as informing ongoing campaigns, advocacy, research and journalism, the guide aims to provide a basis for advocacy on the next round of EU budgets. By highlighting shortcomings and failings in existing EU funding instruments, we aim to help shape civil society demands when the next round of proposals is published, likely to be sometime in 2025.

◦ Spreading the word

The guide has been presented at meetings and events organised by the This Is What Police Tech Looks Like network, the Algorithmic Fairness for Asylum Seekers project (hosted by Oxford University), the Oxford Migration Studies Seminar, and at the relaunch of the Open Security Data Europe platform. Multiple journalists have made further inquiries about the content of the report to inform their work and we expect this to continue in 2023 and beyond.

At the beginning of 2022 we also published an analysis looking at spending by EU agencies Frontex and eu-Lisa on border and migration control, illustrated by a set of infographics that make clear the scale and scope of that spending.

**Funding the EU's security,
defence, and border policies,
2021-2027**



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Press coverage

Altreconomia

L'investimento senza precedenti dell'Ue su difesa e frontiere: a uguaglianza e diritti le briciole

L'Espresso

Miliardi sulla pelle dei migranti: la sorveglianza delle frontiere fa ricca l'industria delle armi

Público

El presupuesto europeo destinado a seguridad y defensa aumenta un 123%

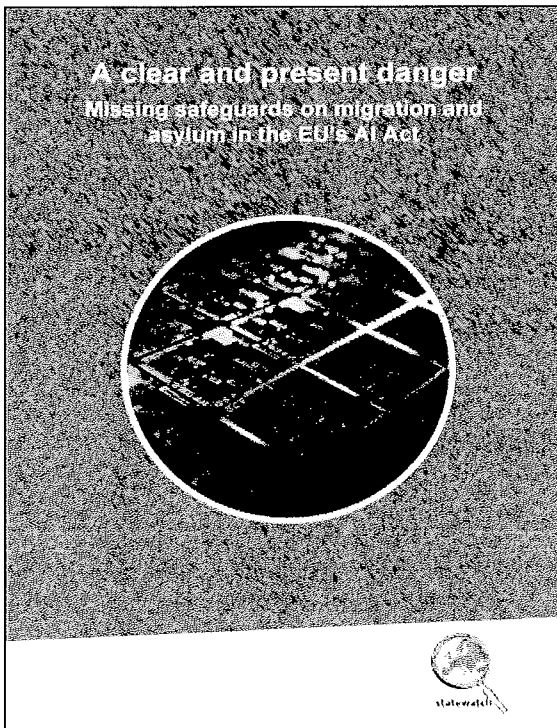
tvxs.gr

Τεχνητή νοημοσύνη και επιτήρηση: Εφαρμογή πρώτα σε πρόσφυγες και μετά σε όλους τους πολίτες

**BIOMETRIC
UPDATE.COM**

'Datafication' of EU borders and ballooning private-sector spending prompted by migrant crisis

•Calling for protections in the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act



The EU's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act will have a major impact on the production, distribution and use of artificial intelligence technologies in the EU and beyond. When the proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act was published in April 2021, we began working with other European Digital Rights (EDRI) members to analyse the text, a process that made clear serious shortcomings and loopholes regarding the use of advanced technologies for policing and migration purposes.

•Working with others

As part of the EDRI working group on the AI Act and migration, we helped to develop amendments to the Act that were subsequently submitted to MEPs. All were adopted and put forward for votes to be held in 2023 to determine the Parliament's position for negotiations with the Council. We also produced a briefing to support the proposed amendments and draw attention to the fact that many border technologies already generously-funded by the EU would be insufficiently regulated by the Act. The findings of the briefing were disseminated via a well-attended online event, with 67 people from 21 countries present, and were featured in EUobserver and InfoMigrants.

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◦Exposing secret government discussions

Over the course of the year we also sought to obtain and publish internal discussion documents from the Council of the EU so that civil society and the broader public could see what EU member state governments were discussing. We drew attention to the Council's attempts to loosen controls and increase secrecy over police use of AI technologies, published multiple Council compromise texts, revealed an internal dispute over the choice of legal basis for the proposal, and published a series of internal presentations and comments from member states

***"...civil society groups like
AlgorithmWatch and
Statewatch are doing
important work in making sure
marginalised voices are being
heard in the debate [on AI]"***

Professor Sandra Wachter, *Oxford Internet
Institute*

◦Calling for change

We helped to draft and put our name to multiple joint statements and open letters throughout the year, calling on MEPs to prohibit predictive profiling and AI systems in law enforcement and criminal justice, ban biometric mass surveillance and ensure that the AI Act contains meaningful protections regarding immigration, asylum and borders. We also added our voice to statements calling for an end to the use of AI technology to try to predict migration flows, an initiative that will inevitably lead to human rights abuses; and for the Spanish government's new artificial intelligence agency - the first in Europe - to put human rights and social justice at the centre of its work.

Press coverage



L'UE a dépensé plus de 340 millions d'I.A. pour le contrôle des frontières



Statewatch says EU has spent over €340 million on border AI technologies



Study: EU spent €341m on AI border technology

•'Global Britain' and civil liberties

Objective: Monitor the activities of the new law enforcement and security institutions set up by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement to identify projects or plans that go beyond legal remits, or threaten to undermine rights, liberties and democratic standards

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Brexit: Goodbye and hello

The new EU-UK security architecture,
civil liberties and democratic control



While the UK has left the EU, close policing and security links remain in place. The UK is able to opt-in to a number of intrusive surveillance measures with no explicit need for domestic parliamentary scrutiny or debate, and the new relationship is governed by institutions that are subject to extremely limited transparency and accountability requirements.

These issues were explored in an in-depth report we published in January, providing a detailed critical analysis of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) signed between the UK and EU at the close of 2020.

The implementation of that agreement, any possible changes to it, and any bilateral agreements that the UK may reach with EU member states and other states around the world, have substantial implications for rights and freedoms, and require close scrutiny.

Despite extremely limited resources, we sought to exercise that scrutiny throughout 2022, with the publication of news articles on the transmission of DNA and fingerprint data from EU police forces to the UK; the EU's approval of UK derogations from safeguards on travel surveillance powers; a UK government representative's misinterpretation of the policing and data protection requirements in the TCA.

We also published documents obtained through an FOI request on bilateral cooperation between Greece and the UK on countering migrant smuggling; drew attention to the coming into force of the UK-USA Data Access Agreement, easing transatlantic data flows for law enforcement authorities.

Our work with the EDRI network on the expansion of the EU's Prüm system (see above) also contributed to this objective - the UK remains part of the Prüm system and, as our January report showed, could join an expanded system without any meaningful parliamentary scrutiny or debate.

We also continued to work with other groups in the UK seeking to address some of the disastrous legislation being taken through parliament. This included signing and circulating a letter to government and to MPs on the plans to drastically undermine the Human Rights Act; a briefing for parliamentarians on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill coordinated by Liberty; signing a letter drafted by Netpol to the Metropolitan Police on the policing of Extinction Rebellion protests; and a letter drafted by Big Brother Watch to the Metropolitan Police on the use of live facial recognition technology.

Our expertise was also sought by the press and by officials on a number of topics. In November our director, Chris Jones, was invited to meet with a delegation of MEPs from the European Parliament's civil liberties committee to discuss proposed changes to the Data Protection Act that would undermine existing standards.

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Press coverage

thedissenter

UK Official Secrets Act Proposals Take Cues From US Espionage Act Cases

RADIO
STUDENT
FM189.3

Off to Ruanda

BIOMETRIC
UPDATE.COM

UK can join EU biometric surveillance without Parliamentary scrutiny: Statewatch

Barriers to implementing our objectives

- Identify and challenge the 'collateral damage' caused by attacks on immigration and asylum

Objective: Contribute to efforts to halt the ongoing criminalization of human rights defenders, obstruction of journalists and undermining of the rule of law as a consequence of immigration control measure

We did not plan any specific work on this topic in 2022, but continued sharing information in our networks and monitoring the situation with a view to undertaking dedicated work in 2023.

Objective 3: Build a more sustainable and more effective organisation

Key developments and impact

- Income from donations increased by 55%

Our income from individual donations increased from £6,905 to £11,003.

- Recruitment of 3 new trustees

At the end of the year we recruited three new trustees - Gabriel Almeida, Marie-Laure Basilien-Gainche and Laure Baudrihayé-Gérard - who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board.

- Ongoing focus on staff development

Staff attended a total of seven training courses throughout the year, and the issue of learning and development is discussed in both weekly staff meetings and monthly one-to-one meetings.

- 1 meeting of the contributors group

In October 16 members of the Statewatch contributors group, from 10 different countries, met for the first time since 2020 to share information and ideas on key issues.

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- Increase in followers, web users and subscribers

We gained a total of 882 new Twitter followers and around 400 new Facebook followers over the course of the year, the annual number of visits to our website increased to 153,000, and by the end of 2022 our mailing had nearly 11,000 subscribers.

A more sustainable organisation

Objective: Obtain an increased amount of core funding over the next four years, seeking a diverse range of funding sources for different elements of our strategy

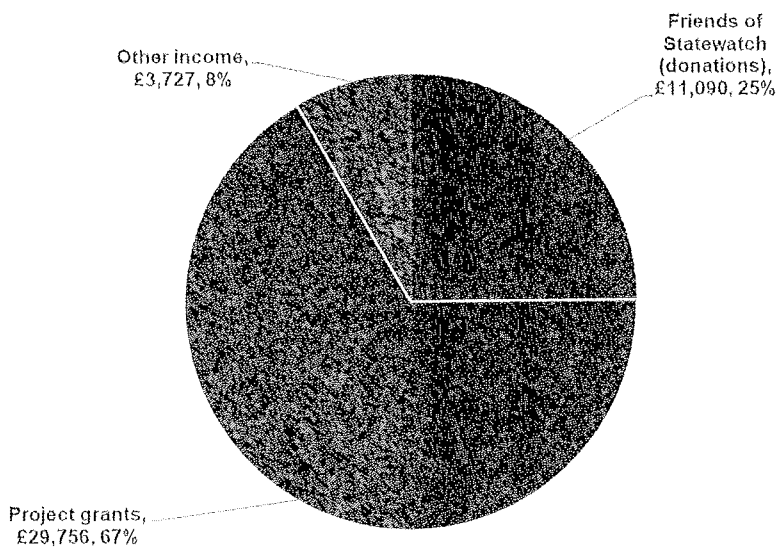
- Funding

Our total income in 2022 was £44,280 and our total expenditure was £112,451.

Although our income in 2022 was low (£44,280), we were able to sustain the organisation through a tie-off grant received from Open Society Initiative for Europe in 2021, and by the end of 2022 had secured the majority of the income needed to maintain the organisation in 2023. We are grateful for the continued support of Privacy International, as well as that of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, with whom we had not worked before, in 2022.

In April a 10% pay increase for all staff was introduced, following on from a 10% increase in 2021. Trustees committed to considering a further increase in 2023, dependent on income. The two increases instituted in 2021 and 2022 go some way to bringing wages closer to those in comparable organisations in the sector, and to ensure the sustainability of the organisation with regard to any future recruitment.

- Income

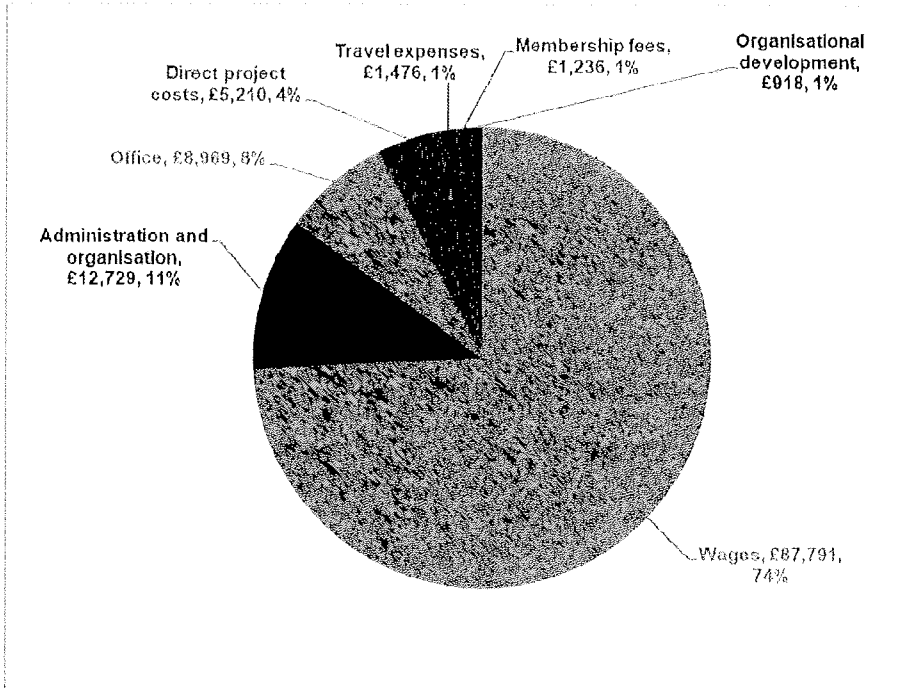


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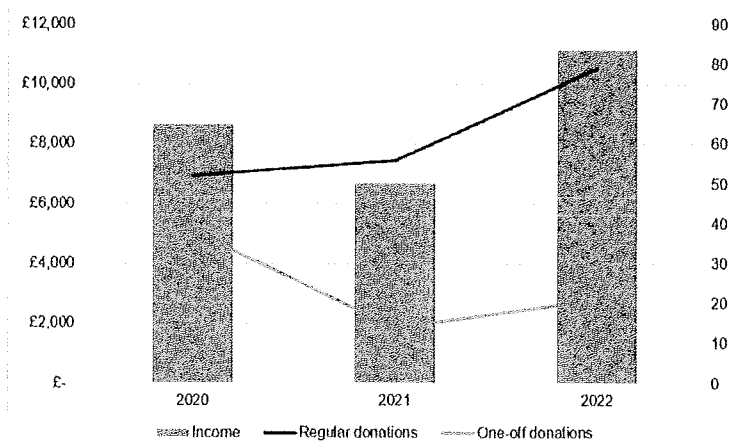
● Expenditure



● Friends of Statewatch

The amount of income received from one-off and regular donations increased by 59% in 2022, growing from £6,905 to £11,003. This is also 52% lower than the amount received in 2020 (£22,993). The number of regular donors also increased substantially compared to 2021 (from 56 to 79, a 41% increase), as did the number of one-off donations (14 to 21, a 50% increase).

This is a welcome reflection of the work done in 2022, and of our efforts to ensure that regular calls for donations are included in our output, in particular on social media. However, it remains unclear what methods are most effective in encouraging individual donations. In 2023 we will conduct an assessment of our methods for fundraising from individuals in order to try to further increase the amount of income generated in this way.



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●Statewatch in the EU

Objective: Establish a formal presence in EU jurisdiction to mitigate possible risks for our work caused by Brexit

Since the Brexit vote we have explored options for establishing a formal Statewatch presence within EU jurisdiction and now have a clear overview of what those options are and how to pursue them if deemed necessary. So far, the effects of Brexit have only caused minor procedural obstacles to our work, for example the ability to make requests for access to documents as a UK-based organisation. The option to establish a presence in EU jurisdiction remains open to us, if and when deemed necessary.

A more effective organisation

Objective: Ensure that Statewatch has the people, knowledge, skills and contacts needed to achieve its objectives

●Learning and development

Our strategic plan commits us to adopting a staff learning and development programme and individual learning and development plans for each member of staff. In practice, these goals have been met by keeping the question of learning and development as a standing item on our weekly staff meetings and in monthly one-to-one meetings between each member of staff and the director.

In 2022, Statewatch staff attended training courses on:

- engaging with the media;
- engagement with and influencing the UK parliament;
- outcome and impact measurement;
- project management in the voluntary sector;
- advocacy at the United Nations;
- the 'supportive approach' to fundraising; and
- online investigations.

Materials and resources provided during training courses are made available to all staff and volunteers for reference.

●Monitoring and evaluation

We monitor and evaluate our work regularly, on an overall basis and for individual projects, generally by measuring whether we have achieved intended outcomes. That information is provided to the Board of Trustees and is also included in the bi-annual newsletter sent to Friends of Statewatch.

In 2022 we also set up a collective "learning log" that we can use to record problems encountered and mistakes made in our work, in order to learn from them and improve in the future.

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- **Maintain and develop the Statewatch contributors group**

At the end of 2022 there were 49 people subscribed to the Statewatch contributors group. Excluding staff, trustees and the Director Emeritus, there are 38 'external' contributors in the group.

In October, 16 contributors from 10 states attended an online meeting, the first since 2020. This provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect with one another face-to-face (albeit virtual) and to share information and updates from across Europe and beyond.

Throughout the year, three analyses and one news article were authored by contributors. We also published an important collection of documents in collaboration with investigative journalists, on EU border agency Frontex's collection of personal data via "debriefing" interviews conducted at borders.

- **A more active and effective role in our networks**

In 2022 we continued to play an active role in the networks of which we are a member, European Digital Rights (EDRi) and Migreurop.

We worked with other EDRi members to analyse and formulate proposals in relation to the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act and the proposed expansion of the Prüm network of police databases, and also took part in the surveillance working group and the Resist Europol network that is hosted by EDRi.

Our longstanding membership also led to Chris Jones being invited to participate in the Decolonising Digital Rights (DDR) project in 2021, in which he continued as a core member throughout 2022, attending a plenary meeting in Italy in June, a working group meeting in November and the final plenary meeting in Morocco in November.

DDR will develop a programme of work aimed at challenging the structural causes of oppression and their manifestations within the digital rights field, to work towards a digital rights field in which all groups in society have their voices heard and which works to protect the digital rights of all. Participating in the process has provided an important way for us to reflect on our own work and practices and we expect the programme of work to provide a further means to do so. We will continue to engage with this work in the years to come.

We continued to hold the role of co-president of the Migreurop administrative council (CA, conseil administratif) throughout the year, participating in regular meetings of the CA and of other working groups. We contributed to the organisation of webinars, the drafting and editing of briefings, and make regular use of the network to share and obtain information. Yasha Maccanico attended the Sabir Festival in Italy in May, which provided a valuable opportunity to see other members of the network in person.

We continued to maintain close contacts with the German journal CILIP (Civil Liberties & Policing, or Bürgerrechte und Polizei). Yasha Maccanico and Chris Jones co-authored an article that was published in the March 2022 edition of the journal, 'Grenzüberschreitender Sicherheitstaat: die Europäischer Union und Ihre Krisen'.

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The relevance and importance of our work also saw us invited to speak at or attend multiple other events, meetings and conferences throughout the year. As well as those mentioned elsewhere in this report, these include:

- Colour of Surveillance, Amsterdam, September (conference)
- MIGRANTS HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY, 27 June - 3 July 2022, University of Palermo (summer school)
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung, London, November (roundtable)
- Distance & Convergence: re:constituting Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe, Berlin, September (conference)
- Immigrazione e propaganda elettorale a venti anni della legge Bossi Fini, Associazione Diritti e Frontiere, online, September (meeting)
- Intersos, "States' sea rescue duties", online, November (training course)
- Lecture on Statewatch's work, migration and the Mediterranean for the Brown University anthropology and migration course, online, November
- Computers, Privacy and Data Protection, Brussels, 23-25 May (conference)
- Migreurop study day, La criminalisation des personnes migrantes solidaires, 9 December 2022
- Digital Freedom Fund: Access to justice in data protection cases 8 to the 9 of december 2022

We also developed contacts with Refugee Project Egypt and in October signed a joint statement that they coordinated, calling for an end to the arbitrary detention and forcible deportation of Eritrean asylum seekers in Egypt.

● Improving our communication

The question of communication was a regular topic of discussion amongst staff throughout 2022, but a lack of longer-term core funding means it remained impossible to recruit a member of staff to deal with the communication aspect of our work. However, we sought to use knowledge gained from training courses attended in 2021 to improve our use of social media, which remains a key tool for circulating our work and reaching new people.

The ability to recruit a member of staff to deal with communications would allow us to create more varied, attractive and appealing output (for example, through the use of graphics or video), would provide the organisation with the knowledge and expertise of someone specialised in communications (for example, in terms of how to address different audience), and would free up a substantial amount of staff time. Currently, the management of our social media accounts is undertaken by our researchers and the publication of material on our website is a responsibility shared between the researchers and the director.

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Nevertheless, our audience continues to grow. Throughout the year the number of followers we had on social media grew substantially (particularly on Twitter), and the number of users of our website increased by 2% across the year, with more than 153,000 visits compared to just under 150,000 in 2021.

We believe that this growth can be explained by the quality, relevance and importance of our work, but in the longer-term it is evident that increasing our audience requires structured planning and relevant expertise amongst the staff.

Policy on reserves

At year end our reserves stood at £9,530. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected shortfall in income and to meet any necessary expenditure to protect or expand the trust's work. Trustees will endeavour to increase the reserves if income permits. Increasing staff wages is also a priority, subject to meeting our other legal commitments.

Risk analysis

1. Staff development and retention

Statewatch employees are employed part time and are highly skilled in our specialist field of work. Our priority is to retain and develop current staff. In 2021 we implemented an across-the-board pay increase of 10% and committed to introduce a further 10% increase in 2022, funding permitting. This was an important first step in bringing our salaries up to an adequate level for the sector.

2. Review and monitor action to reduce our projected pension deficit

We have an action plan in place with the Pensions' Trust, our pension provider, to reduce our deficit by paying additional annual contributions over ten years 2013 - 2023. The estimate from the Pensions Trust of employer liability on withdrawal is £6,069 (as at September 2022) and was £11,201 (as at September 2021).

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust


known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

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

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

The financial statements on pages 30 to 41 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Jonathan Bloch
Company secretary and trustee

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes on pages 30 to 41.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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:

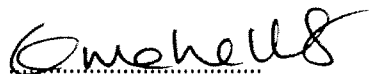
1. accounting records were not kept in respect of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any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

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

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.



Kirsty Nicholls FCCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 ORB

5 September 2023

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Stawatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	12,257	17,216	29,473	109,485	27,547	137,032
Charitable activities	4	14,807	-	14,807	2,747	-	2,747
Total income		27,064	17,216	44,280	112,232	27,547	139,779
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	(97,387)	(15,064)	(112,451)	(43,523)	(28,583)	(72,106)
Total expenditure		(97,387)	(15,064)	(112,451)	(43,523)	(28,583)	(72,106)
Gains/losses on investment assets		-	-	-	(46)	-	(46)
Net (expenditure)/income		(70,323)	2,152	(68,171)	68,663	(1,036)	67,627
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	(10)	10	-
Net movement in funds		(70,323)	2,152	(68,171)	68,653	(1,026)	67,627
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		77,701	-	77,701	9,048	1,026	10,074
Total funds carried forward	16	7,378	2,152	9,530	77,701	-	77,701

The notes on pages 33 to 41 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 16.

The notes on pages 33 to 41 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

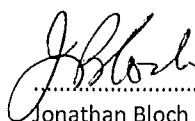
	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Debtors	10	2,875	2,353
Investments	11	-	1,076
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>16,577</u>	<u>88,233</u>
		19,452	91,662
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(3,852)</u>	<u>(2,760)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		15,600	88,902
Provisions	14	<u>(6,070)</u>	<u>(11,201)</u>
Net assets		<u>9,530</u>	<u>77,701</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		2,152	-
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>7,378</u>	<u>77,701</u>
Total funds	16	<u>9,530</u>	<u>77,701</u>

For the financial year ending 31 December 2022 the charity 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 charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 30 to 41 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Jonathan Bloch
Company secretary and trustee

The notes on pages 33 to 41 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

88 Fleet Street
London
EC4Y 1DH

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 5 September 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

In common with many similar organisations who receive the majority of their income from public funding, the viability of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust is dependent on finding continuing sources of funding. As set out in the trustee's report, the company's financial situation remains challenging, but the trustees are working to address these issues. Accordingly, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Current asset investments

Current asset investments are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value / market value.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	General £	Restricted £		
Donations and legacies;				
Committed giving	11,003	-	11,003	6,905
Gift aid reclaimed	1,254	-	1,254	971
Grants, including capital grants;				
Network for Social Change	-	-	-	14,195
Transnational Institute	-	-	-	8,071
European Digital Rights	-	-	-	11,076
Garden Court	-	-	-	4,000
Privacy International	-	17,216	17,216	19,476
OSIFE	-	-	-	72,338
	<u>12,257</u>	<u>17,216</u>	<u>29,473</u>	<u>137,032</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
	General £		
Service level agreement	12,540	12,540	-
Fees and supplies	540	540	937
Other income	1,727	1,727	1,810
	<u>14,807</u>	<u>14,807</u>	<u>2,747</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	8	69,497	55,894
Computer software and maintenance		5,856	2,805
Printing, postage and stationery		216	262
Trade subscriptions		1,173	1,169
Sundries		195	100
Project costs		5,795	-
Travel and subsistence		929	318
Support costs	6	<u>28,790</u>	<u>11,558</u>
		<u>112,451</u>	<u>72,106</u>

6 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Rent	7,765	5,937
Insurance	663	663
Accountancy	300	-
Independent examination	2,340	2,670
Consultancy	14,575	-
Legal and professional	2,832	2,041
Bank charges	184	247
(Gain)/loss on programme related investments	<u>131</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>28,790</u>	<u>11,558</u>

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	69,448	56,640
Social security costs	293	-
Pension costs	(577)	(1,316)
Other staff costs	333	570
	<u>69,497</u>	<u>55,894</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Charitable activities	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	1,621	1,203
Other debtors	1,254	1,150
	<u>2,875</u>	<u>2,353</u>

11 Current asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Unlisted other shares	<u>-</u>	<u>1,076</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash at bank	<u>16,577</u>	<u>88,233</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals	<u>3,852</u>	<u>2,760</u>

14 Provisions

	Pension contributions provision	Total
	£	£
At 1 January 2022	(11,201)	(11,201)
Credited to the statement of recognised gains and losses	<u>5,132</u>	<u>5,132</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>(6,069)</u>	<u>(6,069)</u>

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted						
<i>General</i>						
General Funds	77,701	27,064	(97,387)	-	-	7,378
Restricted						
PI Project	-	17,216	(15,064)	-	-	2,152
Total funds	<u>77,701</u>	<u>44,280</u>	<u>(112,451)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,530</u>

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted						
<i>General</i>						
General Funds	9,048	112,232	(43,523)	(10)	(46)	77,701
Restricted						
OSIFE	736	-	(736)	-	-	-
PI Project	290	19,476	(19,776)	10	-	-
Transnational Institute	-	8,071	(8,071)	-	-	-
	<u>1,026</u>	<u>27,547</u>	<u>(28,583)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>10,074</u>	<u>139,779</u>	<u>(72,106)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(46)</u>	<u>77,701</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OSIFE - This grant was awarded for the 'European Union justice and home affairs agencies: Transparency, accountability and fundamental rights' project, which examines the transparency, accountability, and implications for fundamental rights of the activities of three EU agencies: Frontex, Europol and eu-Lisa.

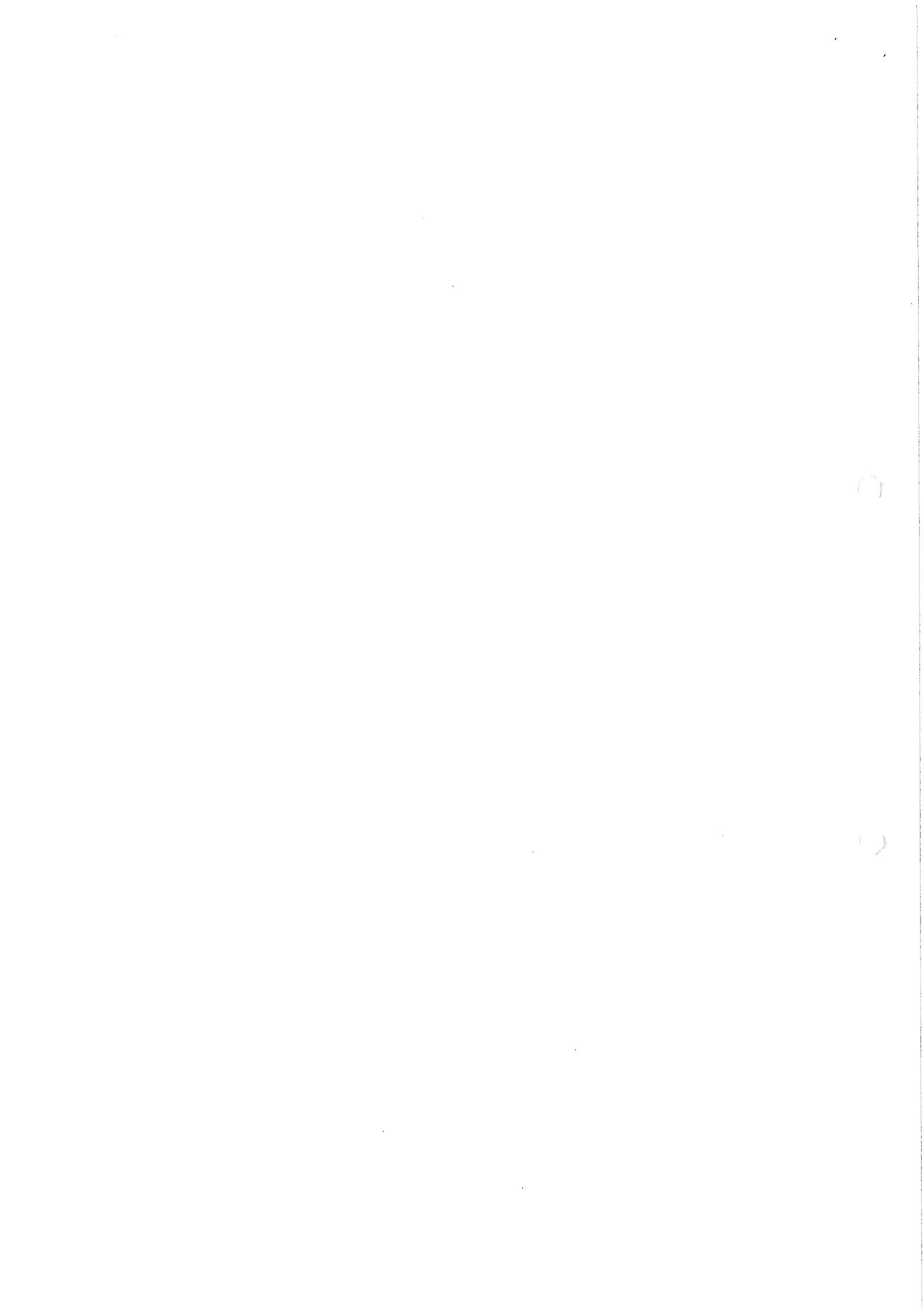
Privacy International - The project title is 'Biometric Europe: Imposing digital identities in the name of security'. The project will educate and inform relevant groups and individuals about the challenges the EU's biometric identity initiatives pose for individual rights in order to increase civil society action (such as campaigns, advocacy, awareness-raising activities, legal cases) and media coverage on the topic, to contribute to attempts to ensure that the EU's biometric identity initiatives are implemented in a manner that prioritises fundamental rights.

Transnational Institute - funding the production of a publication on the EU's new security budgets for the period 2021-2027.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
Current assets	17,300	2,152	19,452
Current liabilities	(3,852)	-	(3,852)
Provisions	(6,070)	-	(6,070)
Total net assets	<u>7,378</u>	<u>2,152</u>	<u>9,530</u>

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 December 2021 £
Current assets	91,662	91,662
Current liabilities	(2,760)	(2,760)
Provisions	(11,201)	(11,201)
Total net assets	<u>77,701</u>	<u>77,701</u>



THE LIBERTARIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1154784

Accounts

Company registration number: 08480724

Charity registration number: 1154784

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as

Statewatch

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

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The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Reference and Administrative Details

Chair	Ann Singleton
Trustees	Jonathan Bloch Victoria Canning Nadine Finch Fiona Godfrey Lilana Keith Ann Singleton
Secretary	Jonathan Bloch
Charity Registration Number	1154784
Company Registration Number	08480724
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in England and Wales. 88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road Blackheath SE3 0RB

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2021 which have been prepared in compliance with current statutory requirements, The Companies Act 1985, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011; and with the charity's governing document, its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Statewatch is the working name of the Libertarian Research and Education Trust (LRET), which was established as a trust in 1981. On 3 December 2013 the charity was incorporated, again with the name The Libertarian Research and Education Trust. The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission as a successor to the Trust (company number: 08480724, charity number: 1154784). The assets and liabilities of the Trust have been transferred to this company, and from 3 December 2013 the company has taken over all of the activities of the trust. The Trust does not have a corporate opinion.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Appointment of Trustees

Any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26 of Articles of Association, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees.

The Board is aware of the need to find additional new Trustees, as well as a need for a succession plan, to replace existing Trustees as they stand down at the end of the time of office. We will discuss and decide on these matters in the first half of 2022. We are aware of the need to consider identifying key skills and experience we need on the Board and to advertise for applicants who meet those criteria.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

We provide Trustees with the Charity Commission and NCVO guidance for Trustees. We have also contracted external expertise to provide legal advice on contracts and policies. They have prepared a Staff and volunteers Handbook and are currently working on a Handbook for Trustees. This will cover recruitment, policies, induction and training.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Jonathan Bloch (appointed 1 January 2021)
	Victoria Canning
	Nadine Finch (appointed 1 January 2021)
	Fiona Godfrey
	Lilana Keith (appointed 1 January 2021)
	Ann Singleton
Chair:	Ann Singleton
Secretary:	Jonathan Bloch (appointed 1 January 2021)

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

2021: Three decades of Statewatch, a year of transition

2021 marked Statewatch's 30th birthday and an important transitional year following the retirement of the founder and Director, Tony Bunyan, in autumn 2020. Three decades after Statewatch was founded, our commitment to the sense of purpose that has animated Statewatch since 1991 – to investigate, expose, analyse and explain state powers and threats to civil liberties and human rights – continued to propel our work. It was an extremely busy year for staff, trustees and contributors: we undertook an in-depth strategic planning process and continued to update and improve internal policies and procedures, at the same time as maintaining our impressive level of output.

Our work led to some notable victories over the course of the year, in particular regarding secrecy and transparency: EU agencies Europol (policing) and Frontex (border control) committed themselves to complying with the EU's transparency laws, following the conclusion of a complaints procedure we initiated in 2019. We also successfully pushed the European Commission to comply with its own rules of procedure and to publish the names of participants in two expert groups, dealing with search and rescue in the Mediterranean, and the use of artificial intelligence in home affairs.

Our research and investigations continued to contribute to public and political debate in Europe and beyond, providing the basis for coverage in major press outlets; submissions to public consultations held by the UK, EU and UN institutions and agencies; and questions in the European Parliament. Our work has been used by national and international human rights organisations and lawyers' associations, and in important legal challenges and parliamentary inquiries – particularly with regards to Frontex, the EU's border agency. Throughout 2021 we also continued to deepen our alliances with other organizations and within our networks, leading to important collaborative work that has gone on to bear fruit in 2022.

Issues of strategy and governance were a core focus for staff, trustees and contributors throughout 2021. A huge amount of work was put into a year-long strategic planning process that led to the drafting of a new five-year strategic plan for Statewatch, in order to provide a clear direction and renewed sense of purpose at a time when civil liberties, human rights and democratic standards are under threat in the UK, across Europe and beyond. This will guide our work as we seek to expand the organisation in the years to come. The updated governance policies we continued to work on throughout 2021 will ensure *Statewatch* remains a well-functioning and welcoming organisation.

While 2021 proved to be a more financially stable year than those that immediately preceded it, we remain heavily reliant on short-to-medium term project funding. The quality and importance of Statewatch's work is clear, but there remain a number of obstacles to obtaining the stability and sustainability necessary for us to reach our full potential. As our President, Gareth Peirce, remarked many years ago:

"In routinely placing complex policies and increased state powers in the public domain, Statewatch performs a function that no other organisation fulfils. One is driven to wonder what it could have accomplished, and could accomplish in the future, were it to have even a tiny percentage of the resources enjoyed by other organisations."

Increasing the resources available to *Statewatch* to ensure that we can adequately fulfil our mission will remain the key task in the years to come.

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Our objectives and achievements in 2021

1. Monitor civil liberties and the state in Europe

- a. *Conduct research and investigations into key issues affecting civil liberties, fundamental rights and democratic standards*

Our research projects in 2021 focused on:

- **post-Brexit policing and security cooperation between the EU and UK**, as mandated by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed in December 2020;
the use of **artificial intelligence technology for immigration, asylum and border control** purposes,
- and how the EU's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act would (or would not) regulate those technologies;
- **the EU's security, defence and border budgets for the 2021-27 period**: policy and spending priorities, and the extent of democratic oversight and accountability over those budgets; and
- **the historical and contemporary development and deployment of biometric identification technologies** by police and border authorities in Europe.

The primary outputs of this research were all due to be published in the first of half of 2022 and will be discussed further in the 2022 annual report.

We also continued to monitor:

- the activities of EU agencies (in particular Europol and Frontex);
- the EU laws and policies that make up the 'New Pact on Migration and Asylum' introduced in September 2020;
the UK government's measures to crack down on civil liberties and human rights, in particular with regards to the Nationality and Borders Bill, the Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, and plans to alter data protection law;
- the EU's 'interoperability' scheme, which seeks to interconnect a number of vast policing and migration databases; and
a number of other key issues, such as the situation for migrants and refugees arriving in Europe and prosecutions and harassment of those acting in solidarity with them, telecommunications surveillance, government plans to undermine encryption, EU counter-terrorism and counter-extremism policies, and the EU's "e-evidence" proposals.
- b. *Maintain and update our observatories, in particular on the 'refugee crisis', interoperability, the European Security Research Programme and Frontex*

Our observatories serve as long-term repositories for documentation, reports and information on key issues. Sixteen observatories remain 'live' on our website and are widely used, receiving **almost 30,000 hits in 2021**. However, pressure on staff time has made it difficult to maintain them, with only the observatory on Frontex (some **5,500 hits in 2021**) being regularly updated.

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In July 2021, we took the decision to stop updating the observatory on the 'refugee crisis', which was launched in 2015 and which we had previously merged with an older observatory on immigration and asylum in Europe - together, they received **over 11,200 hits in 2021**. This page now also hosts the PhD thesis of *Statewatch* researcher Yasha Maccanico, along with associated documentation. We hope to implement a technical solution for the website and obtain the necessary financial resources that will allow us to start regularly updating these valuable resources again.

2. Inform and empower individuals and civil society

- a. *Provide a news service that acts as a key information hub on civil liberties issues and campaigns, bringing together our own material with that of other organizations and outlets*

2021 was the 22nd year of Statewatch's online news service, and we continued to use it to publish our own material and to highlight key work produced by our networks and allies. **We published 345 articles on our site in 2021** as part of the news service, which received **almost 219,000 hits over the course of the year**.

Our work focused on the themes outlined in the previous section, with a number proving to be particularly important and relevant in 2021:

- our '**Tracking the Pact**' series (**30 articles in 2021**) provides news, documentation and – time permitting – analysis of the laws and policies being debated and discussed, largely in secret, as part of the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum;
- our regular scrutiny of the activities of EU border agency Frontex has continued to provide vital information to other civil society organisations, elected officials and the broader public – in particular, our **publication of internal Frontex documents related to the investigation by the European Parliament's Frontex Scrutiny Working Group**, set up to look into allegations that the border agency has been involved in pushbacks in the Mediterranean, with a number of those documents subsequently being cited in a case against Frontex lodged at the Court of Justice of the EU;
- our coverage of the negotiations on proposed changes to Europol's mandate included the **release of national authorities' positions and comments on the plans**, alongside multiple internal Council of the EU documents as negotiations progressed;
- we used our longstanding ability to acquire internal EU documents to report on the ongoing negotiations on the proposed Artificial Intelligence Act, in particular on **plans within the Council of the EU to weaken proposed safeguards on the use of AI technologies for law enforcement and internal security purposes and the failure of the European Commission expert group on AI in home affairs to follow its own rules of procedure**; and
- our ongoing reporting on the implementation of the EU's 'interoperability' scheme exposed **worsening delays in the plans to interconnect new and existing policing and migration databases**.

We continued to use our social media presence to publicise the material published via our news service, and to circulate other material produced by civil society organisations, activist and campaign groups, academics and mainstream media outlets. We obtained a **12.5% increase in Twitter followers over the course of the year (from 9,378 to 10,548)** and a mild increase in Facebook followers (from 2,904 to 3,009) and likes (2,832 to 2,907). It should be noted that this growth in followers is entirely 'organic'. We have no dedicated member of staff to work on communications (the role is shared between the team) and have not had sufficient time to draft a dedicated communications strategy that would guide a more directed and targeted approach to communicating our work more effectively, better-engaging our existing audiences and reaching new ones.

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- b. *Stimulate discussion and debate by working with the media, civil society and parliamentarians and by encouraging individuals to participate in the democratic discourse and make their views known*

Our work and commentary has been taken beyond our direct audience through citations, mentions and interviews in over 20 media outlets over the course of 2021:

Austria: Radio FM4	Germany: Heise Online, Netzpolitik	Senegal: Futurs Media
Balkans: Balkan Insight	Global: Business Insider, Sputnik, TRT World	Spain: Público
China: China Daily	Italy: Wired Italia	Sweden: Arbetet
Europe: EUobserver, Politico Europe, Euractiv	Netherlands: de Groene Amsterdamer, de Volksrant, Radio Patapoe	UK: Byline Times, Declassified UK, The Guardian. The Morning Star
France: Contexte		

Our work has also been publicly-cited by a wide range of other civil society organisations, including:

Deutscher Anwaltverein (German Bar Association)	Equinox	Meijers Committee of Experts on International Migration, Refugee and Criminal Law
European Digital Rights	Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme	Migreurop
European Network Against Racism	Human Rights Watch	

As well as citations, our staff published or publicised work on behalf of Statewatch in academic and platforms: *Forced Migration Review* published an article written by Statewatch researcher Jane Kilpatrick and the legal academic Mariana Gkliati. Material published by Statewatch was cited in over 450 academic publications in 2021.

We have been consulted by MEPs and their staff to share our views on EU law and policy. Our staff were consulted on multiple occasions by advisors working in the European Parliament's civil liberties committee setting up the Frontex Scrutiny Working Group, and we held discussions with Green MEPs on the reform of Europol's legal basis. In a resolution on access to documents, the European Parliament referred specifically to the result of our complaint lodged against Frontex with the European Ombudsman:

"[urging] the agency to follow up on the findings of the European Ombudsman and implement her recommendations on updating the register of documents and publishing the number of sensitive documents it holds that are not included in its register of documents."

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Our work formed the basis of three parliamentary questions in 2021, all on the topic of EU border agency Frontex, indicating the ongoing importance of our long-standing work on this issue:

- Record of deportations by Frontex
- Covert intelligence-gathering at EU justice and home affairs agencies
- Frontex's role in illegal mass expulsions at EU borders

In recent years we have engaged with a broader range of groups and individuals from civil society in order to inform our research, share information, and build connections and alliances. In October 2021 we held two workshops on state databases, biometrics, policing and migration control as part of the project 'Protecting migrant communities by future proofing the immigration data system'. The aim of the workshops was to explain, discuss and share ideas about the issues raised by the development and deployment of Europe-wide biometric police and border control technologies. The workshops brought together some 30 individuals, involved with the following organisations and institutions:

Access Now	Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione (ASGI)	AWO
Arbeiterwohlfahrt	Justice, Equity and Technology Table	Belgrade Centre for Security Policy
Choose Love	Migreurop	Stop Mare Mortum
EDRi	NGO-Mitarbeiterin	Università degli Studi di Padova
Forscherin und Aktivistin	North African Policy Initiative	University of Barcelona
Generation 2.0 RED	Paris d'Exil et collectif Requisitions	University of Helsinki
Hermes Center for Transparency and Digital Rights	Pro Asyl	Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (Refugee Action Flanders)
Human Rights Legal Project		

As well as demonstrating the broad range of different organisations and institutions that follow and engage with our work, the states that attendees said they work in demonstrates our extensive geographical reach:

Albania	France	Montenegro
Austria	Germany	Netherlands
Belgium	Greece	North Macedonia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hungary	Serbia
Denmark	Italy	Spain
EU and Europe-wide	Kosovo	USA

A short questionnaire was filled in by 26 participants following the workshops. Asked to rate the usefulness of the workshops on a scale of one (not useful at all) to five (extremely useful), 21 respondents gave a rating of four or five.

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c. ***Expanding and increasing engagement with our contributors' network to ensure broader level of expertise and geographical reach***

While we continue to engage with a wide variety of individuals who contribute to Statewatch's work in various ways (by providing information, knowledge and contacts; by writing articles; by assisting in the promotion of our work), limitations on staff time means it remained difficult in 2021 to 'activate' the contributors' network to the extent we would have liked. Nevertheless, we remain heavily indebted to members of the network for assisting us in our work, and published eight in-depth analyses written by external contributors in 2021:

- Mariana Gkliati: No more Morias? Notes from the field and the EU responses
- Antonio Mazzeo: Border surveillance, drones and militarisation of the Mediterranean
- Steve Peers: The revised Blue Card Directive: the EU's search for more highly skilled non-EU migrants
- Sophie-Anne Bisiaux and Lorenz Naegeli: Blackmail in the Balkans: how the EU is externalising its asylum policies
- Samuel Allan: The Canary cage: the making of deportation islands on Spain's Atlantic border
- Marie Martin:
 - o To SAR or not to SAR, part 1: Why is Frontex expected to save lives at sea?
 - o To SAR or not to SAR, part 2: Legal firewalls of a very political agency
- Wasil Schauseil: Greece: The new hotspots and the prevention of "primary flows": a human rights disaster.

We also published an in-depth report in collaboration with two contributing authors. *Algorithmic persecution in Turkey's post-coup crackdown: The FETÖ-Meter system* documents the use by the Turkish military of an algorithm to persecute alleged dissidents and supporters of the attempted July 2016 coup, which was widely-reported on in the media.

d. ***Hosting and participating in research and discussion networks on key issues/themes to encourage information-sharing and collaboration***

We hosted two meetings of the Frontex researchers' network throughout 2021, and the group made a collaborative submission to the European Parliament's Frontex Scrutiny Working Group, in order to highlight a number of themes common the work of the network's members that merited further examination by MEPs. The submission was cited in the FSWG's report on its investigation.

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Across the two calls, 14 individuals contributed from:

Academic institutions	EuroMed Rights	Open Society Foundations
Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione	European Parliament	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione	Global Legal Action Network	Privacy International

There were 38 individuals subscribed to the mailing list for the network at the end of 2021.

- Organizing events for discussion, debate and education about key contemporary and historical civil liberties issues, using materials from the Library & Archive to provide a resource for researchers and a historical perspective on contemporary issues*
- e.

We organized two public events in 2021, both in collaboration with the University of Bristol as part of the Economic and Social Research Council's Festival of Social Sciences.

The first was an online event, 'Secrecy in the European Union: how to exercise your right to information', which looked at how governments have sought to maintain secrecy in the EU, how individuals and organizations have fought back, and provided training for attendees on how to exercise their right to access information. The event sold out, with 95 people registering to attend. The content of the event will serve as the basis for a training course to be organised in 2022 and beyond.

The second event, 'Monitoring the state and learning from history: policing and racism in the Statewatch Library & Archive', took place in person and online at the Barton Hill Settlement in Bristol. Through a selection of materials from the Statewatch Library & Archive, 50 of which were digitised to facilitate online participation, the event sought to explore the long history of community and political activism on the issues of policing and racism, and the connections, similarities and differences between past and present struggles. 48 people registered to attend both online and in person. As well as interventions from *Statewatch* staff and trustees, speakers were invited from Bristol Copwatch (a local police monitoring group) and The Bristol Cable (a community newspaper) to provide local context and experiences.

Staff also participated in a number of public and closed events organised by other groups:

- New Police Surveillance Technologies: Combatting the Science Fiction Collectively - A Civil Society Perspective (panel at the online Computers, Privacy and Data Protection conference)
- International Human Rights Film Festival (online)
- The European Social Forum on Migration (webinar)
- Potentials and limitations of subnational responses to the migrant question in Europe (online conference organised by the Inter Alia Project)
- EU return policies: the European framework for return policies across the Euro-Mediterranean region (webinar organised by EuroMed Rights)
- Oxford Migration Studies Society (online seminar)

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3. Take action on civil liberties and justice and home affairs issues

- a. ***Contributing to building more open, transparent and democratic EU and national institutions and ensure that public institutions act in accordance with the law;***

Early in 2021 we secured a major victory for transparency and openness, with the conclusion of a complaint we filed with the European Ombudsman in 2019 concerning a failure by EU policing agency Europol and border control agency Frontex to comply with their legal obligations on public access to documents. The key point of the complaints was that neither agency was maintaining a complete public register of documents – a legal requirement under a 2001 Regulation that aims “to give the fullest possible effect to the right of public access to documents,” as set out in the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights.

In response to our complaint and the Ombudsman’s proposed solution, both agencies committed to establishing public registers of documents – commitments that we continued to put pressure on them to comply with, through engagement with MEPs in relevant parliamentary committees. The Ombudsman’s proposed solution also included a broader set of requirements that apply to all EU justice and home affairs agencies, providing a clear basis for holding other agencies to account in the future. Our victory received prominent coverage in EUobserver, and was subsequently cited in a European Parliament resolution on access to documents.

Our research and investigative work also landed two other victories for basic transparency measures. In early 2021, in response to ongoing deaths in the Mediterranean, the European Commission set up a ‘Contact Group on Search and Rescue’ made up of member state authorities, in order to establish a “structured framework for cooperation at EU level in order to ensure rapid response in case of events at sea as well as maintaining safety of navigation and ensuring effective migration management.” The Commission failed to meet a number of basic transparency requirements – publishing the group’s terms of reference, meeting agendas, and the names of the authorities participating in the group – until we published an article on the issue. Similarly, following our publication of an article on the transparency failings of the Commission’s ‘Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence in the Domain of Home Affairs’, steps were taken to comply with the rules: specifically, by publishing the names of the national authorities participating in the group.

- b. ***Challenging new measures that do not meet fundamental human rights standards***

We made eight submissions to public bodies in 2021 as part of our efforts to challenge measures and practices that do not meet fundamental rights standards:

- UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants: Pushback practices and their impact on the human rights of migrants
- Submission to the European Commission’s consultation on a new migrant smuggling action plan
- Joint submission by the Frontex researchers’ network (coordinated by *Statewatch*) to the European Parliament’s Frontex Scrutiny Working Group
- UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights: Nationality and Borders Bill: Biometric ‘permission to travel’ scheme will affect tens of millions of people
- Submission to public consultation on reform of the UK Data Protection Act 2018
- Submission to the European Asylum Support Office 2021 Asylum Report
- Contributed to the European Digital Rights submission to the European Commission consultation on the expansion of the ‘Prüm’ police data-sharing network

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- Participated in a roundtable meeting organised by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on border management and human rights, in order to inform a policy brief in which our work was directly cited

We also worked with the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN) to investigate multiple testimonies they had collected of violence against migrants committed by agents suspected of participating in Frontex operations. BVMN volunteers received testimonies of incidents involving some 130 people attempting to travel through Macedonia until the end of May 2021. Many of them were subjected to brutal violence and reported that what appeared to be Frontex agents were either present or participated in that violence. We accompanied an article we published with a letter to the Frontex Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO). However, despite positive engagement with the FRO and repeated follow-up from our side, it became evident that they were unable to gather any further information about the allegations.

c. Playing an active role in our networks and partnerships.

We continued to play an active role in the networks of which we are a formal member in 2021, in particular Migreurop and European Digital Rights (EDRi).

Throughout the year we continued to participate in discussions and information-sharing via Migreurop's mailing lists, and in November 2021 we were elected to the co-presidency of Migreurop's *Conseil Administrative*, the governing body for the network. In December 2021 we attended the network's general assembly.

We also maintained a high level of engagement with EDRi office staff in Brussels and other members of the network. In February we participated in a members' workshop on EU justice and home affairs policies, and attended the General Assembly in April (held online due to the pandemic). Throughout the year we continued to participate in working group meetings, including on biometrics and the implications of the EU's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act for migration and asylum law and policy.

We were represented in the Refugee Law Initiative via staff members' involvement in and presentations on Statewatch's ongoing collaboration with Mariana Gkliati (Radboud University) and the Transnational Institute at the Initiative's "externalisation working group" and annual conference.

We also joined two key coalitions in the UK – one on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill, and the other on the Nationality and Borders Bill. The coalition working on the PCSC Bill (the Police Bill Alliance) was seeking to overturn or limit provisions restricting protest rights and criminalising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities through the criminalisation of trespass. The coalition dealing with the Nationality and Borders Bill (Together With Refugees) was primarily seeking to prevent the criminalisation of irregular arrivals to the UK. Due to a lack of staff time our participation in both groups was limited to signing open letters and briefings, and sharing and promoting information and campaign demands via our website and social media accounts. They also provided a useful way for us to maintain our connections with UK-based groups and campaigns.

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4. Governance, funding and organisational development

a. Identify new opportunities for funding and collaboration

In late 2020 we obtained funding from two new sources, European Digital Rights (EDRi) and Citizens for Europe. The funding acquired from EDRi was for a project examining the use of “artificial intelligence” technologies for the purposes of asylum, immigration and border control and how the EU’s proposed Artificial Intelligence Act could better regulate those uses in order to protect fundamental rights; the results of the research are to be published in 2022. The latter funded the time necessary to undertake an in-depth strategic planning process, discussed further below, and to employ a Finance & Administration Worker, recruited in September 2021.

In 2021 we maintained the funding relationship we started in 2020 with Privacy International, with funding for our research investigating the historical and contemporary development and deployment of biometric identification technologies by police and immigration authorities. Finally, we acquired funding from the Network for Social Change, who have funded our work previously (the last time, in 2015), and received a one-off core grant from the Open Society Initiative for Europe. We also collaborated through the year with the Transnational Institute on the research for a report to be published in 2022 that will provide a critical examination of the EU’s security and migration budgets for the 2021-27 period.

At the end of 2021 we recruited an external fundraising consultant to produce a fundraising strategy for Statewatch, in accordance with one of the recommendations of the 2020 governance review (see further below).

b. Update and continue to implement the strategic agenda 2020-22 and develop a new long-term vision for Statewatch

Our strategic agenda 2020-22, adopted at the end of 2019, continued to guide our work in 2021. However, in recognition of the fast-changing operating environment for Statewatch and with the opportunity to engage in an in-depth reflection process enabled by funding from Citizens for Europe, trustees, staff and contributors engaged in a year-long strategic planning process that resulted in the drafting of a new five-year strategic plan to guide Statewatch’s work from 2022-26. Our deliberations were also informed by a survey of our users - the first we had undertaken in 10 years - which received almost 170 responses. The final strategy document will be adopted in early 2022.

c. Enhance monitoring and evaluation framework

We have continued to monitor and evaluate both our projects and our work as a whole on a regular basis, although it can prove difficult to measure the full extent of the impact of our work. As we move ahead with implementing the 2022-26 strategy we will continue to build upon our existing monitoring and evaluation framework, including through staff training and improved procedures, to better understand who our work reaches and how it makes a difference.

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d. Maintain and update policies and procedures as necessary

In 2021 we contracted the services of an external employment law and human resources firm, who have assisted in the drafting and finalisation of a new staff and volunteer handbook to bring together all our policies and procedures. We will continue to review these on a regular basis in order to ensure we remain compliant with the law and meet the highest possible standards in order to make Statewatch an enjoyable and rewarding place to work and volunteer.

e. Continue to implement recommendations of the Governance Review

In 2020 the Board of Trustees engaged a consultant to conduct a governance review and to make recommendations about the steps Statewatch needed to take for a sustainable future and to strengthen our organisation and governance. The review identified strengths and weaknesses of Statewatch and made 18 recommendations. These are set out in the table below with the action taken.

Recommendation	Action taken in 2021
<p>1. As a matter of urgency, the Board of Trustees implement a fundraising strategy, which when aligned to Statewatch's mission and objectives, will provide a long-term, strategic approach that will help the organisation deliver on fundraising goals. (see Appendix 2 for a suggested framework for a financial and fundraising strategy).</p>	<p>Following acquisition of sufficient funding, a fundraising consultant was engaged to prepare a detailed fundraising strategy for Statewatch, to be provided in 2022.</p>
<p>7. Trustees should prioritise the Financial Strategy for its upcoming meetings.</p>	
<p>2. The Board engage in targeted advertising to achieve a more diverse board, with the necessary balance of experience, knowledge and expertise. Sources for advertising for potential Board members, Patrons, and Associate members could be the Contributors Network and Friends of Statewatch, and possibly networks in which staff and Trustees are currently active.</p>	<p>The Board advertised for new Trustees and appointed four new members of the Board. Three of those are still very active and meet the criteria set out in Recommendation 3: Lilana Keith (Vice-Chair); Jonathan Bloch (Treasurer) and Nadine Finch. They have brought a wealth of knowledge and insights to our work.</p>
<p>3. The Board consider the following criteria in recruiting new Trustees who should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be fully knowledgeable of the EU with a substantive understanding of how it works / people working in the field and representative of the Statewatch community,• have organisational expertise, and formal understanding of how civil society organisations work, and how they should work• share the vision and values of Statewatch and committed to its Strategic Agenda	

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4. The Board work together on their own programme of work, including monitoring the Strategic Plan with an appropriate performance management system, and implementing a succession strategy for new Trustees, providing them with an induction session on Trustee roles and responsibilities.

5. The Co-Chairs support a transition to more in depth discuss on current issues, collaboration with civil society campaigns and networking, to retain its position in the field, attract partnerships, and thereby also future funding.

6. The Chair and Executive Director meet on a regular basis to develop an Agenda for Board meetings, and to flag up issues that need to be brought to the Board's attention. Minutes of Board meetings should be reviewed and agreed by both.

8. Trustees design and implement an organisational performance management system for measuring progress on its strategic objectives. The Board should carefully monitor the outcomes of the Strategic Plan by monitoring objectives and key results. Many Boards use a Traffic Lights System for this purpose; that is they monitor each objective and its related key results in terms of: green to indicate where things are on track, amber to indicate some issues to be addressed in a particular area, and red to indicate where action is needed to turn things around.

9. To seek funding for core staff, in particular for an Executive Director as part of the Board's succession plan to replace Tony Bunyan. At present, a percentage of project costs goes towards core staff costs, but this is not a sustainable funding model in the longer term.

10. Tony's retirement at the end of June (or September) should be marked in some way to honour his legacy, both then, and/or at the 30-year anniversary in 2021.

We are preparing a Trustees Handbook (to be ready at the end of September 2022) and our legal advisers (Loch Associates) will provide training for existing and new Trustees.

With the support of the Board, Statewatch has continued to engage with existing civil society partners (European Digital Rights, Migreurop, Transnational Institute, Privacy International) and to undertake new partnerships (Citizens for Europe, Border Violence Monitoring Network, and multiple others through our Frontex research network).

The Chair and Vice-Chair met with the Director on a bi-weekly basis, to discuss ongoing and emerging issues and to prepare the agendas for the Board meetings.

Progress of work was monitored at every meeting of the Board and discussed at the bi-weekly meetings between the Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Director, but a form of systematic review as recommended is yet to be implemented.

The post of the new Executive Director (Chris Jones) was funded from a mix of project and other funding. We aim to secure more core funding to underpin this role and the work of the organisation as a whole.

There was an online meeting of long-time and recent supporters of Statewatch, in which tributes to Tony were given by individuals and on behalf of other organisations. Covid restrictions meant it was not possible to organise an in-person event.

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11. Given how under-resourced the staff team are, the current practice of project management, support and supervision on a regular 1-2-1 basis, should be encouraged and developed; with formal supervisory management systems introduced more fully when resources allow.

12. With the launch of the new website, there is an opportunity to carry out a user-focused scoping exercise to identify who the beneficiaries are, and what their information and communication needs from Statewatch are.

13. Statewatch should leverage the free-to-use Google Analytics to gather and analyse quantitative usage metrics for the website.

14. Statewatch should use the new website as an opportunity to market a fundraising initiative to beneficiaries. A major (crowd) fundraising campaign should accompany the launch of the new website in July/August.

15. Build on the base of Friends of Statewatch with a crowdfunding campaign to all beneficiaries from July/August until December; this would be the quickest method of fundraising in the current context to achieve a minimum level of core funding.

18. The Friends of Statewatch should be revitalised and expanded through a crowdfunding campaign to help secure an independent source of core funding for Statewatch.

16. The Contributors Group should be revived and expanded. Once staff resources improve, dedicated time be allocated for management of the network, its terms of reference, solicitation of information and so on.

17. The Contributors Group should be considered as an important and valuable source not only of contributions to Statewatch, but also of becoming Patrons or Associate Members of Statewatch, and possibly future Board members.

The Chair and Vice Chair met regularly with the Executive Director to discuss issues as they arose and undertook an interim review to lay the basis for a full review of the Director's role in due course.

Individual support and supervision was provided to staff members and volunteers through monthly one-to-one meetings, as well as twice-weekly meetings of all staff.

A survey of Statewatch's audience and users was launched in autumn 2021 and received close to 170 responses, which were used to inform the strategic planning process.

Given the negative privacy implications of Google products, we make use of Matomo to monitor website usage.

A specific fundraising campaign was carried out in autumn 2020, but not repeated in 2021. Fundraising was increasingly integrated into the everyday communication of the organisation throughout 2021, but remains a work in progress.

As noted above, five in-depth analyses from new contributors were published in 2021. The contributors group is much valued by Statewatch and staff and Trustees endeavoured to keep these links active throughout 2021, with a view to future further expansion of the group.

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Income and expenditure

Our total income for 2021 was £139,779 and our total expenditure was £72,106.

Policy on reserves

At year end our reserves stood at £77,701. Reserves are held to meet any unexpected shortfall in income and to meet any necessary expenditure to protect or expand the trust's work. Trustees will endeavour to increase the reserves if income permits. Increasing staff wages is also a priority, subject to meeting our other legal commitments.

Funding

We are grateful to the support received during 2021 from Friends of Statewatch, Citizens for Europe, European Digital Rights, Garden Court Chambers, Network for Social Change, Open Society Initiative for Europe and Privacy International.

Risk analysis

1. Staff development and retention

Statewatch employees are employed part time and are highly skilled in our specialist field of work. Our priority is to retain and develop current staff. In 2021 we implemented an across-the-board pay increase of 10% and committed to introduce a further 10% increase in 2022, funding permitting. This was an important first step in bringing our salaries up to an adequate level for the sector.

2. Review and monitor action to reduce our projected pension deficit

We have an action plan in place with the Pensions' Trust, our pension provider, to reduce our deficit by paying additional annual contributions over ten years 2013 - 2023. The estimate from the Pensions Trust of employer liability on withdrawal is £11,201(as at September 2021) and was £17,184 (as at September 2020).

3. Brexit

Towards the end of 2020 and early in 2021 we consulted with lawyers to prepare for establishing a branch of Statewatch within EU jurisdiction, should it prove necessary for our work. While the UK has now left the EU and a large proportion of our work continues to focus on the powers, policies and practices of the institutions and agencies of the EU and its member states, the practical impact on our work has so far proven minimal. The option to establish within EU jurisdiction remains available should the need arise, and the situation is reviewed regularly by the Board.

4. Coronavirus

The Board of Trustees continued to ensure that all necessary action was taken to protect the health and wellbeing of Statewatch employees and volunteers during the ongoing pandemic. A member of the Board was appointed as a wellbeing contact point to serve as a first point of call for any staff wishing to discuss problems or concerns (e.g. mental health) arising from the pandemic and the restrictive measures taken to address it. The Board was regularly updated on measures taken by the organisation to ensure a 'COVID-secure' working environment after restrictions were eased.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 20 to 34 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Ann Singleton
Chair and Trustee

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees (who are also Directors for the purpose of company law) on my examination of the accounts of the The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. 20 34

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust ('the Company')

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.



.....
Timothy Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
SE3 0RB

Date: 23/6/22.....

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	109,485	27,547	137,032	43,651	51,740	95,391
Charitable activities	4	2,747	-	2,747	1,774	-	1,774
Investment income	5	-	-	-	2	-	2
Total income		112,232	27,547	139,779	45,427	51,740	97,167
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	(43,523)	(28,583)	(72,106)	(9,589)	(66,564)	(76,153)
Total expenditure		(43,523)	(28,583)	(72,106)	(9,589)	(66,564)	(76,153)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(46)	-	(46)	90	-	90
Net income/(expenditure)		68,663	(1,036)	67,627	35,928	(14,824)	21,104
Transfers between funds		(10)	10	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		68,653	(1,026)	67,627	35,928	(14,824)	21,104
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		9,048	1,026	10,074	(26,880)	15,850	(11,030)
Total funds carried forward	18	77,701	-	77,701	9,048	1,026	10,074

The notes on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2020 is shown in note 18.

The notes on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.
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The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Debtors	11	2,353	1,514
Investments	12	1,076	1,122
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>88,233</u>	<u>40,854</u>
		91,662	43,490
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(2,760)</u>	<u>(3,233)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		88,902	40,257
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	-	(13,000)
Provisions	16	<u>(11,201)</u>	<u>(17,183)</u>
Net assets		<u>77,701</u>	<u>10,074</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		-	1,026
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>77,701</u>	<u>9,048</u>
Total funds	18	<u>77,701</u>	<u>10,074</u>

For the financial year ending 31 December 2021 the charity 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 charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

The financial statements on pages 20 to 34 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Ann Singleton
Chair and Trustee

The notes on pages 24 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

88 Fleet Street
London
EC4Y 1DH

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 15 September 2022.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

In common with many similar organisations who receive the majority of their income from public funding, the viability of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust is dependent on finding continuing sources of funding. As set out in the trustee's report, the company's financial situation remains challenging, but the trustees are working to address these issues. Accordingly, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the periods in which the estimate is revised where revisions affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revisions affects both current and future periods.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Current asset investments

Current asset investments are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value / market value.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme. Typically defined benefit plans define an amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one or more factors such as age, years of service and compensation.

The liability recognised in the Balance Sheet in respect of defined benefit pension plans is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date minus the fair value of plan assets. The defined benefit obligation is measured using the projected unit credit method. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is determined by discounting the estimated future payments by reference to market yields at the reporting date on high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the related pension liability.

Actuarial gains and losses are charged or credited to other comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	General £	Restricted £		
Donations and legacies;				
Committed giving	6,905	-	6,905	29,993
Citizens for Europe	-	-	-	8,837
Gift aid reclaimed	971	-	971	821
Grants, including capital grants;				
Network for Social Change	14,195	-	14,195	-
Transnational Institute	-	8,071	8,071	-
European Digital Rights	11,076	-	11,076	-
Garden Court	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Privacy International	-	19,476	19,476	9,432
OSIFE	72,338	-	72,338	42,308
	<u>109,485</u>	<u>27,547</u>	<u>137,032</u>	<u>95,391</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
	General £		
Fees and supplies	937	937	1,019
Other income	1,810	1,810	755
	<u>2,747</u>	<u>2,747</u>	<u>1,774</u>

5 Investment income

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	-	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages and salaries	9	56,640	48,093
Pension	9	(1,316)	3,057
Other staff costs	9	570	-
Computer software and maintenance		2,805	5,457
Printing, postage and stationery		262	35
Trade subscriptions		1,169	1,011
Sundries		100	318
Travel and subsistence		318	473
Support costs	7	11,558	17,709
		72,106	76,153

7 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Rent	5,937	5,000
Insurance	663	618
Telephone and fax	-	2,935
Office expenses	-	203
Independent examination	2,670	3,090
Legal and professional	2,041	5,627
Bank charges	247	236
	11,558	17,709

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	56,640	48,093
Pension costs	(1,316)	3,057
Other staff costs	570	-
	<u>55,894</u>	<u>51,150</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Charitable activities	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments	1,203	802
Other debtors	1,150	712
	<u>2,353</u>	<u>1,514</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

12 Current asset investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Unlisted other shares	<u>1,076</u>	<u>1,122</u>

13 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank	<u>88,233</u>	<u>40,854</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxation and social security	-	322
Accruals	<u>2,760</u>	<u>2,911</u>
	<u>2,760</u>	<u>3,233</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>13,000</u>

16 Provisions

	Pension contributions provision £	Total £
At 1 January 2021	(17,183)	(17,183)
Credited to the statement of recognised gains and losses	<u>5,982</u>	<u>5,982</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>(11,201)</u>	<u>(11,201)</u>

17 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

A C Bunyan

The loan was made by a founder of the charity and it was repaid in full during the period. At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from to A C Bunyan was £Nil (2020 - £13,000).

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted						
<i>General</i>						
General Funds	9,048	112,232	(43,523)	(10)	(46)	77,701
Restricted						
OSIFE	736	-	(736)	-	-	-
PI Project	290	19,476	(19,776)	10	-	-
Transnational Institute	-	8,071	(8,071)	-	-	-
	<u>1,026</u>	<u>27,547</u>	<u>(28,583)</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u>10,074</u>	<u>139,779</u>	<u>(72,106)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(46)</u>	<u>77,701</u>

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted					
<i>General</i>					
General Funds	(26,880)	45,427	(9,589)	90	9,048
Restricted					
OSIFE	5,850	42,308	(47,422)	-	736
PI Project	10,000	9,432	(19,142)	-	290
	<u>15,850</u>	<u>51,740</u>	<u>(66,564)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>
Total funds	<u>(11,030)</u>	<u>97,167</u>	<u>(76,153)</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>10,074</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OSIFE - This grant was awarded for the 'European Union justice and home affairs agencies: Transparency, accountability and fundamental rights' project, which examines the transparency, accountability, and implications for fundamental rights of the activities of three EU agencies: Frontex, Europol and eu-Lisa.

Privacy International - The project title is 'Biometric Europe: Imposing digital identities in the name of security'. The project will educate and inform relevant groups and individuals about the challenges the EU's biometric identity initiatives pose for individual rights in order to increase civil society action (such as campaigns, advocacy, awareness-raising activities, legal cases) and media coverage on the topic, to contribute to attempts to ensure that the EU's biometric identity initiatives are implemented in a manner that prioritises fundamental rights.

Transnational Institute - funding the production of a publication on the EU's new security budgets for the period 2021-2027.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 December 2021 £
Current assets	91,662	91,662
Current liabilities	(2,760)	(2,760)
Provisions	(11,201)	(11,201)
Total net assets	<u>77,701</u>	<u>77,701</u>

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2020 £
Current assets	42,464	1,026	43,490
Current liabilities	(3,233)	-	(3,233)
Creditors over 1 year	(13,000)	-	(13,000)
Provisions	(17,183)	-	(17,183)
Total net assets	<u>9,048</u>	<u>1,026</u>	<u>10,074</u>

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

20 Covid

During the year the charity's activities were adversely affected by the outbreak of COVID 19. As a result the charity had to temporarily close its office with staff working from home to continue the charity's activities. Working practices were subsequently adapted according to law, policy, guidance and health and safety considerations.

THE LIBERTARIAN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1154784

Accounts

Company registration number: 08480724

Charity registration number: 1154784

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as

Statewatch

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
London
SE10 8RF

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

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The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Jonathan Bloch Victoria Canning Nadine Finch Fiona Godfrey Lilana Kelth Ann Singleton
Secretary	Jonathan Bloch
Principal Office	88 Fleet Street London EC4Y 1DH
Registered Office	10 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.
Company Registration Number	08480724
Charity Registration Number	1154784
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 70 Royal Hill Greenwich London SE10 8RF

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Statewatch is the working name of the Libertarian Research and Education Trust (LRET), which was established as a trust in 1981. On 3 December 2013 the charity was incorporated, again with the name The Libertarian Research and Education Trust. The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission as a successor to the trust (company number: 08480724, charity number: 1154784). The assets and liabilities of the trust have been transferred to this company, and from 3 December 2013 the company has taken over all of the activities of the trust. The Trust does not have a corporate opinion.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Trustees

Jonathan Bloch (as of January 2021)
Victoria Canning
Jane Deighton (until September 2020)
Nadine Finch (as of January 2021)
Fiona Godfrey
Patrick Hillyard (until December 2020)
Lilana Keith (as of January 2021)
Ann Singleton

Secretary

Sean Burke (until September 2020)
Chris Jones (October-December 2020)
Jonathan Bloch (as of January 2021)

Appointment of Trustees

Any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 26 of Articles of Association, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees.

In the last round of new Trustee appointments (2019) we advertised the positions widely on social media and our website. Applicants submitted CVs and personal statements of motivation. The selection method involved an initial discussion, according to the agreed criteria, between the existing Trustees and the Director and a meeting of the Board who then agreed on who to invite to become Trustees. Interviews were conducted by the then Co-Chairs.

The Board is aware of the need to find additional new Trustees, as well as a need for a succession plan, to replace existing Trustees as they stand down at the end of the time of office. We will discuss and decide on these matters in the first half of 2022. We are aware of the need to consider identifying key skills and experience we need on the Board and to advertise for applicants who meet those criteria.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Trustees' Report

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

We provide Trustees with the Charity Commission and NCVO guidance for Trustees. We have also contracted external expertise to provide legal advice on contracts and policies. They have prepared a Staff and Volunteers Handbook and are currently working on a Handbook for Trustees. This will cover recruitment, policies, induction and training.

The trustees agreed that our Objectives for 2021 are:

- To monitor civil liberties and the state in Europe, in particular the European Union, its member states and the UK, by:
 - a) Conducting research and investigations into key issues affecting civil liberties, fundamental rights and democratic standards to produce news, analyses, reports and other output
 - b) Maintaining and updating our observatories, in particular on the 'refugee crisis', interoperability, the European Security Research Programme and Frontex

- To inform and empower individuals and civil society, by:
 - c) Providing a news service that acts as a key information hub on civil liberties issues and campaigns, bringing together our own material with that of other organizations and outlets
 - d) Stimulating discussion and debate by working with the media, civil society and parliamentarians and by encouraging individuals to participate in the democratic discourse and make their views known;
 - e) Expanding and increasing engagement with our contributors' network to ensure broader level of expertise and geographical reach;
 - f) Hosting and participating in research and discussion networks on key issues/themes to encourage information-sharing and collaboration;
 - g) Organizing events for discussion, debate and education about key contemporary and historical civil liberties issues;
 - h) Using and developing our social media presence to engage more effectively with our audiences and public institutions;
 - i) Using materials from the Library & Archive to provide a resource for researchers and a historical perspective on contemporary issues.

- Action on civil liberties and justice and home affairs issues, by:
 - j) Contributing to building more open, transparent and democratic EU and national institutions and ensure that public institutions act in accordance with the law;
 - k) Challenging new measures that do not meet fundamental human rights standards;
 - l) Playing an active role in our networks and partnerships.

- In relation to governance, funding and organisational development:
 - m) Identify new opportunities for funding and collaboration;
 - n) Update and continue to implement the strategic agenda 2020-22;
 - o) Develop a new long-term vision for Statewatch;
 - p) Enhance monitoring and evaluation framework;
 - q) Maintain and update policies and procedures as necessary;
 - r) Continue to implement recommendations of the Governance Review.

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Our Objectives for 2020 were:

- a) To highlight and draw attention to EU measures and practices affecting civil liberties and challenge whether they meet fundamental human rights standards
- b) Contribute to building a more open, transparent and democratic EU.
- c) Provide a valued resource which informs civil society of the facts and which stimulates discussion and debate, encouraging individuals to participate in the democratic discourse and make their views known.
- d) To increase our capacity to place issues on the mainstream agenda by working with the media, civil society and parliamentarians.
- e) Extend and improve access to information and resources through the launch of our new website incorporating our resources e.g. SEMDOC, the JHA Archive and the Statewatch database
- f) Publish news stories and in-depth analysis on EU developments.
- g) Continue to hold key institutions in the EU to account
- h) Expand our network of contributors/correspondents by seeking to involve diverse expertise in EU countries;
- i) Work with the media, civil society and parliamentarians to place issues on the mainstream agenda and to encourage informed debate and discussion
- j) To maintain the Observatory on the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean and in the EU
- k) Identify new funding opportunities;
- l) Explore options for the future role of the Director and the leadership team;
- m) Recruit and appoint new Trustees;
- n) Continue to evaluate outputs and outcomes.

Our Targets for 2020 were:

1. To launch the new Statewatch website in July 2020 and monitor the functionality of the CMS in the operation of the website, providing regular reports on progress to the Board of Trustees

Achieved. The website was launched in June 2020. While there is still some development work to be done to improve functionality and appearance, the current site is a significant improvement over its predecessor.

2. To update the coverage on the Statewatch website daily/weekly

Achieved. 876 stories were published via news online, consisting of our own research and reporting as well as links to the work of other NGOs, press stories and other sources.

3. To maintain e-mail lists, Twitter and Facebook

Achieved. 16 bulletins (containing round-ups of our news, analysis and activities) were sent to the mailing list over the course of the year, as well as 20 other announcements (press releases, calls for action, event announcements, appeals for funding).

Twitter was updated on a daily basis and Facebook at least three times per week. Thanks for the work of our intern between January and March, we were able to improve our approach to using social media. The number of Twitter followers increased by 881 over the year and our tweets obtained 3,584,000 impressions over the course of the year. Facebook followers and 'likes' also grew steadily.

4. To publish regular analyses online

Achieved. 22 analyses were published online over the course of the year.

5. To respond to requests for speakers at conferences and seminars

Statewatch staff spoke at a five external events throughout the course of the year.

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6. To take forward our agreed fund-raising programme

Partly-achieved. A successful fundraising campaign in September 2020 brought in immediate income of over £21,000 and 14 new Friends of Statewatch, bringing in approximately £110 per month. A new grant of £10,000 was awarded at the end of the year by Citizens for Europe to allow us to undertake in-depth strategic planning during 2021. Obtaining long-term core funding remained challenging.

7. To develop and maintain the JHA Archive (1976-2000)

Not achieved. Although the JHA Archive remains accessible online, it has not been possible to obtain the resources needed to further develop the resource.

8. To maintain and develop the Statewatch Library & Archive collection make use of the resources it holds

Partly-achieved. The Library & Archive remained open to visitors every Thursday until the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and the first lockdown. We also hosted a sold-out event on Northern Ireland on 30 January, making use of the materials held in the Library & Archive.

9. To continue to develop and maintain the Observatory on the refugee crisis

Achieved

10. To update and maintain the Observatory on Frontex

Partly-achieved. The Observatory had not been updated since 2014 and so time was dedicated to bringing it up-to-date, with a view to re-launching in spring 2021.

11. To develop and maintain an Observatory on interoperability

Achieved

Income and expenditure

Our total income for 2020 was £97,167 (2019: £87,029) and our total expenditure was £76,153 (2019: £70,434).

Policy on reserves

At year end our reserves stood at £10,074 (2019: (£11,030)). Reserves are held to meet any unexpected shortfall in income and to meet any necessary expenditure to protect or expand the trust's work. Trustees will endeavour to increase the reserves if income permits. However, the first call on increased income will be to meet staff wages.

Risk analysis

The trust has reviewed the following significant risks and has agreed the following steps to mitigate them:

1. Staff development and retention. Statewatch employees are employed part time and are highly skilled in the specialist field of our work. Our staff team is central to ensuring that Statewatch continues to be one of the most trusted NGOs working on EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) and in relation to security policy and access to EU documents (freedom of information). Our priority is to retain and develop current staff. The review and revision of wages is necessary to ensure reasonable salaries in relation to sector benchmarking, staff expertise and seniority.

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2. Review and monitor action to reduce our projected pension deficit. We have an action plan in place with the Pensions' Trust, our pension provider, to reduce our deficit by paying additional annual contributions over ten years 2013 - 2023. The present estimate from the Pensions Trust of employer liability on withdrawal is £17,183.88 (as at September 2020) and was £17,832.07 (as at September 2019).

3. Brexit. The legal ramifications of Brexit will have certain negative effects on Statewatch's ability to undertake its work. The Board of Trustees assessed the implications and agreed to proceed with establishing a branch or 'sister' organisation within EU jurisdiction. The Director was tasked with obtaining the necessary legal and other advice in order to advance this plan.

4. Coronavirus. The Board of Trustees ensured that all necessary action was taken to protect the health and wellbeing of Statewatch employees and volunteers following the announcement of the first lockdown in the UK in March 2020. A member of the Board was appointed as a wellbeing contact point to serve as a first point of call for any staff wishing to discuss problems or concerns (e.g. mental health) arising from the pandemic and the restrictive measures taken to address it. The Board was regularly updated on measures taken by the organisation to ensure a 'COVID-secure' working environment after restrictions were eased.

5. Retirement of the Director. After 30 years in post, Tony Bunyan retired as director on 30 September 2020. He was succeeded by Chris Jones (previously project director) in accordance with a decision of the Board of Trustees, who are providing ongoing support to the new director as he settles into the role.

Funding

We are grateful to the support received during 2020 from the Open Society Initiative for Europe (Open Society Foundations), Privacy International, Garden Court Chambers and Friends of Statewatch.

Review of the year

Statewatch continued to maintain its position as one of the best-known NGOs working on EU justice and home affairs (JHA) and security policies and access to EU documents (freedom of information).

Statewatch remains the EU's main dedicated civil liberties "watchdog". The core work of Statewatch has been to provide documentation, information and research on developments within the EU raising awareness of issues that challenge individual rights and liberties.

We encourage the publication of investigative journalism and research, and provide extensive background documentation to inform and engage civil society and promote democratic accountability of the EU and its agencies and bodies. Our website promotes our work. It is extensively used by civil liberties activists, NGOs, academics, students, lawyers, journalists, parliamentarians, policy-makers and members of the public who share our concerns and appreciate our work.

Our work has focused on the following policy areas; policing, criminal law, immigration, asylum, security and counter-terrorism, racism and fascism, surveillance, secrecy and transparency, privacy and data protection. Developments in EU law and policy in these areas directly affect the policy and practice in the Member States and in turn, affect the fundamental rights and liberties of citizens and third-country nationals.

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Key work in 2020 included the publication of two in-depth reports: Automated Suspicion: the EU's new travel surveillance initiatives (July) and Deportation Union: rights, accountability, and the EU's push to increase forced removals (August), both of which were accompanied by well-attended online events. Complaints we filed with the European Ombudsman against Frontex and Europol for failing to comply with transparency legislation were also accepted, and we engaged in correspondence with the Ombudsman in relation to the issues raised. We continued to publish regular news, analysis and documentation, to circulate and publicise the work of other civil society organisations working in our field, and to support and amplify campaigns led by other organisations.

Working with others in civil society

In 2020 we continued to engage with our existing networks and to forge new relationships, inter alia by:

- Co-sponsoring webinars with the Transnational Institute:
 - o States of Control - the dark side of pandemic politics (April)
 - o Walls Must Fall: Ending the deadly politics of border militarisation (June)

- Signing open and closed letters on matters of importance in our fields:
 - o On the arrest of human rights activists in Egypt (December)
 - o On the EU's 'Online Terrorist Content' Regulation (November)
 - o On telecommunications data retention (October)
 - o On the EU's Copyright Directive and the need for a child rights impact assessment for the UK's new Law Enforcement Data Service (not public)
 - o On the crackdown on protests in Belarus (July)

- We also coordinated and publicised an open letter, with Osservatorio Solidarità, to the International Maritime Organization, calling for the revocation of the Libyan search and rescue zone in order to prevent 'pullbacks' of people attempting to flee to safety

- In July, we worked with European Digital Rights on their submission to the European Commission's public consultation on the future of Europol, calling for a halt to the expansion of unnecessary surveillance and data-processing powers, and meaningful independent evaluation and debate prior to any proposed expansion of such powers.

- In May, with Privacy International, Fundación Datos Protegidos and Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales (R3D), we produced a joint submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in response to their call for input on how digital technologies deployed in the context of border enforcement and administration reproduce, reinforce, and compound racial discrimination; which was referenced multiple times in the resulting report.

- In March, the Global Legal Action Network filed a complaint with the European Court of Auditors regarding financial support to the Libyan authorities that facilitates human rights abuses. We provided documents and information for the research that preceded the complaint.

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Press coverage

Our work was featured in reports published by The Guardian, Malta Today, Balkan Insight, Nordic Monitor, Pressenza, Le Solr, Coda, Helse, Sputnik, The New Humanitarian, Radio FM4, Netzpolitik, EurActiv, IPro and EUobserver. A documentary on surveillance, '7 Billion Suspects', produced by pan-European channel ARTE featured excerpts of an interview with our project director.

We were regularly consulted by journalists seeking background information and documentation, including correspondents for the Financial Times, Liberty Investigates (the journalistic arm of Liberty), BBC, Lighthouse Reports and Babel Productions/ARTE.

Contributions to conferences, workshops and other events

We organised two well-attended public events in London in January ('Northern Ireland: the legacy of collusion') and February ('Biometrics, big data and state power'), and continued to host online events following the introduction of lockdown and other restrictive measures. Our three-part series of webinars to accompany the launch of the report Deportation Union, which brought together staff and external experts, were particularly well-received, and were attended by almost 500 people from 35 countries.

Staff also gave presentations and speeches at a number of external events throughout the course of the year. In February, Jane Kilpatrick presented research on Frontex, the use of personal data, and the externalisation of EU borders at the conference 'externalisation of borders, practices of detention and denial of the right to asylum', in Lagos, Nigeria. From March onwards, staff continued to contribute to public events. Yasha Maccanico spoke at 'United We Talk 17: EU and Libya Collaboration - Pull Backs by Remote Control', a conference on the situation in the Mediterranean hosted by Italian jurists' organisation Giustizia Insieme, the conference 'Guerre, Migrazioni e diritti nel Mediterraneo', and was a panellist at the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal event for International Migrants' Day. An interview with Chris Jones was published by The Privacy Collective as part of the publicity surrounding their legal complaint against the data-broking companies Salesforce and Oracle.

Achievements in 2020

Statewatch maintained its output and position as one of Europe's most trusted and productive providers of information and analysis in the JHA field. Key achievements:

- Publication of the in-depth reports Automated Suspicion and Deportation Union, associated events and follow-up work (related news, analysis, consultation with and provision of information to MEPs, other civil society organisations, journalists);
- Acceptance by the European Ombudsman of two complaints against EU agencies Europol and Frontex for failure to comply with EU transparency legislation (resolution of the complaints due in 2021);
- Successful completion of the project Biometric Europe: imposing digital identities in the name of security, which concluded with a workshop bringing together some 30 representatives of civil society organisations, academics and journalists from across Europe to discuss issues with challenging shifts towards the 'interoperability' of policing and migration databases;
- Ongoing implementation of the project EU justice and home affairs agencies: transparency, accountability and fundamental rights, with a particular highlight being the successful convening of a researchers' network of individuals working on related issues from across Europe in order to share information and engage in collaboration;

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- Successful launch of the new Statewatch website, improving accessibility and usability for both internal and external users;
- The Board was expanded and its structure was revised, in response to recommendations of an external governance review. During 2020, four new Trustees were appointed (with effect from January 2021) and one Trustee resigned in February. The Board now includes a Chair and Vice-Chair (rather than two Co-Chairs), plus a Treasurer and Company Secretary. The Board now takes responsibility for some governance issues previously dealt with by the Director and staff members. The Board explored the possibility of including Patrons in the organisational structure. This resulted in some increase in advisory and volunteer activity.

Our core work and ongoing activities

We provide a free and extensive online information service which includes:

- Statewatch News provides news, analysis and extensive documentation;
- 16 active subject-specific 'Observatories' covering key issues in-depth and 10 archived Observatories;
- Statewatch Database: over 34,000 items from the website, journal and our archives dating back to 1991;
- Statewatch European Monitoring and Documentation Centre (SEMDOC), which documented all EU Justice and Home Affairs legislation from 1993 to 2019 (due to a lack of internal resources and the increased availability of external information sources, SEMDOC is no longer updated);
- Justice and Home Affairs Archive: 9,000+ EU JHA documents from 1976-2000 (most officially unpublished) available online;
- Online access to back issues of Statewatch Journal (previously Bulletin) since 1991.

Networks and partnerships

Statewatch continues to be a member of and active participant of the following networks: European Digital Rights (EDRI), Migreurop, FOIAdvocates, the Drone Campaign Network, FREEgroup (Brussels), ALTER-EU, and the Ethical Journalism Network. We also work closely with Privacy International, Transnational Institute (TNI) and associates at the German magazine CILIP (Civil Liberties & Police/Bürgerrechte und Polizei). Statewatch is also a partner of European Alternatives and LEAP (formerly the JUSTICIA network).


Statewatch contributors group

A reduced version of the annual Statewatch contributors' meeting was held online in June, in order to exchange knowledge and ideas about key events in countries across Europe and the future work of Statewatch. 16 contributors attended.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 25 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Ann Singleton
Trustee

28.10.2021

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

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Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

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

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 12 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

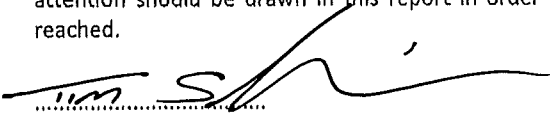
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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


.....
Timothy Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Limited
70 Royal Hill
Greenwich
London
SE10 8RF

Date: 29/10/21

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	43,651	51,740	95,391	11,600	52,597	64,197
Charitable activities	4	1,774	-	1,774	22,827	-	22,827
Investment income	5	2	-	2	5	-	5
Total income		45,427	51,740	97,167	34,432	52,597	87,029
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	(9,589)	(66,564)	(76,153)	(33,687)	(36,747)	(70,434)
Total expenditure		(9,589)	(66,564)	(76,153)	(33,687)	(36,747)	(70,434)
Gains/losses on investment assets		90	-	90	45	-	45
Net movement in funds		35,928	(14,824)	21,104	790	15,850	16,640
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		(26,880)	15,850	(11,030)	(27,670)	-	(27,670)
Total funds carried forward	16	9,048	1,026	10,074	(26,880)	15,850	(11,030)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2019 is shown in note 16.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,514	14,210
Investments	12	1,122	1,031
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>40,854</u>	<u>13,739</u>
		43,490	28,980
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(3,233)</u>	<u>(9,178)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		40,257	19,802
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(13,000)	(13,000)
Provisions	15	<u>(17,183)</u>	<u>(17,832)</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)		<u>10,074</u>	<u>(11,030)</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		1,026	15,850
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>9,048</u>	<u>(26,880)</u>
Total funds	16	<u>10,074</u>	<u>(11,030)</u>

For the financial year ending 31 December 2020 the charity 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 charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- 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.

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

(Registration number: 08480724)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

The financial statements on pages 12 to 26 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Ann Singleton
Ann Singleton
Trustee
28.10.2021

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust

known as Statewatch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

10 Queen Street Place
London
EC4R 1BE

The principal place of business is:

88 Fleet Street
London
EC4Y 1DH

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 25 October 2021.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Libertarian Research and Education Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

In common with many similar organisations who receive the majority of their income from public funding, the viability of The Libertarian Research and Education Trust is dependent on finding continuing sources of funding. As set out in the trustee's report, the company's financial situation remains challenging, but the trustees are working to address these issues. Accordingly, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Current asset Investments

Current asset investments are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value / market value.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds			
	General	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Committed giving	29,993	-	29,993	7,026
Citizens for Europe	8,837	-	8,837	-
Gift aid reclaimed	821	-	821	574
Grants, including capital grants;				
Garden Court	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
OSIFE	-	42,308	42,308	42,597
Privacy International	-	9,432	9,432	10,000
	<u>43,651</u>	<u>51,740</u>	<u>95,391</u>	<u>64,197</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2020	2019
	£	£	£
Fees and supplies	1,019	1,019	21,488
Other income	755	755	1,339
	<u>1,774</u>	<u>1,774</u>	<u>22,827</u>

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5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2020	2019
		£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Total	Total
		2020	2019
		£	£
Wages and salaries	9	48,093	45,081
Pension	9	3,057	6,999
Conference		-	150
Computer software and maintenance		5,457	1,062
Printing, postage and stationery		35	140
Trade subscriptions		1,011	439
Sundries		318	-
Travel and subsistence		473	1,901
Staff entertaining (allowable for tax)		-	15
Support costs	7	<u>17,709</u>	<u>14,647</u>
		<u>76,153</u>	<u>70,434</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Rent	5,000	7,500
Insurance	618	592
Telephone and fax	2,935	2,711
Office expenses	203	20
Independent examination	3,090	2,856
Legal and professional	5,627	688
Bank charges	236	280
	<u>17,709</u>	<u>14,647</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	48,093	45,081
Pension costs	<u>3,057</u>	<u>6,999</u>
	<u>51,150</u>	<u>52,080</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2020 No	2019 No
Charitable activities	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Recoverable on long-term contracts	-	13,200
Prepayments	802	460
Other debtors	<u>712</u>	<u>550</u>
	<u>1,514</u>	<u>14,210</u>

12 Current asset investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Unlisted other shares	<u>1,122</u>	<u>1,031</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	322	598
Other creditors	-	3,126
Accruals	2,911	5,454
	<u>3,233</u>	<u>9,178</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>13,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>

15 Provisions

	Pension contributions provision	Total
	£	£
At 1 January 2020	(17,832)	(17,832)
Pension provision movement	<u>648</u>	<u>648</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>(17,184)</u>	<u>(17,184)</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General Funds	(26,880)	45,427	(9,589)	90	9,048
Restricted funds					
OSIFE	5,850	42,308	(47,422)	-	736
PI Project	10,000	9,432	(19,142)	-	290
	<u>15,850</u>	<u>51,740</u>	<u>(66,564)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,026</u>
Total funds	<u>(11,030)</u>	<u>97,167</u>	<u>(76,153)</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>10,074</u>

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General Funds	(27,670)	34,432	(33,687)	45	(26,880)
Restricted funds					
OSIFE	-	42,597	(36,747)	-	5,850
PI Project	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>52,597</u>	<u>(36,747)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,850</u>
Total funds	<u>(27,670)</u>	<u>87,029</u>	<u>(70,434)</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>(11,030)</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OSIFE - This grant was awarded for the 'European Union justice and home affairs agencies: Transparency, accountability and fundamental rights' project, which examines the transparency, accountability, and implications for fundamental rights of the activities of three EU agencies: Frontex, Europol and eu-Lisa.

Privacy International - The project title is 'Biometric Europe: Imposing digital identities in the name of security'. The project will educate and inform relevant groups and individuals about the challenges the EU's biometric identity initiatives pose for individual rights in order to increase civil society action (such as campaigns, advocacy, awareness-raising activities, legal cases) and media coverage on the topic, to contribute to attempts to ensure that the EU's biometric identity initiatives are implemented in a manner that prioritises fundamental rights.

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds £
	General £	Restricted funds £	
Current assets	42,464	1,026	43,490
Current liabilities	(3,233)	-	(3,233)
Creditors over 1 year	(13,000)	-	(13,000)
Provisions	(17,183)	-	(17,183)
Total net assets	9,048	1,026	10,074

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds £
	General £	Restricted funds £	
Current assets	13,130	15,850	28,980
Current liabilities	(9,178)	-	(9,178)
Creditors over 1 year	(13,000)	-	(13,000)
Provisions	(17,832)	-	(17,832)
Total net assets	(26,880)	15,850	(11,030)

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

18 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

A C Bunyan

The loan was made by a founder of the charity and they have agreed that the loan will not be called in until there are sufficient resources available to the charity to repay the loan. At the balance sheet date the amount due to A C Bunyan was £13,000 (2019 - £13,000).

19 Covid

During the year the charity's activities were adversely affected by the outbreak of COVID 19. As a result the charity had to temporarily close its office with staff working from home to continue the charity's activities. Working practices were subsequently adapted according to law, policy, guidance and health and safety considerations.