

Charity Registration Number: 1158604

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31st March 2025

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

CONTENTS

Members of the Board and Professional Advisers	2
Trustees Annual Report	3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Receipts and Payments Accounts	5
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7

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	Betsy Jones (Chair) Navaid Afzal (Vice Chair) (appointed 07/01/26) Jitendra Bhimji Kara (Secretary) Rev Philip Thomas Sumner (Treasurer) Abdul Basit Shah Rev Daniel Burton (appointed 28/01/25) Ravji Patel (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 2025

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year to the 31st of March 2025.

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 2025) 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 putting on or being invited to speak at several major events to build understanding and cohesion in the Borough. One of our Christian Trustees spoke at several Community Iftars during Ramadan, and, after the killing of three young girls in Southport at the end of July 2024, that same Trustee spoke immediately after Friday prayers in a local Mosque and we organised for an Imam to speak at the end of the main Sunday service in a Roman Catholic church. Both messages were warmly appreciated at a time of raised tensions. We also put on the annual celebration of the Festival of Light.

Again, we engaged with more than 8,000 pupils and their teachers from across the Borough of Oldham either delivering workshops or putting on 'Any questions on faith' events or enabling visits for pupils to places of worship. Once more we exceeded the target set for us by the Local Authority several times over.

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 7th of January 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



JITENDRA BHIMJI KARA

Secretary/Trustee

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 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.

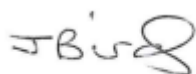
Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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.



8th January 2026

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 ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2025	2025	2025	2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Grants and Donations	2	36,000	25,000	61,000	64,000
Other Income		<u>605</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>605</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		36,605	25,000	61,605	64,003
 PAYMENTS					
Salaries		24,780	25,000	49,780	34,553
Festival Of Lights		4,119	-	4,119	990
Events		4,293	-	4,293	6,186
Events (Covid-19 Work)		-	-	-	192
Mobile Telephones		842	-	842	784
Office Costs		1,417	-	1,417	838
Office Equipment		1,119	-	1,119	-
IT & Website		460	-	460	440
Training		-	-	-	-
Consultancy		-	-	-	1,000
Accounts Fees		620	-	620	620
Payroll Costs		225	-	225	298
Donations		-	-	-	-
Sundries		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS		37,875	25,000	62,875	45,901
 Net of receipts/(payments)		(1,270)	-	(1,270)	18,102
 Cash funds at 1st April 2024		68,979	24,808	93,787	75,685
 Transfer of funds		24,808	(24,808)	-	-
 Cash funds at 31 March 2025	3	<u>92,517</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,517</u>	<u>93,787</u>

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
CASH FUNDS	92,517	-	92,517	93,787
LIABILITIES – fee for Independent Examination			2025 £	2024 £
Fee for the Independent Examination			675	620
Other fees paid to the Independent Examiner			-	-
			<u>675</u>	<u>620</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 7th of January 2026 and signed on their behalf by:


JITENDRA BHIMJI KARA
Secretary/Trustee

OLDHAM INTERFAITH FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

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 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Oldham Council Funding	36,000	-	36,000	36,000
Lottery Funding	-	25,000	25,000	28,000
	<u>36,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>64,000</u>

3. Fund Analysis

Fund Name	Balance as at 1st April 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer of Funds £	Balance as at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds	68,979	36,605	(37,875)	24,808	92,517
<u>Restricted Funds:</u>					
National Lottery Funding	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Action Together – Oldham* (Covid-19 Recovery Work)	24,808	-	-	(24,808)	-
	<u>24,808</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>(24,808)</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,787</u>	<u>61,605</u>	<u>(62,875)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,517</u>

**Transfer of funds from Restricted [Action Together (Oldham) Covid-19 Recovery Work] to Unrestricted (general funds) was authorised by Action Together on confirmation that the funding was for Oldham Interfaith Forum and the Mosque Council to develop their capacity to respond to providing events, and the provision of the vaccine centres, and that any residue was to be used by Oldham Interfaith Forum.*