

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31st March 2024

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

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OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Registered Charity Name Oldham Interfaith Forum

Charity Number 1158604

Registered Office
40 Union Street West
Oldham
OL8 1DL

Trustees
Jitendra Bhimji Kara
Rev Philip Thomas Sumner
Abdul Basit Shah
Ravji Patel
Betsy Jones
Rev Daniel Burton (appointed 28/01/25)
Rev David Austin (resigned 28/01/25)

Accountants
Community Accounting Lancashire C.I.C.
Foxfields
9 Norley Close
Chadderton
Oldham
OL1 2RA

Bankers
The Co-Operative Bank
PO Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year to the 31st of March 2024.

Objects

The Forum operated informally within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough for a number of years before becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a constitution dated 7th January 2014 and registration with the Charity Commission on 18th September 2014. Its objects are:

“the promotion of religious harmony for the public benefit by:

(a) educating the public in different religious beliefs including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths;

(b) promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths”.

The trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit, and discuss this at our trustees meetings where we plan and make decisions for the carrying out of our activities to which the guidance is relevant.

Structure

Membership is open to each localised faith community in Oldham, whose representatives are entitled to attend general meetings of the Forum. Operational management is undertaken by a Steering Group, consisting of the Trustees and a small number of other members. The work of the Forum is carried out by the two members of staff with the assistance of volunteers.

Funding and Reserves Policy

The Forum has always depended largely on grant funding, provided (up to 31st March 2024) by Oldham MBC (£36K) and the Lottery [Reaching communities fund] (£30K). Reserves vary according to the timing of grant receipts, but the aim is to have reserves at least equal to three months' expenditure.

Activities

The last year has seen the Oldham Interfaith Forum put on two major events to build understanding and cohesion in the Borough. One was a shared Ifar during Ramadan, organised by the Women Growing Together group, and the other was the annual celebration of the Festival of Light.

We also engaged with more than 6000 pupils and their teachers from across the Borough of Oldham either delivering 40 workshops or enabling over 20 visits for pupils to places of worship.

Once more we exceeded the target set for us by the Local Authority several times over.

During the year, we have had to assist schools or colleges in providing appropriate internal spaces for prayer.

The Women Growing Together group which comes under the umbrella of the Forum organised several events during the year. These have been very successful in enabling dialogue.

These are, of course, just the headlines of our year's work. So much is done under the radar to maintain cohesion and to respond quickly and appropriately to any rises in tension.

The report of the members of the board were approved by the board on the 28th of January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Ravji Patel
Trustee

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 5 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

The charity's trustees consider an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility as independent examiner to:

- ~ examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- ~ follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- ~ to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiners Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the Directions given by the Charity commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

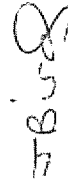
Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31 March 2024.

I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- ~ accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act or
- ~ the accounts do not accord with the accounting records to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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



28th January 2025

Miss Jacqueline Bird F.M.A.A.T.
Community Accounting Lancashire C.I.C.
Foxfields
9 Norley Close
Chadderton
Oldham
OL1 2RA

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
RECEIPTS					
Grants and Donations	2	36,000	28,000	64,000	91,000
Other Income		3	-	3	50
Interest Received		-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS		36,003	28,000	64,003	91,050
PAYMENTS					
Salaries		9,605	24,948	34,553	60,302
Festival Of Lights		600	390	990	1,310
Events		3,207	2,979	6,186	1,073
Events (Covid-19 Work)		-	192	192	15,000
Mobile Telephones		784	-	784	691
Office Costs		838	-	838	1,461
Refreshments		-	-	-	-
Travel Costs		-	-	-	-
IT & Website		440	-	440	105
Training		-	-	-	-
Consultancy		1,000	-	1,000	-
Accounts Fees		620	-	620	662
Payroll Costs		298	-	298	308
Donations		-	-	-	-
Sundries		-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		17,392	28,509	45,901	80,912
Net of receipts/(payments)		18,611	(519)	18,102	10,138
Cash funds at 1st April 2023		50,368	25,317	75,685	65,547
Cash funds at 31 March 2024	3	68,979	24,808	93,787	75,685

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
CASH FUNDS	68,979	24,808	93,787	75,685
LIABILITIES – fee for Independent Examination			2024	2023
Fee for the Independent Examination			£	£
Other fees paid to the Independent Examiner			620	620
			<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
			620	620

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 28th of January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Ravji Patel
Trustee

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

1. Receipts and payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

2. Grants and Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Lottery Funding	-	28,000	28,000	15,000
Oldham Council Funding	36,000	-	36,000	36,000
Action Together - Oldham	-	-	-	-
(Covid-19 Recovery Work)	<u>36,000</u>	<u>28,000</u>	<u>64,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
				<u>91,000</u>

3. Fund Analysis

Fund Name	Balance as at 1st April 2023 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Balance as at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds	50,368	36,003	(17,392)	68,979
Restricted Funds:				
National Lottery Funding	-	28,000	(28,000)	-
Action Together - Oldham	25,000	-	(192)	24,808
(Covid-19 Recovery Work)				
Near Neighbours	<u>317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(317)</u>	<u>-</u>
(Women Growing Together)	<u>25,317</u>	<u>28,000</u>	<u>(28,509)</u>	<u>24,808</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>75,685</u>	<u>64,003</u>	<u>(45,901)</u>	<u>93,787</u>