



Friends of the British Overseas Territories
(FOTBOT)

**Trustees' Report and
Financial Statements**

1 April 2024

to

31 March 2025

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Number 1156763



CONTENTS

Charity information	2
Trustees' report	3-5
Independent examiner's report	6
Statement of receipts and payments	7
Statement of assets and liabilities	8
Notes to the financial statements	9

CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Albert A Poggio GMH OBE (Chair) Simon M J Leary FRSA Harjinder Jutle – appointed 12 March 2025 Philip Smith – appointed 12 March 2025 Andrew M Fox – resigned 12 March 2025
Address	PO Box 2635 Ilford IG1 8UA
Parliamentary Advisers	Andrew Rosindell MP Baroness Foster Wendy Morton MP Lord Bellingham
Chief Executive	James Alexander Lunn
Independent examiner	Thomas Champneys ACA BSR Bespoke Chartered Accountants Linden House Linden Close Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 8HH
Charity number	1156763
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 69 Albion Street Leeds LS1 5AA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, governance and management

Friends of the British Overseas Territories (FOTBOT) (the "Charity") is constituted under the terms of its governing document ("Constitution") adopted on 18 September 2013 and last amended at the Annual General Meeting on 14 March 2024. The Constitution is that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its Trustees. Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2. The Trustees meet at least quarterly to agree the strategy of the Charity.

Charitable objects

The Charity's objects, as set out in its Constitution, are:

- (1) To advance education and relieve financial hardship of students from the British Overseas Territories who are studying in the UK.
- (2) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the British Overseas Territories and the history and geography of the British Overseas Territories
- (3) To advance the education of young people aged between 18 and 25 by providing educational visits to the British Overseas Territories
- (4) To further such other purposes as are exclusively charitable in accordance with the law of England and Wales as the Trustees may from time to time decide

Day-to-day management

On a day-to-day basis, the Charity is run by unpaid volunteers, led by the Chief Executive, James Lunn, to whom management has been delegated by the Trustees. The Chief Executive is assisted by an Executive Committee of volunteers which includes individuals with experience in finance, public relations and media, charity governance, law and events management. Volunteers, including the Chief Executive, may be reimbursed for expenses properly and reasonably incurred in accordance with the Charity's expenses policy but they are not otherwise remunerated.

Relationships with British Overseas Territories

The Charity seeks to maintain and strengthen its relationships with UK-based representatives of the British Overseas Territories (BOTs) as well as figures within the governments of the BOTs and the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) to help further its charitable objects.

Public benefit

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning the Charity's future activities. In particular, the Trustees have considered how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues to meet the Charity Commission's guidelines with regard to carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.



Main events included:-

- Overseas Territories Debate at Queens University Belfast
- Webinar with the Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust
- 'No Place Like Home' Fundraising Campaign Launch
- Conversation with two former BOT Premiers
- History of Royal Naval Rum Presentation with Chris Howe MBE
- Summer Barbecue and Charity Showcase
- Tour of Speaker's House
- Webinar with charity 'Acts of Random Kindness'
- Chagos Island Campaign Reception
- Chagos Island Call to Action
- Annual Gala Fundraising Dinner on HQS Wellington
- Chagos Island Call to Action (Westminster)
- St Helena Fundraising Reception with Michael Binyon OBE
- Falkland Island Reception with Baroness Foster
- Northern Dinner in Newcastle

Outreach activities

The Charity travelled to the Falkland Islands with Baroness Foster in February, hosting meeting with the legislature and islanders and deepening the charity's understanding of the challenges and opportunities the Falklands Islands face. The charity met with the Falklands Conservation Society, the Girl Guides and other civic organisations and once back in the UK, has continued to co-operate with groups and officials we met there on joint initiatives.

The Charity continued with a programme of in-person educational events, as well as remote events delivered over the internet.

Chagos

During the period, the UK government announced a deal to cede sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory to Mauritius. The Charity opposes this on the grounds that the Chagossians have not been given the right to self-determination and has sought to provide a platform for Chagossians.

No Place Like Home special appeal

The Charity launched a campaign with the disabled society of St Helena, supporting inclusion and dignity in raising funds that will allow people on the island to stay in their home longer, thereby reducing pressure on their already stretched care home and hospital. The fundraiser is ongoing.

Membership

In addition, membership subscriptions and donations continued at a steady rate, enabling the Charity to continue to reach more people and do more work in support of its objects whilst achieving a small surplus for the period and maintaining a reasonable cash reserve.

Financial review, reserves policy and deficits

The Charity's receipts in the period were £50,939 (2024: £41,527). This is a slight increase from the previous year, reflecting higher income from events and a modest increase in general donations.

The Trustees have set a policy of maintaining £2,000 cash reserves across the Current and Savings accounts held at Barclays, in order to cover any unexpected running costs. This level of reserves was maintained at all times during the period, with a balance of £12,167 (2024: £9,225) at the year end.

The Charity pays all invoices within terms and does not have any debtors at the time of writing.

Plans for the future

In the forthcoming year, the Charity will continue to support the Chagossians as the proposed bill ceding sovereignty makes its way through Parliament. There is a planned programme of events including in Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, for Gibraltar National Day, and across the UK.

The Charity is focussing on a formal programme of education and a proposal to increase the members of its Advisory Board to include academics, former officials, and other people associated with the OTs, from its current position of only having parliamentary advisors. The Annual Gala Dinner has been booked at Vintners Hall.

Financial statements

The financial statements on pages 8 and 9 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They have been drawn up in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution.

Approved by the Trustees on 12 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature: 
Simon Leary (Feb 13, 2026 11:18:08 GMT+1)

Email: simonmjleary@aol.com

Simon Leary
Trustee

Signature: 
Philip Smith (Feb 12, 2026 23:26:04 GMT)

Email: philip.smith@fotbot.org

Philip Smith
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of the British Overseas Territories (the "Charity") for the period ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the trustees' 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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 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.

Thomas Champneys

Thomas Champneys ACA
BSR Bespoke Chartered Accountants
Linden House
Linden Close
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 8HH

Date: 13 February 2026



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations and grants	8,467	3,750	12,217	7,291
Members' subscriptions	8,346	-	8,346	8,596
Income from events	30,126	-	30,126	24,848
Sales of books and merchandise	154	-	154	769
Other income	96	-	96	23
TOTAL RECEIPTS	47,189	3,750	50,939	41,527
PAYMENTS				
<i>Fundraising costs</i>				
Event costs	33,630	-	33,630	27,493
Printing and stationery	729	-	729	1,165
Website and media costs	190	-	190	463
Total fundraising costs	34,549	-	34,549	29,121
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Donations to special appeals	-	-	-	1,500
Outreach and governance	11,430	-	11,430	7,276
Total charitable activities costs	11,430	-	11,430	8,776
<i>Asset and investment purchases</i>				
Other merchandise	2,018	-	2,018	747
Total asset and investments purchases	2,018	-	2,018	747
TOTAL PAYMENTS	47,997	-	47,997	38,644
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	(808)	3,750	2,942	2,883
CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END	9,225	-	9,225	6,342
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END	8,417	3,750	12,167	9,225

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
ASSETS				
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
Cash at bank	8,417	3,750	12,167	9,225
Total monetary assets	8,417	3,750	12,167	9,225
<i>Non-monetary assets</i>				
Event equipment	90	-	90	903
Copies of book "Britain's Distant Lands"	440	-	440	604
Other merchandise	2,452	-	2,452	1,421
Total non-monetary assets	2,982	-	2,982	2,928
TOTAL ASSETS	11,399	3,750	15,149	12,153
LIABILITIES				
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)	11,399	3,750	15,149	12,153

The notes on page 9 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 12 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

<p>Signature:  <small>Simon Leary (Feb 13, 2026 11:18:08 GMT+1)</small></p> <p>Email: simonmjleary@aol.com</p> <p>Simon Leary Trustee</p>	<p>Signature:  <small>Philip Smith (Feb 12, 2026 23:26:04 GMT)</small></p> <p>Email: philip.smith@fotbot.org</p> <p>Philip Smith Trustee</p>
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1. These financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis. Non-monetary assets and liabilities are shown at estimates of the value at the end of the period.
2. No remuneration was paid to any trustee.