

**Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**  
(Registered charity, number 1156709)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2 - 6	Trustees' annual report
7	Independent examiner's report
8	Receipts & payments account
9	Statement of assets & liabilities
10-12	Notes to the accounts

**Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Full name** Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

**Other names by which the charity is known** AVID

**Registered charity number** 1156709

**Organisation type** Charitable incorporated organisation

**Principal address**

27-31 Carlton Road, Nottingham, NG3 2DG

**Trustees**

Carolina Albuerne Rodriguez, Chair  
Jayne Butler, Co-chair, until 12/10/22  
Michael Darko  
Thomas Nunn

Elizabeth Flint  
Anne Hudson, Treasurer  
Adam Spray, from 15/12/22  
Harbi Jama, from 15/12/22

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2, North West,  
41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 15 April 2014 and was last amended in 2017.

Trustees are recruited through a recruitment process - job descriptions are advertised externally and applicants are selected by Trustees by interview. Trustees are elected at the AGM. The AVID Trustees may in addition appoint co-opted members. However no-one may be appointed as a co-opted member if, as a result, more than one third of the members of the AVID Trustees would be co-opted members.

**Objectives and activities**

AVID aims to address the isolation and injustice of immigration detention in the UK. We do this by supporting, strengthening and promoting volunteer visiting nationally and working towards positive change for all people in detention.

We have three key objectives:

1. We strengthen and grow our community of solidarity with people affected by detention
2. We influence reform and detention policy and practise
3. We raise awareness of the realities of detention nationally

Established in 1994, AVID has built a strong platform and source of infrastructure support for visitor groups across the UK. Our 14 members, representing over 500 volunteer visitors, are diverse and dynamic. Some are registered charities with paid staff, others have a non-hierarchical structure or are volunteer led. The support provided by AVID - including 1:1 guidance, advocacy and training - has enabled our members to provide vital emotional and

## **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**

practical support to people who are detained. We have members who visit inside every detention centre in the UK, as well as in some prisons.

AVID is uniquely placed to build connections between individuals who are detained, communities, and the system, to work towards positive change for people in detention and meaningful reform. We have a strong track record of:

**1. Building communities of solidarity with people affected by detention**

AVID builds communities of support, fostering a sense of solidarity amongst our members and with people in detention by providing advice, advocacy, training, capacity building and a network of expertise. Our trainings reach an average of 200 volunteers a year; our advocacy has been vital to maintaining visitor access and, members of our network benefit from facilitated peer support from visitor's groups across the UK.

**2. Influencing reform and detention policy in practice**

We use our position of having oversight in every detention centre and some prisons to produce an accurate picture of the realities of detention. We use this information to engage with the Home Office and other key stakeholders, respond to consultations and work with wider networks to influence detention reform and challenge harmful practices.

**3. Raising awareness of the realities of detention nationally**

We increase public understanding of the harm caused by detention on individuals, families and communities. We engage with the public through social media and regular blogposts, produce information briefings and work with our visitor groups to engage with their local communities.

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

AVID was founded in 1994 in response to the increase in numbers held in immigration detention, and to the feedback from people supporting those detained in their local communities. At that time, there were around 250 immigration detention spaces. In the year ending June 2022, 24,4002 people entered detention. This does not include people who are held in "quasi-detention" facilities such as Napier Barracks. The government's stated purpose of detention is for removal and, by law, it should be used sparingly and for the shortest period possible. Despite this, detention has historically proven to be ineffective in facilitating removal. Last year the picture was particularly stark with only 14% of those detained being removed from the UK. This has coincided with an increased use of detention for asylum seekers who made up 80% of the detention population last year.

Immigration detention, the threat of detention, and the aftermath of detention, are all points of extreme crisis in a person's immigration journey. The harm caused by detention is well-documented through the testimonies of people who have been detained, in research and by clinical professional bodies. In particular, the fact that detention in the UK is indefinite causes immense trauma. Individuals have their autonomy stripped, are transported around the detention state and have no knowledge of when they will be released. It has been described by people detained as "mental torture".



## **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**

Despite this, the government have made clear their intention to increase the use of detention, including plans to re-open the previously closed Campsfield House immigration removal centre (IRC) and Haslar IRC. More extreme measures are being used to meet the government's deterrent agenda with the proposal to send people seeking asylum to Rwanda causing fear and devastation.

Our history of working with local communities, and long-standing volunteers, has shown us that there is the need and possibility of a different approach to immigration. We stand with our members and others in the national and international community to advocate for engagement over enforcement, humanity not oppression.

Our activities reduce the harm caused by detention by supporting visitors to provide vital befriending advice and combat the isolation in detention. We also support visitors with the information they need so that people who are detained can access services such as healthcare and legal advice they need. We bring public and government awareness to the issues of detention to advocate for a more compassionate immigration system. Our activities are also important to local communities who provide visiting support and want to advocate for a system that welcomes asylum seekers and people from a migrant background. The platform that we provide gives a way for them to do this and be part of a wider movement.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

#### **Member Support:**

"One of the underlying things I love about (the network) is just the sense of solidarity among the group, and the generosity of sharing. And the rapidity of sharing! I found that really nourishing and helps you keep going because you think there are so many people out there with such incredible experience and knowledge, and so ready to share it." (AVID Member)

Following the pandemic, and increase in online activities, we prioritised in-person visits to our members, travelling to nearly all of our members from Scotland to Oxford as well as groups in-between. This has been vital to forming new connections and informing our understanding as we continue to build and strengthen our network. We shared in the achievements of our members supporting them at AGM's, joining awareness raising sessions such as GDWG's Refugee Tales walks and promoting their work through our social media network and newsletter.

This year, we continued to offer our members a space to share, learn and reflect through our regular member calls. These began during the pandemic and have now become a regular feature of our network. We ran fortnightly online calls for our members, rotating a general call for members to provide updates, share challenges and bring concerns to the group and "Deep Dive" sessions to explore topics in more depth. Deep Dive sessions included detention monitoring and Independent Monitoring Boards, and volunteer recruitment and retention.

We further developed and delivered our core training, which consists of three modules on visiting support to people in detention, to 30 new volunteers recruited by our members. We also offered training to the AVID network from external facilitators on the implications of the Nationality and Borders Act for people in detention (attended by 29 people) and on supporting women in detention, run by Women for Refugee Women (attended by 16 people).



## **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**

We supported new and developing visitor groups with more intensive 1:1 support. Durham Visitors Group was established towards the end of 2021 to support women who are detained in Derwentside. We advocated for the group to have visiting access and have represented the group at meetings with the centre management in Derwentside to promote referrals. We recruited seven new volunteers – including a number of volunteers with varying language skills - providing them with core training. The group is now well established, and we are working towards a regular visiting slot and a structure so that the group, which is purely voluntary, is able to co-ordinate its day-to-day activities without the support of AVID. Morton Hall Visitors Group have also experienced a period of transition. Following the closure of Morton Hall IRC, where they previously visited, a foreign national prison and residential short-term holding facility have opened in its place. We have supported the team, which consists of one staff member and a team of volunteers, to recruit a new Chair to their trustee board and prepare for visiting in these different settings.

### **Policy and Advocacy:**

The strength of AVID members lies not only in the direct support which they provide to people in detention, but in their collective voice as witnesses to the realities of immigration detention.

We have used the on-the-ground knowledge of our members to respond to political challenges by connecting our collective voice to other partners in the sector. When we first became aware of people being issued with notices of intent to be deported to Rwanda, we worked with Care4Calais to ensure people had the legal advice necessary to challenge these notices. We worked with our existing member, Asylum Welcome, and previous members, Haslar Visitors Group, to co-ordinate responses to the government's announcement to re-open Campsfield and Haslar. We brought together groups local to Haslar, regional allies and national partners to discuss resistance to Haslar. This resulted in engagement with local councillors and members of parliament, local media and connections being made with the wider movement. We have continued as an active member of Detention Forum, a coalition of organisations who are working together to end detention. We supported them to write policy papers on short-term holding facilities and on the use of prison detention. We also continued as active members of the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF) Detention sub-group which we used to raise awareness of the challenges that our members are seeing. This included seeking to address day-to-day issues faced by people in detention, such as not being able to access personal email accounts to contact family and friends, as well as areas for concern across the detention estate. We also engaged with Independent Monitoring Boards (IMBs) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). We joined the IMB forum meeting to advocate for local IMB's to work more closely with visitor groups and we collaborated with HMIP on upcoming inspections to highlight areas for closer review. Finally, we submitted evidence to parliamentary consultations, including The Joint Committee on Human Rights into the Government's policies and procedures relating to asylum seekers and the impact these have on their human rights.

With the extra capacity in the AVID team, we were able to build our online presence to nearly 7,000 twitter followers and we have high engagement with our analyses' of the government detention statistics.

### **Community Building and Network Transformation:**

Following the pandemic, we took stock of what we had learnt as an organisation, our role and the role of our community. Central to this was developing a Member's Charter which sets out our shared values as a network. As a network connected by our shared activity of visiting, we



## **Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**

saw the need to build a shared understanding of why visiting is important and what our values are that underpin this work. We consolidated feedback from interviews with our members in 2021 on their values and brought our member groups together, in November 2022, at a convening held in London, to review and finalise our charter. Collectively, we interrogated our values and what we aspire to as a network.

During this same period, we hosted a series of online talks, titled Communities not Walls, with external speakers to facilitate discussion on our values, the nature of detention and the role that visitor groups play in bringing about an alternative vision for our communities. Nearly 100 participants joined us for the series during which we heard from speakers including Mary Bosworth on the forces of detention; Luke De Noronha on notions of innocence, deservingness and the criminalisation of migrant communities; Kolbassia Haoussou on lived-experience leadership and Dora Rebelo of solidarities in hostility.

This work has led to us being able to finalise our Members Charter and strengthened our ability to enter a new strategic period in 2023.

### **Financial review**

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant under Paul Hamlyn's Shared Ground fund to go towards core costs over the next two years. This, in addition to the commitment from the Tudor Trust to funding for two years which continues into next year, puts us on a strong financial footing for 2023-4. Funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's Funding Plus grant will support us to deliver on a digital transformation project and website development. We have been working with a pro-bono fundraising advisor from the immigration sector and have identified new trusts and foundations as potential prospects to whom we have begun applying.

Our current financial position provides us with the opportunity to develop a fundraising strategy in order to diversify our funding streams. We have recently recruited a new trustee to our board, Harbi Jama, who has extensive experience in fundraising and corporate fundraising to support us with this process. We have also been able to build up our reserves during this period.

We are primarily reliant on trusts and foundations as a funding source. Foundations often want to fund an organisation for a time limited period therefore we are regularly needing to look for new supporters. This also leaves us vulnerable if an anticipated, prospect fund does not come through. With the length of funding deadlines and processes we need to be organised and efficient in applications. Currently our fundraising is led by our Director and we do not have a separate fundraising function.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

We allocate three months running costs to our reserves as well as the cost for redundancy payments. Our reserves currently reflect the amount in our reserves policy. This is reviewed annually, or when a new staff member is recruited or other significant change to our financial position.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed

Anne Hudson, Treasurer

Date

29/8/23



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed



Date

30.08.2023

John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE

Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

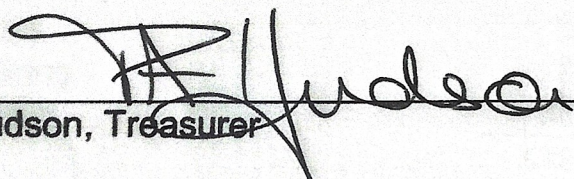
2021				2022	
Total			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds			Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note		£	£	£
Receipts					
84491	Grants & donations	2	123497	16680	140177
1608	Membership		1328	-	1328
600	Refund - rent deposit		-	-	-
-	Bank interest		82	-	82
86699	Total receipts		124907	16680	141587
Payments					
128831	Staff costs	3	59009	12809	71818
11746	Premises & running costs	4	4438	440	4878
2584	Governance costs	5	2693	-	2693
358	Direct charitable expenditure	6	2326	348	2674
143519	Total payments		68466	13597	82063
(56820)	Net receipts/(payments)		56441	3083	59524
103424	Cash funds at start of this period		35536	11068	46604
46604	Cash funds at end of this period		91977	14151	106128



**Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**at 31 December 2022**

2021		Note	2022
£			£
46604	<b>Cash assets</b>		
<u>46604</u>	Bank accounts		<u>106128</u>
			<u>106128</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
4203	Debtors	7	<u>278</u>
<u>4203</u>			<u>278</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	2 x laptops, purchased April 2021, cost £1,098		
	General equipment.		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
(1306)	Creditors	8	<u>(6009)</u>
<u>(1306)</u>			<u>(6009)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anne Hudson, Treasurer

Dated 29/8/23



**Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Craignish Trust	-	10000	10000
Esmee Fairbairn	-	6680	6680
Fulmer Charitable Trust	8500	-	8500
Hillcote Trust	5000	-	5000
Other Donations	7997	-	7997
P Hamlyn Foundation	60000	-	60000
Persula Foundation	2000	-	2000
Tudor Trust	40000	-	40000
	<u>123497</u>	<u>16680</u>	<u>140177</u>

**3. Staff costs**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Salaries, NI & pension	54009	11634	65643
Staff costs	538	-	538
Staff training	822	1175	1997
Recruitment	3640	-	3640
	<u>59009</u>	<u>12809</u>	<u>71818</u>

**4. Premises and running costs**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Bank charges	162	-	162
Premises and running costs	104	-	104
Office equipment	236	430	666
Office running costs	2688	10	2698
Rent & rates	1248	-	1248
	<u>4438</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>4878</u>



## Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

### 5. Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Accountancy	1364	-	1364
Development (org and strategy)	372	-	372
Insurances	785	-	785
Trustee training	172	-	172
	<u>2693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2693</u>

### 6. Direct Charitable Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Coordinators conference	1018	-	1018
Group outreach	964	320	1284
Information & awareness raising	-	28	28
Training delivery	344	-	344
	<u>2326</u>	<u>348</u>	<u>2674</u>

### 7. Debtors

	£
Prepayment: Dropbox	134
Prepayment: Hotdesk	144
	<u>278</u>

### 8. Creditors

	£
Independent examination fee	906
Wages, NI & Pension	5021
Payroll fees	82
	<u>6009</u>

## Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

### 9. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Derwentside Visitors Group	9979	-	(9979)	-
Training and membership co-ordinator	-	10000	(2529)	7471
Digital transformation	-	6680	-	6680
Staff wellbeing	1089	-	(1089)	-
	<u>11068</u>	<u>16680</u>	<u>(13597)</u>	<u>14151</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	<u>35536</u>	<u>124907</u>	<u>(68466)</u>	<u>91977</u>
	<b>35536</b>	<b>124907</b>	<b>(68466)</b>	<b>91977</b>

The restricted funds have been received from the following funders:

Craignish Trust for Training and Membership Co-ordinator. We secured funding to partially fund the salary of our Membership and Training Co-ordinator. The role of the Membership and Training Co-ordinator is to develop, support and strengthen the AVID network of volunteer visitor groups. Activities include acting as a key point of contact on visiting and volunteering in detention; coordinating the development and delivery of AVID's training on all aspects of immigration detention and coordination of AVID's membership support including our new online member's area, handbook and discussion forum.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation "Funding Plus" for Digital transformation. This funding is for the development of our new website, online handbook and online monitoring platform. We are working with digital partner, Common Knowledge, for this piece of work.

### 10. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

## Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

### 11. Glossary of terms

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.