

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
for
Refugee Info Bus

Roy Pinnock & Co LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
Wren House
68 London Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 1NG

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year to 31st March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein and comply with the charity's governing document, applicable laws and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice(SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard of the UK and Ireland(FRS102). The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The mission of Refugee Info Bus is as follows:

1) To promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations) by all or any of the following means:

- " Raising awareness of human rights issues
- " Promoting public support for human rights
- " Promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations.

In furtherance of that object but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to engage in political activity provided that the trustees are satisfied that the proposed activities will further the purposes of the charity to an extent justified by the resources committed and the activity is not the dominant means by which the charity carries out its objects.

2) To relieve the needs of people who are displaced as a result of war, natural disaster, trouble or catastrophe, by the provision of facilities and equipment for communication and access to information.

We have carried out our mission through the following activities:

We are dedicated to supporting refugees on the move, or who have just arrived in northern France, with up-to-date and accessible information, free Wifi, phone charging and basic phones.

On the ground, we operate out of a minibus visiting several sites around northern France. We provide battery charging boxes and wifi for service users to charge devices and use the internet for communication and to access information

Significant activities

Mission

Our mission is for refugees to have access to the rights and privileges that many take for granted.

Activities

On the ground, we operate out of a mobile bus, with foldable trestle tables and gazebos.

Online, we have a strong following of service users who request information from us in Farsi and Arabic, and a growing number of people messaging us in Amharic, Tigrinya, Oromo and Urdu, stretching from Germany to Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan and Lebanon (Note: social media platforms do not provide statistics from inside Iran and Syria). Through our online videos and services, we are able to reach thousands of displaced people.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Public benefit

Refugee Info Bus is a public benefit entity. The board of trustees have complied with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believes that Refugee Info Bus fulfils the principles laid out.

Contribution made by volunteers

Volunteers carry out the majority of Refugee Info Bus' activities on the ground and online. They are provided with training and are supported by the board of trustees. No value of their service has been included in the accounts as no reliable valuation could be obtained.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Wifi and Charging

During the year we continued to operate our mobile wifi bus five days a week across a range of sites, providing internet access and phone charging facilities. Our technology can comfortably deal with around 100 connections at any one time. This creates a space where refugees can sit and relax for a few hours each day, chatting with friends, sharing music, playing games, or gaining access to our other services. We also provide phone plugs, cables and sim cards.

New Arrival Guides

This year we have continued to produce a New Arrival Guide (NAG) for service users. These guides include information on the right to family reunion, the asylum system, financial support and information on where people can get help and support, including food and showers. These are translated into nine languages that the service users in northern France use and are regularly updated to include changes to services.

We have received feedback from organisations operating in these areas and from displaced people regarding the utility of these guides and how important they are in orienting new, often vulnerable people to access essential services.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

Our principal funding sources continue to be small and medium sized trusts and foundations, as well as individual giving. Our income for the year to 31 March 2023 was £52,036 (2022: £92,721).

Reserves policy

At the year end we have total funds of £29,343 (2022: £33,287). Our unrestricted free reserves are £18,907 (2022: £22,851).

Our reserves policy is to hold three months of operational costs which for the year ahead amounts to £ 3000. We have therefore met our reserves policy.

We do not have an investment policy. All funds are received and kept in the bank account until they are spent.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

FUTURE PLANS

Restructure and Future Planning

The last few months of 2022 brought many challenges for Refugee Info Bus and we undertook a strategic review to consider how to sustain high-quality services for the vulnerable individuals who were displaced in and around Calais and how to address some of the problems we were facing. With many fantastic organisations working together with common goals, the spirit of co-operation and collaboration has long been a wonderful feature of working in Northern France. We recognised that we had become increasingly dependent on support from French-based organisations and, after a suggestion by our ground team, we undertook a trial period in early 2023 under which some of our usual services were delivered by our previous ground team under the management of L'Auberge Des Migrants. We are thrilled that this was extremely successful and that some of the services which Refugee Info Bus offered will be delivered under the name of Channel Information Project (CHIP), a project which comes under the management of L'Auberge Des Migrants. CHIP and L'Auberge Des Migrants are completely independent of Refugee Info Bus. We look forward to supporting both CHIP and L'Auberge Des Migrants as they continue their important work.

Future Plans

Refugee Info Bus continues to be committed to working wherever there are refugees who need our services. The board is excited by the opportunity to continue serving this community in a new way and is undergoing a review of how Refugee Info Bus can be best placed to do this and what resources it requires to deliver this.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document a Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) dated 1st August 2016.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are appointed for terms of three years at any formal meeting of trustees. There is a limit of three consecutive terms to ensure diversity, challenge and new thinking. New trustees are provided with the latest annual report, organisational annual plans, recent accounts and current budget. The Chair provides a substantive induction regarding governance, compliance and operations of the organisation.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

Governance

The governance of the charity is provided by the board of trustees who meet every two weeks. We are fortunate to have a board of trustees with skills and experience from a range of backgrounds in the humanitarian and private sectors.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are appointed for terms of three years at any formal meeting of trustees. There is a limit of three consecutive terms to ensure diversity, challenge and new thinking. New trustees are provided with the latest annual report, organisational annual plans, recent accounts and current budget. The Chair, as well as the team on the ground, provide a substantive induction regarding governance, compliance and operations of the organisation.

Operations

The daily operations of Refugee Info Bus are guided by the Project Manager who oversees a team of volunteers in France. The team is made up of a core group of roles which includes a Field Coordinator, Communications & Fundraising Coordinator, Information Coordinator and Technology Coordinator, as well as general volunteers.

Remuneration of Staff

Refugee Info Bus has no paid employees.

Donors

We would like to express our gratitude to our generous donors during the year, including:

Evan Cornish, The Persula Foundation and The Farthing Trust, as well as several private donors.

We could not do our work without you and our achievements are your achievements.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE007196 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1168538

Registered office

PO Box 28652

Edinburgh

EH4 9EX

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trustees

Ms L Dark (resigned 30.11.22)

M Skipsey Co - Chair

C Price

J Williams

M Mahmoudi

L Butler Co - Chair (resigned 30.11.22)

K Smart (resigned 30.11.22)

Independent Examiner

Roy Pinnock & Co LLP

Chartered Certified Accountants

Wren House

68 London Road

St Albans

Hertfordshire

AL1 1NG

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22-1-24 and signed on its behalf by:



C Price - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Refugee Info Bus

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Refugee Info Bus ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee'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 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 Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Natalie Coleman FCCA

Roy Pinnock & Co LLP
Chartered Certified Accountants
Wren House
68 London Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 1NG

Date: 23rd January 2024

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		<u>47,036</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>52,036</u>	<u>92,721</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
to provide wifi and technology to refugees		50,878	5,000	55,878	78,795
Other		<u>102</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>804</u>
Total		<u>50,980</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>55,980</u>	<u>79,599</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(3,944)	-	(3,944)	13,122
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		22,851	10,436	33,287	20,165
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>18,907</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>29,343</u>	<u>33,287</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Refugee Info Bus**Balance Sheet**
31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	5	533	-	533	711
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	-	-	-	402
Cash at bank		<u>19,348</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>29,784</u>	<u>34,031</u>
		19,348	10,436	29,784	34,433
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(974)	-	(974)	(1,857)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>18,374</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>28,810</u>	<u>32,576</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>18,907</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>29,343</u>	<u>33,287</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>18,907</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>29,343</u>	<u>33,287</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				18,907	22,851
Restricted funds				<u>10,436</u>	<u>10,436</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>29,343</u>	<u>33,287</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22-1-24 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
C Price - Trustee

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

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable CIO, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Income

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles - 25% on reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Independent Examination	983	909
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>178</u>	<u>237</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	<u>92,721</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,721</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
to provide wifi and technology to refugees	78,795	-	78,795
Other	<u>804</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>804</u>
Total	<u>79,599</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>79,599</u>
NET INCOME	13,122	-	13,122
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	9,729	10,436	20,165
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>22,851</u>	<u>10,436</u>	<u>33,287</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £
COST	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	<u>3,995</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	3,284
Charge for year	<u>178</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,462</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>533</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>711</u>

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Other debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>402</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Social security and other taxes	-	722
Other creditors	-	226
Accrued expenses	<u>974</u>	<u>909</u>
	<u>974</u>	<u>1,857</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	22,851	(3,944)	18,907
Restricted funds			
Greece Project	9,640	-	9,640
UK Legal Information and Facebook Messaging Service			
	<u>796</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>796</u>
	<u>10,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,436</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>33,287</u></u>	<u><u>(3,944)</u></u>	<u><u>29,343</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,036	(50,980)	(3,944)
Restricted funds			
Mobile Charging Service	5,000	(5,000)	-
	<u>52,036</u>	<u>(55,980)</u>	<u>(3,944)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>52,036</u></u>	<u><u>(55,980)</u></u>	<u><u>(3,944)</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	9,729	13,122	22,851
Restricted funds			
Greece Project	9,640	-	9,640
UK Legal Information and Facebook Messaging Service			
	<u>796</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>796</u>
	<u>10,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,436</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>20,165</u>	<u>13,122</u>	<u>33,287</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	92,721	(79,599)	13,122
	<u>92,721</u>	<u>(79,599)</u>	<u>13,122</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>92,721</u>	<u>(79,599)</u>	<u>13,122</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	9,729	9,178	18,907
Restricted funds			
Greece Project	9,640	-	9,640
UK Legal Information and Facebook Messaging Service			
	<u>796</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>796</u>
	<u>10,436</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,436</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>20,165</u>	<u>9,178</u>	<u>29,343</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	139,757	(130,579)	9,178
Restricted funds			
Mobile Charging Service	5,000	(5,000)	-
	<u>144,757</u>	<u>(135,579)</u>	<u>9,178</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>144,757</u>	<u>(135,579)</u>	<u>9,178</u>

Northern France Project Costs:

To facilitate ongoing costs of our project in Northern France, which includes volunteer stipends, printing costs, petrol, wifi, and van maintenance.

Greece Project Costs:

To facilitate costs of our project in Greece, which includes volunteer expenses, printing costs, petrol, equipment and volunteer accommodation.

UK Legal Information and Facebook Messaging Service:

Translation costs, volunteer stipends, equipment, travel and facebook ads.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	22,336	26,569
Grants	<u>29,700</u>	<u>66,152</u>
	<u>52,036</u>	<u>92,721</u>
Total incoming resources	52,036	92,721
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Accommodation	6,612	8,607
Volunteer Expenses	22,343	38,001
Motor Expenses	3,399	4,332
Travel expenses	122	-
Wifi and International Phone Calling		
Service	1,105	1,571
Electric Systems	5,073	-
Equipment	517	6,355
office consumables	2,435	2,106
Translation & legal info video	1,695	-
Reimbursement of Cultural Mediators and		
Translators	-	7,173
Courier	-	241
Information Justice Project	104	-
Solar Powered Mobile Battery Packs	<u>-</u>	<u>1,922</u>
	43,405	70,308
Other		
Bank charges & interest	102	567
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	(722)	-
Insurance	-	101
Light and heat	2,441	457
Advertising	586	339
Motor expenses	-	43
Office Costs	8,917	5,253
Carried forward	11,222	6,193

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Management		
Brought forward	11,222	6,193
Subscriptions	90	272
Recruitment cost	-	945
Internet	-	168
Motor vehicles	<u>178</u>	<u>237</u>
	11,490	7,815
 Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	<u>983</u>	<u>909</u>
 Total resources expended	<u>55,980</u>	<u>79,599</u>
 Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(3,944)</u>	<u>13,122</u>