



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	April	2022		31	March	2023

## 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

Unit 4, Enterprise Park

Priorswood Road

Taunton, Somerset

Postcode

TA2 8DU

### 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		Resigned 25 May 2022	
2	Elaine Dew			
3	Fareda Fakhrai			
4	Federica Smith-Roberts	Chair		
5	Jessica Wintrip			
6	Jill Denton		Resigned 5 November 2023	
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

During the year to 31 March 2023, our major achievement was moving the location of our operations. Following 6 years based at the warehouse that was our previous centre of operations, we were notified in Autumn 2021 that the warehouse was due to be knocked down as part of a larger development.

Following a lot of investigation work, we identified a potential new unit for operation and are pleased to have moved over the prior year end, from end March – start April 2022.

We would particularly like to thank Somerset Community Foundation, for providing a grant to assist us with the costs of moving and settling into our new home.

Our operations in the year continued to be impacted by Covid, with many supply routes to our usual donation points unable to operate. Due partly to this, and partly to the increased need within our local communities, our focus for donations of aid has been more local than in previous years. Our local community has become home to many refugees during the year, both from Ukraine and across Europe, as well as housing refugees placed in the community by government.

We are incredibly grateful to both the people who continue to bring us donations, and the volunteers who assist with collating and sorting, which allows us to help so many people locally.

We have also not been able to run any fundraising activities such as local sales in our new location, but are fortunate to still receive some donations, and have continued to sell items online. Our previous success with online selling (particularly eBay and Vinted), selling items donated to us that are not suitable for onward distribution, has continued. This has allowed us to maintain sufficient reserves to enable us to make monetary donations to organisations working in the overseas areas that we would normally ship to, to allow some aid to still be delivered.

We are also very conscious that the move to a more formal lease arrangement with our premises, whilst providing more security for the charity, it puts financial pressure on the charity due to our commitment to pay rent. We are therefore extremely grateful to have been able to generate such significant funds from sale of items unable to be distributed. Going forward, we will need to retain a significant focus on fundraising to allow us to remain financially viable.

As a result of the operational difficulties outlined above, we have succeeded in making 44 shipments during the year, which has been distributed primarily across the Middle East, Ukraine and France, providing 48 tonnes of aid (2022 – 33 shipments, providing 35 tonnes of aid). Whilst this is an increase from the prior year, for reference, in 2019-20, we made 96 shipments, delivering 100 tonnes. We respond to need across the world and more recently the need has been more local to us in assisting local refugees.

## 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, which is approximately £20,000. In addition, we would like to retain sufficient funds to pay our rent for the committed 2 year period without further income (approx. £30,000). We therefore consider that the balance at the year end of £56,590 is both reasonable and appropriate. We will be seeking to increase our donations in future years once the stability of the charity is confirmed.

### 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. Due to our move to rented premises, we are now incurring some more significant overhead costs such as rent, service charge, insurance and some small admin expenses such as printing and postage.

## 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	24 January 2024	

# **Refugee Aid From Taunton**

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Refugee Aid From Taunton**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Refugee Aid From Taunton for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 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 2011 Act.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Sarah Twist FCA DChA  
Chartered Accountant  
A C Mole  
Stafford House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
TAUNTON  
TA1 2PX

31 January 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Refugee Aid From Taunton

1180367

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/04/2022

To

31/03/2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	6,661	-	-	6,661	7,875
Sale of donated items	37,440	-	-	37,440	27,015
Fundraising	100	-	-	100	-
Gift aid received	240	-	-	240	199
Grants received	1,000	5,000	-	6,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>45,441</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,441</b>	<b>35,089</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>45,441</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,441</b>	<b>35,089</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Grants and donations	6,725	-	-	6,725	1,109
Transport	1,410	600	-	2,010	620
Insurance	96	-	-	96	96
Warehouse expenses	672	2,320	-	2,992	344
Advertising and printing	70	-	-	70	-
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	1,320
Rent and rates	19,218	780	-	19,998	2,773
DBS checks	-	-	-	-	-
Postage	7,337	-	-	7,337	4,483
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>35,528</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,228</b>	<b>10,745</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>35,528</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,228</b>	<b>10,745</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>9,913</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,213</b>	<b>24,344</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>- 1,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>45,377</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,377</b>	<b>21,033</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>56,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,590</b>	<b>45,377</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	54,872	-	-
	Paypal account	1,683	-	-
	Cash	35	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>56,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<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	24/01/2024	
	K Dew	Keith Dew	24/01/2024	

**Refugee Aid From Taunton**  
**Notes to the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

1. The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with Charity Commission's guidance.
2. Neither the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, have received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2022: NIL).
3. The Charity holds no Restricted funds at 31 March 2023 (2022: Nil).
4. The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.