



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	April	2020		31	March	2021

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Refugee Aid from Taunton

Other names charity is known by

RAFT

Registered charity number (if any)

1180367

Charity's principal address

The Auction House

Canal Road

Taunton, Somerset

Postcode

TA1 1PN

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Kate Swann			
2	Elaine Dew			
3	Fareda Fakhrai			
4	Federica Smith-Roberts	Chair		
5	Jessica Wintrip			
6	Jill Denton			
7	Keith Dew	Treasurer		
8	Lynette Clark			
9	Mark Curtis			
10	Michelle Ferris			
11	Paul Roylance			
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document  
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution dated 18 October 2018

How the charity is constituted  
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods  
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees are appointed by the current board, based on their expertise and experience of the charity.

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

New trustees receive a copy of the charity's constitution, accounts and major policies on appointment. It is anticipated that any new trustees are likely to already be aware of the charity's operations but full briefing will be given by existing charities if required.

The charity is run on a day to day basis by its trustees. All trustees are volunteers and practically the operations are carried out by volunteers, both trustees and others. The charity does not have any paid staff.

The trustees consider the major risks to the charity at every meeting and what is being done to manage them.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the CIO are:

- 1) For the public benefit to relieve and assist the victims of war, conflict or natural disaster throughout the world, in particular but not exclusively, by the provision of clothing, sanitary wear, volunteers, funds, food, medical aid, accommodation, access to water and sanitation and other humanitarian assistance.
- 2) The prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in particular, but not exclusively, by providing persons in need with grants or money or by providing or paying for services, items or facilities.

- 3) The protection and preservation of the environment, in particular but not exclusively, by the promotion of recycling and sustainable waste management;
- 4) To further such other purposes which are charitable under the laws of England and Wales as the trustees from time to time determine.

The charity carries out its objects in practice by receiving donations from members of the public (both financial and of goods and clothes) and distributing these to refugees, both in the local community and across the world. Any items unsuitable for distribution are sold at a reduced rate to the local community.

We aim to be zero waste wherever possible, using all donated items in some form, donating to other charities where no other options are available.

Public benefit is achieved throughout all our operations, primarily through the distribution of aid to those in need, and the availability of reduced rate clothing (including school uniform).

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We provide grants to other organisations who share similar charitable objectives. These are assessed by the trustees and full due diligence undertaken to ensure that the organisations that we provide funding to are registered charities.

Our entire organisation is run by volunteers, for which we are hugely indebted. We would not be able to operate without the generosity of our volunteers, some of whom give large amounts of time to assist us. We are unable to recognise this value in our financial statements, however wish to express our thanks to anyone who has volunteered with the charity during the year.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

This year, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on the operations of the charity. To protect the public and our volunteers, we have been closed for the majority of donations since the middle of March 2020, only accepting items that have been specifically requested for planned shipments. This remained the case at the year end, with gradual reopening from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021, in line with government guidance. Due to the disruption in travel and quarantine requirements, many of the individuals and organisations who took shipments for us are no longer able to travel, which has severely disrupted our ability to send items to where they are most needed.

We have also not been able to run any fundraising activities such as our sales since mid-March 2020, but are fortunate to still receive some donations, and have continued to sell items (particularly fabric) online. This has allowed us maintained sufficient reserves to enable us to make monetary donations to organisations working in the areas that we would normally ship to, to allow some aid to still be delivered.

As a result of the operational difficulties outlined above, we have only succeeded in making 18 shipments during the year, the majority of which have gone to France, providing 17 tonnes of aid (2020 – 96 shipments, providing 100 tonnes of aid).

We continue to be aware of the risk of the short term nature of the lease for the property that we operate from. We are seeking new premises but finding sufficient space in a good location, with the necessary access, is proving problematic. The situation is likely to force our hands in the near future.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity is aiming to build reserves sufficient to enable an orderly run down of the charity should it ever be required. It is considered that around 6 months of expenditure should enable this, and therefore approximately £10,000. In addition, we are aware that when we are required to move premises, this is likely to be expensive and we are seeking to keep aside a further £10,000 for this. Our closing balance at the end of the year of £21,033 is slightly above this level, and any funds not required for the premises move will then be put towards our charitable activities.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The income for the charity primarily comes from donations and the sale of goods that are unsuitable for distribution as aid.

Expenditure is spent primarily on carrying out our charitable objectives. The only overhead costs that we incur are rates on the building (the building is very kindly provided by local council free of charge, although we do pay service charge, insurance etc.), and some small admin expenses such as printing and postage. These are kept to a minimum.

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	K Dew	F Smith-Roberts
Full name(s)	Keith Dew	Federica Smith-Roberts
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Chair
Date	10/07/2021	



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Refugee Aid From Taunton

1180367

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/04/2020

To

31/03/2021

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	4,103	-	-	4,103	7,848
Sale of donated items	13,145	-	-	13,145	12,176
Fundraising	458	-	-	458	3,627
Gift aid received	120	-	-	120	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>17,826</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,826</b>	<b>23,651</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>17,826</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,826</b>	<b>23,651</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Grants and donations	4,762	-	-	4,762	9,990
Transport	240	-	-	240	4,360
Insurance	1,434	-	-	1,434	258
Warehouse expenses	58	-	-	58	200
Purchase and repair of sewing machines	-	-	-	-	1,755
Advertising and printing	-	-	-	-	128
Rent and rates	2,611	-	-	2,611	2,570
DBS checks	-	-	-	-	10
Postage	1,520	-	-	1,520	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>10,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,625</b>	<b>19,271</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>10,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,625</b>	<b>19,271</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>4,380</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>9,452</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>21,033</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,033</b>	<b>13,832</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank account	19,059	-	-
	Paypal account	1,932	-	-
	Cash	42	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>21,033</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	F Smith-Roberts	Federica Smith-Roberts	10/07/2021	
	K Dew	Keith Dew	10/07/2021	