

Charity number: 1179953

Association Of Special Constabulary Officers

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Association Of Special Constabulary Officers

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Association Of Special Constabulary Officers

Report Of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

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

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 2011 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 examiners 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 2011 Act; or 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Triple Bottom Line Accounting Limited
The Enterprise Centre

University of East Anglia Norwich
Norfolk NR4 7TJ

07/02/2024



Association of Special Constabulary Officers (ASCO)

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their annual report for the year ended 31 March 2023 and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and confirm they comply with the Charities Act 1983, as amended by the Charities Act 2011, and the ASCO Constitution.

1. Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Association of Special Constabulary Officers (ASCO)

Charity Registration Number: 1179953

Principal Office:

The Enterprise Centre
University of East Anglia
Norwich Research Park
Norwich
Norfolk NR4 7TJ

Board of Trustees:

David Pedrick-Friend (Chair)
Dr Ashley Frayling (Deputy Chair)
Phil Clare (Treasurer)
Matthew Whalley (Secretary)
Jamie Allan
Marc Kastner
Curtis James Marshall

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank plc

Registered office: 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN

Structure, governance and management

ASCO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (association model) with voting membership other than the charity trustees. Our Constitution is our incorporating document.

All trustees are directed to read the Charity Commission guidance on the roles and responsibilities of trustees (CC3a), and guidance 'Campaigning and political activities for small charities'.

The charity has a National Representative Committee which includes its trustees, members elected to represent each region and lead on key areas for policy or organisational development (such as communications and diversity).

The Association works with other national bodies concerned with increasing the efficiency of the police and the advancement of volunteering in the prevention of crime. These include the Home Office, College of Policing, National Police Chiefs Council, The Superintendents' Association, The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), and Police Federation of England & Wales. It is represented on a very wide range of national policing policy boards.

Objectives and activities

The charitable objectives of the Association of Special Constabulary Officers (ASCO) are:

- i. the promotion of the efficiency of the police by, but not limited to, providing and facilitating the giving of information, advice, and training to Special Constables; and
- ii. the advancement of citizenship and community development through the promotion of volunteering and public participation in the prevention and solution of crime.

Over the course of the last financial year, we have undertaken a range of activities to further these objectives and to provide public benefit.

These include:

- Continuing to be very busy contributing in various ways nationally to the development of policy and practice in relation to the Special Constabulary. Including engagement with government and with a wide range of national leads and stakeholders, and contribution to numerous national strategic groups. This includes representing Special Constables on the national Special Constabulary Working Group, and leading nationally on developing communication, engagement, and reward across the Special Constabulary. This has seen the development of a new action plan on recognition and reward across the Special Constabulary. This work has also included representing Special Constables on national boards considering formal honours, memorials, and awards for Special Constables. ASCO also works very closely with the College of Policing, and represents Special Constables on a number of national committees and boards chaired by the College.

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- The Chair of ASCO has been part of a national working group reviewing guidance in relation to police ethics.
- ASCO has been leading on work to support female Special Constables, including Dr Ashley Frayling (ASCO Trustee) and Dr Iain Britton (ASCO national support) leading on a project to research and develop improved models for attracting and recruiting, engaging, retaining, and improving the experience of female Special Constables. This work has had a strong emphasis on engaging female Special Constables.
- Continuing to maintain a much larger membership for the charity, despite overall continuation of decline in Special Constable numbers nationally. This has included further building the representation of ASCO in Police Scotland. ASCO achieves a membership that is diverse, with over 15% of ASCO members identifying as BAME, compared to 10% of Special Constables nationally. One in seven members of ASCO identifies as LGBT+. The proportion of female members is lower (at 15%) than the population of Special Constables as a whole; that is likely in part to reflect that longerserving 'career' Special Constables are more likely to join ASCO, and female Special Constables are significantly under-represented in terms of longer-service.

The trustees have highlighted key strategic opportunities in achieving its charitable objectives including enhancing the role, support, capability, and contribution of Special Constables, developing a stronger strategic vision for the future of the Special Constabulary learning from practice in other sectors and in policing internationally, more effectively bringing together and engaging Special Constables, and supporting greater diversity and inclusion within the Special Constabulary.

The trustees have highlighted key risks to the Association achieving its charitable objects which include the decline in overall numbers and hours served of Special Constables nationally, the need for greater engagement and communication across all Special Constables, gaps in 'voice' and representation at local and national level, limitations in wellbeing support, and unevenness of practice in respect of initial learning and competency development, access to training, and development of opportunities to specialise for Special Constables.

Achievements and performance

Key areas of delivery during the year have already been set out in the above section outlining the activities of the Association.

ASCO has in particular delivered:

- A continuing much increased representation, in terms of increased membership compared to previous ASCCO arrangements.
- A notable growth in the number of SCs actively involved across the charity's work, which has served to further energise the development of ASCO and its role.
- A focus on female SCs, and improving the engagement and experience of women in the Special Constabulary.
- Influencing organisational review processes of Special Constabularies.

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- Data work to identify key issues and trends in national data across the Special Constabulary.
- Strengthening of the support model for Special Constables, and contributing to wider national work focused on volunteer officer wellbeing.

Financial Review

The accounts of the Association have been prepared. As a small charity, the Association does not meet the threshold to require an Independent Examination or full audit of our accounts.

The Association's policy is broadly to balance income and expenditure in any year. Any reserves are carried forward and utilised in the following year.

The principal sources of funds are:

- An annual grant from the Home Office of £12,000
- Membership fees (for non-Special Constabulary members)
- Donations

All expenditure is on meeting the objectives of the Association, and includes governance and policy support for trustees, travel expenses to required meetings, legal and audit fees, training and development welfare wellbeing and sundry operating expenses, particularly relating to technology and accountancy.

Future plans

The Association intends to continue to represent all Special Constables across the Special Constabulary, across all areas of interest and concern.

The focus will be in further focusing and building the influence and the impact of ASCO as an Association, and it's engagement and visibility across Special Constables.

- Representation to 'give voice' to Special Constables, and to influence the future direction of the Special Constabulary strategically and operationally, locally and nationally;
- Addressing issues of diversity and inclusion, accessibility and fairness, across the Special Constabulary;
- Representation to help improve volunteering experience, strengthen leadership, reverse reductions in Special Constable numbers, improve retention, receive continuing professional development, and where desired to support opportunities to specialise; and
- Strategic representation to champion the role and contribution of volunteer officers.

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The Association plans to continue growing membership to a higher percentage of Special Constables across the country by developing and better communicating the work of the Association.


The Association will make a major contribution to leading future vision and thinking in respect of the Special Constabulary.

The Association will:

- continue to fund on a part-time commissioned basis support to provide basic advice and administrative support to trustees and to enhance the policy work of the charity;
- continue to manage the finances of the Association responsibly and to have the Accounts audited annually and meet the requirements of the Charities Commissioner.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity trustees

Signature: 

Full name: Philip Clare

Position: Trustee and Treasurer

Date: 28th January 2024

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Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2022 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	2	12,000	9,539
Charitable activities			
Membership activities		6,865	645
Total		18,865	10,184
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities			
Membership activities		-21,760	-15,800
Total		-15,800	
Net income		-2,895	-5,616
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		34,700	40,316
Total funds carried forward		31,805	34,700

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Statement of Financial Position As at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Tangible Assets		349	-
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		31,456	34,991
		31,456	34,991
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	-	289
Net current assets		31,456	34,700
Creditors: amounts falling due more than one year		-	-
Total Assets less current liabilities		31,805	34,700
Net Assets		31,805	34,700
The funds of the charity		31,805	34,700
Total funds		31,805	34,700

The financial statement were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

David Pedrick-Friend

Trustee

07/02/2024

Association Of Special Constabulary Officers

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and 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 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Association Of Special Constabulary Officers meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure:

2 Income from donations and legacies	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Donations received		
Grants received	12,000	9,539
3. Income from charitable activities	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Membership activities	6,865	650

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4. Costs of charitable activities by fund type

	2023	2022
£		£
Unrestricted funds		
Membership Activities	20,732	14,815
Support costs	1028	985
	<hr/> 21,760	<hr/> 15,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	2023	2022
	£	£
Activities undertaken directly		
Membership Activities	21,760	15,800

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6. Analysis of support costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Governance costs	1,028	985

	2023	2022
	£	£
7.Net income/(expenditure)for the year		
This is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Auditor's fees	1,028	985

8. comparatives for the statement of Financial Activities

The comparative year values on the Statement of Financial Activites are for unrestricted funds.

9.Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	289
	-	289

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10. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31/03/2023 £
<i>General</i>				
General	34,700	18,865	(21,760)	31,805
	<u>34,700</u>	<u>18,865</u>	<u>(21,760)</u>	<u>31,805</u>
Unrestricted Funds - Previous year				

	Balance at 01/04/2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Balance at 31/03/2022 £
<i>General</i>				
General	40,316	10,184	(15,800)	34,700
	<u>40,316</u>	<u>10,184</u>	<u>(15,800)</u>	<u>34,700</u>

11. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Net Current assets/ (liabilities) £	Net Assets £
Unrestricted funds		
<i>General</i>		31,805
		<u>-</u>
General	<u>-</u>	<u>31,805</u>