

## Society For Natural Sciences Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 July 2023  
Charity Registration No: 1181964



## SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

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## **SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

### **CHARITY INFORMATION**

Charity name: Society for Natural Sciences

Charity number: 1181964

### **TRUSTEES**

The trustees during the year were:

Professor Derek Jeffrey Raine MBE  
Roddy Vann  
Geraint Mark Howard Thomas  
Ruth Jones

CEO  
Treasurer

### **ADDRESS**

Genesis 5  
Church Lane  
Heslington  
York  
YO10 5DQ

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Frances Howard FCA  
Fortus Ltd  
Business Advisors and Accountants  
Equinox House  
Clifton Park  
Shipton Road  
York  
YO30 5PA

### **BANKERS**

The Co-Operative Bank Plc  
P O Box 250  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6WT

PayPal UK Limited  
5 New Street Square  
London  
EC4A 3TW

## SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

The trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Charity information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Society for Natural Sciences is a registered charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by a constitution dated 11 February 2019.

##### Trustees

At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office. At every subsequent annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee. A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objects of the CIO are to advance interdisciplinary science and education in interdisciplinary science for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by:

- establishing, upholding and advancing high standards of qualification, competence and conduct of those who are teaching, studying or practising interdisciplinary science;
- acting in an advisory, consultative or representative capacity in matters relating to interdisciplinary science; and
- promoting knowledge and understanding of topics of interdisciplinary science.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

##### CPD for academic members

The Interdisciplinary Science Pedagogic Research and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (PedR/SoTL) group continues to operate online using the Society's Zoom account.

The Society publishes the open access academic journal: *New Directions in the Teaching and Learning of Natural Science*.

We sponsored a session at the STEM-Horizons National Meeting (<https://ukstemconference.com>), June 2023. These interactions are beneficial to development of curricular in HE Science and to wider society through the improved training of science undergraduates.

**Society Website:** The website has been set up to provide information about Natural Sciences and to accept membership applications. It has subsequently been expanded to allow members to present a searchable public profile to underpin networking opportunities. It has been further developed to host recordings of seminars and outreach presentations. We have set up a LinkedIn group for the Society.

**Newsletters:** A newsletter was sent out in the autumn. These are of benefit to members in supporting networking and dissemination of information.

## SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

#### ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE (continued)

**Student Conference 2023:** A national 1-day meeting for undergraduate students of Natural Sciences hosted by the UCL. This provides training and networking opportunities for undergraduate students.

This followed on from a national meeting at the Crick Institute, initially intended to inaugurate the Society but delayed by Covid. The role of the Society was disseminated to a number of high-profile stakeholders and representatives of professional bodies. This provided networking opportunities for Society members.

#### Outreach

Talks to Schools: Six on-line outreach sessions were delivered through Channel Talent to high school pupils and teachers and individuals. These activities are of direct public benefit in disseminating educational opportunities for students in science.

**Accreditation:** The accreditation process has been rolled out involving the accreditation of four more university programmes in Natural Sciences. Accreditation to verify and maintain degree standards is a central part of the Society's social benefit.

**Membership:** Membership has grown steadily if slowly. We have 15 member institutions. Membership of recently graduated students has improved but has still not met expectations. We are working to address this issue with the ongoing development of a student council. Undergraduate members have been recruited through a new Affiliation scheme for Institutional undergraduate societies.

**Fundraising:** Fees from institutional memberships are currently in line with the Society's business plan. Fees from other members are less than anticipated but this has not affected the activities of the Society as they form a minor contribution to current income which has been more than offset by accreditation fees. However, we are faced with a reduction in the number of universities offering Natural Science degrees which will impact our corporate membership. This will not have any immediate impact on activities, but will limit the scope for expansion and will be kept under review.

The trustees have exercised diligence in ensuring public benefit of activities through their membership of the Main Committee of the Society.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year income of £7,664 (2022: £12,671) was received and payments were made of £8,368 (2022: £11,101) resulting in a deficit of £704 (2022 surplus: £1,570).

#### RESERVES POLICY

The charity's policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet its own expected future obligations.

The charity's free reserves at 31 July 2023 amount to £11,480 (2022: £12,184).

Approved by the trustees on 21 May 2024

  
D J Raine (May 22, 2024 08:43 GMT+1)

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D J Raine - CEO

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023 comprise of the receipts and payments account, statement of assets and liabilities and notes to the accounts.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 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; 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.

*Frances Howard*

[Frances Howard \(May 22, 2024 09:27 GMT+1\)](#)

Frances Howard FCA  
Fortus Ltd  
Business Advisors and Accountants  
Equinox House  
Clifton Park  
Shipton Road  
York  
YO30 5PA

21 May 2024

**SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Staff subscriptions		488	663
Student subscriptions		147	269
University subscriptions		7,000	4,000
Association subscription		29	39
University accreditation fees		-	7,700
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>7,664</b>	<b>12,671</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Charitable activities	3	8,368	11,101
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>8,368</b>	<b>11,101</b>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>(Decrease)/increase in Bank</b>		<b>(704)</b>	<b>1,570</b>
Balance at 1 August 2022		12,184	10,614
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Balance at 31 July 2023</b>		<b>11,480</b>	<b>12,184</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

**SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2023**

	31 July 2023 £	31 July 2022 £
<b>Assets held for charity's use</b>		
Website	-	695
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total intangible fixed assets	-	695
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Debtors</b>	-	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Bank and cash balances</b>		
Bank accounts - Co-Operative account	11,073	12,174
- PayPal account	407	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total bank	11,480	12,184
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Accruals - Independent examiner's fee	600	540
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 21 May 2024



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R Vann - Treasurer



**SOCIETY FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the guidance for accounting for smaller charities issued by the Charity Commissioners.

**2. INFORMATION REGARDING TRUSTEES**

No trustee or persons related or connected by business to them have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustee received any reimbursement for expenses incurred during the year.

**3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2023 £	2022 £
Accreditor fees	353	4,950
Accreditor administration	-	2,171
Publicity expenses	283	196
Webinar expenses	1,872	1,872
Independent examination fee	540	498
Membership fee	796	381
Staff costs	785	682
Subscriptions	176	144
Miscellaneous costs	15	49
Insurance	158	158
Website	608	-
Launch event	2,782	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,368	11,101
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